THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

RICHMOND HEIGHTS JOINS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AGING

Richmond Heights is now a member of the Community Partnership on Aging (CPA)! CPA is your source for programs, services, and resources to help maintain an independent, healthy and meaningful life for residents that are 60 years of age or better! Many of you are familiar with our programs, classes, daily lunches, special events, Lunch’n’Movie and monthly Café lunch. In addition to all that, CPA now offers Richmond Heights residents individualized, confidential social work services, various types of volunteer assistance, membership in the CARE program, homemaker services, a group lunch once a week, the Safe-At-Home safety modification program and more. Look for a special mailer in January that will introduce you to CPA, its many resources and necessary contact information. In the meantime, copies of the monthly newsletter will be available in City Hall (more locations to be announced). The newsletter is a great source of information about what is happening at CPA in the current month. Have a question or need some information? You can call the main office at (216) 291-3902 or reach out to the Richmond Heights Social Worker, Nancy Thorne, at (440) 442-2626 ext 244.

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DAVID H. ROCHE

Happy New Year!!! 2020 is an exciting year for our City as we welcome two new Council members: Kim Thomas for Ward 1 and Cassandra A. Nelson for Ward 3. We are looking forward to the 2020 CENSUS, a myriad of grant-funded projects, the continuation of phase one of “Belle Oaks at Richmond”, and numerous special events this year.

In November, the City received notification that we were awarded an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) NatureWorks grant in the amount of $120,712 for the construction of a new ADA compliant, expanded playground for children ages 2 – 12 in the Richmond Heights Community Park. $2,000 in matching funds was also received from the Richmond Heights Kiwanis and the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation. Since the grant is a 75%/25% match program, the NatureWorks grant of $120,712 will cover 75% of the total cost of the $160,950 project, with the City and the Kiwanis funds covering the remaining $40,238.

The 2020 CENSUS is coming soon! It is vital that every resident of Richmond Heights (including infants, children, adults and all tenants of rental properties, etc.) is counted in every home to ensure the City receives funding for the next decade. It is your civic duty and right. Multiple reminders from the Census bureau will be through mailings, emails and door-to-door. “Census Takers” will be carrying proper identification and are permitted to canvas all neighborhoods. We ask you to please complete your Census on-line at home, on your phone, with the Census Taker, or at the local library where trained assistants are available. You can also apply online to become a Census Taker at www.2020census.gov/jobs.

Phase 1 of DealPoint Merrill’s “Belle Oaks at Richmond” mixed use project is moving forward on the former Sears Department store site with “class-A multi-family and mixed-use development with the finest appointments and amenities, easy access and walkability to your favorite dining spots and retail shopping in Richmond Heights.” For a virtual tour and to learn more, visit http://belleoakstrichmond.com/.

As part of the Cuyahoga County Bridge Replacement Project, the Highland Road Bridge is still predicted to remain closed through May 2020 for the bridge superstructure to be safely replaced. We appreciate your patience and please follow all detours safely as the county works to improve the quality of our bridges.

K-9 fundraising is in full swing at our Police Department. Please consider donating to the K-9 Fund. Make checks payable to the “City of Richmond Heights”, and write “K-9 Fund” in the Memo line then mail to or drop off at the police station.

I strongly urge residents to register and re-register for Cuyahoga County’s newly upgraded ReadyNotify system featuring CodeRED to keep our residents informed of local area emergencies platform. Visit www.readynotify.us or download the CodeRED Mobile Alert App.

The next “Community Conversations” is on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge. Join us in informal roundtable discussions with department directors and key members of the county, local businesses, and the community who will be available to answer questions and review plans and progress within the city.

We also encourage residents to sign up for volunteer opportunities at our various upcoming events, programs and activities that take place year round. Our volunteers and sponsors are the heart of the City and without them, the success of our recreation activities wouldn’t be possible.

