Elementary Students Give Police Officers a Holiday Present

Students from the Elementary school's Good Vibes Club made individually addressed SURVIVAL KITS (with treats inside) for each Richmond Heights Police Officer and delivered them December 19. The note attached to the bags was very special:

- **LIFESAVER** To remind you of the many times you have been one
- **STARBURST** For the Burst of Energy that you need
- **PAYDAY** Since you’re not doing it for the money
- **HERSHEY KISSES** To show our love for you
- **GUM** To help everyone stick together
- **TOOTSIE ROLL** You have to roll with the punches
- **PEPPERMINT PATTY** Helping you keep your cool
- **SNICKERS** To help you keep your sense of humor
When will the leaf truck pick-up be on my street?

Our leaf pick-up trucks continuously do a loop through the city throughout leaf season as weather permits. Wherever we leave off one day, we start up the next day. We anticipate our trucks will make their final pickups by the end of the year.

December 21 is the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year.

Waste Collection and Recycling Services Changing in January

The New Year brings two changes to the trash and recycling services provided in the City of Richmond Heights. Starting January 14, residents will place their trash into wheeled carts provided by Waste Management and compatible with their automated trucks. This change is anticipated to improve the collection process for both residents and Waste Management (brochure). The second change, a suspension of both curbside pickup and acceptance of some recyclable materials, is hoped to be temporary as the City continues to seek options to combat new challenges in the world recyclables market.

The City will continue to provide curbside collection of leaves and branches during the season; accept household hazardous waste, computer/cell phone, and scrap tires at the Service Department on designated Saturdays; schedule Shred Days; and participate in Simple Recycling curbside pickup of clothing, shoes, and housewares. The City also encourages residents to bring mixed paper to paper recycling bins behind the school, and at several nonprofits, places of worship and the Cleveland Metroparks.

The decision to suspend curbside pickup and acceptance of plastics, glass, and aluminum/bi-metal containers was largely driven by changes in the world recycling market, including stricter rules regarding what is recyclable. Additionally, less than 8% of Richmond Heights’ residents recycled on a regular basis, and sadly some that did included items that were contaminated in some way such as food still in the container. The need to hand sort at the recycling center meant it often ended up the landfill anyway, at significant additional cost.

The City took bids from 3 different haulers hoping for a different result. Unfortunately, this is a widespread issue and will likely affect other cities in our community as their contracts come up for bid. The City remains hopeful that with time new reliable outlets for recycled materials will allow us to resume collection of the suspended items.

Visit RichmondHeightsOhio.org for the latest updates or for more information about recycling opportunities contact the Cuyahoga Solid Waste District at (216) 443-3749 / CuyahogaRecycles.org.