

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Anthony Gimellia, Editor

the CITY EDITION

HOLIDAY FUN IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS



Santa's top reindeer Dino and friends at the December 12th Holiday Walk in the Park.

A Message from Mayor Daniel J. Ursu

As we transition to 2004, you are probably reading or hearing in the media of the dire straits of numerous government entities and especially cities, due to the economy. I am pleased to report that we continue to have a strong balance sheet in Richmond Heights! City Council, Finance Director Mike Thomas and other Department Heads and I have always endeavored to make prudent economic decisions for our residents. This has helped to keep the City of Richmond Heights in good fiscal health. In fact, Richmond Heights has recently hired a new Police Officer and is in the process of hiring three new Firefighter/Paramedics.

For computer users in the City, by the time that you read this we will have launched our City website at www.richmondheightsohio.org. Finance Director Mike Thomas has been spearheading the website project since last year. I believe that it contains useful Richmond Heights information for residents or out-of-towners seeking knowledge about Richmond Heights outside of normal City Hall working hours.

Information on the site includes a description of City Council and each of the City's Departments and their activities. The purpose of the various Boards and Commissions of the City and their members can also be found. Reproduced in full on our website is also the 1967 "Golden Anniversary History of the City of Richmond Heights" which was compiled by the Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club. Further, convenient links to other relevant government agencies and representatives can be found.

Another purpose of the website is to have information available to supplement our periodic "City Edition" newsletter, especially for persons seeking information after hours. It is not meant to replace direct contact with City Departments via the telephone or stopping by to visit City Hall during normal working hours. So please, continue to call or visit City Hall in person and when that is not possible, if you are a computer user, the website is available.

Lastly, the City is served by dedicated persons who essentially "volunteer" their time by serving on Boards and Commissions. These groups meet monthly and are established by the City Charter. From time-to-time, openings occur and I am required by the City Charter to appoint replacements. Every now and then, persons tell me that if they knew about these openings, they would enjoy serving. If you fit into that category, please send me your resume, to my attention, which I will keep on file. As openings are rare, you might not ever be asked to serve but I will at least be aware of your interest. For information on the function of the various Boards and Commissions, please check our website or call City Hall.

Happy New Year!

BUILDING DEPARTMENT NEW EMPLOYEE

Chuck Zelle has been hired to fill a vacancy in the Building Department. Chuck comes to the City with 30 years experience in the fire service, 15 of which he headed Garfield Heights Fire Safety Inspection Program. While being trained as a building inspector, Chuck will oversee the City's Business Maintenance Program.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Building Department will again oversee a property maintenance inspection program beginning in the spring as the weather allows. The Service Committee of Council has requested that the Department focus on the older housing stock and conduct a more detailed inspection than in the past. With this in mind, a plan has been developed to allow for the systematic inspection of about 1/3 of the City's properties in 2004. The program will be repeated in 2005 and 2006 focusing on other areas of the City. 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.

MISSING PERSONS

The Police Department is participating in two initiatives that would become valuable tools in locating missing persons.

AMBER ALERT

The first is the Northern Ohio Amber Alert plan. This plan brings together City and County agencies, as well as the news media in an effort to locate a missing child. There has been some confusion about the Amber Alert Plan. It is important to remember that only a law enforcement agency can initiate the plan. In addition, this plan addresses person under the age of 18 and there must be "credible" information that the child was "forcibly" or "intentionally removed or lured away". This information would indicate that the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.

ACIM PROGRAM

The "A Child is Missing" Program can be used to locate not only missing children, but missing disabled and elderly individuals. This program may be used in conjunction with Amber Alert in applicable cases. The program allows a central office, once notified by law enforcement, to contact hundreds of homes and businesses via telephone with a recorded message. The message would indicate that a person was missing, would give a description of the person and would supply the telephone number to call the police.

SNOW PROBLEMS AND SNOW REMOVAL

Hazardous road conditions, heavy snowfall or excessive ice build up should be reported directly to the police department for the quickest attention. The police department has direct radio contract with the City's snow removal crews.

Commercial snow plow operators are required to obtain a permit (\$10.00) from the police department each winter. The police department cannot recommend a particular snow plow operator or company. The fact that a snow plow operator has a permit does not translate into quality assurance; it merely reflects compliance with City ordinances. Before contracting with a snow plow operator, check references and check with the Better Business Bureau at (216) 241-7678.

