

FALL 2022 VOLUME 40, NUMBER 4

Join us...

RSCA meetings are held at the Wilkins School Community Center 7:00pm on the first Tuesday of the following months: February through June September through November.

FYI: Municipality Council Meetings:

*Edgewood -- First and Third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

*Pittsburgh District 5 -- Every Tues. and Weds. as a part of the council meeting at 10 a.m.

*Swissvale -- First Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

*Wilkinsburg Council Legislative Session -- Second Weds. of the month at 7 p.m.

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 and/or

·RSCA Business Email List

Visit https://rsca.online and follow the



"RSCA Mailing Lists" links and instructions. (You don't have to be a RSCA member to subscribe.) The voice of the Regent Square Civic Association (RSCA), a not-for-profit 501(c)3, all-volunteer community organization, serving Regent Square's diverse residential and business community.

Spooky Saturday - A Fall Family Fun Event!

Join the RSCA and 3 Rivers Outdoor Company (3ROC) for Spooky Saturday! The event will be held on October 22nd from 1-6pm in the 3ROC parking lot at the corner of S Braddock Ave and Sanders St. There will be fun for the whole family including 3ROC's annual Pumpkin carving competition, a halloween costume contest, and a hike in Frick Park to show off everyone's costumes!

The event will feature live music from local artists, sales from local vendors, and food and beverages will be available for purchase. In addition to prizes for our contests, we will also have local shop items available for raffle. All proceeds go toward supporting the Regent Square Civic Association to ensure that we can continue to hold events that enrich our community. Hope to see you there!



News from CC Mellor

Is your house spook-tacular at Halloween? Do ghosts, goblins and ghouls haunt your front yard? Show us what you got! Decorate your outdoor space for C.C. Mellor's inaugural neighborhood Halloween Decorating Contest! Whether you go spooky, silly, or scary, we want to see your best decorations for the season. Enter your house, window, or door and have your space ready for our expert judges by October 17! We'll add your spot to our map. Then, have your friends vote for you in the People's Choice Award October 21 - November 1. Find more details at <u>ccmellorlibrary.org/halloweencontest</u>, and stay tuned for more information on our Halloween celebration at Koenig Field!

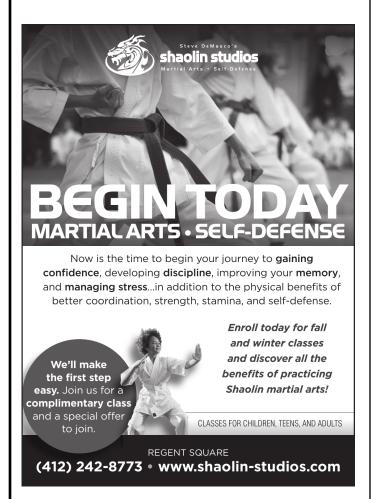
Also coming in October, it's your chance to explore your roots with the help of an expert at our Family Tree Ba**sics** program. Learn the fundamentals of genealogy with this talk presented by local expert Marilyn Holt. She has over 36 years of experience as a genealogical librarian at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and is currently an instructor with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. She has been lecturing on local and family history topics since 1988. This event will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. There's no registration required.

Finally, join us on Oct. 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to learn more about the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, how they're connecting the Holocaust and antisemitism to the injustices of today, and how you can be involved. Dr. Lauren Apter Bairnsfeather, executive director, will speak about the various community partnerships and offerings the Center has and ways to get involved. Marcel L. Walker, Project Coordinator of CHUTZ-POW!, will introduce the Center's original comic book series that brings local survivor testimony to life. Attendees will learn more about the CHUTZ-POW! Superheroes of the Holocaust series and how they can get copies for themselves and into their local schools. Register for free at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/archives-in-action-

an-evening-with-the-holocaust-center-of-pittsburghtickets-412073381577

And don't forget to save the date for our annual Arts & Crafts Fair in December! This year's event will be held at the Edgewood Club on Saturday, Dec. 3. Come and find beautiful, handcrafted items from local artists and craftspeople and take home some gifts for loved ones (or yourself!).

As for our regular programming, we've got lots of great stuff going throughout the fall! From Baby Talk, Family Storytime and Pajama Storytime for our littlest patrons to Makerspace Mondays, After-school STEAM at Forest Hills, Homeschool Book Club, Tween Club and Teen Group for the older kids to Forest Hills Social Hour for older adults (plus our book clubs and community groups!) you'll find a little something for everyone. Check out the full schedule at ccmellorlibrary.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for all the latest!