Please bookmark our website richmondheightsohio.org on your cell phone to get the latest City information wherever you are. I look forward to seeing you soon at our upcoming activities.
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

SENIOR FITNESS CLASSES
Seniors come join the Wednesday & Friday morning fitness classes at 9:30 a.m. Light weights, chair exercises, Zumba Gold (Latin dance & fitness moves) and Zumba toning. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes with light traction. Bring light hand weights, hand towel and water. No registration required, open to all.
Cost: $3.00 per class.
For more information, please contact Cindy at (216) 346-8909

YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUES STARTING IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS
The Richmond Heights Recreation Department and the South Euclid Lyndhurst Soccer Club boys and girls youth soccer leagues registration begins on January 1. There is a early bird discount for registration through February 15. The games for children ages 9 & over will begin in early April and children ages 3 - 8 will start on April 18 at the DeSan Park Soccer Field. Register for the league at SELSC.org. For more information, call (216) 383-6313.

INDOOR PICKLEBALL PROGRAM
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. January 7 - March 10
Christian Assembly Church 25595 Chardon Road
10 sessions - $30 Open to beginner and intermediate!

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
The Recreation Department and Kiwanis Club are joining forces for 2 Special Events!

Easter Egg Hunt at Community Park starting at 10:00 a.m. &
Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at Kiwanis Lodge from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Free pancakes at the Pancake Breakfast for children ages 2-12 that participate in the Egg Hunt. For the Pancake Breakfast the child must be accompanied by a paying adult.
See www.richmondheightsohio.org in March for details

Community Garage Sale
Participants Needed!

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. (Setup: 7:00 a.m.- 8:30 a.m.)
WHERE: Richmond Heights Community Park 27285 Highland Road
COST: Participant spaces are $15 each
Registration form - richmondheightsohio.org or at Richmond Heights City Hall
INFO: Call the Recreation Department at (216) 383-6313

SPRING CLEANUP! Tidy your closets, garage & basement. Opportunity to make extra cash!
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Planning and design continues on the residential and retail project now called “Belle Oaks at Richmond Road”. The $100 million Phase I project, being developed by DealPoint Merrill, is on a 23-acre site at the north end of Richmond Town Square that includes the vacant former Sears Department store and surrounding Sears parking lot. The Phase I architectural design, incorporating 372 upscale market rate apartment units in six separate three and four-story buildings; 16,000 square feet of groundfloor retail space; and 11,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor recreation amenities has been carefully reviewed and approved by the city’s Architectural Review Board, Planning Commission and City Council. The apartment units have been designed to be competitive with recent apartment development at Pinecrest in Orange Village and the Van Aken District in Shaker Heights. Demolition of the Sears store is scheduled for the first half of 2020. Detailed Phase I building renderings and apartment floorplans can be found online at www.BelleOaksRichmond.com.

Planning for Belle Oaks Phase II south of Phase I, also by DealPoint Merrill, has begun. Encompassing 45 acres, early Phase II planning would keep a renovated Regal Cinemas Theater and the newly refurbished CubeSmart indoor storage facility, but the rest of the Richmond Town Square mall would be demolished to be replaced with apartment buildings, restaurants, a fitness center, other types of retail stores and a public community greenspace. Phase II design must still go through the comprehensive city review and approval process.

The City welcomes Selman & Company, a national insurance company, who moved their headquarters offices and 125 employees into the vacant former Associated Estates Corporation building. Located on the recently renamed Integrity Parkway, off of Richmond Road near Cuyahoga County Airport, Selman renovated the entire building, including a 3 million, 13,000 square foot addition, to create a contemporary office headquarters building for its employees. The Selman headquarters building was dedicated on September 30th at a ceremony which included David Selman, President and CEO of Selman & Company, Selman employees, Mayor David Roche and members of City Council.

Construction began on a new all-weather enclosure covering the handicap ramp at the north end of the Kiwanis Lodge Community Center, funded with the assistance of a $50,000 grant from Cuyahoga County. The enclosure will enable people with mobility issues to better access the renovated lower level of the Kiwanis Lodge year-round. The enclosure is to be completed by February.

