IN MEMORY OF CITY’S LONGEST-STANDING COUNCILPERSON

On January 6, Marcia Starkey Morgan, a resident of Richmond Heights since 1958 and former Richmond Heights councilwoman, passed away. She was beloved to many. Marcia served as the City of Richmond Heights’ longest-standing councilperson, an office she took in 1974. She was the first woman to run for a seat on council. However, she refused to quit in the face of adversity. She served until 1981, when she became the first woman in the city to run for mayor. She lost that election, but from 1982-1983, she continued in her service by acting as Council Clerk. Afterward, she was reelected to council in 1984.

Marcia enjoyed meeting people from all walks of life and had an immense local impact. Some of the work she was most proud of was planning she facilitated with council to improve the appearance at the corner of Chardon and Richmond roads. She also established the Richmond Heights City Edition newsletter in 1990 and served as its editor until 2001, helping ensure sound citywide communications. In 2017, the Council Chambers at City Hall were renamed “The Marcia Starkey Morgan Council Chambers” to honor Marcia’s accomplishments and dedication to community service. Mayor David H. Roche, City Council and the City of Richmond Heights staff share sincere sympathy and extend prayers to Marcia’s family, friends and associates.

A Message from Mayor David H. Roche

Happy New Year to all of our residents! Last year was an active time for the City of Richmond Heights, notably marked by our Centennial Celebration—during which we celebrated 100 years of vibrant history with a series of festive activities. We are thankful to all who came out and made our celebrations a community-wide success.

Safety is of the utmost importance in our City, and we are proud to have talented, well-staffed Fire/EMS and Police Departments that now boast more modern equipment, including two newer ambulances and state-of-the-art police vehicles with video cameras and updated communication radios. We recognize the importance of regionalization, which is why we recently joined the Heights-Hillcrest Communications Center for dispatch for our Fire/EMS and Police.

We are also part of the Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network (SPAN), the County Jail, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), the Heights-Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team (HHTRT) and other regional efforts. See page two for more details.

With everything that our recreational staff and Recreation Board plan, we strive to make our City a place where you can build memories; whether through the City’s annual Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast with Santa, Fall Fun Fest at the Farm, the monthly Lunch Bunch group and more. The 2017 Breakfast with Santa was a complete hit, selling out just a few weeks after tickets went on sale. The Recreation Board was active in 2017 and planned a Fall Bus Trip to Amish Country. Thanks to a generous $50,000 grant we secured from the County, we were recently able to renovate the lower level of our Kiwanis Lodge and make it ADA-accessible, which will help to expand accommodations for programming. Residents can keep up-to-date on recreational activities by visiting our website and/or Facebook page.

On Wednesday evenings, residents have the opportunity to enjoy R&B line dancing—which is an affordable class held at our spacious Kiwanis Lodge. A Wednesday and Friday morning fitness class is also offered at the Kiwanis Lodge for a nominal fee. For residents ages 50 years or older, we offer the Senior Citizens Club. As part of the club, members meet twice monthly to enjoy a program and refreshments with friends and neighbors. Seniors can also benefit from the City’s participation in Hillcrest Meals on Wheels, the Senior Transportation Connection and the Community Partnership on Aging.

(Mayor’s Message continued on page 2)
O’TOOLE RETIRES; URSU RETURNS TO GOVERNMENT

Donald O’Toole, former Council at Large representative, retired from his position, and effective January 1, former Mayor Daniel Ursu began fulfilling the seat. On December 19, 2017, City Council presented a resolution to O’Toole for his stellar, long-standing public service. O’Toole was appointed to Council in 1993. He completed a six-month Council term, and for the next 24 years he successfully won during elections for Council at Large. Don outstandingly served as Chair of Council’s Finance Committee for many years and served at one time or another as the Chair of each of Council’s Committees. Don explained, “I think we’re leaving the City in a good financial position.” Known as the “voice of reason and compromise,” Don has been a highly dedicated and respected member of City Council and left a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

The City welcomes back Dan Ursu to the City government in his new role as Councilman. Ursu served as Mayor for 24 years (from 1989 to 2013) and won election to the Council at Large seat in November 2017. He ran for Council because of the enjoyment he derives from working in government, serving the people of Richmond Heights, and helping to advance the community. “I was on Council for four years prior to becoming Mayor. After three decades of service, I have a vast knowledge of the government of Richmond Heights,” Ursu said. Some of his initial goals will be to work with other elected officials and department heads to “plan an optimal budget” as he serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee of Council. In addition, he hopes to help Richmond Town Square “become a more vibrant facility.”

