

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS
2018

- **Richmond Heights Master Plan Formally Adopted by City Council.**
Following a two-year community-wide planning process, the Richmond Heights Master Plan was formally adopted by the Richmond Heights City Council in October. In 2016 the City received a grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development to update its 2007 Master Plan. The Master Plan process, facilitated by staff from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, included input from a 15 member Project Team and a 22 member Steering Committee; three public meetings open to residents, community leaders and stakeholders; twelve Stakeholder meetings; and participation in two Community Conversations presented by the City. The Master Plan identified seven major themes: Neighborhoods and Housing; Multimodal Connectivity; Environmental Sustainability; Health & Wellness; History, Arts & Culture; Quality Government & Civic Engagement; and Business & Economic Development.
- **DealPoint Merrill opened CubeSmart storage facility in former Macy's store.**
DealPoint Merrill purchased the vacant former Macy's Department store at Richmond Town Square in December 2017 with plans to renovate the building into a CubeSmart storage facility with additional retail space. After an almost \$10 million renovation of the 162,190 square foot former department store, the CubeSmart facility, with 1,082 self-storage units, opened for business in November.
- **DealPoint Merrill announced plans for a \$70 million mixed use project.**
In June DealPoint Merrill presented a concept plan to the City Planning Commission for a \$70 million mixed use development project at the north end of the Richmond Town Square mall to include 375 apartment units, retail space, recreational amenities and parking.
- **DealPoint Merrill purchased the vacant former Sears Department store.**
In the first step towards implementing the proposed mixed use development project, DealPoint Merrill purchased the vacant 23 acre former Sears Department store and associated parking at the north end of the Richmond Town Square mall bringing the development site under their control.
- **Dollar General Store opened.**
Dollar General opened a new store in August on Chardon Road just east of Richmond Road. Constructed at a cost of approximately \$350,000, the new 7,512 square foot building allowed for 10 new jobs to be added to the City's employment base.
- **Renovations to Lower Level of Kiwanis Lodge Community Center began.**
The City applied for and received a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant from Cuyahoga County in July for the renovation of the lower level of the Kiwanis Lodge Community Center. The City appropriated an additional \$46,700 towards the

project. Plans and construction drawings for the renovation were completed, a bid package for the project was prepared, a contractor was selected and construction began on the renovation. The renovation project, following an earlier grant from Cuyahoga County which constructed an exterior handicap ramp to the Kiwanis Lodge lower level, includes a new kitchenette, a renovated storage room, two new bathrooms, two new showers, a new utility room, and handicap power assisted doors. The inclusion of showers in the project will allow the lower level to be available as a temporary emergency center if needed, in addition to its regular usage for improved community programming.

- **Job Creation Grant Program created.**

In anticipation of a company relocating their headquarters to Richmond Heights, City Council approved the creation of a Job Creation Grant Program to provide tax incentives for job creation thus encouraging new businesses to move into the City and existing businesses to expand their operations.

- **Environmental remediation of vacant gas station site completed.**

Following several years of study and cleanup work the environmental remediation of the city-owned vacant gas station site at 26102 Chardon Road was completed with the issuance of a No Further Action letter.

- **New Director of Economic Development joined the City.**

Brian Gleisser joined the City in June as Director of Economic Development. Mr. Gleisser has a Bachelors Degree from Northwestern University, a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University and a law degree from Cleveland State University. He brings extensive experience in community and economic development to Richmond Heights having served as a City Planner for the Cleveland City Planning Commission, Senior Vice President for University Circle Incorporated, and Executive Director for the Miles Ahead Inc. community development corporation.