ATTENTION: HOMEOWNERS
NOTICE ABOUT REPUBLIC
WASTE BILLS

Some City residents are delinquent in their payments to Republic Waste. Bills not paid directly to Republic Waste will be assessed to the property taxes where the service is provided, along with the City and County fees. If you are behind, please make arrangements with Republic Waste to bring your bill current to avoid the additional fees associated with assessing the trash pickup charges.

WHAT IS THE SEWER MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT ON MY TAX BILL?

This C100600 assessment is put on by the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Sewer Engineer, contrary to what the County Auditor's office might tell you. It is a permanent assessment that will cover any repairs to the main sewer line in the road frontage along your property; including the connecting line from the main line to the outside of your house. If you are having sewer problems, it is recommended that you call the County Sanitary Sewer Engineer at (216) 443-8201. They will scan these areas to check for any problems. If there is a problem, then they will repair it at no additional charge. If they do not detect a problem, then you will need to have a private contractor check your internal plumbing. Remember that this assessment is put on your bill by Cuyahoga County and it is permanent.

A Message from Mayor Daniel J. Ursu

During these difficult economic times, our city has been well-served by our Finance Department headed by Finance Director, Lynda Rossiter. Lynda is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Edinboro College with a Bachelors degree in Administration with a concentration in Accounting. She has her Masters in Accounting and Financial Information Systems from Cleveland State University and is a Certified Public Manager.

Lynda's department has had to shepherd the city's finances through the economic decline that hit our country and region in late 2008. Lynda has adroitly positioned the city's limited and declining financial resources (due to less tax revenues) to cover expenses that were in most cases increasing. This has thankfully resulted in adequate financing of our Service, Police and Fire Departments to provide the city services that we continue to enjoy.

During her tenure, Lynda has each year improved our city's budget process to the point that we now begin meeting in October to prepare our budget which is not due to be filed until March 31st of the following year. Thanks to this proactive budget process, the city has been able to cope with the poor economy and still provide quality services.

Also, during recent years Lynda has led the city's successful conversion to new financial software necessitated by the need to meet current software developments without loss of processing time or financial disruption. Additionally, Lynda has completed a new city Financial and Debt Policy for Richmond Heights. Regarding grants, Lynda has successfully obtained for our city four Community Development Block Grants: $30,000 for a new City Master Plan, $573,000 for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), $35,000 for Parks and Gardens, and $100,000 for sidewalks.

Active in the area Rotary Club, Lynda was named Rotarian of the Year in 2007. She is also the current secretary of the local chapter of the Municipal Finance Officers Association (MFOA). We are fortunate to have Lynda's perseverance, dedication and professionalism to help guide our city's finances during this challenging economy.

Why not do something new and different to perk up your 2011? Consider one of the many volunteer opportunities or club and organization invites offered in this “City Edition”!

Please visit the City of Richmond Heights online at www.richmondheightsohio.org
FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM

Individuals and businesses can contribute to Richmond Heights beautification through the support of the Flower Basket Program. The City plans to purchase and install this summer 24 flower baskets at the main intersections in Richmond Heights, City buildings and park locations. The Service Department will maintain the flower baskets through the summer months.

Suggested minimum support is $100 for a business and $50 for individuals. Baskets can be purchased “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone special. Please make checks payable to “City of Richmond Heights Flower Basket Program”. Please mail to: Finance Director; City of Richmond Heights; 26789 Highland Road; Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. Recognition will be made in the “City Edition” and by calendar year on the website. (www.richmondheightsohio.org/beautification.php)

SPECIAL-OCASION DANCE CLASS

Date: February 5 & February 12  Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Kiwanis Lodge  Cost: $15 per person
Weddings, Valentine’s Day dance, corporate dance, prom! A special day or dance should leave no detail to chance. Dance Instructor Louise has choreographed some of the top weddings in the area. Your dance should have that same elegance and style. Whatever the occasion, learn the appropriate dances to help make the affair a special event! Registration Deadline: Tuesday, February 1.

SPECIAL THANKS!