Frick Park Ranger Roundup: Fall Edition

Greetings from your Frick Park Rangers! As the Fern Hollow bridge continues to take shape and summer transitions to fall, we wanted to update you on some things to look forward to in the coming months.

With the end of September also comes the end of our summer programming schedule. We're saying goodbye to Tabling Tuesday and Lemonade Days and hello to Hot Chocolate Breaks and sled riding. When we have the chance, we like to hand out hot chocolate to help keep the seasonal chills at bay. Whether you're enjoying the changing foliage in fall or sled riding in winter, nothing beats a nice cup of cocoa!

October in Frick Park wouldn't be complete without Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's Halloween spectacular Bump in the Night. On the last two weekends of the month Conservancy staff invites you to join them for an evening filled with moonlit hikes, spooky critters, activities, and entertainment for children of all ages. There is still time to register for this year's festivities!

The arrival of October also means the return of Allegheny Goatscape and their goats! We will be hosting another helpful herd of goats along Riverview Trail near the dog park straight back from the Blue Slide Playground entrance. The tentative dates for their stay are October 5th - November 14th, but this is subject to change based upon the weather. Be sure to stop by and watch them at work removing invasive plants and clearing the way for future restoration.

Speaking of restoration, this has already been a banner year for tree plantings and we're looking to finish strong this fall. After we finish our remaining planting events, we'll have planted more than 150 new trees in Frick alone! Successful tree planting is vital in restoring a healthy canopy and revitalizing the populations of our native plants. Thank you to anyone who has volunteered with us this year to help make Frick into the best version it can be!

If you would like to get more involved with events in your city parks there are two easy ways to get started:

You can reach us by email at parkrangers@pittsburghpa.gov or by phone at 412-518-0280.

Follow us! If you follow us on Instagram @pghparkrangers or on Facebook on the CitiParks page you can stay up-to-date on all of our upcoming events.

-Written by Christopher Cwenar, Frick Park Ranger



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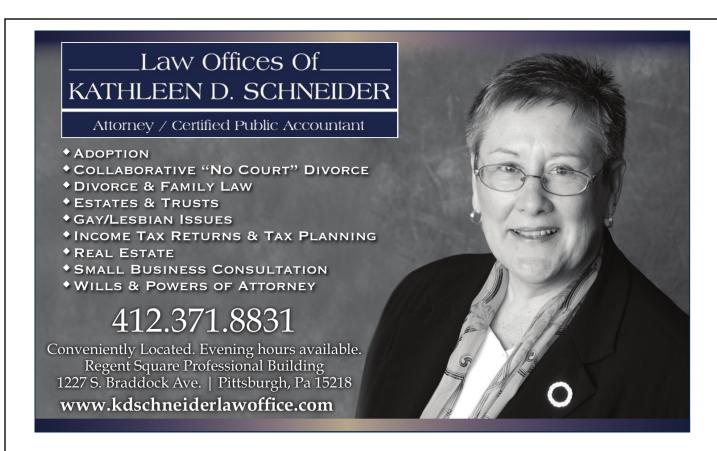
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Recap of the City's Forbes Ave "Listening Session"

The reconstruction of the Fern Hollow Bridge presents an opportunity to improve safety along the Forbes Avenue corridor from S. Braddock to Beechwood.

The City's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) has been working on a redesign of Forbes to improve the safety for everyone who travels through this vital corridor, no matter how you get around. Recently, the City hosted a "listening session," with Mayor Gainey in attendance, to gather feedback from residents on their experiences and thoughts on making safety improvements to the streets.

While the meeting focused on the Beechwood Blvd-Forbes Ave-Dallas Ave intersection, residents described their desire to improve biking and walking along Forbes itself as well as across Forbes Ave to better provide access to Frick Park. For instance, DOMI indicated that they will be installing a new traffic light at the west end of the new Fern Hollow Bridge in order for residents to cross safely.

Other ideas on the table include turning the existing bike lanes on Forbes Ave into protected bike lanes, making for a safer bicycling connection between Regent Square and Squirrel Hill.

