A Message from Mayor David H. Roche

In the City of Richmond Heights, it is our ongoing goal to run operations as efficiently as possible. As part of this effort, we are sending five of our staff members to LeanOhio, an organization aimed at making government services in the state “simpler, faster, better and less costly.” We are continuously seeking opportunities for grants, which stretch City funding and enable us to maintain a high level of safety through police and fire/EMS. These grants also assist with infrastructure and equipment upgrades. Furthermore, we are looking at regional solutions that will engage the City in collaborative efforts and lessen internal operating expenditures. Prime examples of this are the current utilization of Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network, MABAS (mutual aid), and regional tactical forces for fire, in addition to ongoing discussions involving the implementation of regional dispatch for fire and police.

A current topic that is crucial for residents’ understanding is the present tax configuration in the City of Richmond Heights, which gives residents who work in other cities a 100% income tax credit toward their City of Richmond Heights tax liability. Because of this existing structure, an increase in another municipality’s income tax rate often equates to a decrease in the City of Richmond Heights’ income tax revenues. This situation leaves the City with two primary choices: (1) Formulate revenue enhancement options to make up for the loss in income tax revenues, or (2) Make spending cuts to compensate for lost funding. Because the City is already running on a lean budget, such cuts have the potential to interfere with needed infrastructural repairs; police, fire and service department offerings, recreational programs and more. As such, it is critical that residents have a solid understanding of the effects of the City’s current income tax policies, and the need to improve this tax structure to better match the City’s funding needs. It is only with sufficient funding that we can proudly sustain a safe, healthy and vibrant community.

City of Richmond Heights
Memorial Day Ceremony
Monday, May 30, 10:00 a.m.
Richmond Heights Community Park
27285 Highland Road

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE RICHMOND HEIGHTS BI-MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER?
Please e-mail special.projects@richmondheightsohio.org
Please type in the subject field “RH E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION”
**POOL FEES**
- Identification Card $4
- Replacement ID Card $7
- Program Membership Fee $20
- Resident Individual Pass $50
- Resident Family Pass for 4 $110
- Each additional family member $10
- Richmond Hts Resident ages 60+ Free
- Non-Resident Individual Pass $70
- Non-Resident Family Pass for 4 $155
- Each additional family member $15
- Summer Group Fee $20 per individual
- General Admission $5

**OPEN SWIM SCHEDULE**
Pool Open: June 6 through August 14
Monday through Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Please note: Possible pool closing due to inclement weather below 68 degrees, lack of attendance, lightning in the area or other weather related issues. Pool hours will be extended one hour during extreme occurrences above 90 degrees.*

**SWIM LESSONS SCHEDULE AND FEES**
- **Week 1:** June 6 - June 9, Monday-Thursday Fee: $24 or $14 for 2 days
- **Week 2:** June 13 - June 16, Monday-Thursday Fee: $24 or $14 for 2 days
- **Week 3:** June 20 - June 23, Monday-Thursday Fee: $24 or $14 for 2 days
- **Week 4:** June 27 - June 30, Monday-Thursday Fee: $24 or $14 for 2 days

*Please note: To register for Swim Lessons, all participants must have a valid 2016 Richmond Heights Pool Pass or a valid 2016 Program Membership Pass. Register with the Hillcrest YMCA for swim lessons and register for pool passes at the Richmond Heights City Hall.*

**FREE CURBSIDE PICKUP**
- CLOTHING & HOME GOODS RECYCLING PROGRAM
- STARTING ON MONDAY, JUNE 20

**SHRED DAY**
- CLOTHING
- HOME GOODS
- RECYCLE DAY
- PITCH YOUR PAPERS!
- CLEAR YOUR CLUTTER!

Saturday, June 18
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Richmond Heights City Hall
26789 Highland Road

For more details, please call (216) 383-6313

**THURSDAY COED ADULT BOCCE LEAGUE**
Season starts on June 16
Richmond Heights Community Park Bocce Courts
Team of Four Entry Fee: $25

**7th ANNUAL “JUNK IN THE TRUNK”**
Community Garage Sale & Flea Market
Saturday, July 9
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Greenwood Farm 264 Richmond Road

Vendors Spaces Available!
Crafts, antiques, household items, tools, clothing, toys, jewelry, books and much more miscellaneous items

*** No admission fee to shop ***
($3 donation per car gladly accepted)
www.richmondheightsohio.org

Call Recreation Department at (216) 383-6313 for more information
**FITNESS WITH CINDY**

**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY**
Weights & Chair Exercises

**WEDNESDAY**
Zumba Gold with Zumba Gold Toning (dancing to Latin music with lower impact fitness moves using one-pound toning sticks. The benefits will be building, sculpting and firming muscles, increasing endurance and helping with balance)

**SATURDAY**
ZUMBA, ZUMBA WITH TONING & introducing R.I.P.P.E.D.

KIWANIS LODGE
27285 HIGHLAND ROAD
CALL CINDY (216) 346-8909

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**R & B LINE DANCE EXERCISE BY TINA**

Are you trying to lose weight or start living a healthy lifestyle? This fun class is a great form of exercise.