The Richmond Heights Garden Club
Tree Trimming Committee – (L - R)
Dolores Sciaulino, Ann Torer, Nancy Rice,
Dorothy Smirtnik and Theresa Simmonds
decorated the holiday tree at City Hall.
Also, a special thank you to the Richmond Heights Senior Club for decorating the Kiwanis Lodge.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CITY BEAUTIFICATION SPONSORS

Kiwanis Club of Richmond Heights in memory of Albert Borally Jr.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS YOUTH BASKETBALL SPONSORS

Corporate Sponsor
University Hospital
Richmond Medical Center

Team Sponsors
BGSD.COM
Cardinal Community Credit Union
Done Right Automotive
Dunn Hardware
Fatica Hardware
Hawkins Sales
Hillcrest Sunoco
MACE
Misch Photography
Ocean Blue Aquarium Services
Richmond Heights Kiwanis

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Richmond Heights CERT team meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. CERT is a group of volunteers who would help the community in a time of emergency. New members are welcome. For more detailed information, application forms etc., visit the City CERT web page:
http://www.richmondheightsohio.org/CERT.php

EGG HUNT AT THE KIWANIS LODGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 16  10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

SNACKS AND CRAFTS

COST: $2 PER PERSON

TICKETS ON SALE IN MARCH IN RECREATION
NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR
**EXTERIOR PROPERTY INSPECTION PROGRAM**

The Building Department will again conduct a systematic inspection of the exterior building and property areas beginning in the spring as the weather allows. The streets slated for this year’s program are: Chardon Road, Newcome Street, Sedley Street, Beverly Hills Drive, Chelford Avenue, Brookdale Road, Sunset Drive, Skyline Drive, Glen Oval Circle, Edgemont Drive, Richmond Road, Horizon Drive, Swetland Boulevard, Nan Linn Drive, Karen Isle Drive, Allendale Drive, Fairlawn Drive, Anthony Street, Donald Avenue, Geraldine Avenue and Monticello Boulevard.

**RENTAL PROPERTY INSPECTION PROGRAM**

The City is currently administering a program to track single family rental properties. This program is in place to maintain properties and property values. All owners of rental properties are required to apply for an Occupancy Permit. If you are the owner or are aware of a rental property that should be registered contact the Building Department.

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS CITY HALL, AT YOUR SERVICE!**

Richmond Heights City Hall business hours are weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The address is 26789 Highland Road, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. The phone number to City Hall is (216) 486-2474. The information line, (216) 383-6300, can be accessed 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Information is updated on the 1st and 15th of each month.

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**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CULTURAL COMMISSION INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE 5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE BOOK DISCUSSION WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011**

The City of Richmond Heights Community Connections Cultural Commission, in conjunction with Richmond Heights Local Schools and Faith United Church of Christ, is pleased to present another cultural-related program.

**WHAT:** You are cordially invited and highly encouraged to read, either individually or with your children, any or all of the following selections being featured in this year’s book discussion:

*Mr. George Baker* by Amy Hest is a book geared toward children in Elementary School on up. It focuses on the friendship between a young boy and his 100-year old neighbor as they both learn to read.

*Miracle’s Boys* by Jacqueline Woodson is a wonderful read for those in Middle School and older. It is a realistic story about how elements of urban life affect a small, loving family.

*The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them.* High School students and adults alike will love reading this true & inspirational story by Erin Gruwell.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 2, 2011
7:00 p.m. - Refreshments…7:30-9:00 p.m. – Book Discussions

**WHERE:** Faith United Church of Christ, 575 Richmond Road
(North of & next to the Richmond Town Square Mall)

**WHO:** The Rev Dr. Eugene McAfee and the Faith United Church of Christ book discussion group have graciously offered to once again host our book discussion. Childcare will be available for children kindergarten and up.

Copies of all three (3) books will be available at the Richmond Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library located at 5235 Wilson Mills Road. The Cultural Commission enthusiastically encourages you to obtain the books, spend time reading as a family, and then on March 2 join other members of the community in a thoughtful discussion.

**REGISTRATION:** Please call City Hall at (216) 486-2474 by February 23 to indicate your attendance.
GET INVOLVED WITH RICHMOND HEIGHTS AMATEUR SPORTS

Richmond Heights Amateur Sports (R.H.A.S.) is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing the youth of Richmond Heights and surrounding communities the opportunity to learn and play recreational, competitive, and organized baseball from May to July. Boys and girls from age 5 through 18 are encouraged to participate regardless of skill level.

All community members and parents are welcomed to volunteer as coaches, board members, and fundraisers. All community businesses are also encouraged to participate as sponsors and advertisers. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, call Bill Delsanter at (216) 544-3288 or check-out the R.H.A.S. website at www.leaguelineup.com.