While details of these proposals have yet to be made public, residents in the meeting expressed the need for robust protection between the bike lanes and moving vehicles, many of whom drive over the posted speed limit. Other areas of concern include maintenance, specifically around keeping the proposed bike lanes swept clean of debris, snow and ice.

Forbes Ave is set to reopen as soon as the Fern Hollow Bridge is complete, which could be as early as the end of the year. Now is the time and show support for a redesign of this corridor that provides safe access for all Pittsburghers, no matter how we travel.

DOMI has set up an webpage to provide feedback and ask questions on the Forbes Ave improvements, which can be found here: engage.pittsburghpa.gov/complete-streets

Article by Eric Boerer, Advocacy Director of Bike Pittsburgh

Since 2002, BikePGH has been transforming our streets to make biking and walking commonplace for all Pittsburghers in order to improve our quality of life and reduce the harmful effects of car dependence in our communities. This year we are celebrating our 20th anniversary! Learn more at bikepgh.org/20

Update your Membership Today for 2023!

The Regent Square Civic Association(RSCA) serves the community by acting as a liaison to the municipalities, improving community safety, enriching the environment, and enhancing the quality of life of its citizens through positive participatory actions.

It is RSCA's mission to continuously improve the quality of life in the Regent Square neighborhood, organize relevant community events when needed, initiate neighborhood improvement, act as a positive advocate on important community-wide issues, and disseminate relevant information to the community Are you a member? As a reminder, membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues received after September 30 will be attributed to the following year - so please take this opportunity as a reminder to re-enroll today!

As a reminder - Membership Dues and Donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions. In addition to being a member, would you like to take an active role in community initiatives such as the holiday lights, the annual yard sale, or community events? Is there a project or improvement that you would like to see in the neighborhood? Maybe you have a little enthusiasm, creativity, and/or time to spare? Look no further! Send us an email at contact@rsca.online to get involved!

Run Around the Square Races to Finish

The Run Around the Square finished in fine form on August 27, 2022. A cloudy and cool morning turned into a sunny day to enjoy the race and the festivities at Fern Hollow after the race. It was truly inspiring to see the community come together and cheer the runners and enjoy the after party.

There are many people to thank for the success of this year's race:

- The committee members who re-mapped the new course since the bridge was no longer usable
- The sponsors who, year after year, have provided us with donations and after party goodies at no cost to the participants.
 Please go to <u>runaroundthesquare.com</u> to get the list of sponsors and be sure to support their businesses.
- The volunteers who help with so many aspects of the race, including water stops, barricades, packet pickup, after party support, set up and clean up.
- The community for supporting the racers and the event with so much enthusiasm and patience throughout race week.
 After a short break, the planning for next year's race will begin in the spring. Please consider joining the team to ensure the next race is as successful as the previous years' races. You can contact <u>runaroundthesquare.com</u> to get involved in all the fun.



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Holiday Gift Drive

Believe it or not, the holiday season is fast approaching! Consider joining the RSCA as we share some holiday cheer through the Holiday Gift Drive. This year's gift drive will benefit local children and teens through Hosanna House.

The drive will begin in early November. Donations of new and unwrapped toys, hats, clothing, and gift cards will be accepted. Donations will be collected on the first floor of the Wilkins School Community Center and several other locations around Regent Square through December 7. We will also be accepting donations during our Light Up Night event on November 26th! Visit www.rsca.online for further details.





Stay Connected! Subscribe to "Notify Me"

Don't miss out on important updates from the Borough of Swissvale! Get notifications sent directly to you via text or email. YOU get to decide what notifications to receive. "Notify Me" allows you to subscribe to receive updates regarding community activities, borough building updates, council meetings, trash and recycling changes, calendar updates, news alerts and more.

Borough of Swissvale | www.swissvaleborough.com 412-271-7101 | administrative@swissvaleborough.com

News from the WSCC

We have so much coming to the Wilkins School Community Center this fall! From art exhibits to community events to classes, there's so much to do at WSCC. Here's just a few of the things we are offering this fall:

Art exhibit by Olena Abakumova running now until November 10th. An opening reception will be held September 10th, 6-8pm

Miss Kim Curtin will be starting her dance classes up again this fall, starting September 12th

Detroit Style Urban Ballroom Dancing Classes will be offered on Tuesdays, starting September 13th Steel City Ukluleles comes back to WSCC this fall, starting on September 7th