Several new restaurants have opened or will be opening soon along Chardon Road east of Richmond Road. These include Rise and Shine Eatery, the Tasty Rooster, Hibachi Fast, and a new southern barbeque restaurant, yet to be named. Please remember to patronize our Richmond Heights restaurants and businesses. Successful local businesses help our tax base and make Richmond Heights a better place in which to live and work.
DIVISION OF FIRE AWARDED AN $80,000 SAFETY GRANT

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the Division of Fire a $49,700 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). The grant monies will be used to fund the purchase of extrication equipment needed to perform vehicle machine rescues in crashed aircraft that utilize the Cuyahoga County Airport. The grant has a total value of $47,333.33 (95%) with a minimum cost match of $2,366.67 (5%). Cuyahoga County Public Safety & Justice Services has awarded the 5% local cost match to the City making the project is 100% grant funded!

The grant will fund the purchase of battery and pneumatic operated rescue equipment used during aircraft rescue incidents, as well as, other types of rescue responses. The tools will include battery operated spreaders (“Jaws of Life”), cutters, drills, lights and saws which operate on interchangeable battery packs and chargers. Additionally, pneumatic airbags and air chisels will be purchased. Not only will the equipment be used during an aircraft crash, but can also be used during motor vehicle accidents, forcible entry, structural collapse, and heavy rescue incidents.

SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM OFFERS FREE SMOKE ALARMS AND INSTALLATION TO ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS

On Saturday, October 12, 2019 The American Red Cross, the Selman Company, and other volunteers partnered with the Richmond Heights Fire Department for a smoke detector install event to promote a safety culture in the Richmond Heights community. “Sound the Alarm” is a nationwide program sponsored by The American Red Cross which provides home fire safety education and smoke alarm installations to local communities. Over the last five years, home visits have accomplished so much, including the installation of more than 1.8 million smoke alarms and preparing more than 1 million people against home fires. The volunteers installed 222 alarms in 83 homes in Richmond Heights! However, the program doesn’t end there. If you would like to have a smoke detector installed in your home, please call the smoke alarm hotline at (216) 361-5535 or the Richmond Heights fire station at (216) 383-6325.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department will be hosting a Coffee with a Cop on January 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the main lobby at the 444 Park Apartments and on March 11 at the University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. These community outreach opportunities allow us to enjoy time and conversation with those we serve in a casual environment. If you can, please come to these upcoming events.

The K-9 fundraising initiative continues in earnest. The Police are hosting a Policemen’s Ball/reverse raffle on Sunday, February 16, at the La Vera Party Center. Tickets are available at the Police Department. Please call (216) 383-6305 to obtain more information about the event. Money raised will be used to support this important effort.

The Police have started an exciting youth program called Cop Scouts. It is a blend between Cub Scouts and Police Explorer programs and is designed for boys and girls from 9 to 12 years of age. If you are interested in having your child join, register at the Recreation Department in City Hall. If you have any questions, please call Sgt. Todd Leisure or Officer Tim Casto at the non-emergency number of (216) 383-6305.

SOUL FOOD/ JAZZ LUNCHEON AND CONCERT

Come celebrate Black History month with the City of Richmond Heights on Wednesday, February 19 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This Soul Food/Jazz Luncheon will be held at the Kiwanis Lodge, 27285 Highland Road. Tickets for this event will be $15 each or $10 for Senior Adults 60 years and over. Tickets are available for purchase at Richmond Heights City Hall.

The “Swingbone Jazz Band” will be performing from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The menu will consist of Ribs, Fried Chicken, Greens, Mac n Cheese, Banana Pudding, coffee, sweet tea and bottled water. Please call (216) 383-6313 for tickets and information.
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS & PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS NEEDED

The City of Richmond Heights is seeking interested applicants on both the Zoning Board of Appeals and as a Planning Commission member. Since these boards deal with the interpretation of the City’s Codified Ordinances, balancing the skillsets of candidates is particularly important. For example, current members past professional experiences include engineering, architecture and community planning are preferred but not required.

These are paid positions that can bring great reward as you get to see, even enjoy first-hand the impacts of your efforts.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets for work sessions the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. and for formal meetings. The Planning Commission meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and for formal meetings. All meetings shall be held in the Richmond Heights City Hall.

