

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2017**

*Rick Dula, Director*

### **Pool Management/YMCA**

During the summer months of 2017, the City of Richmond Heights again partnered with the Hillcrest YMCA to staff and manage the outdoor community pool and spray ground. The Recreation Director worked closely with the pool manager to ensure the facility was being maintained and operated appropriately.

### **Programming & Events**

The Richmond Heights Centennial celebration brought some enhanced programming opportunities to the Richmond Heights community in 2017. In the month of April, the Recreation Department partnered with the Richmond Town Square to host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the mall. We offered and ran a successful spring soccer class. We usually provide three outdoor summer concerts. This year, five Summer Concerts were offered and were well-attended. The first concert with Kyle Primous Trio was held at the pool to create a "Free Pool Party" atmosphere. We offered four more concerts which included The Benjaminz, Ricky and the Rockets, The 147 Band and the Backtraxx. The Recreation Department also presented the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony, Junk in the Trunk, Fun Fest at the Farm, and Breakfast with Santa. In 2017, the Recreation Department coordinated the very successful 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Volunteer/Sponsor Appreciation Dinner. We received grant funding from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District which allowed us to host two very well-attended community shred days, helping residents discard of unneeded papers. The Recreation Department and Hillcrest YMCA collaborated on a dual themed event, a Senior Day at the Richmond Heights Community Park and a Pickleball Tournament in August. In October, Pickleball moved indoors to Christian Assembly and will continue throughout the winter months. Residents also had the opportunity to enjoy on-going fitness classes held at the Kiwanis Lodge. We offered an R & B line dancing with Richmond Heights resident instructor Tina Swift, a Senior Exercise class and a Zumba class both led by Richmond Heights resident instructor Cindy Herak. Lastly, the monthly "Lunch Bunch" group and the Tuesday and Friday "Senior Card Playing" groups were going strong.

### **Collaborations with Richmond Heights Local Schools**

The City administration and the Recreation Department worked closely with the Richmond Heights Schools regarding the following programs/events; "CS (Computer Science) For All" program and Arbor Day in April; Community Unity-Back to School Fair in August, Pasta with a Purpose in October and the ever popular Richmond Heights Youth Basketball program (November through February).

### **Recreation Board**

The Recreation Board continued to meet on the third Wednesday of each month in 2017. Current members include Charlotte Camp, Angela Jordan, Tamitra Peavy, Patricia Thompson and Zachary Tomsick. The Recreation Board offered a Fall Bus Trip to Amish Country on Saturday, November 4. The charter bus trip was sold out and all participants had a wonderful time.

### **Greenwood Farm Programming**

Greenwood Farm was the site of many citywide events, including the annual Fall Fun Fest at the Farm—which in 2017, was extremely well-attended because of some great offerings. The band Shout performed an entertaining concert, entertainment from Magician Rick Smith Jr. and the Real Pop Fusion, free hayrides, a Kids' Zone with inflatables, and a good number of delicious food choices from multiple Food Trucks and vendors. Additional programming being held at the farm includes the annual “Junk in the Trunk”, which is a community garage sale.

### **Senior Transportation Connection**

The Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County is committed to providing “comprehensive, efficient, and affordable transportation services for older adults.” By contracting with STC, the City of Richmond Heights helps to ensure older residents have curb-to-curb transportation access for medical appointments, social gatherings and more.

### **Meals on Wheels**

New Recreation Director Rick Dula, re-established our connection with the Hillcrest Meals on Wheels organization. This service, offered Monday—Friday, is designed to meet the nutritional needs of homebound, disabled and elderly residents of Richmond Hts who are unable to shop or prepare meals.