INSIGHTS AND ILLUMINATIONS

Residents of Richmond Heights and all Hillcrest communities are cordially invited to join business leaders, community leaders, and clergy from all of the Hillcrest communities to participate in a series of community building discussions for the Hillcrest suburbs. The workshops are called "Insights and Illuminations" and are being sponsored by the Heights Community Congress, Cuyahoga County Planning Department, and Notre Dame College Tolerance Resource Center.

The workshops are designed to enhance perceptions about the Hillcrest area cities and to serve as a catalyst for positive change. **All three sessions will be held at Notre Dame College, just off South Green Road from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Workshops dates are: Wednesday, February 18; Tuesday, March 9 & Tuesday, March 23.**

You are welcome to attend one or all three sessions. Please call 216-321-6775 to register or to find out more about this thought-provoking series of discussions.

Respectfully Yours,
Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor

TRI-CITY CONSORTIUM ON AGING

Council President Lee Gase was recently asked about the consortium. The question was "Why doesn't Richmond Heights belong to the Tri-City Consortium on Aging?"

Mr. Gase was directed to Art Pitingolo from Highland Heights, who is the President of the Consortium's Advisory Board, and to Bernice Harel of South Euclid, who is the Director. When the City of South Euclid, and others, formed the Consortium 26 years ago in 1978, they asked if Richmond Heights wished to join. Richmond Heights declined. Mayfield Heights also declined. The current member communities are South Euclid, Lyndhurst and Highland Heights.

The Consortium has its headquarters in the South Euclid Civic Center behind Giant Eagle on Victory Drive. They have a part-time director and a part time staff. They are governed by an advisory commission from the three cities. Initially, the Consortium had access to a lot of grant money, but much of that has become unavailable. Their annual budget is now around \$535,000. Eighty percent of this comes from the three cities, based on relative population. Seventeen percent comes from federal and state funds, and about three percent comes from donations.

It is not practical that the Consortium allow Richmond Heights to join now because it would require re-negotiation with all of their funding sources. However, although some benefits are available only to the residents of the three Consortium communities, because they support it, many of the services they provide are also available to Richmond Heights. Some of our seniors already use them, particularly their lunches (which cost a one dollar donation), and some of their tours.

The Consortium publishes a newsletter describing all their activities, including the schedule and menus for the lunches. The newsletters are available at some of the local grocery stores and banks.

SPARKY SAYS

Once again it's the middle of a long cold winter. Your furnaces are working overtime and your boots and gloves are getting worn out. We can only hope that an early spring will be here soon.

As heating bills go up some residents like to use portable space heaters. Please be sure you follow these safety guidelines when using portable heaters. Only use



the proper fuel that is recommended by the manufacturer. Always keep a 3-foot safety zone around the heater where there is no furniture, curtains, papers, or anything else that can burn. Kids, remember to keep a 3-foot kids-safe zone around all heaters. No toys, games, running or playing in that zone. Also, make sure you do not overload an electrical outlet with an electric space heater.

This time of year we also have some very hazardous driving conditions. If you see emergency vehicles coming up behind you, please pull off to the side of the road so they can safely pass. Even with all the lights on and the sirens blaring the firefighters and paramedic are very often cut off at intersections or stuck behind a vehicle that will not pull over and let them pass. Please stay alert to your surroundings when using your cell phones or listening to your favorite music on your radio.

Kids, let's start getting ready for the nice spring weather now. Make sure that your old bike helmet fits properly before it's time to ride your bike this year. Also, remind your parents to keep all their lawn fertilizers and chemicals stored up high out of the reach of small kids.

As always, the Richmond Heights Fire Department will be out in the schools, businesses, and civic group meetings giving programs on fire safety, injury prevention, workplace safety, disaster planning, and many other subjects. If you are in need of a program, please contact our Public Education Department at (216) 383-6325. Ask for Firefighter Dominic Silvestro when you call.

AT YOUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT

The Service Department would like to take this opportunity to wish residents a very Happy New Year and at this time pass along a few reminders. For residents who have mailboxes at the curb, please be sure that they are properly secured to the post and that the post has been installed at the proper distance from the street. The city is not responsible for damage to mailboxes from heavy snow.

