

# REGENT SQUARE

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November 2011, Volume 31 Number 7

### Join us...

Meetings are typically held the first Monday of each month, with the exception of holidays. After the Nov. 7 special open house at Root 174, future meetings will be held at the regular location, Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston. The dates for the next meetings are Dec. 5 and Jan. 2.

### Corrections

The RSCA ballot in the October issue should have described Nominee Josie Ulrich as "recently retired as Deputy Director for a comprehensive center providing mental health, intellectual developmental disability, and substance abuse services"

#### MORE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR REGENT SQUARE RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS & NON-PROFITS:

To receive Regent Square notices between issues of this Newsletter, you can register for the:

- RSCA General Email List &/or
- RSCA Business Email List

Visit [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org) and follow the "RSCA Mailing Lists" links and instructions.

[WWW.REGENTSQUARE-RSCA.ORG](http://WWW.REGENTSQUARE-RSCA.ORG)

The voice of the Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA), a not-for-profit 501(c)4, all volunteer community organization, serving Regent Square's diverse residential and business community.

## Sunoco Station Update

### *Giant Eagle to Move Forward with GetGo Plans*

On Wednesday Oct. 12, Pat Avolio, a representative from Giant Eagle's Real Estate Department, contacted the Regent Square Civic Association regarding an agreement that the company had signed that morning to purchase the Sunoco site at the corner of Braddock and Hutchinson Avenues. Mr. Avolio informed the RSCA that the company will not be making any substantial changes to the structure or its site for the time being. However, the company does plan at this time to "rebrand and reimage" the existing structures to comply with other GetGos and to make the building accessible to people with disabilities.

Mr. Avolio also reports that in the long term, Giant Eagle will be looking at rebuilding and reorganizing the lot to maximize its use of the property, knowing that any reconstruction and/or change in use will require addressing current Edgewood zoning regulations and processes. He acknowledged that the company is aware of the community's concerns about locating a GetGo at that location and any possible impact it might have on adjacent properties and traffic. In addition, Mr. Avolio assured that the company will make a presentation to the RSCA and the community prior to making any changes to the building and its site.

In the meantime, the RSCA will continue to share information with the community to the best of its abilities. Interested residents and property owners should stay in contact with Edgewood officials for updates on the redevelopment of this prominent site in our neighborhood. (see sidebar on Page 02) ■

-- Alina Keebler, RSCA President

## Regent Square Becomes Bike Friendly

### *New Racks are Installed to Secure Your Rides*

Those pedaling their bikes to the Square now have more places to park them.

The RSCA recently purchased six "Three Rivers" bike racks from Bike Pittsburgh for donation to the boroughs of Edgewood and Swissvale for installation on Braddock Avenue and Hutchinson. The racks were designed by Bike Pittsburgh to mirror the confluence at the Golden Triangle and can be found at many locations throughout the Pittsburgh area. Two racks are now located by the Regent Square Mural next to Braddock Avenue Express on Hutchinson, one additional rack is installed in front of Regent Square Theater (for a total of two), and three will be placed next to the bus shelter in front of Typhoon (next to D's).

Many thanks go to Warren Cecconi and the Edgewood Department of Public Works, as well as Carmine Russo and the Swissvale Department of Public Works for installing the racks in their respective boroughs, as well as to Lou Fineberg of Bike Pittsburgh for helping with the sale.

You can visit <http://bike-pgh.org/campaigns/three-rivers-bike-racks/> to find out more about the history of this bike rack design, and to become informed of the many efforts being undertaken by Bike Pittsburgh. ■

-- Andrew Lang, RSCA Board Member / Street Furniture Chair / Edgewood Liaison

## Goodbye to Sunoco and Years of Service

### *Dave Gerenyi, Staff, Lauded for Dedication to Regent Square*

Sunoco on the corner of Braddock and Hutchinson Avenue was decked out in bright yellow and blue balloons on Oct. 13 as the neighborhood held a party to say goodbye to owner Dave Gerenyi and his helpful staff. In the garage bays, tables were set up, filled with cakes, cookies, hoagies, pizza and more.

