

# REGENT SQUARE

CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

January 2012, Volume 32 Number 1

## Join us...

At our next RSCA meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston Ave. Meetings are typically held the first Monday of each month, with the exception of holidays. A special planning retreat for the board and neighborhood volunteers is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4 so there is no regular meeting in February.

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.

## What We Did in 2011!

*A Sampling of Projects for the Square*



The RSCA once again thanks businesses and residents for their support to help light up Braddock Avenue for the holidays. For a list of contributors, go to Page 4.



The RSCA added five "Three Rivers" bike racks to the Square – four on Braddock and two on Hutchinson avenues. The project cost more than \$3,200.



Volunteers and support from the RSCA, Frick Park Clay Court Tennis Club, and Nine Mile Run Watershed Association helped to create a Rain Garden in front of the Biddle Building on Braddock Avenue. Watch in spring when it blooms. See update, Page 6.

### 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)

# Community goals for Sunoco site

## Braddock/Hutchinson Design Workshop Update

Residents of Regent Square and members of the RSCA Board are hoping that redevelopment at the corner of Braddock and Hutchinson, site of the Sunoco Station, will in the long run have a positive impact on nearby residences and businesses -- not just in Edgewood (where the property is located), but also in Swissvale (across Braddock Avenue) as well as in Wilkinsburg and the City of Pittsburgh (just down the street).

That's the result of a meeting held in October to discuss the future of the Braddock/Hutchinson corner site. Attendees, whose background varied greatly, developed a vision and a list of recommendations for developers and Edgewood officials to consider in the site's redevelopment.

In summary, the group asked that the developers and Edgewood make sure to:

- a. **Maintain and improve the existing character of the Regent Square community**
- b. **Enhance the aesthetics of the business district and residential community**
- c. **Maintain the small-scale commercial quality of the business district**
- d. **Be compatible with the architectural feel of the neighborhood**
- e. **Have a positive impact on all nearby property values**
- f. **Reconcile car and pedestrian traffic on Braddock and Hutchinson**
- g. **Avoid negative impact to existing traffic load on side streets**
- h. **Maintain existing on-street parking options**
- i. **Be bike and pedestrian friendly**
- j. **Be environmentally responsible**
- k. **Maintain public safety**
- l. **Be an example of inter-municipal collaboration**

In January, the RSCA is presenting the report in its entirety to Giant Eagle, Corp., which has purchased the Sunoco site for a GetGo, and to Edgewood Borough officials. Once these meetings take place, the RSCA will post the report on the RSCA website, [www.regentsquare-RSCA.org](http://www.regentsquare-RSCA.org) for residents to review. Special thanks to all who participated in the design workshop.

The RSCA will continue to share information on this issue with the community to the best of its abilities. Ask to be put on the special Sunoco site contact list by emailing [contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org). Residents and property owners should also stay in contact with Edgewood officials for updates on the redevelopment of this prominent site in our neighborhood and to share their ideas and concerns. ■

-- Alina Keebler, RSCA President

**Contributions:** This edition was edited by Virginia Linn and designed by Becky Doshi. 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 the 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

Through Feb. 1

### Rain Barrel Discount

*Purchase a Rain Barrel from the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association and have it installed (weather permitting) through Feb. 1 and save almost \$50 off the purchase price. The barrel will be installed so that when spring arrives you can just flip the diverter switch to collect rain water and begin saving money on your water bill. Schedule your consultation now; spring is the busiest season.*

**Info:** Luke Stamper, 412-371-8779, ext. 120 or [luke@ninemilerun.org](mailto:luke@ninemilerun.org)

Saturday, Feb. 25 / 4 to 6 p.m.

### February Family Fun Day

*Come and share a favorite family game, or pick from one of ours, run around playing Steal the Bacon, help design the mammoth mosaic window with Daviea Davis, down a hot chocolate and other goodies and call it a night. \$5 per family.*

**Location:** Wilkins School Community Center, Charleston

**Info:** To register contact us at [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com) or 412 244-8458.

Saturday, Feb. 25 / 6 to 10 p.m.