There will be a Computer Roundup April 3, 6, and 10, and a Paint Roundup (no latex) May 4, 8, 11, and 15. Please take your items to the Recycling Drop Off Center at 26260 Chardonview Road. The hours are Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please remember curbside recycling occurs every week on your regular trash day for cans, glass and plastic. For an information sheet on the Recycling Program, call (216) 486-2474.

Republic Waste, the contractor for trash removal, recommends that residents put their trash in plastic bags, such as grocer's bags, before placing trash in garbage cans. This will minimize trash blowing around the neighborhood, especially on windy days.



Richmond Heights Recreation Youth Basketball program has elevated to new heights this year with over 200 participants.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS NIGHT WITH THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

This is your chance to see the Cleveland Cavaliers! As a resident of Richmond Heights, join us Friday, February 20 for Richmond Heights Community Night with the Cleveland Cavaliers. LeBron James and the Cavaliers will be battling the defending NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs and reigning league MVP Tim Duncan. Limited tickets are available on a first come basis. The group rate cost of a ticket is \$20. Please register at City Hall in the Recreation Department. Deadline to get tickets is Friday, February 6. For more information, please call (216) 383-6313.



GO CAVS!



SPRING SHOW

Plans are underway for the popular children's Spring Show to be held on Saturday, April 3 at the Kiwanis Lodge from 9:00 am – 10:30 am. The admission charge will be \$2 per person and refreshments will be served. Advance tickets must be purchased and will be on sale at the Recreation Department office beginning Monday, March 8. Watch for further announcements.

Boys And Girls Youth Soccer League Registration Begins On February 24 thru March 26



The soccer league registration begins on February 24 thru March 26. The first game will be played on Saturday, April 17. Teams will practice once each week. The season will conclude on May 8. All regular season games for grades K-6 are played at Richmond Heights Community Park. The resident fee for the Recreation Soccer League is \$25. There is an additional \$10 fee for non-residents. Register for the league at the Recreation Department inside City Hall. For more information, call (216) 383-6313.

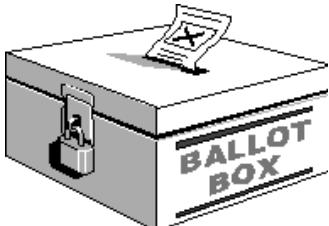
Coming Soon To A Lodge Near You Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Kiwanis Lodge Events

Sunday, February 29 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Richmond Heights Boys & Girls
Baseball, Softball & Swim Team Summer Registration

Saturday, April 3 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Richmond Heights Recreation Department Spring Show

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, March 2, is Primary Election Day. The polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. Ward 1 votes at the



Christian Assembly Church, 25595 Chardon Road. Wards 2, 3, and 4 vote in the Kiwanis Lodge at Richmond Heights Community Park.

See you at the Polls!

SPRING AHEAD APRIL 3

Don't forget it's time to "SPRING AHEAD". Set your clocks ahead one (1) hour on Saturday night, April 3. This is also the time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.



REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

All meetings are held at City Hall in Council Chambers

Formal City Council Meetings

Second & Fourth Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Council Committee Meetings

First & Third Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board

First & Third Mondays 1:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals

First Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Second Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Board

Third Monday 7:00 p.m.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB

The Richmond Heights Garden Club began the year in September with a "welcoming tea" and a program on growing and using herbs. In October, the members boarded a bus for a trip to the awesome Petitti Garden Center in Strongsville and a delicious lunch at the Mapleside Apple Farm Restaurant. The holiday season began with a demo on making different types of bows and a very festive luncheon at Borally's Party Center. Scheduled for 2004 are field trips to the new Cleveland Botanical Gardens and the Mayfield Village Historic House, a Spring luncheon and Installation of Officers. For membership information, contact Karen Murray (216) 371-1578.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

The Richmond Heights Elementary School PTO would like to thank everyone from the community as well as the parents and faculty that participated in the first 'Shop til you Drop for Technology.' This was a lot of fun and the PTO looks forward to possibly doing this next year. A special thanks to all of those that came and enjoyed pancakes at the Pancake Breakfast. The PTO appreciates all efforts in helping to maintain an effective school for the children.

Looking forward to spring yet? Well, the RHES PTO is offering a couple new community events. The Richmond Heights Elementary PTO/School will be sponsoring a Senior Citizen Prom on Friday, May 14 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and dance music provided. Each guest will also be given a carnation. Invitations will be sent out in March. On Saturday, May 22 we will be hosting a giant school yard sale. Mark this on your calendars.