Dave was speechless as he was presented with a special plaque from his staff recognizing his 32 years of dedication to the neighborhood. The Board of the Regent Square Civic Association also made a presentation thanking Dave and his staff for providing such a valuable service to the community and what he's added to the business district. We presented Dave with a signed copy of our Mural Poster "Birds' Eye View" of Regent Square, to keep as a memory of the Square, as he retires.

Thanks to several Edgewood residents and longtime customers, Rosemary Steiner, Laura Horner and Steve Josowitz, for their help in planning and hosting the party. We wish Dave and his staff our very best on this next phase of their lives. They will be missed. ■

-- Nancy Drew, RSCA Board Member/Treasurer

## Braddock/Hutchinson Design Charette

On Monday, Oct. 17, members of the Board of the Regent Square Association held a special brainstorming session regarding the redevelopment of the Braddock/Hutchinson corner site because of the overwhelming interest the Regent Square community has expressed to the RSCA concerning this sale. The purpose of the meeting was for the RSCA to understand community concerns and help the community arrive at a comprehensive vision that outlines the shared goals in any site redevelopment. This would include a "wish list" of desirable features to share with potential purchasers of the property. Residents and property owners who had previously contacted the Civic Association with their interest in this issue were invited to participate. Their time and contributions were greatly appreciated. Look for a report on the conclusions reached in a future issue of this newsletter and at future RSCA meetings. ■

-- Alina Keebler, RSCA President

## Police to Discuss Crime Prevention

### *Learn How to Protect the Square*

Neighborhood crime prevention will be the focus of a Public Safety Committee meeting of the RSCA from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 19 at the Mifflin Avenue Methodist Church, 905 Mifflin Ave.

A panel of police department representatives from Wilksburg, Swissvale, Edgewood and Pittsburgh will discuss 911 calls, the importance of block watches and how to be aware of one's surroundings. All residents are encouraged to attend. A great turnout will show your support for the community. ■

-- Tom Montgomery, RSCA Board Member/ Public Safety

Contributions: This edition was edited by Virginia Linn and designed by Alana Rykala Delaney. Thanks go to the community members who contributed articles or information for the newsletter. The RSCA welcomes the submission of articles and calendar events to this Newsletter, which is published bi-monthly. Deadline for submission is the first Monday of each month for the next month's issue. Submission does not guarantee publication. The RSCA reserves the right to decline any submission or to edit for style, length and/or content. For detailed submission guidelines, visit [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org) or email [contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org) or call 412-371-2010 for a copy.

## Events Calendar

Saturday, Nov. 5

### Waverly Holiday Festival

*Annual fund-raiser includes auction, dessert buffet, crafts and entertainment, 7 to 10 p.m. (auction begins at 8)*

**Location:** Waverly Presbyterian Church, 590 S. Braddock Ave.

**Cost:** \$15 per person

**Info:** [www.waverlychurch.org](http://www.waverlychurch.org); Call for reservations, info: 412-242-0643

Monday, Nov. 7

### RSCA Open House

*Come to Root 174 at 1113 S. Braddock Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. All Regent Square residents, business and property owners are welcome*

**Cost:** Free, but BYOB

**Info:** 412-371-2010 or [contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

Tuesday, Nov. 8

### Election Day

**Info:** Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 19

### Public Safety Meeting

RSCA sponsors panel of public safety representatives to discuss neighborhood crime prevention, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Mifflin Avenue Methodist Church, 905 Mifflin Ave.

**Info:** 412-371-2010 or

[contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

Sunday, Dec. 18

### Holiday Concert

*Join us at 3 p.m. to hear music from The Pittsburgh Mandolin Orchestra, the largest group of its kind in the United States.*

**Location:** Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church, 905 Mifflin Ave.

**Cost:** \$5, can be purchased at the door

**Info:** [www.pittsburghmandolinsociety.org](http://www.pittsburghmandolinsociety.org), [www.mifflinave.org](http://www.mifflinave.org) or on the orchestra's facebook page.