**WEDNESDAYS**
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Kiwanis Lodge

For more information, contact Tina (216) 347-4551

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**SATURDAY, JULY 16 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF EUCLID CREEK**
(Euclid Creek Watershed program)
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Acacia Reservation, Greenwood Farm and Wildwood Park. More details at www.euclidcreekwatershed.org/events/2016/07/16/a-day-in-the-life-of-euclid-creek—2016.

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**TAX SHIFTS: STATE REDUCES REVENUES TO CITIES**

Richmond Heights, like all communities in Ohio, balances its budget based on the types of revenue available to pay current and anticipated expenses. Among the major sources of revenue to cities are the Municipal Income Tax, Real Property Taxes (including Special Assessments), and State Government Funding. Together, these sources account for 91% of the General Fund Revenues of our city.

Since 2009, the pattern of revenue sources has changed dramatically as the State of Ohio has adjusted the state formula reducing the amount of state tax receipts that are passed through to local governments.

Since 2011, funding from the State of Ohio has decreased a total $832,000, which represents an 85% decrease. Receipts from the Ohio Commercial Activity Tax have been eliminated completely. The elimination of the Ohio Inheritance Tax in 2013 has had a profound impact on cities. In Richmond Heights alone, Inheritance tax receipts from 2011 until 2015 dropped by $556,000. These reductions in state funding have put pressure on all cities to attempt to identify ways to make up for lost revenues. Revenues are especially difficult to replace in cities like Richmond Heights, which do not have a well-diversified tax base and have experienced a decline in real property values.

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**INCREASED INCOME TAX RATES ELSEWHERE MAY EQUATE TO LESS FUNDING FOR RICHMOND HEIGHTS**

Many of our neighboring cities have responded to these pressures by opting to raise their income tax rates. When neighboring communities raise their income tax rate, it not only affects that city’s residents, but also the people who work in those cities and live in Richmond Heights. Since Richmond Heights provides a 100% tax credit against taxes paid to other cities, every increase in another city’s tax rate reduces the amount of money the city receives. In cases where the work city’s income tax rate exceeds that of Richmond Heights, 100% of that resident’s income tax dollars go exclusively to their work city.

While the city works diligently to provide residents with services as efficiently and cost effectively as possible, these revenue losses must be recovered in order for our city to be able to continue to provide the services that all Richmond Heights residents have come to expect and enjoy.
NEW EMPLOYEE JOINS CITY HALL STAFF

Kyla Price began working as Special Projects Secretary for the City on April 14. She obtained a bachelor’s and associate’s degree before working for five years as a freelance community newspaper reporter for *Sun News*—where she covered the City of Richmond Heights and other municipalities. Her duties included taking photos and crafting political, financial, feature and educational stories. Price also spent several years teaching English as a Second Language, in addition to working for three years as an Administrative Assistant at the Church of the Nazarene in Richmond Heights. Price is a proud mother of two young girls, Faith and Hope. In her free time, she enjoys theatrical performances, concerts and comedy clubs.

As Special Projects Secretary, Kyla’s roles will include answering incoming calls to City Hall, aiding with special event planning, assisting with the *City Edition*, helping with website development, serving as the City’s e-newsletter editor, working as a Contact Management Coordinator and more. Her positive demeanor, strong work ethic and previous experiences will all serve as assets to the City’s residents.

DIVISION OF FIRE HIRES TWO NEW FIREFIGHTERS

On March 12, Thomas Fanara and David Kowalski began their firefighting careers with the City of Richmond Heights. Thomas and David are already Fire Academy trained, hold certification in Firefighter II, and are certified as Paramedics. Following a two-week orientation period, they were assigned to shift. Thomas and David were hired to fill vacancies from retirements that occurred earlier this year.

Thomas Fanara grew up in Northeast Ohio, graduated from North Royalton High School and is completing his Associate’s degree at Cuyahoga Community College. Tom has worked part-time as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Newburgh Heights, as a Paramedic at Lakewood Hospital ER and as a Paramedic at Donald Martens & Sons Ambulance.

