THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Cris Hughes, Editor CITYEDITION



work serving you as your New Mayor for the past eight months. In that time, we have assembled a strong team of

dedicated professionals to make changes and improvements to our years and currently serves on the of arrests to drop by 57% from June government practices that will ben- city council for Mayfield Heights. In 2014 until now. Your safety is our efit all of us together. We are on the this year, the Building Department top priority and therefore we are in right road to a stronger and more has processed hundreds of inspec- the process of hiring more correcvibrant Richmond Heights. After 24 tions and permit applications with a years of the same administration, far leaner staff than the one in place some are hesitant to change. We in the Building Department at this need a new team to go along with a time last year. Our goal is to streamnew vision. We hope that you will line our permitting process even give us a chance to continue our more so that hard-working business work and move our city in a positive owners don't get stuck in overly direction.



We have hired the strongest **Finance** Department in this city in more than a decade. The new Fi-Director is nance Mitchell Michalec.

the former Finance Director of the City Streetsboro. of The Assistant Finance Director is Thomas DiLellio, former Finance Director of Macedonia. The Department has collected income tax revenues of \$3.1 Million which is actually \$550,000 over and above the amount of income tax revenue from this time in June 2013. To date we are on target and within budget on our general fund expenditures.

In our Building Department, head-

I have been hard at ed by new Building Commissioner



Monaco, Nino have generated about \$109,000 in permit fees. Nino Monaco was the Building Commissioner of

lengthy government processes that lead them to look elsewhere to establish their businesses.



this grant with other nearby munici- the Building Department, are enpalities and gain incredible benefits gaging the Cuyahoga County Land from the training and regional col- Bank to demolish or renovate the laboration that the grant will bring. City's most dilapidated, vacant In addition, Chief Neumann's use of properties to preserve the property Ready Notify has been a great addi- values and the appearance of our tion to our communications with all community. of you when we are faced with a community emergency such as a tornado.



On June 24, 2014, Police Chief Rowe and his team of police officers nabbed one of Richmond Heights' most notorious burglars in re-

Pepper Pike for nine cent years thereby causing the rate tion officers and police officers.



Our new Director of Economic Development, Christel Best started with us on June 23, 2014. just a few weeks, she has spearheaded

commitment to eradicating blight and decay of buildings in our This year, our Fire community. On July 3, we launched Department led by a Request for Proposals to more Chief Neumann has than twenty developers to get one obtained a Regional developer to revitalize the corner of Training Grant in the Chardon and Richmond Roads by amount of \$149,500 addressing the long-abandoned by the Department of Amoco gas station that now sits Homeland Security. We shall share there. In addition, she, along with

Continues on page 2

Mayor's Message continued

year old municipal pool is up and taining the charm of our recreation how a team works together. running with a completely safe and operational finding from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. We have a long-range vision to

munity assets such as the Kiwanis After twenty-eight years, change We are proud to tout that our 50 Lodge while at the same time mainfacilities, which the residents have come to love.

> We are here to serve you with intel- Heights. Give us a chance! ligence, bravery, and unswerving in-

modernize our pool and other com- tegrity. We are getting the job done. can be hard or easy, depending on

> Our strategy is focused on the betterment of the City of Richmond

with the farm?". So, because you asked, here is a factual overview about Greenwood Farms.

In 2004 the City purchased, from the heirs of the Phyper family, a 9.3 acre parcel of land at 264 Richmond Road for \$480,000.00. This parcel included the farmhouse and the barn. To purchase the property, the City issued municipal bonds. In 2005 the city issued 10 year Bonds included approximately which \$508,000 for the initial Greenwood purchase. This borrowing included additional expenses for Note interest, Bond issuance costs, tree removal, surveys etc. To date the city has paid \$447,000 in principal and \$116,482.76 in interest totaling \$563,482.76. There is an interest payment of \$1,296.25 due November 2014 and a final payment of principal and interest due May 2015 of \$62,296.25. This will retire the 2005 Bonds.