REGIONALIZATION EFFORTS STRONG IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS

In Richmond Heights, we recognize the importance of regionalization for the cost-savings that it provides, in addition to lessening staffing needs throughout the City. Because of the ample benefits regionalization provides to taxpayers, we recently joined the Heights-Hillcrest Communications Center for dispatch for our Fire/EMS and Police, in coordination with Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, Shaker Heights and University Heights. Our local non-emergency police line of (216) 486-1234 and the Division of Fire number of (216) 486-1212 will remain active but will automatically re-route to the regional dispatch center. All calls requiring dispatching of police, Fire and/or EMS will be handled by the dispatch center; meanwhile, all other calls will be directed back to the local Richmond Heights police or fire divisions.

Other regional efforts of which we are part include the Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network (SPAN) that includes the Drug Enforcement Unit, the County Jail, Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and the Heights-Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team (HHTRT). In addition, we belong to the Heights-Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Commerce (HRCC), Hillcrest Council of Councils, Cuyahoga County Mayors and City Managers Association, Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC), FirstEnergy Solutions Aggregation, Cuyahoga County Airport Noise Abatement Council, Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc. (NOCCA), Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Euclid Creek, Hillcrest Regional Fire Investigation Strike Force (FIU) and the Chagrin Southeast HAZMAT team, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), Hillcrest Meals on Wheels, Tree City USA, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD), Senior Transportation Connection (STC), among others. We are thankful for these partnerships and the mutual benefits they provide.

MAYOR’S MESSAGE

(Continued from front page)

For residents’ convenience, our City’s Service Department offers a wide array of services, including twice monthly curbside recycling pickup, periodic hazardous waste disposal, and a recycling drop-off center, among other services. We also partner with Simple Recycling, a program implemented just over one year ago and offered at no cost to the City or its residents. This recycling program enables residents to donate unwanted clothing and housewares with the convenience of weekly curbside pickup, with extra orange bags available at City Hall.

We are proud to have strong communication options for our residents. See page four for details. We are also working to improve our efficiencies and plan for the future. In large part, our Master Plan drives the long-term sustainability of our community. Crafted with assistance from Cuyahoga County’s Master Planners, this plan is moving Richmond Heights forward so it can reach its full potential. From retail shopping, to medical and health care facilities, to our schools and housing stock and making our community more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly, we are continually working toward growth. The ultimate goal is to make the Richmond Heights of both today and tomorrow a thriving, safe and prosperous community.

It is an honor and privilege to be your Mayor.
CITY WELCOMES NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR

Rick Dula was hired as the Recreation Director for the City of Richmond Heights and began fulfilling the position on October 30, 2017. Rick brings over 35+ years of programming and administrative experience in Recreation and Community Education. He previously worked as a Recreation Programmer for Shaker Heights Recreation, as the Director of Kenston Community Education, as Associate Director of Orange Community Schools & Recreation and as the Director of SELREC (South Euclid Lyndhurst Recreation). In addition, Rick worked as the “Manager On Duty” for the City of Solon’s Community Recreation Center and as a Field House attendant and Pickleball Director at Mayfield’s Wildcat Sport & Fitness.

Thus far, Rick is currently working on the 2018 budget as well as working to refine policies and procedures of the Recreation Department, as well as improving the Department’s program offerings for the community. He looks forward to meeting residents and collecting their feedback for programming ideas and opportunities. We welcome Rick to the team and look forward to his continued contributions to the City!

City of Richmond Heights Easter Egg Hunt

Date: Saturday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Richmond Heights Community Park

What’s included: Candy and prizes! Visit the Easter bunny! Bring a basket

Who: Ages 12 and under

Community Garage Sale

Vendors Needed!

WHEN: Saturday, May 5, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Setup: 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)

WHERE: Richmond Heights Community Park
27285 Highland Road

COST: Vendor spaces are $15 each

INFO: Call (216) 383-6313 to sign up

RICHMOND HEIGHTS YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAM SPONSORS

Benander Games/Sports Data
C.H.A.N.G.E. Volunteers Inc.
Destiny Transportation
Done Right Automotive
FX Media
Gas And Go
G & T Bail Bonds
Hillcrest Sunoco
MACE
Richmond Heights Kiwanis
Richmond Heights Teachers

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING A TEAM!

PICKLEBALL Richmond Heights

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Christian Assembly Church
25595 Chardon Road

8 sessions - $30/ 1 session - $5
Open to all skill levels!

SPRING CLEANUP!
Tidy your closets, garage & basement. Opportunity to make extra cash!