David Kowalski has lived most of his life in Independence, Ohio, where he graduated from Independence High School in 2012. David graduated from Cuyahoga Community College in 2015 with an Associate’s degree in Fire Science. David has a diverse firefighting background, having worked part-time as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the cities of Woodmere, Newburgh Heights and Northfield Center.

The experience and knowledge of these young firefighters will serve the citizens of Richmond Heights well.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS RECEIVES THE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MASTER PLAN AWARD

On February 4, 2016, Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish notified the City of Richmond Heights that the County had selected our City to receive a County Planning Commission Master Plan update. This award means that Cuyahoga County will help the City update its long-term plan for growing and developing over the next several years. This plan will address public transportation, roads and navigation, land use, zoning, housing, parks, environment, quality government, and business development. The County will begin its work in June 2016, and the project should be finished by June 2017. There will be opportunities for you to be involved the process. In the weeks and months ahead, we will be posting notices about community engagement and planning collaboration meetings. We hope you will take part in this significant venture.
CITY HIRES NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR

New to Richmond Heights is Kenneth P. Stray, who joined the City effective May 16 as Recreation Director. A graduate of the University of Toledo, Kenneth has a Master of Arts in Recreation and Leisure Studies.

Before joining the City, Kenneth served the U.S. Marine Corps, and currently, he is part of the Air Force Reserves. Kenneth worked previously at the Cleveland Clinic, where he fulfilled the role of Ombudsman, investigating patients’ concerns and communicating information to physicians, nurses, administrators and patients. As a former Music Specialist for Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, Kenneth developed and provided programming for patients with psychiatric disorders.

Lastly, Kenneth worked for the City of Painesville Parks and Public Lands Division, aiding with scheduling, facilities maintenance and special events, in addition to managing the overall maintenance of the community baseball fields. In his free time, Kenneth enjoys disc sports, such as Ultimate Frisbee. He also takes pride in spending time with his wife and six-year-old son.

Kenneth’s roles will include managing pool, senior and youth activities; coordinating Recreation activities and events; Chairing the Recreation Board; assessing community needs and adjusting current programs accordingly; managing volunteers and more. “This position is a good fit for my interests,” Kenneth said. “The opportunities offered here are well-aligned with my professional goals.”

4 GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

Recently, the Richmond Heights Garden Club granted four Lifetime Membership Awards to members who have given long-term, outstanding contributions to the club. Recipients include Viola Scott, one of the founding members of the club; Theresa Simmonds, a long-time member who has been heavily involved in luncheon planning; member Eleanor Riznar, who serves as corresponding secretary and newsletter editor/producer; and Dolores Sciaulino, who has been active as a treasurer and Trim-A-Tree Committee Chair. These individuals have all served as club officers, as well.

As recipients of the Lifetime Membership Award, these aforementioned individuals no longer have to pay the club’s annual membership dues of $10 per year. More importantly, however, the club joined to applaud these members’ efforts, recognizing their local impact in Richmond Heights.

“I started becoming involved with the Garden Club in the late 1960s, when it was first originated. It’s an immensely social group of individuals who share a passion for gardening. We’ve done everything from making dolls out of cornhusks to visiting gardening venues throughout the Greater Cleveland area,” Scott said.

While gardening can be hard work, it is certainly worthwhile and enjoyable, Scott explained. She has relished planting flowers at the Kiwanis Lodge, Community Park and at her personal residence. “Sometimes we make our personal gardens available for open viewing to other members, so that we can see each other’s creations. We’re a tightknit group of old and new friends that is always looking to grow,” Scott stated.

Garden Club programming kicks off in September, and throughout the year, members will be invited to participate in multiple civic events. The club is open to anyone residing in Richmond Heights or surrounding communities, with meetings held the third Thursday of the month—typically at the Kiwanis Lodge, located at 27285 Highland Road. For more information and meeting times, contact Dolly Sciaulino at (216) 382-7866.
RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB NEWS

As part of the Richmond Heights Senior Citizen Club, you will reap the benefits of an accepting, friendly atmosphere coupled with the joy that comes with mingling with friends and neighbors. You must simply be a Richmond Heights resident who is 50 years of age or older to enjoy this highly social, intrinsically rewarding group.

If you are not a member yet, now is the time to join! Senior members of the club are currently recruiting new, young-thinking individuals. Currently, the group’s membership consists of a few dozen people, with numerous members actively attending general meetings. We are looking to grow, so come alone—or better yet, bring a friend or neighbor who is also 50 years or older. Dues are a mere $10 annually, and general meetings include a snack, in addition to entertainment or a live speaker. General meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge, located at 27285 Highland Road. For more information, please contact Senior Club President Mitzi Binder at (216) 531-1585.