In person registration will be held on Sunday, February 27 at the Kiwanis Lodge, located in the back of the Richmond Heights Community Park from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

KIWANIS CLUB OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.” The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club is aggressively looking to add new members interested in becoming involved in the community. Contact David H. Roche, President, at (216) 291-2207 or davidroche@roadrunner.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Friends of Euclid Creek recently recognized David H. Roche with their Service Award for Community Watershed Support for Greenwood Farms.

GREENWOOD FARM UPDATE

The Board of Directors of the Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural & Arts Association, Inc. has been diligently working toward its goals of repairing, renovating and preparing the house and its beautiful grounds for the time when a variety of programming benefitting the entire community and beyond can be scheduled.

The Board of Directors continues to seek persons to serve along with them on the Board who have a passion for the preservation of history, the environment, a love of community-building and a love of Richmond Heights. We also seek persons who wish to translate those passions into gifts of volunteer labor, funding, hospitality, networking connections, and leadership! For more information, go to www.greenwoodfarmmassn.org.

Currently, the Board of Directors is in the process of renewing memberships and accepting new memberships for the coming year. For more information go to www.greenwoodfarmassn.org. On December 11, 2010, the Board hosted Cookies and Cocoa at the Farm as a way to say “thank you” to the current members and those who have volunteered their labor, and to see the progress that has been made now that almost all the wallpaper has been removed. The house was decorated with a donated tree and decorations, cookies were donated by Dave’s Market, Mrs. Fields Cookies at the Mall, Trifecta Restaurant at the Mall, and Appetite Deli. Those attending enjoyed the spirit and beauty of the Farm at Christmas!

Watch for information about upcoming programming. Two fundraising events that have quickly become a tradition are the Junk in the Trunk that happens in the summer and the Fun Fest at the Farm which takes place in September.

For more information about Greenwood Farm, please visit the website at www.greenwoodfarmassn.org.

IS YOUR NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION TO GET IN SHAPE?

GET FIT FOR FREE!

FREE EXERCISE CLASSES AT THE KIWANIS LODGE

WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS AMATEUR SPORTS

POOR MAN’S REVERSE RAFFLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

KIWANIS LODGE, 27285 HIGHLAND ROAD

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
DINNER SERVED AT 7:30 PM
RAFFLE BEGINS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DINNER
MUSIC AND DANCING
BEER, WINE, AND WASH PROVIDED/ B.Y.O.B.

$1,000 MAIN BOARD   50/50_SPLIT ALL SIDE BOARDS
$55 PER COUPLE/$35 SINGLE
FOR TICKETS CALL BILL DELSANTER (216) 544-3288 OR CHRIS ZNIDARSIC (216) 261-3696
SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

If you're a resident and 50 years of age or older, there is an activity for you with the Senior Citizens Club.

There is Entertainment, Bowling, Golf, Cards, Dancing, Trips, and Refreshments; all in a friendly atmosphere of friends and neighbors.

Presently, bowling takes place every Monday morning 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (special discount rates-$3/3-lines); then having the highlight of the day: a great lunch at a local restaurant. Several card games are on tap for Fridays at City Hall. Special event dinner parties are held during the year. Presently membership is in excess of 80 individuals.

Come join in on the fun. The dues are only $5 per year. General meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge. Please come and give the group a try. For a schedule of the meetings or more information, please contact Senior Club President, Nancy Rice at (216) 382-2926.

NEW COMMUNITY WHEELCHAIR PROGRAM

The City of Richmond Heights wishes to sincerely thank The Waterford at Richmond Heights located at 261 Richmond Road for generously donating to City Hall two (2) new wheelchairs. These wheelchairs will be made available to residents who are in need of a mobility device on a short-term basis; for instance, while recuperating from surgery. The City also intends to have wheelchairs available, with advance notice, to residents that may wish to attend a public meeting being held at City Hall, but find it difficult to do so without such assistance. For more information or to request one of our wheelchairs, please call the Mayor’s office at (216) 486-2474.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB

There are interesting garden related programs planned for February through June 2011 including our “Annual Spring Luncheon” at Pine Ridge Country Club in April and a field trip in May.

The Garden Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September thru June at the Kiwanis Lodge, 27285 Highland Road located at the rear of the Richmond Heights Community Park. Yearly membership dues are $10.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or for more information, please contact Karen Murray, Membership Chairperson at (216) 371-1578.