### Mardi Gras Celebration!

*Waverly Presbyterian Church's annual Mardi Gras features the Cajun-Zydeco band Mon Gumbo and traditional Cajun food, prizes and lots of dancing. Ticket prices to be announced at later date. Proceeds benefit children and youth ministry scholarship.*

**Location:** Church social hall, 590 S. Braddock Ave., (corner of Forbes and Braddock)

**Info:** 412-242-0643; [www.waverlychurch.org](http://www.waverlychurch.org)

## Home Improvement Workshop - 2012

The Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA) and the Greater Park Place Neighborhood Association (GPPNA) are beginning to plan their 5th annual Home Improvement Workshop, to be held a Saturday morning in mid- March.

Help is needed to organize the event. To volunteer email [contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org) or call 412-371-2010.

## 2012 RSCA MEMBERSHIP

To become a new RSCA member or to renew your RSCA Membership for the 2012 year, please complete the form below and send it in with your check payable to **RSCA to: Regent Square Civic Association, 7604 Charleston Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15218**

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual(s) adults/households @ \$10 ea.	<input type="checkbox"/> Regent Square Business @ \$25 each
Name _____	Business Name _____
Name _____	Contact Person _____
Name _____	Alternate Person _____
	Website _____
Address, Municipality, Zip _____	
Evening Phone _____	E-mail address _____

Please consider an additional donation for seasonal lighting in the Braddock Ave. Business District \$\_\_\_\_\_ (suggested donation of \$10, \$15, or \$25). This can be included in membership payment.

*2012 Membership Year runs Jan 1st – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues received after October 1 are attributed to the following year. Membership dues are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution; however, they may be deductible as an expense incurred in connection with a trade or business. Contact information is not shared with other organizations.*

## Smith Honored for Environmental Work Nine Mile Run Watershed Leader has Long History of Altruism

Brenda Smith, executive director of Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, was one of 15 women recently honored for their environmental initiatives by the Women and Girls Foundation.

Heidi Bartholomew, foundation board chairwoman, said the awards "honor women who through their actions, words and work are leading the way in green energy, green policy, green technology and green innovation in our region."

Smith joined the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association in January 2008. Before that she had spent the previous two decades helping nonprofit groups as diverse as humanitarian aid organizations and arts ensembles with strategic planning, board development, fundraising and administrative challenges.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Brenda traveled around the world four times, working on Pitt's Semester-at-Sea program. Between trips she studied at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. In 1989 she co-founded Global Links, a nonprofit organization that provides hospitals in Western Pennsylvania and across the U.S. with an environmentally responsible alternative to disposal or incineration of surplus equipment and supplies. ■

-- Virginia Linn, Newsletter Editor

## RSCA Success Praised at Open House

### New Board Members Announced

Four board members were elected on Nov. 7 for terms on the Regent Square Civic Association, beginning in January. They are Ken Kuligowski of Wilkinsburg, Kathie Meyer of Swissvale, Jon Perret of Swissvale and Josie Ulrich of Edgewood.

The voting was announced during the neighborhood's annual open house, held at the new Root 174 restaurant on Braddock Avenue. Owner and Chef Keith Fuller prepared a delicious array of appetizers for board members, businesses and residents attending the event.

RSCA President Alina Keebler talked about all the neighborhood accomplishments for 2011 and projected plans for the future. All who donated the Holiday Light fund were individually thanked for their contributions.

It was a good party and a good opportunity for those attending to meet their neighbors and share their pride in our special neighborhood. Hope to see you next year! ■

-- Kathie Meyer, RSCA Board Member/Business Liaison

## Did you know.....?

...*Edgewood is not a dry town.*

City Paper recently focused on a widely believed misconception that Edgewood is dry. It's easy to be confused: Drive down Braddock Avenue and the Swissvale side (the one closest to Frick Park) is lined with bars; There are none on the Edgewood side – everything (as of mid-December) was BYOB, although Root 174 is hoping to open its bar nook.

