

# THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Anthony Gimellia, Editor

# *the* CITY EDITION

## TEEN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Do you know a Richmond Heights teen who makes a positive difference in the lives of others or in the life of the community? If you know such a friend, school mate, or neighbor, please consider taking the time to nominate that person for the "Teen Citizen of the Year" award.

Nominations for the many outstanding teens in Richmond Heights are accepted annually for the "Teen Citizen of the Year" award. Please submit nominations, along with a written explanation of why the teen should be considered a candidate, to: Sergeant Denise DeBiase, Richmond Heights Police Department, 27201 Highland Road, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143 by July 10.

Each nominee must be a resident and a 2013 High School graduate. In addition, nominees must display community service, achieve academic excellence and be involved in their school's extra-curricular activities. Don't miss this opportunity to recognize that special teen citizen in this very distinctive way!

## SPECIAL THANKS! THIS ISSUE

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(216) 486-2474

Richmond Heights Fire Dept.  
non-emergency (216) 486-1234

Richmond Heights Police Dept.  
non-emergency (216) 486-1234

Richmond Heights Service Dept.  
(216) 383-6311

## A Message from Mayor Daniel J. Ursu

Thank you to the voters of Richmond Heights who in their wisdom passed Issue 7 this past May 7 th. This will keep our City safe and strong by providing much needed revenue to replace that which has been lost from state cuts to local governments and the bad economy. I want you to know that myself and Council, who have since the beginning of 2009 undertaken many cost-saving measures to responsibly balance our budget which have been noted in the past by the media and in the City Edition, will continue to be good stewards of our City finances.

Issue 7 will be effective July 1st. Monies will start to arrive about October and the full annual effect will not be evident until 2014. Council and I will review those services that were reduced in recent years to prudently begin to restore them and our depleted fund balances, especially as we prepare the 2014 budget. Finance Director Paul Ellis and I have been in contact with financial rating agencies Moody's and Standard & Poor's to gain a better financial rating based on anticipated new revenues. In the long run this in and of itself will save our City alot of money.

In the meantime, there are some actions that can be prudently undertaken now until we formulate our 2014 budget. I have sworn in three new part-time Police Officers who are currently full-time officers in Highland Heights and Rocky River. They will have complete law enforcement authority similar to our full-time officers. The Sprayground will be opened. The pool still cannot be opened due to the lifeguard hiring process which needed to start in February, but could not be undertaken without knowing the results of Issue 7. Accordingly, I have worked with South Euclid Mayor Georgine Welo whose City I am pleased has agreed to allow our residents to buy pool passes as if they were South Euclid residents. (See page 3) Taking the opportunity while our pool is closed this summer, I have asked Service Director Don Lazar to review and recommend improvements and maintenance items that can be uniquely accomplished during the summer months. I have further authorized Don to use the necessary resources to restore public properties' appearance and landscaping commensurate with our high community standards.

Through my involvement in the Richmond Heights Elementary School Stakeholders group, this past May I instituted a new program with Principal Martha Hasselbusch whereby some of the students can spend time with me, Police Chief Rowe and Fire Chief Neumann to gain an understanding of how government and our Safety Forces work. Our first occasion for this was May 21<sup>st</sup> as two students visited our City Hall, Police and Fire Departments. Further, myself and Fire Chief Neumann served as judges for the Elementary School Science Fair this past month!

Lastly, I have organized through the Police Department distribution of children's F.B.I. Identification packets which will help preserve and improve the safety of Richmond Heights children (see page 6 for more details.)

Have a safe and fun-filled summer!

## FREE INFORMATIVE SEMINARS

University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center, a campus of UH Regional Hospitals is proud to offer free, informative seminars on health and wellness topics important to you and your loved ones. Mark your calendar and plan to attend one or both of these discussions. Please call (440) 585-7005 to register.