In 2006, the City approved the purchase of an additional 7.6 acre parcel containing the caretaker's cottage and a garage for the sum of \$183,848.93. This additional acquisition of Greenwood Farm property was bonded out as a part of the

Recently, many of you asked about 2007 Bond Issue for \$220,000. To community garage sale, and "Fun-Greenwood Farms with questions date the City has paid \$65,000 in Fest" in the autumn. These are funranging from "what is the property principal and \$49,860.59 in interest worth?" to "what does the City do totaling \$114,860.59. The remaining payments totaling \$182,806.25, which are due on the 2007 Bonds. include \$155,000 in principal and \$27,806.25 in interest. The 2007 Bonds will retire in the year 2021.

> To summarize - The City has paid out \$678,342 and still owes \$246,400 for Greenwood Farms.

> The total purchase price of the property collectively known as Greenwood Farms was \$663,848.93. The total financing that will ultimately be paid is \$924,742.

> Based on the Cuyahoga County Auditor's website. Greenwood Farms has a current tax value of \$408,300.

> As to how we use the farm, there is no actual farming or other ongoing community activity which takes place there. The caretaker's cottage is not open to the public and the barn and farmhouse are only open to the public when the non-profit entity called Greenwood Farms Historical. Cultural, and Arts Association opens the property up for public use. This non-profit entity, which oversees and manages the activities relative to the property, hosts activities such as "Junk in the Trunk", which is a

draising ventures for the non-profit entity.

The City is responsible for maintaining and securing the farm property. On average, the City incurs expenses of \$3,520 annually directly attributable to the operation and maintenance of Greenwood Farms. This figure does not include the costs borne by the City's General Fund for indirect costs such as labor, benefits, and other overhead costs that occur when employees provide services to Greenwood Farm. These costs have not historically been allocated to the Greenwood Farm Preservation Fund.

Some of you also asked about the

status of the grant the City received for the farm from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, for water and land conservation.

The original grant amount was \$187,500. The City received \$152,500 in 2013 and anticipates receiving the final \$35,000 in 2014. To date, the total spent on the project is approximately \$199,000 and the project is not yet closed per City Engineer, Lee Courtney. It is estimated that, upon completion, the project costs will exceed the grant funding by approximately \$21,500.

REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Protect the value of the community. Discreetly take photos and videos of illegal activities and other problems in the community and share the information with the Police Department. If you see something, say something!

WE THE PEOPLE

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Richmond Heights residents will have the opportunity to vote on nine charter amendments during the November 4, 2014 General Election. The charter can be likened to the constitution of the City of Richmond Heights. By law, the Charter Review Commission is appointed every five years to review and make suggested amendments. Those appointed this year were: Tyrone Drummer, Chairman and Danielle Cadiou, Duane Crockrum, Stephanie Douglas, Donald Hewston, Elliott Isenberg, Arnetta Parker, Myrle Weems, and Sherdina Williams.

- 1. A charter amendment to make all language in the Charter gender neutral.
- 2. A charter amendment to change the number of signatures required on nominating petitions

to 150 signatures for an at-large position and 50 signatures for a 7. A charter amendment to grant Ward position.

- A charter amendment stating that terms of office for Mayor and Council shall commence on January 1 in the year following the General Election.
- 4. A charter amendment to make 8. the position of Mayor full-time.
- A charter amendment eliminating the elected position of President of Council, adding a 9. A charter amendment to require third at-large councilperson and allowing the councilmembers to select the President from amongst themselves to serve a term of one (1) year.
- A charter amendment stating that person shall no longer vote

on Council matters.

- the Mayor the authority to appoint, promote, transfer, reduce or remove any officer or employee who is not covered by Civil Service (specifically Police Chief and Fire Chief).
- A charter amendment allowing the Mayor to enter into contracts for net amounts of \$6,000.00 or less.
- that Council meetings be broadcast to the residents and the public through outlets such as cable television or other electronic means.

We want to express our gratitude the President of Council shall to these nine citizens who gave serve as Acting Mayor, when the of their time to propose to you the Mayor is "unable or unwilling to citizens of Richmond Heights these perform his or her duties." And amendments to the Charter. Thank adding that while Acting Mayor, you one and all for your service.

