



## **2015: Recreation in Review**

In March, 2015 the City of Richmond Heights was again awarded the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Community Recycling Awareness Grant. The Recreation Department was able to use this grant for hosting two Shred Day events on May 9 and September 26. People came from Richmond Heights and surrounding communities to shred their personal documents securely. Each car was restricted to five boxes. The grant was also used to purchase and distribute 40 cases of the durable blue recycling bags to the Richmond Heights residents. The recycle bags were available at City Hall for the residents to pick up. The City spent some of the grant money on advertising the events. We advertised in the *Sun Messenger*, the *News-Herald*, *The Plain Dealer* and Cleveland.com.

On Saturday, March 28, the Recreation Department hosted an Egg Hunt at Greenwood Farm. A large crowd of approximately 100 people enjoyed the fun activities, and the children that participated loved gathering eggs at the Egg Hunt. Bill Delsanter, President of Richmond Heights Amateur Sports, gave hot dogs to all that attended.

In June, the Richmond Heights Municipal Pool opened. The Hillcrest YMCA managed the pool facility.

In 2015, The Recreation Department coordinated the Hillcrest Summer Concert Series with the surrounding communities of Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights and South Euclid. The concert series was comprised of 21 concerts.

Recreation had its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Richmond Heights Craft Show on Saturday, November 6. A total of 39 craft tables that cost either \$35 or \$40 were sold for this event. The Garden Club raffled the themed baskets again this year, with the proceeds benefitting the Garden Club Scholarship Fund. All in all, it was another successful event.

This was our 19<sup>th</sup> year for our Breakfast with Santa! The attendance was fantastic, with 90 adults and 70 children at the Kiwanis Lodge to see Santa and everything else that the Breakfast with Santa Committee does to make

the event so special. The committee of Nancy Benander, Stephanie Barry, Anthony Gimellia, Jerry Hoover, Judy Karla and Linda Staccho did a wonderful job coordinating this very popular event. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Terry and Kathy Yerkic), we had “Elsa and Anna” posing with the younger children giving out candy canes. Santa and Mrs. Claus gave out small bags of reindeer soup to the children that came to visit the famous Santa sleigh. The children also enjoyed fantastic face-painting, making Christmas tree crafts, Snowman Soup and decorate-your-own reindeer cupcakes. The children and their parents enjoyed fresh hot chocolate chip pancakes and sausages cooked to perfection by the Service Department volunteers. Volunteers from Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club, the Richmond Heights Garden Club, students from the Richmond Heights Key Club and St. Paschal Baylon School assisted at various activities. Once again, a true community effort!

The Richmond Heights Youth Basketball program continues to be a very popular activity for children to participate in. The league was comprised of 85 children at different grade levels from Kindergarten – Grade 8. The league works extremely hard to make the teams fair and have it be a fun and learning experience for the players. We achieved that by an intensive, well-organized draft of players and teams. This allowed the league to have competitive games each Saturday, that were well-attended by the Richmond Heights community. Special thanks to the volunteer coaches who led their teams through the season.

Recreation sponsored the following programs in 2015: Basketball, Lunch Bunch (7 participants), and Exercise Classes at the Lodge.