What would you like to see the RHES PTO offer? Feel free to call Kim Walters at (216) 289-2237 with any suggestions or ideas you might have.

DON'T THROW IT AWAY!!

The Richmond Heights Middle School Parent Teacher Organization is participating in a program that recycles used cell phones, inkjet and laser cartridges. The program will benefit the Middle School students with funds to supplement school supplies that may not be provided by the district funding. We are asking you to collect and donate your used cartridges and cell phones from home and work. Collection boxes will be provided at the Middle School Office, Richmond Heights City Hall and at Charter One Bank at 690 Richmond Road. A complete list of recyclable cartridges and cell phones, can be viewed at the Middle School PTO web page at www.richmond-heights.k12.oh.us. Any questions can be submitted to the Middle School office. Thank you for your generosity and support in advance.

CITY HALL, AT YOUR SERVICE!

Richmond Heights City Hall business hours are weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The address is 457 Richmond Road, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. The phone number to City Hall is (216) 486-2474. There are now two different ways to obtain information about Richmond Heights after normal working hours. The Richmond Heights website can now be accessed at www.richmondheights.org. The Richmond Heights Information Line continues to be available at (216) 383-6300, and can be accessed 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Recorded information includes: Council and special meetings, rubbish collection schedule changes, various registration information, and the Recreation Department's major City events. Information is updated on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Numerous forms and applications are available at City Hall for Senior and handicapped services, voter forms, and County assistance applications. Also available is current information regarding special events and programs.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

They are Seniors and proud of it. The Richmond Heights Senior Citizens Group is enjoying life being together at meetings, special occasion dinners and on their many trips. The Seniors invite you to join in on the fun. You'll meet new people and make new friends. The dues are only \$5.00 per year. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge which is located at the back of the Richmond Heights Community Park. Please come and give them a try. For more information, please contact Senior Club President Alice Petersen at (216) 481-4593.

ADULT LOW IMPACT EXERCISE

Classes are held at the Kiwanis Lodge on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Bring weights, towel, and mats to class. Session fees for three classes per week is \$42; two classes per week \$32; and one class per week, \$22. There are three six-week sessions, the first starts on January 26. The next session begins on March 8, followed by April 26. Exercise class includes stretches, warm-up, soft low-impact movements, and strength-training exercises set to music. Both women and men are welcome. Late entries will be pro-rated. For more information, please contact Patty Rodholm at (440) 944-7383.

FLU SHOT/RESOURCE FAIR

The Flu Shot Program was held November 6, 2003 at the Kiwanis Lodge. Close to 300 people participated but thanks to our volunteers, everything went very smoothly. In conjunction with the Flu Shot, a Resource Fair was held in the adjoining room and many providers from health care agencies, health care products, as well as nursing homes and assisted living facilities were represented. There were give-aways and valuable information for all. There was a surplus of "Vials of Life" that were handed out at the Flu Shot Program and Resource Fair and are available at City Hall to anyone who requests one.



The volunteers did a wonderful job, and everything went smoothly during the flu shot program.



The Resource Fair was a great success and provided valuable information to our Senior Citizens.

Revised Public Works Timetable

Location

Richmond Road N, Skyline & Sunset
 Richmond Road, Swetland to Horizon
 Cary Jay Blvd. & Dumbarton Blvd.
 Richmond Road (Chardon & White)
 Richmond Road Side Streets

Type of Project

Sanitary Sewers
 Sanitary Sewers
 Sanitary Sewers
 Sanitary Sewers
 Sanitary Sewers

Estimated Construction Date

Completed
 Under Construction
 Spring 2004
 Summer 2004
 Winter 2004

The above dates are the latest estimates submitted by City Engineer, Lee Courtney.

For further information regarding Public Works, please call (440) 449-4005.

American Legion Post 775

Sunday, March 21
26th Annual Pancake Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Kiwanis Lodge
Cost \$4.50

People who have served in the service are welcome to join American Legion Post 775.

For Legion Post 775 information, call Bob Montgomery at (440) 255-9198.