CHARTER REVIEW FORUMS						
SEPTEMBER	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT			
17	10:30 - NOON	Kiwanis Lodge	Charter Review Community Information Meetings			
30	7 - 8:30 PM	Kiwanis Lodge	Charter Review Community Information Meetings			

FINANCIAL NEWS

1ST HALF 2014 BUDGET NARRATIVE

On August 25, 2014, dard & Poor's upgraded the bond rating of the City of Richmond Heights to AA- Stable, based upon several factors including strong management. This is our highest bond rating in four (4) years.

The City of Richmond Heights began the fiscal year with a fund bal-

total 2014 Annual Budget for all despite a small drop-off in property funds, net of inter-fund transfers is \$14,149,967, including all planned capital expenditures for the year, including \$630,170 in capital improvements, including \$400,000 budget- excellent services to which our resied for the City's road program.

enues from Income and Property reserves in the face of decreasing Taxes, which make up over 73% of shared revenues from the State of the city's total budgeted revenues. Ohio.

CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS ance of \$2,724,007 in its main op- are up 8% from the prior fiscal year. erating funds. At the end of the first This is in large part due to the .25% half of 2014, these fund balances income tax increase, which has alhave increased to \$3,227,618. The lowed the city to maintain services taxes overall. This, coupled with management's conservative budgeting practices, has allowed for the city to maintain and reinstitute the dents have become accustomed to Through the first half of 2014, rev- and to maintain sufficient financial



BRANCHES

On your regularly scheduled trash day, Waste Management will pickup in bundles of no more than 4 feet Hall message board. in length, which may not weigh over 40 pounds. There is a maximum of 4 bundles per pickup. The City will pickup your bundles of branches randomly throughout the week.

LEAF SEASON

Just a quick reminder: the Service Department will start picking up leaves the last week in October, any

your branches that are securely tied changes will be posted on the City

HOLIDAY RUBBISH SCHEDULE

There will be NO delays in any of your holiday rubbish or recycling schedules because none of our holidays this year falls on a Monday. So everything will be normal just like every other week.

2014 SPECIAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal collection will be held every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Monday & Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the month of October 2014

Richmond Heights is working in to often, household chemicals like capture all identifying information, shed to bring awareness of illegal up in the waterways too. dumping. Illegal dumping usually Working together with our law en- done anonymously. occurs in the late to mid hours of the forcement personnel will ensure night to avoid the likelihood of being Richmond Heights don't become a pickup dates or location and dispose detected. Demolition and construct target for irresponsible individuals of your waste properly. Report any tion waste, tires, furniture and large who choose to dispose of waste in illegal dump sites to the Richmond appliances are often dumped on the our community. roadway and in the waterways to es- Never confront an individual ob- If you see something say somecape paying the disposal fees. All served breaking the law. Discreetly thing.

partnership with the Euclid Water- oil, paint and harsh cleaners ends and share that information with lo-

cal law enforcement, which maybe

Learn your hazardous waste or bulk Heights Service Department.

FALSE ALARMS HOME AND BUSINESS

Most businesses and many homes



have burglar alarms. This is a good thing and we certainly encourage that as an added security measure. However, for these alarms to be

effective they must be in proper working order and homeowners or employees must be familiar with their operation.

As of mid-July, the police department has responded to 443 home and business alarms. Of those, none have been legitimate alarms.

That means that they have all been dar year. For business users, there false alarms. Two police vehicles reof the fire department, at least two fire apparatus units respond to fire alarms. This is an enormous waste of public safety resources.

The City has a Ordinance, Chapter 791, that addresses alarm systems. Ordinance 791.09 specifically addresses false alarms. For residential users, there is no false alarm charge for the first two false alarms annually. Upon a 3rd false alarm, there is a charge of \$10.00. For a 4th false alarm and for each false alarm after 4. the charge increases to \$25.00 per false alarm per calen-

is a charge of \$25.00 for the 1st spond to burglar alarms. In the case three false alarms. For the 4th and for each false alarm after there is a \$50.00 charge per calendar year. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide incentives for users to reduce the number of false alarms and to take steps to have their alarms serviced if they are going into alarm for no reason. There are many false alarms caused by power outages or surges and storms. These instances do not count as false alarms for billing purposes, as they are typically beyond the control of the homeowners and business owners. Thank you for your cooperation.

DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT SAVES LIVES AND SAVES TAXPAYER DOLLARS

The Administration is working hard to keep our lifesaving equipment up-to-date while supplementing taxpayer dollars with grants. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the Richmond Heights Fire Department \$24,000 to replace outdated fire hoses and other equipment which are essential to critical situations, such as road closures, flash floods, ensure safe, effective firefighting activities.

Richmond Heights Fire Department. The grant money telephone, cellular phone, text message, email or fax. will be used to train our safety staff in the advanced In- Richmond Heights is a leader within the County in its cident Command System (ICS) and in practical experi-utilization of ReadyNotify. We have a goal of having ence in managing emergency scenes. In August, the half of all households in Richmond Heights signed up Fire Department rescued two teenagers from a flash for this lifesaving and essential service within one year. flood on Highland Road.

READY NOTIFY

READY TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND INFORMED

In a step toward regional collaboration, the Administration has contracted with Cuyahoga County to join its ReadyNotify System. ReadyNotify is a mass notification system used by Richmond Heights to issue emergency notifications to its residents regarding numerous power outages, and trash delays. The system deliv-FEMA also awarded \$149,500 in training dollars to the ers messages to residents and businesses by landline



To register please go to the link: HTTP:// READY.CUYAHOGACOUNTY.US/EN-US/READYN-OTIFY.ASPX

COMMUN

SPECIAL GUESTS AT MEET & GREET

On June 22, 2014, Mayor Miesha Headen was one of the featured guests at the Trebisky Woods 2014 Annual Meet & Greet festivity. Council Ward 4 representative, Mark Alexander; Richmond Heights Police Department Officer, Sergeant Gerl; and Richmond Heights Fire Department Representatives, Ken and Mike were also in attendance.

Sergeant Gerl spoke with the Trebisky Woods' Residents about the best practices of securing ones belongings. Sergeant Gerl stated that the Richmond Heights Police Department is definitely dedicated to serving the community in a courteous evenhanded and nurturing manner. Sergeant Gerl encouraged the residents to contact the Richmond Heights police with their questions and that volunteerism is welcomed.

Ken & Mike of the Richmond Heights Fire

Department were a amazingly attentive to the little ones, as the children climbed and played on the fire truck and dressed up in the fire member's gear.

Mayor Headen and Mark Alexander mingled amongst the families and friends at the Trebisky Woods festivities engaging in one-on-one time with the people.

The Trebisky Woods' Meet & Greet was extremely successful in bringing the members of the



Richmond Heights' Community together. There was an abundance of food and yummy desserts. Lisa, one outstanding neighbor, broke out the BBQ Grill to cook burgers, hotdogs, chicken tenders and ribs for all.

A souvenir mug was given to the homeowners and the special guests as a commemorative of the 2014 Annual Trebisky Woods Meet & Greet.

NOTE: SENIOR BREAKFAST --- FLU SHOT CLINIC SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. AT THE ·KIWANIS LODGE

MERIT BRASS



MERIT BRASS INVESTS IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS

The New Administration is committed to bringing in additional revenues opment. The new Economic Develnearly six months for an existing business in Richmond Heights to receive the permits to expand their physical building and bring in new tax money. Best and Monaco worked with the Chief Financial Officer of Merit Brass to winnow down this unwieldy process to two months.

After 25 years Richmond in Heights, Merit Brass, one of America's leading manufacturers of metal pipes and tubes, is now expanding its operations in Richmond Heights. Merit Brass is adding 25,000 square

feet of warehousing and work space onto its current facility located at One Merit Drive, Richmond Heights. This expansion will enable Merit Brass, led by its president and CEO Marc Schlessinger, to better keep pace with the global demand for the industrial and manufacturing materials they make.

