

**Richmond Heights  
Recreation Department  
2012  
Year In Review**

## **2012 Recreation Year in Review**

The Recreation Department was again challenged to offer our same quality programs and events while working through this economic downturn.

Casino bus trips continued to be a popular form of entertainment for many of our residents. In 2012, the participants traveled on seven excursions to different locations.

The Richmond Heights Municipal Pool and Sprayground was a popular place for residents, non-residents, local day camps and the Richmond Heights Swim Team to swim and enjoy. The Recreation Director along with the Pool Managers did a wonderful job in providing a fun experience for all water enthusiasts. The lifeguard staff did an excellent job teaching swim lessons in the mornings. An event to highlight our exceptional lifeguards was initiated by Richmond Heights Recreation in 2005. It is entitled “Lifeguard Challenge”. In 2012, Richmond Heights again hosted the event. Four City pool teams competed: Richmond Heights, Wickliffe, Highland Heights, and Lyndhurst. The event began with a serious free style relay. The other races provided much amusement to the onlookers.

Recreation was again awarded the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District Grant. The \$4000 grant was used in two ways – the first was with two videos for the City website. One of the videos was on recycling and the other was on composting. The other part of this grant was used for hosting Shred Day on Saturday, October 27. The Shred Day event was advertised in the Sun Messenger, the News Herald, the Plain Dealer and Cleveland.com. Approximately 200 cars came from Richmond Heights and surrounding communities to shred their documents. Each car was restricted to three boxes and everything moved precisely because of the great work from Cintas Document Management and the volunteers assisting with the event. We shredded over 10,000 pounds of materials.

The Rhythm N Ribs event took place June 14 -.June 17 in the overflow parking lot near the Richmond Town Square. Rib vendors, food vendors, live music, rides, a military ceremony and a midway filled with local organizations and vendors were the main attractions for the four-day event. Teri Drda brought the Color Run to Richmond Heights and 8,000 runners arrived on Saturday, June 16 and colored the town a variety of colors!

The Recreation Department had its 14<sup>th</sup> annual Richmond Heights Craft Show on Saturday, November 3. It was a perfect fall day for our show. We had 50 tables dedicated to our crafters! Thanks again to Nancy Benander and Anthony Gimellia for all their hard work in coordinating this event. The Garden Club sold out of all their desserts and made quite a bit on their raffle baskets again this year. Nancy and Teri Drda also made and sold cinnamon rolls, bread pudding, apple crisp, pumpkin pies, chili, cabbage and noodles, a variety of muffins, baked potatoes and sweet potatoes, hot dogs and pizza. All in all, it was another very successful event.

This was our 16<sup>th</sup> year for our Breakfast with Santa! This is always a ‘sold out’ event. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Claus (Terry and Kathy Yerkic), we had “Mickey and Minnie Mouse” posing with the younger children giving out candy canes with gummy figures. Santa and Mrs. Claus gave out small boxes of breakfast cereal. The children also enjoyed face painting, craft-making and cookie decorating. The children and their parents dug into fresh hot pancakes and sausages made by our Service Department volunteers on the griddles provided by our American Legion Post. The Recreation Board members along with numerous volunteers from the Richmond Heights Key Club, Aire Roche and Theresa Simmonds from the Richmond Heights Garden Club, David Roche and June Endres from the Richmond Heights Senior Club, the Traben boys and various Richmond Heights residents assisted the Recreation Department to make this an amazing event. Once again, a true community effort!

Recreation sponsored the following programs in 2012:

Spring Training Camp	Cheerleading	Zumba
Swim Team	Exer- Swim	Youth Basketball
Kindergarten Basketball	Volleyball Camp	Exercise Classes
Swim Lessons	Safety Town	Summer Tennis Camp
Fall Tennis Camp	Flag Football	

The Recreation Department held the third Pooches at the Pool event! Owners and their dogs were invited to the pool on Saturday, August 25. \$1 admission was charged per person and profits were donated to the South

Euclid Dog Park. Also on hand were representatives from K9 Kingdom and the South Euclid Dog Park We had over 100 dogs enjoy their time in the pool and the sprayground.

University Hospitals/ Richmond Heights Medical Center donated \$7,500 to be the 2012 Corporate Sponsor for the Recreation Department. This figure helped us to meet our budget without cutting salaries or programming any further. Baseball field rentals were the chief source of revenue for the Department. University Hospitals/ Richmond Heights Medical Center donated \$7,500 to be the 2012 Sponsor for the Richmond Heights City Edition. This sponsorship allowed the City to continue the newsletter. Many of the residents use this publication faithfully for current information on a wide range of topics encompassing all services offered by the City.

The Recreation Department functions well because of the flexibility and caring attitude of the people who work for the City of Richmond Heights and the people who live in Richmond Heights. We truly appreciate the many people who make us 'look good'! Our thanks to:

- Park volunteer, Howie Briggs, volunteered his time in the spring and fall (when the pool is not open) to unlock the pool restrooms for patrons of the park. Our thanks to him for providing this valuable, and for many, timely service!
- The Mayor and Council for their ongoing support of our department and our programs.
- The Recreation Board for their help at all of our special events and their guidance in regulating our programs.
- Dina Greisl and Joyce Kandrach who assist us with customers, Information Board, City Edition, copying, faxing and too much more to mention.
- The Finance Department for financial advice and assistance.
- Our Police, Auxiliary Police and Fire Departments for their professionalism and their assistance whenever we have a need.
- All Rhythm N Ribs and Color Run volunteers.
- All Recreation event volunteers.
- And special thanks to the Service Department without whom we would not have a pool to swim in or fields to play on.