# 2012 RSCA Membership Form

[www.regentsquare-rsca.org](http://www.regentsquare-rsca.org)

Email any questions to: [contact@regentsquare-rsca.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-rsca.org).

Visit [www.regentsquare-rsca.org](http://www.regentsquare-rsca.org) to subscribe or unsubscribe to our general and/or business **email list**. Click on Mailing Lists. You'll receive an email confirming your subscription/unsubscription to which you must respond in order to be added or removed. If you have trouble with this process, please call Kitty Brunkhorst at 412-860-6298.

This form may be copied or downloaded from our website. Mail this form with a check payable to RSCA to RSCA Membership, 7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15218.

If you wish to make a donation in addition to the membership dues, please indicate what the additional amount is for on the memo line of the check.

**Resident Name (\$10 per adult in household):** \_\_\_\_\_

Resident Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident Name: \_\_\_\_\_

or

**Business Name (\$25 per business):** \_\_\_\_\_

Business Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Business Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MUNICIPALITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31. Dues received after October 1 will be attributed to the following year. Membership dues aren't tax-deductible as a charitable contribution; they may be deductible as a business expense. Contact information is not shared with other organizations.**

## Membership Changes for 2012

Now that Oct. 1, 2011 has passed, the Regent Square Civic Association is receiving memberships for 2012. Prospective members will notice some changes. Receipts for 2012 memberships will be emailed or mailed to the address listed on the membership form. Remember to note your municipality on the membership form: that's important when we need to contact a specific jurisdiction about some concern.

All businesses will receive a renewal invoice in January 2012, which will be sent to the mailing or email address we currently have. Please check your listing on the website to be sure information is correct.

Our goal for 2012 is to update the business listings on the website. All businesses in Regent Square are to be listed. If a membership is purchased, your listing may also include a logo and link to your website. Please contact Kitty Brunkhorst at 412-860-6298 or [k.brunkhorst@verizon.net](mailto:k.brunkhorst@verizon.net) if you have questions or would like to help with either residential or business member recruitment.

Lastly, if you would like to make a contribution in addition to your membership (e.g., Holiday Lighting), please note on the check memo what it's for! ■

-- Kitty Brunkhorst, RSCA Board Member/ Membership

## Holiday Toy Drive

### *Delight a Child this Season*

In past years, Regent Square residents and friends have generously donated gifts during the holidays for those not quite as lucky as they are. The RSCA, partnering with Maureen States of Neighborhood Realty Services, would like to continue this tradition. Between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15, we are collecting gifts to be distributed to children in need in the Pittsburgh area with the help of the Snap Program of Auberle, a local charitable agency. You can drop off your gifts at the Neighborhood Realty Services offices at 1028 S. Braddock Ave., Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Only new, unwrapped items are accepted. Avoid toys stuffed with shredded foam, small pellets, or beans; toys with detachable parts (like button eyes) that could be removed and swallowed or that can pinch fingers or pull hair; electrical, spark-producing or friction-producing toys; toys that are fragile or brittle, made of glass or have sharp edges; toys or craft kits with toxic paints or glues; toy guns and other violent toys. Do consider toys, books, action figures and dolls, card and board games; puzzles and activity books; and, building for children from babyhood to teenagers.

Thank you for your kindness and support. Contact the RSCA at [contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org) or call Maureen at (412) 241-4700 with any questions. *Note:* Neighborhood Realty Services also is holding its annual food drive for the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. You can drop off canned goods and non-perishable items (including cleaning and hygiene products) in the box on the Neighborhood Realty Services front porch any time between Nov. 15 and Dec. 18. ■

-- Maureen States, Neighborhood Realty Services

# Imagine School Braces for Expansion

## *Portable Classrooms are Installed as Temporary Stopgap*

The Environmental Charter School (ECS) at Frick Park started the 2011-12 school year with two modular classroom buildings on the back lot to temporarily accommodate the school's growth.