**Tuesday, August 20  
at 6:00 p.m.  
Female Incontinence  
Fecal and Urinary\***

**Tuesday, October 22  
at 6:00 p.m.  
Kidney Stones:  
Diagnosis and  
Treatment  
Options**

*\*Due to the sensitive nature of the content, this seminar is for women only.*

Visit us at  
[www.UHhospitals.org](http://www.UHhospitals.org).

## Advanced urology services, close to home.

The **Urology Institute at University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center** is proud to offer expert urologic care for men and women in one convenient location. Our team of specialists provides advanced diagnostics, surgical and nonsurgical treatments and rehabilitation services for a wide range of conditions, including:

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**FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM**

Individuals and businesses can contribute to Richmond Heights beautification through the support of the Flower Basket Program. The City plans to purchase and install 24 baskets at the main intersections in Richmond Heights, 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". Please mail to: Finance Director; City of Richmond Heights; 26789 Highland Road; Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. Recognition will be made in the "City Edition" and by calendar year on the website.

**DAVID H. ROCHE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HILLCREST COUNCIL OF COUNCILS**

At a recent Hillcrest Council of Council's meeting Richmond Heights Council President David H. Roche was elected and sworn in as the organization's President. The Hillcrest Council of Councils is made up of nine of our local communities in the Hillcrest area. It holds quarterly meetings for informing, educating and building relationships between its members.

**2013 CORPORATE SPONSOR FOR THE RICHMOND HEIGHTS RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



**SOUTH EUCLID POOLS OPEN FOR RICHMOND HEIGHTS RESIDENTS TO USE THIS SUMMER**

**Pool Season:** Now until Monday, September 2.

**Passes:** \$75.00 for an individual season pass. \$200 for a 4-person family pass (\$15 for each additional family member).

**Lessons:** Morning lessons from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Bexley Pool. Night lessons from 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. Mondays & Wednesdays at Victory Pool. Cost is \$20 per session with a valid pass, \$40 without a pass.

**Open Swim:** Daily starting at 1:30 p.m. at **Bexley Pool**, which is located off Wrenford near Belvoir Boulevard. Monday-Saturday starting at 1:00 p.m. at **Victory Pool**, which is located off of Green Road.

**Splash Park at Quarry Park:** Great for the little kids. The hours of operation are the following: 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday - Friday 12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. **Quarry Park** is located on the corner of Monticello Boulevard and Belvoir Boulevard.

**Raft Nights:** Bring a raft to the pool on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Pool Parties:** Fridays & Saturdays at Victory Pool; Sundays at Bexley Pool. During open hours at the Quarry Splash Park.

For more information, contact Bexley Pool at (216) 381-0446 between 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**ATTENTION RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIORS**

Richmond Heights residents 60 years of age and over are eligible for a free summer 2013 pool pass. The pass will be valid at the Bexley Pool, the Victory Pool and the Quarry Splash Park. Residents need to go to the Finance Department located inside the South Euclid City Hall with proof of age and residency to receive the free pass.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CITY BEAUTIFICATION SPONSORS**

- American Legion Post 775
- Done-Right Automotive
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- June & Kenneth Endres In memory of Ed Endres
- Richard & Mary Lee Henfling
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- Longstreet Auto Body & Sales Inc.
- Leora R. Martin In memory of Harry & Leora Martin
- Susan J. Murphy In memory of Floyd & Patrick Murphy
- Muslim Association Cleveland East
- Rick & Patti Polburn In honor of first responders (Fire, Police & EMS)
- Joan S. Prentice In memory of John Keeny
- Richmond Heights Garden Club
- Richmond Heights Senior Citizen Club
- Judy Ann Stuchul

## **RICHMOND HEIGHTS SPRAYGROUND OPEN NOW UNTIL AUGUST 4**

Monday - Friday 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### **A TICKET IS NEEDED**

A \$1 ticket must be purchased to enter the Sprayground. Tickets are available at Richmond Heights City Hall in the Recreation Department on Monday - Thursday and at the Sprayground on Friday - Sunday.