It turns out that businesses have not applied for liquor licenses on the Edgewood side in Regent Square because they're very expensive. They would be "clean" liquor license – one without a tax lien from a closed bar. And, according to City Paper, while licenses can be transferred between municipalities, doing so requires the approval of both boroughs.

Edgewood establishments that do have liquor licenses include Applebee's and the Reel Hollywood Bar & Grill. ■

-- Virginia Linn, Newsletter Editor

# School Construction Nears Completion

## *ECS Principal Hopes to Occupy New Building in February*

The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park is hoping to occupy its new Lower School at Park Place on Braddock Avenue in mid-February, according to Principal Jon McCann.

In a recent letter to the school community, he wrote: "Building plans will make this new facility a wonderful setting for both outdoor and indoor educational experiences. Exposed brick work, an outdoor amphitheater, and a palette of nature-inspired finishes will provide our students with a fantastic home for learning about our built and natural environments.

"The restoration of the over 100-year-old Park Place School has been carefully managed by our skilled team of architects and builders, along with the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. We have been careful to preserve the historic nature of the building while equipping the building with modern amenities. The historic nature of the building has, however, resulted in several additional projects and delays over the renovation timeline. We have remained optimistic that the project would reach completion on time but currently understand that we will not meet our anticipated deadline in January."

Because construction has taken longer than expected, McCann expects the portable classrooms behind the school on Henrietta to remain until the end of the school year. Pittsburgh City Council, in approving their installation, said the classrooms must be removed by July 9, 2012.

In other news, A+ Schools recently released its 2011 Report to the Community on Public School Progress in Pittsburgh, which listed students' performance on the PSSA tests at the Environmental Charter School and other charter schools in the city as well as the Pittsburgh Public Schools. In all categories, ECS outperformed the average scores of city school students.

Nearly 83 percent of its third-graders were proficient or advanced in Reading and 87 percent were proficient/advanced in Math; 80.9 percent of fourth-graders were proficient/advanced in Reading, 91.2 percent were proficient/advanced in Math and 90 percent were proficient/advanced in Science. For fifth-graders, the percentages in these ranges were 73.2 percent in Reading, 79.4 percent in Math and 58.5 percent in Writing, according to figures released by the school. ■

-- Virginia Linn, Newsletter Editor

# Volunteers Needed

Edgewood Home Delivered Meals is in need of volunteer drivers and runners for its Delivered Meals service.

The program is supported by the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood and run by the Eastern Area Adult Services. Any Edgewood or Swissvale resident who is unable to shop for or prepare meals during a period of recuperation or for a longer term is eligible to receive this service. Volunteers pick up the meals at the Swissvale Senior Center Monday through Friday and deliver them to shut-ins.

If you or a member of your family needs this help, call 412-731-6125 and register with the director, Jodi Trovato, or call Joy Goethert at 412-731-1640 if you can spare two hours once or twice a month to help out. ■

-- Joy Goethert, Edgewood Home Delivered Meals Volunteer Coordinator

# Neighbor Helping Neighbor

## *Vigilance Key to Keeping the Square a Safe Place to Live*

Lock your doors -- especially car doors. Keep garage doors shut. Be aware of who your neighbors are and report anything unusual. Don't hesitate to call 911 when you see or suspect a problem.

That was the message presented by police representatives of the four municipalities that make up Regent Square at the RSCA's first annual Crime Prevention workshop on Nov. 19 at the Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church.

Although turnout was light, the 90-minute session provided valuable information and those in attendance were eager to ask relevant questions that addressed their concerns. In addition to being vigilant about locked doors, the officers encouraged the creation of block watches so that neighbors are helping neighbors. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm in the room and the need to continue sharing the information that will keep the neighborhood safe.