Schoolhouse Finance, LLC, owner of the former Regent Square School building on Henrietta, received a Conditional Use Permit from the City of Pittsburgh to install the structures. Each building is designed to hold two classrooms. City Council stipulated that the structures be taken down by July 9, 2012. (Principal Jon McCann told the Regent Square Civic Association that he expected the portable buildings to be removed by January 2012).

The charter school, which opened in August 2008 with 260 students in grades K-3, has approximately 413 grades 1-6 students during this school year. Another 36 kindergarten students are housed temporarily at Shady Lane School at the corner of Penn and Braddock. Schoolhouse Finance requested the permit to accommodate the school's growth while the old Park Place School, 309 S. Braddock Ave. (recently purchased by PPPD, LLC for ECS use) is being renovated. In an earlier hearing, Principal McCann assured the City Planning Commission and City Council that he expects the Park Place building to be available for the second semester.

Many neighbors, particularly those closest to ECS, have concerns about the ability of the building, the site and the neighborhood to accommodate it. In front of both the Planning Commission and City Council, neighbors spoke about their concerns regarding increased traffic on Braddock Avenue potentially slowing response time for emergency vehicles. They also noted that Braddock Avenue bus drop-offs and pick-ups interrupt the flow of both a.m. and p.m. rush hours. Residents also cited the absence of parking on the school's property and the use of the Frick Park parking lot and adjacent streets by parents and staff on a daily basis as burdens on the neighborhood, fearing that these impacts will increase as student enrollment rises.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved the Conditional Use Permit; City Council added several stipulations in response to concerns raised by the neighbors, including installation of outdoor lighting for security purposes and the removal date. ■

-- *Barbara Daly Danko, Resident*

# A Big Thank You!

## *Great Neighbors, Great Cause*

As 2011 draws to an end, members of the RSCA Board would like to thank all who have been part of our effort to maintain and improve our great neighborhood. To those who have served on committees, planted gardens and weeded flower beds, picked up litter, distributed the newsletter, maintained our website (the list could go on...), and, of course, supported us through their membership dues, we want you to know that we truly appreciate your contributions.

We wish you and your family the best of holidays and an even better new year. See you all around the Square in 2012! ■

-- *The Board of the Regent Square Civic Association*

*Kitty Brunkhorst, Nancy Drew, Neal Harrison, Alina Keebler, Andrew Lang, Kathie Meyer, Tom Montemerv, Arch Pellev, Darrell Rabb, Maeve Schuetz, Carrie Webber*



### **To contact the RSCA:**

Regent Square Civic Association  
7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265  
412-371-2010 Email: [contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org)

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# Community Grows a Garden

## *Volunteers, Designers Spruce up Biddle Building*

Come spring, the front of the historic Biddle Building on Braddock Avenue will be in full bloom.

The palette of color will be the result of the hard work by 20 volunteers on Saturday, Sept. 24, when they completed the new Rain Garden by the Biddle Building at 800 Braddock Ave. The garden, made up of plants native to Western Pennsylvania, was expertly designed by Sara Madden and Paul Yanulavich from the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association. The planting crew, led by Paul Yanulavich, consisted of watershed volunteers, tennis players from the Frick Park Clay Court Tennis Club, and residents from the Regent Square Civic Association.

Thanks also goes to two Regent Square residents: graphic designer Morgan Hawkins Drain for the design of a forthcoming sign, which will describe how the rain garden captures and uses the rooftop water runoff, and concrete contractor Ron Tiberio for installing the sidewalk water channel that connects the downspout to the Rain Garden.

In addition, the Pittsburgh Department of Public Works took care of the initial digging and to the tennis club will care and maintain the garden.

A detailed sign soon will be installed at the site to explain how rain gardens work. There will also be a Web page on the RSCA website that lists the plants by their botanical and common names, as well as photographs of the construction to help those who want to build a similar garden in their own yard.

Be sure to stop by the garden on your next walk to Frick Park. ■

-- *Stephen Hirtle, RSCA Frick Park Clay Courts Tennis Club Liaison / FPCCTC Volunteer Coordinator*