DAVID H. ROCHE
RE-ELECTED VP
OF HILLCREST COUNCIL OF COUNCILS

At a recent Hillcrest Council of Council’s meeting Council President David H. Roche was re-elected and sworn in as the organization’s Vice President. The Council of Councils is made up of nine of our local communities in the Hillcrest area. It holds quarterly meetings for informing, educating and building relationships between its members. December’s meeting reviewed the Westshore Regional Fire District Study completed by Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI). The Study was performed for seven of Cleveland’s west side communities.

2011 Recycling Events

First Computer Round-Up
Month of April, every Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
We accept: monitors, keyboards, CPU’s, laptops, software, & cell phones

Second Computer Round-Up
Month of August, every Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
We accept: monitors, keyboards, CPU’s, laptops, software, & cell phones

Scrap Tire Round-Up
September 3 & September 10  9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tires must be removed from rims

Phone Books
We accept phone books all year, just drop them in our paper bin

Paint Drop Off
Months of March, June & September, every Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
OIL BASE PAINT ONLY ACCEPTED
-Latex Paint should be dried up with kitty litter or other drying agent and placed out with your regular trash~

****PLEASE NOTE: Lids must be left off the paint cans****

Other Notes
- Make sure all trash & recyclables are out by 7:30am
- Separate recyclables; cans, plastic, glass; we can not accept mixed bags

Please DO NOT leave recycled items outside the gate when the Service Department is closed

Please contact Republic Waste at (216) 741-8113 if you have any problems with pick-up
ATTENTION RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS

The Cuyahoga County Department of Development in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health is sponsoring a HOME SAFETY GRANT FOR SENIORS PROGRAM. Senior residents who are at least 62 years of age and reside in their homes are eligible to apply. You must meet the income guidelines established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development:

- Household size: 1 person: $36,300 Maximum Gross Household Income
- Household size: 2 people: $41,500 Maximum Gross Household Income
- Household size: 3 people: $46,650 Maximum Gross Household Income

The following services are provided free of charge to eligible residents: grab bars, hand rails, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, transition strips and carpet stretching. Complete information and application forms are available at City Hall. Applications are also available online at www.development.cuyahogacounty.us or by calling (216) 348-4066.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY RECORDER’S OFFICE

This office is responsible for recording a variety of documents so that a safe and permanent record is always available for public viewing. In essence, it is a government library for documents including deeds, living wills & durable powers of attorney for health care, military discharges, mechanics liens, IRS liens, plats, mortgages, land contracts/leases, powers of attorney, affidavits of death, easements, partnerships, condominium by laws and transfer on death designation affidavits. A new service was recently added entitled PROPERTY ALERT. By registering at www.recorder.cuyahogacounty.us, you will receive an email notification when transactions are recorded pertaining to your property. Contact (216) 443-7316 or (216) 443-7300 if you would like more information regarding their services.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

The Cuyahoga County Auditor’s Office is offering a Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as HEAP to all qualifying young families as well as senior citizens, homeowners and renters alike in Cuyahoga County. All types of heating materials are covered including natural gas, electricity, propane, oil and wood. A new application must be completed every year and this winter’s HEAP filing deadline is May 31, 2011.

If you need additional information regarding this program, contact the Ohio Department of Development at 1-800-282-0880. Applications are available at City Hall, any branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library or can be downloaded from www.energyhelp.ohio.gov. Applications should be mailed to: Office of Community Services/Home Energy Assistance Program, P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio 43216

Please visit the City of Richmond Heights online at www.richmondheights.org

TO READ AN INFORMATIVE ARTICLE ON CONCUSSIONS BY DR. CHRISTOPHER L. TANGEN D.O. OF THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL/RICHMOND MEDICAL CENTER

ENVIROMENTAL CONSERVATION TIPS

* Spread rainwater across the lawn instead of sending it directly to the storm sewer by disconnecting downspouts.
* Plant a Rain Garden to capture and infiltrate storm water runoff.
* Landscape with native plants, especially around water and drainage features such as ponds, wetlands, roadside ditches and backyard streams.
* Harvest rainwater and store it on site to water a garden or lawn by installing rain barrels or cisterns.
* Establish a “No-Mow Zone” around backyard streams and wetlands.
* Don’t over-fertilize your lawn – get your soil tested.