With this significant expansion now in progress, Merit is expected to expand again in the near future. "These expansions help support our to our city through economic devel- community by providing employment stability, tax-based income to opment Director, Christel Best, and Richmond Heights' residents, and the new Building Commissioner, community partnership opportuni-Nino Monaco, worked together to ties" says Richmond Heights Distreamline the process for secur- rector of Economic Development, ing construction permits for exist- Christel Best. "I am hopeful that othing commercial buildings. Under er businesses will see Merit Brass' the previous administration, it took expansion and consider what they might do to enhance their own businesses. We will help with business expansion as well", she adds.

> From its earnest beginnings in 1937, Merit Brass has grown to become North America's largest manufacturer of stainless steel, brass, chrome plated brass and aluminum pipes, tubes, fittings, flanges and products which are crucial for a variety of industrial and manufacturing applications.

> To learn more about Merit Brass, please visit their web site at www. meritbrass.com.

MEET "K-9 KINGDOM"



Richmond Heights is proud to congratulate K-9 Kingdom for its 10 year anniversary in our city.

K-9 Kingdom, "A wonderland for dogs" has been a staple in Richmond Heights since 2003; providing dog owners with quality dog-related services. Kelli Colemen opened K-9 Kingdom at 26700 Highland Rd. (near the intersection of Richmond Rd. and Highland) and K-9 Kingdom now features the K-9 Bakery of fresh goodies that dogs love.

K-9 Kingdom also offers grooming and training for dogs, and it features the only kennel free overnight boarding facility in the area. This means that your lucky pooch will be cared for, and not closed in a crate all night. Or if it's doggie day care you need, K-9 Kingdom offers a safe, leash-free place for dogs to be active during the day instead of sitting at home while families are at work or school. We invite you to learn more by stopping in to K-9 Kingdom and congratulating Kelli on more than 10 years in business.

SEPTEMBER'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS						
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT			
10	11:00 AM	Kiwanis Lodge	Senior BreakfastFlu Shot Clinic			
11	7:00 PM	Kiwanis Lodge	Town HallEconomic Development, Building, and Service			
15	7:00 PM	Kiwanis Lodge	Town HallPolice, Fire and Finance			
16	7:00 AM	Richmond Towne Square	Bus Trip- Seneca Allegheny Casino			
19	7 - 9 PM	Community Park Gazebo	FunFest Kick-off Concert In The Park			
20	1 - 5 PM	Greenwood Farm	Richmond Heights Family FunFest			
23	6:30 AM - 7:30 PM	See Page #9 Schedule	Recall Election			

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD AND COMMISSION SEATS AVAILABLE

Residents of Richmond Heights, we need your help in filling several empty positions on the Boards and Commissions in the City.

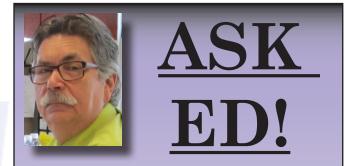
Would you be interested in sitting on one of these committees?

Please forward a resume, or a letter of experience to: ask.ed@richmondheightsohio.org.

Below is a list of current vacancies.

Board of Ethics 2 s	seats
Records Commission 1	seat
Recreation Board 4	seats
Planning Commission 2	seats
Architectural Review Board 1	seat
Zoning Board of Appeals 2	seats
Senior Commission on Aging 3	seats

This provides an opportunity to serve and aid your community in any number of ways. Please consider putting your time and expertise to work for the betterment of Richmond Heights. Thank you.



At the Senior Breakfast on June 13, 2014, while introducing the newest members of her staff, the Mayor told residents to let her office know of their concerns.

In her haste, she said ... "Call my office, and ask Ed."