PRE-OWNED CLOTHING DROP-OFF SHED NOW OPEN

Christian Assembly recently opened a new drop-off shed that folks can use to donate pre-owned clothing. Donations will be used to benefit people locally and beyond. Tax deduction receipts are available at the shed. Drop off your gently used clothing at 25595 Chardon Road in Richmond Heights.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

If you have any problems with your trash collection, call Waste Management at: 1 (866) 797-9018; they will handle all your missed trash or complaint calls.

All trash must be at your curb by 7:30 a.m., Please be aware of the fact that sometimes the rubbish company changes their routes, or they have a new driver, and this could change the time of day your trash is picked up. Many times residents call about a missed trash pickup because the truck came earlier than normal. That is why we have the 7:30 a.m. time.

The curbside recycling schedule is as follows: Pick-up of the south side is on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month, and the north side pick-up is on the 2nd & 4th Mondays. If there is a 5th Monday in the month, there is NO pickup. If a holiday falls on a Monday, the recycling or trash will be picked up on the next day. The schedule of holidays is listed at www.richmondheightsohio.org

Please Note: There is NO leaf pickup in the spring; you must bag your leaves and put them out with your trash.

The Richmond Heights City Hall no longer has the free blue recycling bags. That benefit was part of the 2015 Cuyahoga County Recycling Awareness Grant that the City of Richmond Heights received. For trash and recycling, please use different colored bags so the Service Department and the trash company can decipher between the recycling bags and the trash bags. When recycling, please use blue, white or clear bags.

2016 RECYCLING EVENTS

AT THE SERVICE GARAGE  26260 CHARDONVIEW ROAD

Recycle Your Computer Dates

Every Saturday in the month of August, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Monitors, towers, keyboards, printers, laptops, & cell phones are accepted.

Scrap Tire Round-Up

Every Saturday in the month of August, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tires must be removed from rims.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Every Saturday in the months of July and October, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Accepted Items: Oil or solvent based paint, sealers, primers or coatings (aerosols or liquid); varnishes, polyurethanes, shells; paint thinner, mineral spirits, turpentine; pesticides, herbicides, fungicides; caustic household cleaners; pool chemicals; automotive fluids, motor oil, car batteries, adhesives, roof tar, driveway sealer; kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid; fluorescent bulbs (6 foot max). Materials Not Accepted: Latex paint; explosives, gun powder, ammunition flares; medical waste, medicine, smoke detectors; tires; electronics, appliances, business or commercial waste.

NEW PROGRAM PICKLEBALL

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Starting Monday, June 6
Richmond Heights Community Park, 27285 Highland Road
For more information, call Recreation (216) 383-6313
**WATCH LIVE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON YOUR PC, TABLET OR PHONE**

City Council meetings are now available via live webcast on the City’s YouTube Channel! Beginning at 8:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, residents can watch a live feed of each Council Meeting in real time from the camera and microphones recently installed at City Hall.

For complete instructions on how to access the City’s livestream broadcasts, visit the City’s webpage at [www.richmondheightsohio.org](http://www.richmondheightsohio.org) and click on the link in the Events Calendar located about midway down the homepage.

**GRANDE POINTE HEALTHCARE EXTENDS AN INVITATION FOR A TOUR AND LUNCH**

Come over to Grande Pointe Healthcare and be treated to a chef-prepared lunch right from the kitchen. Take a tour and discover what Grande Pointe has to offer.

Contact Lynda James at (216) 261-9600 to make a reservation for lunch. Please note that a 24-hour notice for lunch is required.

**HILLCREST MEALS ON WHEELS**

Richmond Heights is a part of Hillcrest Meals on Wheels. If you are unable to do your own grocery shopping and/or cooking, for a fee, you can have your meals delivered to your home Monday through Friday. For further information, call the office at (440) 449-3551. We are also looking for volunteers to help either in the office or to deliver the meals. Volunteers can work as little as two hours per week. If interested, please call (440) 449-3551.

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS KIWANIS CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS**

The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club is a place where you can grow, give back and aid in sustaining the local community. With nearly 50 years in the making, Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club has dabbled in everything from building its own lodge to crafting the high school’s football field stands and constructing the walking bridge that connects the schools and City Hall. “We try to do projects that in some way relate back to children,” said Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club President Jerry Hoover. “We’re an organization focused on youths.”