RICHMOND HEIGHTS ELLY BASKETBALL TEAM SPONSORS

Benander Games/Sports Data
C.H.A.N.G.E. Volunteers Inc.
Destiny Transportation
Done Right Automotive
FX Media
Gas And Go
G & T Bail Bonds
Hillcrest Sunoco
MACE
Richmond Heights Kiwanis
Richmond Heights Teachers

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING A TEAM!
DIVISION OF FIRE AWARDED AN $80,000 SAFETY GRANT

The Division of Fire has been awarded an $80,000 Operations and Safety Grant by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program. The grant monies will be used to fund the purchase and installation of a Source Capture Exhaust Extraction System (SCES) in the apparatus bay to remove vehicle exhaust emissions. The grant has a total value of $76,191.00, with a local cost match of $3,809.00 (5%). Cuyahoga County Public Safety & Justice Services has awarded the 5% local cost match to the City of Richmond Heights; thus, the project is 100% grant funded!

The grant will improve firefighter health and safety through the installation of a Source Capture Exhaust Extraction System (SCES) in the apparatus bay to remove vehicle exhaust emissions. The installation of the SCES will have a host of benefits. The system will remove all harmful exhaust and pollutants that are created when starting vehicles and directly remove them to outside the building. This removal will have a positive effect on firefighter health. The removal of carcinogens from the air will create a safe work environment. Operating costs will also be reduced due to the reduction in the frequency and need of having to regularly launder turnout gear and equipment that are stored in the bays and are exposed to diesel exhaust.

DIVISION OF FIRE TAKES DELIVERY OF A NEW AMBULANCE

On Wednesday, November 1, the Division of Fire took delivery of a new Type I ambulance. The new ambulance (Squad 742) replaced an older unit which had served the community for over thirteen years. New Squad 742 will facilitate the safe, effective response of our firefighter paramedics to the scenes of emergency medical and public safety incidents for many years to come. A significant amount of the unit’s features were designed by our city’s firefighter paramedics. 100% of the funding for the new ambulance originated from the proceeds of ambulance transport billing.

The former ambulance will assume a new role and continue to serve the City as a utility vehicle for the Service Department. This is mostly due to the abundance of interior and exterior cabinets.

Acquisition of the new ambulance for our community was made possible because of the support and guidance of Mayor Roche and Council.

Fire Chief Neumann was pleased to demonstrate the ambulance’s new design features to (Left to Right) Mayor David H. Roche, President of Council Eloise Henry, Council at Large Councilwoman Juanita Lewis, Ward 3 Councilman Jeremy Kumin, Council Clerk Betsy Traben and Ward 2 Councilman Frank Lentine.

AMPLE COMMUNICATIONS OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS

Having multiple communication tools for residents to use has been an implementation focus for the City of Richmond Heights. The e-newsletter, launched approximately one year ago, is sent twice monthly to keep subscribers abreast of City-related events, current news and other items of interest. Soon, our e-newsletter will include a new “Helpful Tip” section. Residents can also call the Information Line at (216) 383-6300, which is updated twice monthly with pertinent Citywide news. The City Council meetings are conveniently streamed live online, giving residents the opportunity to watch meetings from the comfort of their own homes. A video archive is also maintained to accommodate busy schedules. Day or night, you can tune into the latest happenings in Richmond Heights with the informative City website, which offers regularly updated Public Notices, printable forms, departmental information and more. Residents are also kept informed with the contemporary electronic message board, which was implemented in 2017 and is located at the intersection of Highland Road and Richmond Road. Residents can subscribe to ReadyNotify for emergency alerts. Residents are encouraged to use these communications options to keep abreast of City-related news.
FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM

Individuals and businesses can contribute to Richmond Heights’ beautification through the support of the Flower Basket Program. This summer, the City plans to purchase and install 24 flower baskets at the main intersections in Richmond Heights, and at City buildings and park locations. The Service Department will maintain the flower baskets through the summer months.

Suggested minimum support is $100 for a business and $50 for individuals. Baskets can be purchased “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone special. Please make checks payable to “City of Richmond Heights Flower Basket Program” and mail to: Finance Director; City of Richmond Heights; 26789 Highland Road; Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. Recognition of your donation will be publicized in the “City Edition” by calendar year and on the City website.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT NEWS AND NOTES

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday – Friday
Phone: (216) 731-7014