Make sure to check with the Building Department to ensure that the practice is allowed in Richmond Heights.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Aircraft Complaints: Call the Cuyahoga County Airport Office at (216) 289-4111 between 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, excluding holidays, to register complaints on aircraft operation between 11:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. OR complaints can be e-mailed to ccairport@cuyahogacounty.us

Preferably, write to:
Kevin Delaney Manager
Cuyahoga County Airport
26300 Curtiss Wright Parkway
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143

Animal warden:
Call (216)486-1234

Richmond Heights Post Office:
454 Richmond Road
(216) 481-4461
Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
THE OHIO BENEFIT BANK

If you’re having trouble paying your bills or putting food on the table, you may be eligible for funding to ease your burden (even if you are working). The Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) is an internet service that is available for Ohioans who are in need of help. Through no fault of their own, many Ohioans are being forced to make tough decisions such as choosing between paying rent, buying prescriptions or buying food. The OBB offers several programs that can help with utilities, prescriptions, food and insurance. Programs include money for child care, free or low priced school meals, WIC, health coverage, Medicare Rx help, senior jobs, Golden Buckeye cards, Medicare savings programs, food assistance (formerly food stamps), home energy assistance (HEAP), federal student loans and FREE filing of Federal and State taxes. The Ohio Benefit Bank is now available at your fingertips….check them out at www.ohiobenefits.org or call (800) 648-1176 for a representative to check your eligibility.

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS

The City of Richmond Heights has a City ordinance, 783.01, that requires persons plowing snow in the community to obtain a snow plow permit from the Police Department. The cost of the permit is $10 per vehicle.

The primary purpose of the permit is to insure that individuals plowing snow in Richmond Heights understand what their responsibilities are per the ordinance. The entire ordinance can be accessed on the City website. Ordinance 783.03, Depositing Snow on Public Streets or Tree Lawns, reads as: a) No person shall discharge or deposit any snow, by truck, plow, blower or any other means, onto the roadway;

b) No person removing snow from any driveway or sidewalk within the City shall deposit the same on the pavement or sidewalk of any public street or on any tree lawns in any public street, except upon the tree lawn or property of the premises from which the snow was removed.

Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Chapter is guilty of a first degree misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of $1000 and/or a maximum of 180 days in jail.

To summarize, any snow removed from a driveway or sidewalk must be placed on the property from which the snow was removed, and no one is permitted to deposit snow removed from a driveway or sidewalk into the street. Anyone who plows snow in the City must register and obtain a permit from the Police Department.

SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM UPDATE

Leveling has been completed City-wide and removal and replacement commenced on the side streets in the southern portion of the City. WORK WILL RESUME IN THE SPRING Call the Building Department at (216) 383-6312 with any questions.

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Donald O'Toole, Council at Large (216) 533-9697  
Miesha Wilson Headen, Council at Large (216) 780-5087  

Emory 9-1-1  
Richmond Heights City Hall (216) 486-2474  
Richmond Heights Information Number (216) 383-6300

**The City with the *Forward* Look!**

Editor's note: I would like to thank Brian Benander, Nancy Benander, Teri Drda, Dina Greisl, Joyce Kandrach, David Roche and Christine Znidarsic for their assistance during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article or took photographs for their contribution.

VISIT “CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS RECREATION” ON FACEBOOK “FRIEND” US FOR UPDATES

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL CLINIC**

Bump! Set! Spike! Learn the game of volleyball or work on improving your game. The clinic will be held at the Richmond Heights Middle School Gym on Saturday afternoons.  
Fee: $30  
Grades 4 – 6  
Saturday 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**CHEERLEADING**

A little shy? Well, have no fear! Join as we learn to cheer! Get pumped up and bring your gear. We’ll yell it out for all to hear!!!  
Join us for fun, simple gymnastics and lots of spirit! The program will take place Saturday mornings at the Richmond Heights Middle School.  
Fee: $30  
Grades 1 - 6  
Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**SPRING TRAINING BASEBALL**

Hey, Kids!  Here’s a great opportunity to get out of the house this winter and work on your baseball skills. The Richmond Heights Amateur Sports coaches along with special guests will instruct you on throwing, fielding, hitting, and base running.  
The program will take place Saturday afternoons at the Richmond Heights Middle School.  
Fee: $30  
Ages: 5 - 14  
Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**YOUTH INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE**

Grab your shin guards and water bottle and get ready to play! Games will be played on Saturdays at the Richmond Heights Middle School Gym.  
Fee: $30  
Ages: 5 - 8  
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Register by Thursday, January 20  
Please make checks payable to: City of Richmond Heights  
Richmond Heights Recreation Department, 26789 Highland Road, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143  
For more information, please call the Recreation Office at: (216) 383-6313