*Please note: Sprayground may be closed without notice because of weather or staffing shortages.*

### **HAVE YOUR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS AT THE PARK!**

The Sprayground at the Richmond Heights Community Park is available for children's birthday parties. The Sprayground can be rented for one-hour or two-hour time slots by a Richmond Heights resident for as low as \$50.

The Park Pavilion at the Richmond Heights Community Park is available for various functions and for groups of 75 people or less. The pavilion can be reserved by a Richmond Heights resident for \$50.

The Kiwanis Lodge in the back of the Richmond Heights Community Park is available for various functions and for groups of 250 people or less. The Lodge can be reserved by a Richmond Heights resident for as low as \$200. All reservations are made at City Hall in the Recreation Department. For more information, please call (216) 383-6313.

**PLANNING ON COMING TO  
THE PARK THIS SUMMER?  
SEE THE PARK RULES ON  
THE RECREATION PAGE  
[www.richmondheightsohio.org](http://www.richmondheightsohio.org)**

## **DECK MAINTENANCE**

Now that the nice weather has finally arrived many of us will again be enjoying our patios and decks. There is nothing more enjoyable than barbeque meals on the deck on a warm evening. Did you know, though, that decks cause more injuries and loss of life than any other part of the home structure? More than a million decks are built and replaced each year in the United States. While decks are a popular feature of many homes, the construction and safety of decks, particularly high decks, have become a real concern with the building industry. According to studies compiled by the Composite Materials and Engineering Center at Washington State University, except for the damage caused by tornadoes and hurricanes, more injuries may be connected to deck failures than all other residential wood building components and loading cases combined. Because they are relatively simple to build, many people do not realize that decks are structures that need to be designed and constructed to resist certain stresses, not the least of which is the weight of the people and objects placed on the deck. The effects of our Cleveland winters must also be considered when considering the condition of your deck if it's more than a couple of years old.

While decks are required to meet certain building code standards and loading capacities, it is estimated that out of approximately 40 million decks in existence, fewer than half are code compliant, leaving some 20 million decks that should be rebuilt or retrofitted with new components. What are the most common problems? The component causing the most injuries is the handrail. A deck requires a handrail when its walking surface is 30-inches or more above the surrounding grade level. Because children have a tendency to stand on permanent benches, a deck with built-in seating around the edges of the deck must have handrails measuring 36-inches in height above the seat of the permanent bench, and the height of the deck above the adjacent grade is measured from the elevation of the bench seat. Special metal braces have been designed to reinforce the connections of the handrails to the floor of the deck. If your deck does not have these special metal braces, regardless of whether the handrails may be nailed, screwed or even bolted into the deck framing materials, chances are the handrail is not properly installed.

The other serious problem with many decks is the connection of the deck to the side of the dwelling. If your house is supporting one edge of your deck, the deck floor system must be bolted to the house framing with bolts that are installed about 1-foot apart, rather than nailed or screwed to the house framing.

All of these details are important issues to check if your family and guests are to use the deck safely this summer. Experts agree that in this climate, the average life expectancy of a deck is 10 to 15 years. If your deck is anywhere near that age, you should carefully inspect it to determine whether or not it is still safe for use.

The five things to look for on an existing deck are: poorly constructed connections that use nails or screws only rather than metal brackets or hangers; loose connections that cause handrails, stairs or other connections to wobble; badly rusted or corroded hangers or nails; rotted wood, particularly posts or beams that come in contact with the ground or that are partially buried in the ground; and cracked or split components, caused by the installation of bolts or nails, or caused simply by the effects of weather over the years.

Once you have looked over your deck closely for these issues, don't be afraid to call your Building Department if you have questions about deck problems you have observed. We will be happy to assist you in assessing issues in the effort to keep your friends and family safe and sound this summer.

**UPCOMING BUS TRIPS**

**Rivers Casino Pittsburgh**

**Date:** Tuesday, July 9

**Cost:** \$35/includes \$20 slot dollars

**Departure Time:** 7:00 a.m. from  
Richmond Town Square

**Thistledown Racino**

**Date:** Wednesday, August 7

**Cost:** \$20

**Departure Time:** 9:00 a.m. from  
Richmond Town Square

Pre-registration is required.  
Please call the Recreation  
Department at (216) 383-6313  
for details.