- If you have carpeting you need to get rid of, you must roll and tie it and cut into lengths of 4 feet and put it out with your trash on Monday. Make sure the rolls are not too heavy for one person to pick up.
- Any large items, such as a sofa, chair, television, dresser, etc., also go out with your regular trash on Mondays. It’s a good idea to call Waste Management if you are going to have larger items put out on trash day. The number is: 1 (866) 797-9018.
- If you have mattresses you need to get rid of, you must wrap them in plastic and tape them before putting them out in your trash, or Waste Management will not pick them up.
- For pickup of stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, and hot water tanks: call the Service Department at (216) 731-7014. Please give them at least a day’s notice for this so they can work it into the daily schedule.
- The Service Department chips branches from small clean ups in your yard. They do not chip branches from cutting down large trees, or from work done by a contractor. The equipment cannot handle that type of work. They follow the recycling route for chipping, the north side the 2nd and 4th week of the month and the south side the 1st and 3rd week of the month. They do the chipping on Wednesdays, weather permitting. If there is snow or ice on the roads, they will not be out chipping.
- Recycling must be in either a blue, clear, or white bag, and separated from your trash. Service personnel can’t see through a black bag.

Thinking about Winter…

- Please be patient with the City snowplow drivers in snowy conditions, as they are doing the best that they can. Don’t drive too closely behind a plow truck, because they may stop suddenly or back up, and they may not see you. We want everyone to stay safe on the roads.
- Make sure to check your rural mailboxes throughout the winter months. Snow coming off the snowplows can loosen mailboxes and eventually knock them off. We are not responsible for repairing or replacing them.
- Do not push snow from your driveway or apron into the street. If you are seen doing this, you could get a citation. Also, the Service Department does not remove snow from driveway aprons. That is the responsibility of the homeowner.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS WHO RECYCLE AT THE SERVICE GARAGE

Please breakdown all cardboard boxes before throwing in the recycle container.

R & B LINE DANCE EXERCISE BY TINA

Are you trying to lose weight or start living a healthy lifestyle? This fun class is a great form of exercise.

WEDNESDAYS
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Kiwanis Lodge

For more information, contact Tina (216) 347-4551

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE RICHMOND HEIGHTS BI-MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER?
Please e-mail special.projects@richmondheightsohio.org
Please type in the subject field:
“RH E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION”
NEW, EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GARDEN CLUB

Richmond Heights Garden Club programming will continue the third week in March, with members on break in January and February.

Susan Rubino was recently voted as the Club’s new Vice President and has been a member for three years. “My mom, Myrna Yeager (the previous Vice President), belonged to the Club prior to me joining, and I thought it would be something nice for my mother and I to do together. When she resigned from the role of Vice President, I took over,” Rubino said.

Rubino’s love of nature, gardening and the field trips associated with the Club are among the many other reasons she decided to join.

Club members kept busy during December 2017 decorating the Kiwanis Lodge for Christmas. Other recent activities included a special visit from a member of the North Chagrin Reservation who spoke about “The Red in Nature.” Recently, members also visited the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse and local nurseries. Members have enjoyed making fairy gardens, engaging in rock painting and more.

A new idea Susan has for the Club is to get members involved with more field trips. Rubino grew up in Richmond Heights, but now resides in Willowick. She would like to get the Richmond Heights Garden Club to engage in outings with other local garden clubs and plans to coordinate new activities for 2018.

“We have interesting speakers, and I’d like to do more with the Cleveland Metroparks system. I’d also like to get our Club involved as volunteers at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, or maybe even go to Lake Metroparks Farmpark or The Holden Arboretum to volunteer our time,” Rubino said.

The Garden Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Kiwanis Lodge, 27285 Highland Road, located at the rear of the Richmond Heights Community Park. Annual dues, set at just $10, are kept low to ensure all interested individuals can participate.

“I’ve made a lot of new, permanent friends, and the ladies are all very nice people. It’s like a big family. I recommend the Club to anyone looking for fun, social opportunities,” Rubino said.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club and for more information on how to become a member, please contact Dolores Sciulino at (216) 382-7866.

STATE FUNDING CUTS IMPACT CITY

In June 2017, the State of Ohio passed its bi-annual Appropriations Bill, House Bill 49, for Fiscal Year 2018 and FY 2019 (July 2017 to June 2019). Among its varied provisions, the bill sets State Revenue Distributions. The State of Ohio has previously distributed a percentage of its tax revenue collected as direct payments to municipal corporations. This is identified as the Local Government Fund (LGF) – Direct Allocation. With the passage of HB 49, the State of Ohio has redirected these payments from cities and villages to fund statewide opioid interdiction/prevention programs and furnish additional money to small villages and townships.