The Club has a variety of short-, mid- and long-term visions for the future, but it needs more members to make these visions a reality.

“Intrinsically, most individuals want to give back, and as someone focused on giving, it makes you feel good to be part of a like-minded organization of people. The amount of satisfaction you get from accomplishing something that benefits the community is really incredible,” Hoover said. He added one of the Club’s missions is to take the desires and needs of people who want to give back and give them an outlet to fulfill their passions. “This is a Club in which you can really thrive,” he explained.

The Club is open to folks ages 21 and older—including both males and females—and members pay a small annual membership fee of $110. General meetings are held each Thursday at the Lodge at 6:30 p.m. The group starts with a standard opening, and then members enjoy a delicious meal together (cost, $8) before engaging in a general meeting format. At times, meetings include a special guest speaker. On occasion, the group also engages in special entertainment, such as hosting tasty clam bakes, organizing Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day and other holiday festivities, attending horse harness races at the Hard Rock Rocksino, enjoying a Kiwanis Night at the Captains, and more.

“We’re free to check out, so feel free to stop by our general meeting if you’re new to the Club. We’ll even throw in a free guest meal. Simply give me a call at (216) 780-4087 to indicate you will be attending,” Hoover said.

**KIWANIS CLUB GOLF OUTING AT PINE RIDGE**

**Wednesday August 10**

For more information, contact Jim Giarelli at (330) 405-1441.

**KIWANIS CLUB CAR SHOW**

**Thursday, August 18, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

at Greenwood Farm. Music and Food! Spectator admission is free.

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE SHOWCASE**

It’s time again for the Richmond Heights Residential Real Estate Showcase. This year, we will gather on Saturday, June 25, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at La Taqueria Restaurant, located at 5115 Wilson Road. The purpose of the gathering will be to gain information that will help you buy, sell and/or finance homes in Richmond Heights. Real estate lenders, brokers and agents will be on hand to answer your questions and help you find the right Richmond Heights home for your family. Light refreshments will be provided.

**NEW BUSINESSES IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS**

**ANGELA MIA PIZZA 728 RICHMOND ROAD (216) 291-9913**

**VERN’S BBQ 26199 CHARDON ROAD (216) 415-5480**
The City with the *Forward* Look!

*Editor’s note: I would like to thank Chief Correspondent Kyla Price, Jeremy Kumin and Valerie Stevenson for their assistance during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article for their contribution.*

**FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES RETURNING TO THE HILLCREST AREA**

Starting last year, the City proudly began working in collaboration with the Hillcrest area communities (which encompass Lyndhurst, Mayfield Village, Mayfield Heights, Richmond Heights and South Euclid) to host a free, family-friendly Hillcrest Summer Concert Series. More than 20 concerts will take place this summer. Here is what is coming specifically to Richmond Heights this year. More details available at www.richmondheightsohio.org

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PARK GAZEBO LINEUP**

Kicking off the Richmond Heights Community Park series is *Kyle Primous and The K Street Trio*. This concert will take place **Wednesday, June 8, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** The band features Kyle Primous (vocalist), Dennis Sichner (saxophonist/vocalist) and Joe “Blues” Bonsignore (guitarist/vocalist). The band is known for its ability to get crowds dancing with its “powerful, entertaining, feel-good funky, dynamic, professional and just a ‘down right good time’” music.

Next in the lineup is *The PopTarts* band, which will entertain attendees with popular tunes from 1960s girls’ groups. This concert is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** The concert will serve as a fantastic opportunity to travel back in time and revisit the sounds of top ‘60s female pop artists.

On **Wednesday, August 3**, the City will feature *Blue Siren* from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This event will include cover songs that span everything from pop and rock to country music. The band is well-known in Northeast Ohio for its strong lead vocals and four-part harmonies.

**GREENWOOD FARM CONCERT PRESENTATION**

Join us for another special music spectacular called *The Divine Gift of Music*. This opera presentation will be hosted at the City’s historic **Greenwood Farm**, located at 264 Richmond Road. Held in association with the Cleveland Institute of Music, this concert will take place **Saturday, August 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Tenor Jonathan Cilia, a native of Italy, will take the stage—among others. *In the event of inclement weather, the Richmond Heights Community Park concerts will be held indoors at the Kiwanis Lodge. The series is open to both residents and non-residents, free of charge. For more information, contact City Hall at (216) 486-2474.*

**RECREATION IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The Richmond Heights Recreation Department is searching for volunteers to help with Recreation events. If you visit the park frequently or want to lend a helping hand, please call the Recreation Department at (216) 383-6313.