There was born the idea for this column, an e-mail account and the ability to just call **City Hall and ask Ed!**

Email: ask.ed@richmondheightsohio.org

Phone: 216.486.2474 Ext 201

Contact us to suggest a person or business in the community to spotlight at: ask.ed@richmondheightsohio.org

SPECIAL ELECTION

SPECIAL ELECTION SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

All registered voters in the City of Richmond Heights will have their opportunity at the polls to decide whether the Mayor should be retained in office. There are three (3) ways to cast your vote:

- 1) Early voting at the Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Avenue.
- 2) Vote by Mail, applications available online and at City Hall.
- 3) At the Polls on September 23rd. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm at the following locations:
 - Ward 1 & Ward 2 Kiwanis Lodge 27285 Highland Road
 - Ward 3 St. Gregory of Narek Hall 678 Richmond Road
 - Ward 4 Church of the Nazarene 499 Trebisky Road

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES & DEADLINES

- 09/20/2014 12:00 noon Deadline for applications by mail for an absentee ballot to be mailed
- 09/22/2014 2:00 PM Voting in person at the Board of Elections ends
- 09/22/2014 All Vote by Mail / Absentee ballots mailed anywhere in the U.S. must be postmarked on or before this date and received at the Board of Elections on or before 10/03/14 in order to be counted.
- 09/23/2014 All overseas Vote by Mail ballots must be signed and submitted for mailing by 12:01 AM EDT on or before this date and received on or before 10/03/14 in order to be counted.
- 09/23/2014 6:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m. Election Day Provisional voting at the Board of Elections
- 09/23/2014 All Vote by Mail/Absentee ballots returned in person must be received at the Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. in order to be counted.

CITY EDITION

City Hall Richmond Heights 26789 Highland Road Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143-2707

Miesha Headen, Mayor/Safety Director 216.780.5087

David H. Roche, Council President 216.291.2207

Marcia Starkey Morgan, Council-Ward 1 216.732.9514

Frank Lentine, Council-Ward 2 440.461.7991

Eloise Henry, Council-Ward 3 440.465.3310

Mark Alexander, Council-Ward 4 216.481.9015

Donald O'Toole, Council at Large 216.533.9697

Juanita Lewis, Council at Large 216.289.1003

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 982

The City with the Forward Look!

Happening In Richmond Heights September 19th & 20th, 2014

AT COMMUNITY PARK GAZEBO

FunFest Kick-Off Friday, September 19, 2014 At Community Park Gazebo

As summer comes to a close, this years "FunFest Kick-off" will open with a "Concert In The Park" on Friday, September 19, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The local legendary professional Blue Lunch Blues Band will be the featured extravaganza that you must not miss. We're not talking electronic music technology ... we're talking the real deal. Live drums, guitars, a host of brass and reed instruments, we're talking vocalists with the singing voices that are able to lull you into a state of total relaxation. The Blue Lunch Blues Band performs bluegrass, old-time country, swing, reggae and many more styles of music. For more info about the Blue Lunch Blues Band visit: http://www.bluelunch.com

Gather up your family, friends and neighbors for this recreational evening under the stars treat. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, picnic basket and a "Down Home Blues" attitude. Don't let this year's "Concert In The Park" pass you by. With music being the universal language, you'll be sure to feel the groove at some point and the music may set you free. Pop your fingers, stomp your feet, sing-along and get on up and get your dance on at the Concert In The Park.

We hope to see you at the Gazebo at the Community Park in Richmond Heights on September 19, 2014.

AT GREENWOOD FARM

The 6[™] Annual Fall Fun Fest Saturday, September 20, 2014 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sponsored by University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center, a campus of UH Regional Hospitals, K-9 Kingdom, Richmond Heights Kiwanis, and Grande's Nursery.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a fun, fall afternoon at the Farm, featuring: A Greenwood Farm & Family Historical Presentation followed by tours of the house; Join the Cleveland Hiking Club for a 3-mile Greenwood Walk at noon, (Waivers Must Be Signed & Appropriate Shoes Required); Hayrides; Demonstrations; K-9 Kingdom's Critter Corner including a Chinese Auction; Live Entertainment and former Cleveland FM Radio DJ Matt Lisi. Food for sale provided by Old Carolina BBQ.

FREE ADMISSION TO THE FUN FEST *** THOUGH A \$2.00 PER PERSON DONATION FOR THE HISTORI-CAL PRESENTATION AND HOUSE TOUR IS GLADLY ACCEPTED. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT GREEN-WOOD FARM RENOVATION WORK.

Check us out on Facebook and our website at www. greenwoodfarmassn.org for more details.