The police officers were very energetic and offered valuable information to keep Regent Square one of the best neighborhoods in the area. Thanks to the Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church for the use of its space. There will be more annual meetings to come. Please be sure to watch for announcements. ■

-- Tom Montgomery, RSCA Board Member / Public Safety Committee

# What's Doing at the Wilkins Center

## *New PlaySpace, other activities highlight winter season*

The PlaySpace opened last fall at the Wilkins School Community Center (WSCC) on Charleston. It is for children 6 months to 6 years old, and moms, dads, grandparents, and caregivers alike. Play with your child, interact with other adults and get out of the cold this winter! Hours of operation will be determined based on the level of interest, so let us know what is best for you.

What will you find at our activity centers? Infant toys, a cozy reading area, gross motor toys, imaginative play toys, cognitive development toys, a train table and much more. The WSCC PlaySpace is a volunteer Membership Cooperative. We are committed to our Community and invested in offering a safe, clean place for parents and children to pay and learn together. To learn more contact us at [wscppgh@yahoo.com](mailto:wscppgh@yahoo.com) or call 412 244-8458.

### **So, you want to learn to play the ukulele....**

The WSCC is home base for Steel City Ukuleles. Our bi-monthly

sessions accommodate a wide range of abilities. We welcome new-to-uke players, people who play for fun and those who have switched from a bulky guitar to the light and happy-sounding uke.

At Steel City Ukes, we teach and learn together: chords and alternate chords, strumming technique, picking out melody. We have a range of soprano, tenor, concert and baritone uke players, and members lead the sessions. We might play "Five Foot Two" "Darktown Strutters Ball" and "Pretty Baby." Or some Beatles, Blues or Hawaiian tunes.

Do you, or someone you know, play the uke? You are invited to bring your uke and come play with us. It's lots of fun. If you don't know the chords, just sing louder.

For more information, call Marlene at 412-481-1620. ■

-- *Patty Doody, Wilkins Center Programming Director*

## A Reel Success

### *30<sup>th</sup> Three Rivers Film Festival Draws Crowds, Raves*

Movie enthusiasts came from far and wide to attend this year's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Three Rivers Film Festival (3RFF), held between Nov. 4-19. In all, there were 35 screenings of independent films at the Regent Square Theater, plus many more at the Harris Theater, Downtown, and the Melwood Screening Room, Oakland.

With hundreds of movie-goers, out-of-town directors attending special screenings and receptions taking place after showings, the Regent Square business district hummed with extra energy and activity.

All this could not have taken place without the help of local volunteers as well as those who participated in the 3RFF-Regent Square Planning Committee. Special thanks go to Gina Sapienza, who took care of designing and printing the Festival banner, to Mike Krohmaly of FastSigns in Swissvale, who printed the banner (and then reprinted it very "Fast" after a truck tore it), and to Carmine Russo and the crew at Swissvale Public Works, who took care of hanging it (and then re-hanging the new one). The RSCA was happy to contribute by donating the funds for the banner and helping to promote such a special Pittsburgh cultural event.

The 3RFF-Regent Square Planning Committee is already thinking toward next year's film festival. If you would like to participate, put your name on the 2012 contact list by emailing [contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org](mailto:contact@regentsquare-RSCA.org) ■

-- *Alina Keebler, RSCA president / 3RFF- Regent Square Committee*

## Thank You All!

Here are the local businesses and residents who have contributed to keeping Regent Square lit up over the holiday season. These are contributions through Dec. 5. More are needed to help cover the total \$3,760 cost of the lighting.

Ambiance Boutique	Jared Leinbach & Tara McCrohan
Braddock Express	Litzinger Career Consulting
Guy & Karen Bradford	M. Davis Group LLC
Clipps Salon LLC	Mabro Company
Concept Art Gallery	Christine Michaels
Contract Personnel Inc.	Murphy's Tap
Dianna Kugligowski, Educational Specialist	
Drew Designs Ltd.	Neighborhood Realty Services
Dunnings Grill	Alice Newton
Edward J. I. Gannon	Paul Gleason, D.M.D.
Edward Jones	Shaolin Studios
Eyes on Regent Square Inc.	Square Café
First Commonwealth	Square Wash
Neal & Amy Harrison	Styles by Cardamone
Hepatica	The Green Mango Noodle Hut
Katerbean	The Map Room Inc.
Kathleen D. Schneider, Attorney	The Salon
Jeffrey Kay	Gwen Vargas
Ken & Dianna Kugligowski	William Penn Jewelers
	Yoga on the Square.