The City of Richmond Heights is inviting problem solvers, with the proficiency to keep an open mind, to forward their resume, and cover letter to building.commissioner@richmondheightsohio.org or call (216) 383-6312 for additional information.
MEET WARD THREE COUNCILWOMAN CASSANDRA NELSON

Cassandra Nelson, daughter of Audrey Pugh and the late Clarence Clay, is the second eldest of ten children. For 45 years, Cassandra has been married to her teenage sweetheart, Isaac Nelson. She and her husband have been Richmond Heights residents for over seventeen years. She is the mother of two wonderful children, Attorney Andrea Nelson-Moore and Captain Isaac Nelson II; and, the proud grandmother of five fabulous grandchildren - Alyssa, Alexis, Isaac, Mason, and Camden Nelson.

Cassandra is a product of the Cleveland Public Schools District and a proud graduate of East High School. Cassandra completed course work at both Cuyahoga Community College and The University of Phoenix. On June 1, 2012, Cassandra retired from Medical Mutual of Ohio after twenty-two years of service. At the time of retirement, Cassandra was Operations Specialist of Corporate Performance Reporting and Review (Internal Audit). Before joining Medical Mutual, Cassandra was employed by Honeywell Inc. for fifteen years. At the time of Honeywell’s relocation, Cassandra was a supervisor in Operations.

Cassandra is a member of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor A. Charles Ligon. Cassandra has worked in various auxiliaries at her church. She served as the Assistant Superintendent and Teacher for Sunday school, a member of the Mass Choir, and a member of the Salvation/Evangelist Team.

Cassandra served on Richmond Heights Charter Review in 2018 and completed Building One America Leadership Seminar in 2019. She is a member of several organizations that are committed to addressing and improving issues that impact families, youths, and the community including but not limited to A. Phillip Randolph Institute, National Congress of Black Women, and the Cuyahoga Women’s Democratic Caucus. She is especially honored to be a member of the Richmond Heights Senior Club.

Cassandra looks forward to serving Ward 3 constituents and is committed to doing all that she can to ensure that Richmond Heights continues to move in a direction that benefits all of the city residents.

MEET WARD ONE COUNCILWOMAN KIM THOMAS

Kim Thomas is the newly elected member of the Richmond Heights City Council in Ward 1. In 2018, she was elected to serve as Central Committee member in Richmond Heights, Ward 1-A. In that role, she had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with so many amazing residents. She is a twenty-five-year resident of the city. She is married and has two children, Christopher and Amira. Kim Thomas is the co-founded “Change of Direction,” a non-profit organization that provides mentoring and emergency respite for displaced youth in crisis.

Kim Thomas is not only a humanitarian, but also the owner of Christopher Amira Studio. And as an industry consultant/educator, she has served two terms on the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board. Kim Thomas was elected Chairman during her first term, and currently she serves as a Vice Chair. As Vice Chair, Kim’s goal is to advocate for the licensees and to encourage constituents to share new ideas and to make their voices heard. Through her various leadership roles, Kim has learned how to tackle big problems from which others shy away. For example, under her progressive leadership, the State Board of Cosmetology tackled the problem of human trafficking through awareness and education campaigns.

Kim Thomas serves on the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Development Board, helping to provide resources and information that assist residents of Cuyahoga County in moving toward financial independence through employment. She is also the Chair of the Youth Committee.

Kim Thomas is excited to serve as councilwoman in Ward 1 and look forward to working with the community and members of council to help move Richmond Heights forward. She welcomes your company on this journey.

FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM

Individuals and businesses can contribute to Richmond Heights’ beautification through the support of the Flower Basket Program. This summer, the City plans to purchase and install 30 flower baskets at the main intersections in Richmond Heights, and at 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” and mail to: Finance Director; City of Richmond Heights; 26789 Highland Road; Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. Recognition of your donation will be publicized in the “City Edition” by calendar year and on the City website.
RISEUP AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES

RiseUp is an after school program for Richmond Heights residents in grades 7-12. The after school program is grant funded through a 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant and takes place at the Richmond Heights Secondary School. The program offers students academic tutoring, enrichment clubs, exposure trips, credit recovery, and career and college readiness. Students have participated in graphic design, drama club, guitar, computer coding, urban farming, photography, mentoring and an array of other creative clubs to broaden their horizons. RiseUp has a focus on student voice and engagement to create a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere for all students that emphasizes the importance of their input on programming. If you are interested in participating in RiseUp, volunteering, or learning more, please contact Alicia Trescott, Site Coordinator, at (216) 692-0086 x571293 or via email at trescott.alicia@richmondheightsschools.org.

GREENWOOD FARM HISTORICAL CULTURAL & ARTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

The Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural, & Arts Association is accepting new memberships and membership renewals for 2020 at this time. If you are interested in becoming a member or helping in any way, please check the Greenwood Farm website at www.greenwoodfarmassn.org, or obtain a membership form at City Hall. For more information, please call (216) 291-2207.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS KIWANIS CLUB

The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club is a place where you can help sustain the local community with a special focus on supporting youths. They are the longest, continuously running service organization in Richmond Heights. They are youth focused with the whole organization designed to support children. RH Kiwanis distributed toys and blankets to pediatric patients at Cleveland MetroHealth Medical Center and sponsor a Richmond Heights Youth Basketball League Team.

The Club is open to individuals ages 21 and older and members pay an annual membership fee of $120. 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, other holiday festivities, and enjoying a Kiwanis Night at the Captains.

The Kiwanis Club is free to check out, and members of the public are welcome to join a general meeting to explore what the club is about. For more information, please contact Aire Roche at (216) 291-2207.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

As part of the Richmond Heights Senior Citizens 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 the group.

If you are not a member yet, now is the time to join! The club is currently recruiting new, young-thinking individuals. They are looking to grow, so come alone—or better yet, bring a friend or neighbor who is also 50 years or older. Dues are $10 annually; General meetings include a snack, in addition to entertainment, holiday luncheons, or a speaker. 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 Club President Mitzi Binder at (216) 531-1585.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB

The Richmond Heights Garden Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. This year members enjoyed many informative and interesting gardening and horticultural programs and field trips to garden spots as well as our popular and well attended Spring Luncheon.

Donations were made to the Flower Basket Program, Greenwood Farm, and a tree was donated during the annual Arbor Day celebration at the Richmond Heights Community Park.

The Garden Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Kiwanis Lodge, 27285 Highland Road, located at the back of the Richmond Heights Community Park, resuming in September. Yearly membership dues are $10.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or for more information, please contact Dolores Sciavulo at (216) 382-7866.
Editor’s note: I would like to thank Rick Dula and Tara Grimm for their assistance during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article or photo for their contribution.

THE LUNCH BUNCH
Join us for the social gathering of the year! Participants will be sent to various restaurants in the surrounding area to try new and delightful cuisines and get to know each other on their lunch dates together. $12 per person for the YEAR! 1st Thursday of each month; reservations are at 1:00 p.m. The upcoming dates with restaurants and locations are as follows: February 6 - Golden Mountain in Willoughby Hills; March 5 - Jack’s Deli in University Heights; April 2 - Anthony’s in Eastlake; May 7 - Geraci’s in University Heights; *Participants are responsible for their own transportation and meal check.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
Tuesday, March 31    7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Kiwanis Lodge
Mayor David H. Roche, City Council and members of the Richmond Heights administration will host Community Conversations this fall. Join us in informal roundtable discussions with department directors and key members of the county, local businesses, and the community who will be available to answer questions and review plans and progress within the city.

THANK YOU TO THE RICHMOND HEIGHTS YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAM SPONSORS
Richmond Heights Kiwanis
Richmond Heights Police

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HELPED MAKE THE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AN OUTSTANDING EVENT!

UPCOMING RICHMOND HEIGHTS ACTIVITIES
Volunteer/Sponsor Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, February 8
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Kiwanis Lodge
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4
Starts at 10:00 a.m.
Richmond Heights Community Park
Kiwanis Club Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, April 4
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Kiwanis Lodge