Special Anniversary Couples

Ed & Roseman Sohl
 October 6
 Celebrating 60 years

Dick & Betty St. John
 November 20
 Celebrating 55 years

Bob & Bertha Popovic
 November 22
 Celebrating 45 years

LYNDHURST MUNICIPAL COURT NEWS

It is not too early for students or teachers to consider the Lyndhurst Municipal Court for field trips, senior projects and internships. Judge Bozza looks forward to providing students from our local schools opportunities to witness the Justice system at the Lyndhurst Municipal Court. Our goal is to influence these students to further their education. Judge Bozza invites all the local grade schools and high schools to take advantage of this educational experience at the Court.

Judge Bozza's next "Make the Right Choice" presentation is scheduled for February 6, 2004 at 9:15 a.m. at the Lyndhurst Community Center. This is a program designed for all driving under the influence offenders.

Judge Bozza continues to speak about the Court system and traffic safety matters to interested citizen groups upon request. For further inquiry, call Patti Anderson at (440) 461-6500 ext. 205.

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL/RICHMOND HEIGHTS CONTINUES TO GROW

Three and a half years after becoming part of the University Hospitals Health System Richmond Heights Hospital continues to grow and prosper as a vital asset to our community. The success enjoyed at the hospital is reflected by the increase in the number of hospital admissions, outpatient services, surgery volume, Emergency Department visits (which ranks among the top 6% of departments across the country for customer service), and the continued renovations and improvements to our physical plant. The hospital is currently installing a new MRI magnet that will be operational in February 2004. This new technology will rival any in the area for clarity and quality of imaging, and will greatly enhance the care and treatment of patients who will be utilizing this new service.

A CALL FOR HELP

Members of Post 0775 have joined with hundreds of other American Legion Posts in Ohio to help hospitalized veterans by collecting funds for "Gifts For The Yanks" program. This is the 58th consecutive year Ohio American Legion is pooling funds from Posts for helping Ohio state hospitals, VA Medical Centers, Ohio Veterans Homes at Sandusky and Georgetown. We welcome contributions to help finance state wide programs. It is a warm way to say "We Care and Thank You". Make check payable to THE AMERICAN LEGION/Gifts to Yanks Fund, 6745 Olde Field Court, Mentor, Ohio 44060.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Aircraft Complaints: Call the Cuyahoga County Airport Office, (216) 289-4111, to register complaints on aircraft operating between 11:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. Call the Control Tower, (216) 261-0550 for complaints on aircraft operating between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Preferably, write to:

Steve Nagy, 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, (800) 275-8777
 Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Phone: 440-473-0350

Award Local Scholarships
 Book Deliveries to Homebound

Senior Citizen Events • Monthly Book Sales
 Special Children's and Teen Programs • Newsletter
 6080 Wilson Mills, Mayfield Village, Ohio 44143

BECOME A FRIEND!

Membership:

Individual	\$ 10.00
Student (under 18)	\$ 5.00
Senior (60+) each	\$ 5.00
Family/Household	\$15.00

Applications
 available at the
 Service Desk

UPCOMING CASINO BUS TRIPS

Date: Wednesday, March 24 Mountaineer Casino

Cost: \$15/includes \$5 coin voucher given

Departure Time: 6:30 a.m. from Richmond Town Square

Date: Wednesday, April 14 Seneca Niagara Casino

Cost: \$25/\$10 coin voucher given

Departure Time: 6:00 a.m. from Richmond Town Square

For registration information, please call the Recreation Department (216) 383-6313. Seating is on a first come basis.



See You
Next Year!



Santa & Mrs. Clause tour the City before the December 12th Holiday Walk in the Park.

Editor's note: I would like to thank Nancy Benander for her assistance during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article or took photographs for their contribution.

The CITY EDITION

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Emergency
9-1-1

Richmond Heights City Hall
216-486-2474

Richmond Heights Information Number
216-383-6300

The City with the *Forward* Look!

UPCOMING DANCE SCHEDULE

First Wednesday of the Month

7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge

February 4 The Big Band Combo

March 3 Fern Garner Quartet

April 7 Ray Polantz Orchestra

May 5 Jeff Pecon

This schedule is subject to change or substitutions.

Dances feature a live band and light refreshments are served. Dances are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Cost is \$3 at the door. The Kiwanis Lodge is located at 27285 Highland Road in the back of Richmond Heights Community Park.

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www.richmondheights.org