To contribute, you can send a check to the Regent Square Civic Association, 7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218. ■

-- *Kitty Brunkhorst, RSCA Board Member / Membership Committee*

# Phipps adds to Biddle Building Gardens

The historic Biddle Building at 800 S. Braddock Ave. next to the red clay tennis courts continues to get a remarkable facelift. Gutters were installed this spring by the city Department of Public Works, which allowed the installation of a brick red rain barrel in conjunction with the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association rain barrel initiative. This was followed by the construction of the community Rain Garden through the joint efforts of the watershed association, Frick Park Clay Court Tennis Club and the Regent Square Civic Association.

In October, Kelly Ogrodnik, who is Sustainable Design and Programs Manager from Phipps Conservatory, heard about the improvements and offered to restore the garden next to the Biddle Building to highlight their sustainable plants initiative.

“As part of Phipps' mission dedicated to sustainable landscapes and outreach in the community, we've designed the Biddle Building's garden with Phipps' Top 10 Sustainable Plants. At Phipps, we believe that good gardening practices begins with smart plant selection. Once established, these Top 10 Sustainable Plants will require minimal maintenance, water, and fertilizer needs, and are disease and pest resistant,” Ogrodnik said. Planting was done in October with Ogrodnik and tennis players from the clay courts tennis club.

In coming months, a webpage (linked to [www.regentsquare-rsca.org](http://www.regentsquare-rsca.org)), as well as on-site signage about the Rain Garden and the Sustainable Landscape will be added, so that local homeowners can plan their own gardens along ecologically sound standards. In the meantime, local residents are encouraged to stop by and visit the new gardens that have been planted at the Biddle Building. ■

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

## Business Profile:

### *Center For Counseling Arts begins its third year in the Square*

If there's difficulty in your life, get some help. And help is readily available in our neighborhood at the Center For Counseling Arts -- a comprehensive therapy practice at Sanders and South Braddock. (1201 S. Braddock Avenue, Suite 2; 412-241-8552)

The counseling center moved to Regent Square at the end of 2009 from its long-time location on the South Side. With the move, the group also added therapists by combining with another practice that had been in Monroeville.

The Center includes co-directors Nancy Lardo, Ph.D, and Harlee

Abromson, LCSW, plus six additional therapists and an RN licensed massage therapist. “Help at the center can come in many ways: support, insight, understanding and compassion,” Lardo and Abromson say.

“Reaching out to change the inner workings of a problem is, quite simply, what therapy is all about,” they said. “If you're facing significant life changes, grief and loss, depressive and anxiety episodes, gender-related issues, relationship recovery, family systems, inner child work, a critical workplace incident or something you can't even label, we can help.”

For more detail about therapy options, consult the center's website at [www.thecenterforcounselingarts.com](http://www.thecenterforcounselingarts.com). ■

-- William McCloskey, Regent Square Resident / Writer

## Edgewood Symphony Enters 25<sup>th</sup> Year

### *New Leaders Sought for Board*

The Edgewood Symphony Orchestra is seeking three to five new board members who want to have fun, contribute to the Pittsburgh communities and love music.

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Edgewood. This season will be especially exciting for board and committee members because next

fall marks the 25th season for the Edgewood Symphony. There will be a lot of planning to do for special events and promotions.

To learn more about the symphony, visit [EdgewoodSymphony.org](http://EdgewoodSymphony.org). To apply or ask questions, visit the website's contact page, fill out the form and write a statement of interest in the message section. ■

-- Hannah Sams, Edgewood Symphony representative



### 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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