In 2007, the State of Ohio distributed $65,459 in LGF funds to Richmond Heights. By 2011, that amount had decreased to $56,331, and in 2016, the number dropped to $11,645. Last year, we received just $4,224, and now we are slated to receive no LGF funding for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The loss of LGF funding locally equates to an even leaner budget in Richmond Heights.
REMEMBER CITY OFFERING SIMPLE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Simple Recycling, based in Solon, Ohio, offers weekly curbside pick-up of clothing, shoes and reusable household items (that do not exceed 50 pounds) on your regularly scheduled trash pickup day at no cost. Please put your materials or items in the provided orange Simple Recycling bags and place near your curb in plain sight before 8:00 a.m.

Reminder: Simple Recycling does not accept large items such as mattresses and sofas. For a complete list of accepted items or to request additional bags, visit simplerecycling.com/ supplies or call 1-866-835-5068. Your Simple Recycling pickup driver should leave replacement bags upon collection of goods, but extra bags are also available at City Hall.

COMMUNITY INVITED TO ATTEND VISIONING SESSIONS AND SUPPORT SPARTAN BASKETBALL TEAM

The Richmond Heights Local Schools would like to thank the voters of the city for supporting the vision of Issue 62. Now that the election is over the schools are beginning the planning phase of what our 21st Century Community Learning Center will look like. The community is invited to attend the visioning sessions once they begin in January. The district would like to invite the community to come out and support the basketball program this winter. All schedules are listed on the district’s website. The boys team is predicted to reign in the Chagrin Valley Conference and possibly make a run at the state tournament. Let’s support our Spartans!

For the latest Richmond Heights Local Schools news, be sure to visit richmondheightsschools.org

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RESIDENT OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF SON

For the second year in a row, Richmond Heights resident Fred Cash, Sr., is offering a scholarship in the amount of $1,000 in memory of his son, Jason Michael Cash, a 1995 graduate of Richmond Heights High School. Fred’s wife, who has also passed, had two wishes: To establish a Memorial Scholarship Fund in her son’s name, and to contribute to the Heart and Stroke Association. Fred is working diligently to honor his wife’s wishes.

Marked by the slogan, “Cash in on your future,” the scholarship is intended for Richmond Heights High School seniors. The application process entails an essay, recommendation letters and an in-person interview with a panel of scholarship committee members. To be considered for the scholarship, a student must exemplify four primary characteristics that were displayed by Jason: (1) Exhibits a compassion and commitment for helping others both in school and in the community; (2) Participates in the Arts or Science and athletics programs; (3) Exhibits leadership qualities in school activities and community organizations; and finally; (4) Has made substantial improvement throughout his or her high school program, showing evidence of being the most improved high school student in the graduating class.

In honoring his wife’s wishes, Fred welcomes the public to donate to either aforementioned cause. To make a contribution, make your donation payable to, “The Jason Michael Cash Memorial Fund” and mail to the attention of Fred Cash, Sr., 5201 Dickens Drive, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Applications for the scholarship will be available at the Richmond Heights Board of Education Counselor’s office starting in February or March. For questions, Fred can be contacted at (440) 449-1842.
RICHMOND HEIGHTS KIWANIS CLUB TO HOST MULTIPLE EVENTS IN 2018

Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club plans to have another great year in 2018, with opportunities to give back to the community and engage in social activities. President Jerry Hoover said, “We are the longest, continuously running service organization in Richmond Heights. We are youth-focused. Our whole organization is designed to support children.”

The Kiwanis Club will host a pancake breakfast Sunday, March 4, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge. The annual event is open to the public and includes traditional buttermilk pancakes. The breakfast prices are adults, $7; students and seniors, $6; and children age 5 and under, free. Hoover encourages the public to attend to help support the Club. The Richmond Heights Kiwanis will also assist with the City's Easter Egg Hunt, and in July will host its annual Kiwanis Cruise-In. In August, the Kiwanis Club will host its annual golf outing, which serves as the Club's largest fundraiser.

The club is open to folks ages 21 and older—including both males and females—and members pay a small annual membership fee of $110. General meetings are held each Thursday at the Lodge at 6:30 p.m. The group starts with a standard opening, and then members enjoy a delicious meal together (cost, $8) before engaging in a general meeting format. At times, meetings include a special guest speaker. On occasion, the group engages in special entertainment, such as hosting clam bakes, organizing Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and other holiday festivities, attending horse harness races, enjoying a Kiwanis Night at the Captains, and more.

As part of its mission to serve youths, the Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club offers a scholarship program for graduating Richmond Heights residents. Applications will be available in February at www.richmondheightsohio.org, and the recipients will be chosen toward the end of the school year.

The Kiwanis Club is free to check out, and members of the public are welcome to join a general meeting to explore what the club is about. “We'll even throw in a free guest meal. Simply give me a call at (216) 780-4087 to indicate you will be attending,” Hoover said.