Art Exhibit Called "The Art of Gifting" will be kicking off on November 6th

All these and more at WSCC this fall! Learn more about these and other fun things going on at our website: wsccpgh.org



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Neighborhood Volunteer Cleanup Project

For many years many neighbors from Regent Square and beyond have been entering Frick Park from the end of LaClair and Macon Avenues and making their way between the oak, maple, and locust trees down into the park. Some on foot, many with their dogs, and some of the more adventurous ones on their bicycles. About 3 years ago a new resident at the end of LaClair (Perry) started using the path and noticed how many invasive bush honeysuckle shrubs and wild grape vines had to be dodged or squeezed past while walking the path, so he started cutting some of them down and piling them along the top of the lower hillside. Then sometime in [the Fall of 2021 or Spring of 2022] another local resident from the 1200 block of LaClair, got tired of seeing all the bricks and blocks and building debris that had accumulated along the path over several decades and decided to do something about it. So the two of them [Steve and Perry], started working together, but with the dwindling stamina of septuagenarians yet wisdom of experience they quickly realized they could use some help. So Steve bought himself an electric powered wheelbarrow and sweet-talked or arm-twisted about a dozen or more of his neighbors and friends into loading and hauling debris up to the end of LaClair for an hour or so almost every Saturday morning throughout June, July and August – weather permitting, of course -- and various overlapping vacations occasionally requiring a sabbath Saturday. Regardless of the number and mix, the camaraderie and getting to know each other has been immensely enjoyable.

Borough of Swissvale's DPWlunder the leadership of Greg B.] has already hauled away several tons of debris and taken some of the larger branches, limbs and pieces of wood for chipping. In the middle of August, two representatives from the City of Pittsburgh 's DPW Forestry Division – who work closely with Rangers, arborists and naturalists of the Pgh Parks Conservancy came to visit the site, and were so favorably impressed with the work done and improved look of the hillside that they offered to bring in wood chips for the path, boulders to discourage illegal dumping, and perhaps even install a park bench at the end of Macon – where there is more of a flatter and wider space than at the end of LaClair. They even discussed some ideas for planting ground cover and/or pollinator garden seeds in the Fall and seeing of Tree Pittsburgh might be able to provide native shrubs and trees for planting in the Spring.

Some of the same people in this group of friendly residents are also discussing the formation of a community garden on some empty lots on LaClair. Anyone interested in contributing time or moral support to either project, are encouraged to contact Perry Recker at perigraphica@yahoo.com, or Steve O'Donnell at (412) 523-1044. Or, failing a timely response from them, email Joan Nilson with your contact information and ask to be put on their contact list - nilson.joan@gmail.com. - so you can be kept appraised of work days and other events in the Fall and Spring of 2022-23.

Getting Ready to Light Up the Square

As we launch into fall and the holiday season approaches, the RSCA board is busily making preparations for our annual holiday lights display. The RSCA holiday lights are one of the most popular traditions and one that members request year after year. This year, back by popular demand, we will string white lights on trees the business districts on South Braddock and Trenton Avenues.



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To celebrate the start of the holiday season and turn on the lights for the first time, we will host a Light Up Night Party on November 26th. The event will be generously hosted by 3 Rivers Outdoor Company, at their outdoor firepit. There will be warming refreshments, entertainment, and snacks provided by neighborhood businesses. We will also announce the winner of our annual Spirit of Community award. So be sure to put it on your calendar.

As with all of our initiatives, the holiday lights are funded through membership fees and donations from community members. This year, due to inflationary pressures, the service provider who hangs and maintains the lights has raised our costs. So, be sure to pay your membership fees this year and, if you are able, consider making an additional donation on our website using the QR code!

Call for Board Members

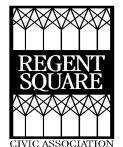
The RSCA Board has a few remaining openings for board members in 2023! Board membership is on a volunteer basis and involves attendance of monthly meetings, engagement in RSCA-led events, and an overall commitment to supporting our vibrant neighborhood. We encourage RSCA residents to apply - particularly those who have a community-oriented mindset, enthusiasm, and great ideas.

To apply or learn more, please send an email with your contact information, brief description of your interest, and a recent resume to contact@rsca.online.

We look forward to hearing from you!

-Rachael Hoffman, RSCA President





Regent Square Civic Association 7604 Charleston Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1265