**SUMMER CONCERTS**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

*Richmond Heights  
Community Park Gazebo*

Wednesday, July 3

**The Chardon Polka Band**

Wednesday, July 10

**Ron Sluga**

Wednesday, July 17

**The Frank Cardone Trio**

Bring lawn chairs! In case of rain,  
concerts will be held at the Kiwanis  
Lodge. *This schedule is subject to change  
or substitution.*

**FOOTBALL SIGNUPS**

The Conquerors Youth Football  
& Cheer organization is currently  
taking registrations for the upcoming  
Pop Warner Football season.  
Enrollment is open to children ages 6  
- 15. Call Coach Green at (216) 556-  
0136 or register at  
[www.conquerorsyouthsports.org](http://www.conquerorsyouthsports.org)

**CLOTHES DRYER SAFETY**

Doing laundry is most likely part of your everyday routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
  - Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
  - Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
  - Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
  - Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
  - Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
  - Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly. Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
  - Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- AND DON'T FORGET...**
- Dryers should be properly grounded.
  - Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.
  - Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.
- FACT:** The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB**

The Richmond Heights Garden Club is completing its 44<sup>th</sup> year. This year members enjoyed many informative and interesting gardening and horticultural programs as well as our popular and well attended Holiday and Spring Luncheons. In June the Garden Club will have the installation of officers for the coming year. Congratulations to Richmond Heights students Mikaela Marino, Alexis Waithe and Amber White, who were each awarded a \$500.00 scholarship from the Richmond Heights Garden Club.

Donations were made to the Flower Basket Program, RH Concert Choir, and Greenwood Farm.

The Garden Club meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from September thru June at the Kiwanis Lodge, 27285 Highland Road located at the rear of the Richmond Heights Community Park. Yearly membership dues are \$10.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Club or for more information, please contact Aire Roche at (216) 291-2207.



**FBI CHILD IDENTIFICATION KITS**

The Police Department will have Child Identification Kits available for interested residents that can be picked up at the police station near the end of June. The kits are part of a collaboration between the FBI and the National Child Id Program. The kits contain information that parents should gather and keep in their possession as a proactive measure in the hope that the kit will never be utilized. The kit contains instructions and material for parents to take fingerprints and DNA samples from their child, as well as ID cards that can be used to record important information on their child that could be invaluable. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that almost 800,000 children are reported missing in a one year period. Please call the Police Department at (216) 486-1234, near the end of June to learn the exact date that kits will be available for pick-up or watch the Community Board.

**K-9 KUBO**

On March 24, 2013, the Police Department’s only K-9 Officer was called home ending an illustrious 9 year career serving the Police Department and the citizens of Richmond Heights. Throughout his 9 years, K-9 “Kubo” participated in numerous community events, as well as doing numerous demonstrations for D.A.R.E Graduations, day care centers, outreach centers, churches, schools and other civic organizations. Kubo competed in the N.E. Ohio “Top Dog” competitions in 2009 and 2010. He took Top Dog honors for the competition in 2009 and First Place for obedience in 2010. Kubo was certified in narcotic detection, criminal apprehension, tracking, and article and building/area searches. He was responsible for locating numerous amounts of narcotics and cash. He also assisted with the tracking and location of a 7-year old who went missing from school and the location of an Alzheimer’s patient who went missing from home. He had 13 criminal apprehensions and arrests and his ability to quell and disperse a crowd was invaluable.



Kubo will be missed by so many from the community, his fellow officers and most of all by his handler Ptl. Tim Casto and his family. At the present time, there are no plans to replace Officer Kubo.

**POLICE PERSONNEL UPDATE**

Patrol Officer Jim McVey, a member of the Ohio National Guard, was called to active duty and was deployed to Afghanistan in May. Jim will be on active duty for the next 12 months. We wish him well and look forward to his return to duty in 2013. Patrol Officer Brian McCallister resigned from the Police Department in May to pursue other opportunities. We wish Brian well. He was an exemplary officer during his 12 years of service, receiving many awards and commendations.

