

RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Rick Dula, Director

Pool Management

- The City of Richmond Heights decided in April 2020 to not open the Richmond Heights Municipal Pool and Spray Ground for the 2020 summer season because of the COVID – 19 pandemic.

Programming & Events

- The Richmond Heights Recreation Department optimistically started the 2020 Special Event schedule hosting the Volunteer/Sponsor Appreciation Dinner at the Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge on Saturday, February 8. The event was very well attended. It was a great way to say thank you to the numerous volunteers and sponsors that helped the City of Richmond Heights in 2019.
- The Recreation Department next hosted the Black History month's Soul Food/Jazz Luncheon on Wednesday, February 19 at the Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge. This Soul Food/Jazz Luncheon was a sell-out with approximately 150 people in attendance. The Swingbone Jazz Band performed from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. The menu consisted of Ribs, Fried Chicken, Greens, Macaroni and Cheese, Banana Pudding, coffee, sweet tea and bottled water.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Richmond Heights Community Park on Saturday, April 4 was the first victim of the 2020 pandemic and was cancelled because of COVID – 19 concerns.
- The City of Richmond Heights has been a proud Arbor Day Society's Tree Community for the past 21 years. Arbor Day 2020 was celebrated on April 26, with Mayor David Roche, Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club and Garden Club President, Aire Roche and the Service Director, Don Kerniskey, joining together to plant a beautiful tree near the tennis courts at the Richmond Heights Community Park.
- The Community Garage Sale at the Richmond Heights Community Park on Saturday, May 2 was cancelled because of COVID – 19.
- All ballfield rentals at the Richmond Heights Community Park were cancelled because of COVID – 19.
- The Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Richmond Heights Community Park on Monday, May 25 was (live streamed) via the Recreation Department's Facebook page with assistance from RHPD Chief Wetzell. A small group was in attendance. The people in attendance were masked and observed social distancing guidelines.
- The four Summer Wednesday Night Concerts at the Richmond Heights Community Park Gazebo in July were cancelled because of COVID – 19.

- The Fall Fun Fest at the Greenwood Farm on Saturday, September 19 was cancelled because of COVID – 19.
- The Fall Bus Trip to Amish Country scheduled for Saturday, October 3 was postponed because of COVID – 19.
- The Breakfast with Santa at the Kiwanis Lodge on Saturday, December 12 was cancelled because of COVID – 19.
- The City received grant funding from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District of almost \$700.00. This allowed for two very well-attended Community Shred Days on Saturday August 8 with 208 cars and Saturday October 10 with 150 cars.
- The youth soccer program coordinated by SELSC was held in the fall at DeSan Park with social distancing and other protocols being observed.
- The Indoor Pickleball winter session was held in January – March and the fall session was from October – December in the Christian Assembly Gymnasium with social distancing and other protocols being followed.
- The on-going fitness classes at the Kiwanis Lodge of R & B Line Dancing with Richmond Heights resident instructor Tina Swift and the Senior Exercise and Zumba classes both led by Richmond Heights resident instructor Cindy Herak were held until the end of February before COVID – 19 put a stop to the classes.
- The monthly “Lunch Bunch” group stopped meeting in March because of COVID – 19.
- The Friday “Senior Adult Card Playing” group that met at City Hall in the Caucus Room was cancelled starting in March because of COVID – 19.
- The 2020/21 Youth Basketball program that was partnered with the City of Euclid Recreation Department was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- The National Night Out that was scheduled for Tuesday, August 4 was cancelled due to the pandemic. This event is sponsored by the Richmond Heights Police Department and assisted by the Recreation Department.

Collaborations with Richmond Heights Local Schools

- The Annual Community Unity-Back to School Fair 2020/21 in August was cancelled due to COVID – 19.

Recreation Board

The Richmond Heights Recreation Board met at the City Hall on the third Tuesday in January and February. Meetings were then held via Zoom in May through December. The members include Charlotte Camp, Anna Cifranic, Angela Jordan, Mary Mehring and Patricia Thompson.

Greenwood Farm

Greenwood Farm was the site of zero city-wide events in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Community Partnership on Aging (CPA)

The City of Richmond Heights had a full membership in 2020 with the Community Partnership on Aging that entitled Richmond Heights residents to engage in the complete range of programs and services that CPA offers. There is approximately one-third of the population of Richmond Heights is over age 60 and another third of the population is between ages 39 to 59, creating a steady stream of persons into the over age 60 category and whose needs for support often increase with aging.

The Community Partnership on Aging (“CPA”) is a nonprofit social service agency that has been in existence since 1978 and provides programs and services to support the independence, community involvement and wellbeing of older adults in the Hillcrest area through an agreement with a regional council of governments under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167 that currently includes as members the local municipalities of: South Euclid, Lyndhurst, Highland Heights, Mayfield Heights and Mayfield Village.

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 Senior Transportation Connection, 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

Recreation Director Rick Dula remained a Board Member with the Hillcrest Meals on Wheels organization. This service is offered Monday—Friday and is designed to meet the nutritional needs of homebound, disabled and elderly residents of Richmond Heights who are unable to shop or prepare meals.