

CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS
Economic Development
ANNUAL REPORT
2015

- A. In 2015, the City, through the Department of Economic and Community Development identified five properties that it no longer needed and did not want to continue maintaining. The City had these parcels listed for sale with Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate. The parcels were 790 Kenbridge Road, 497 Karl Road, 2541 Hilltop, a lot on Wethersfield and a lot on Chardon Road. The house on Hilltop ultimately did not remain among the listed properties because it is part of the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program and has some strict requirements on it relative to the income eligibility of the final occupant. In addition, the lot on Chardon has not sold yet either. However, the Kenbridge and Karl properties sold in 2015 and the Wethersfield property sold in spring 2016.
- B. In 2015, Economic Development worked with many of the other City departments on community development projects. Economic Development Director Christel Best worked with Jessica Gift Director of the Recreation Department, and Fred Cash, Director of the Greenwood Farm Arts, Cultural and Performing Center to prepare grant applications with the Cuyahoga Arts and Culture organization. Christel also worked with the Recreation Department, as well as the Service Department and the Law Director to get the outdoor swimming pool up and running under the management of the YMCA.

Economic Development also worked with other City departments to raise approximately \$700 for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. The process of raising the Food Bank donations served as a wonderful community outreach opportunity with a series of events including a Zumba fundraiser in which Firefighter Buss and Christel brought out residents for a fun afternoon of Zumba dancing. On another day, Christel coordinated with Special Projects Coordinator Stephanie Barry and Assistant Recreation Director Anthony Gimelia to facilitate a lively day of collecting donations and canned goods during Shred Day.

Christel also worked with Mayor's Assistant Kim Adams on the New Resident Brochure.

- C. As Cuyahoga County initiated its Demolition Bond Fund in 2014, we applied in 2015, and received \$100,000 for blighted structure demolitions. The City, through the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, demolished two blighted houses as well as the old Amoco gas station located at Richmond and Chardon Road. Today, the City maintains the lots where the houses and gas station had been and the costs of such

maintenance are applied to the tax bills of the homeowners. As to the gas station, the City now owns that lot and maintains same through the Service Department.

- D. There were several projects that our department worked on in 2015 to promote economic development in Richmond Heights. In order to have a non-profit entity into which we could put grant funds for building renovation and construction projects, we applied to Case Western Reserve University Law School to prepare the paperwork for our City's Community Development Corporation. We also applied to the County for Community Development Block Grant funds to renovate the Kiwanis Lodge, the path around the Community Park and to reconstruct wall at Borally's. This CDBG grant application was denied. However, we re-applied for the CDBG funds to renovate the Kiwanis Lodge in a 2016 grant application.

We also continued our committed focus on expanding the Cuyahoga County Airport as an economic development driver for the City. We received bids from Centermark Development for construction of a brewery at the Airport, and we received a commercial listing proposal from John Lynch of Keller Williams for development on the 32 buildable acres across the street from the airport. Later, in 2016, we submitted both proposals to the County for consideration.

- E. We also hosted a commercial and residential Real Estate Showcase in conjunction with Richmond Town Square.