**GET FIT & HAVE FUN!**  
**ZUMBA CLASSES**  
**MONDAYS**  
**6:30 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.**  
**KIWANIS LODGE**  
**27285 HIGHLAND ROAD**  
**CINDY (216) 346-8909**

**REVISED PUBLIC WORKS TIMETABLE**

Location	Type of Project	Estimated Construction Date
2013 Road Work	Concrete & Asphalt	On Emergency Basis
Greenwood Farm Driveways, Parking & Bioretention	Surface Water Improvement Fund (S.W.I.F.) (E.P.A.) Grant	Summer 2013
Highland Road (Richmond Road to Euclid Avenue)	Repair & Resurface (Richmond Heights/Euclid/Cuyahoga County)	Summer 2014

### GREEN CLEANING WORKSHOP IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS TO BE HELD IN THE FALL!

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting a "Green Cleaning: Inside and Out" workshop at the Kiwanis Lodge on Wednesday, September 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The \$10 fee includes cleaning solution recipes and sample cleaners to take home.

The workshop is intended for anyone interested in reducing the use of toxins and other harsh chemicals at home and in the yard. Household cleaners and lawn chemicals are potential sources of water pollution, making their way into local streams and rivers, and eventually Lake Erie. By using more natural homemade cleaners, residents can reduce their environmental impact, save money, and reduce their exposure to harmful chemicals.

For more information or to register, contact Claire Posius at (216) 524-6580 x16 or by email at [cposius@cuyahogawcd.org](mailto:cposius@cuyahogawcd.org).

*Registration is required by September 6.*

The workshop is sponsored by the City of Richmond Heights, Richmond Heights Kiwanis, Friends of Euclid Creek, and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District.

The Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District's mission is to promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education, and technical support.

**HAVE A BIRTHDAY PARTY  
AT THE SPRAYGROUND!  
PLEASE CALL (216) 383-6313**

### GREENWOOD FARM NEWS & NOTES

Since the establishment of the Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural and Arts Association, Inc., the Greenwood Farm Board of Directors, along with a corps of community volunteers have:

- Established a Mission Statement, obtained the Federal income tax exempt status under the section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and in February of this year, completed a three-year Strategic Plan.
- Established a renovation and restoration program for the main house, cottage and barn.
- Made a number of improvements to the grounds and main house.
- Secured a grant of \$187,000 from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the creation of parking areas with rain gardens and initiated other conservation enhancements.
- Established a number of fundraising events and program activities for the benefit and enjoyment of Greenwood Farm members and members of the community,
- Engaged the support and involvement of numerous organizations such as Friends of Euclid Creek, Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club, Boy Scouts, Richmond Heights Seniors Club, Richmond Heights Garden Club, Richmond Heights Key Club, Richmond Heights Schools, Highland Heights Green Task Force, and more.

Among other things, the strategic planners envision a future Greenwood Farm that will be a treasured resource that enriches the identity, civic pride and sense of community among residents of Richmond Heights and vicinity.

*Every community needs to remember its beginning, for that in part defines what the community becomes.*

**GREENWOOD FARM MEMBERSHIP NOTICE**  
New memberships and membership renewals for 2013 are being accepted at this time. If you are interested in becoming a member or helping in any way, please check the Greenwood Farm website at [www.greenwoodfarmassn.org](http://www.greenwoodfarmassn.org), or obtain a membership form at City Hall.

**Thank you to Boy Scout Troop #461 for their work on an Eagle Project at the Farm on June 1.** Approximately thirty volunteers were involved in extending the brick walk along the creek.

A spooky **thank you** goes to all who participated in our very successful **second Ghost Hunter Fundraiser on May 3.** The Ghost Hunt will resume in the fall...so watch for the date.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE FARM SAVE THE DATES!**  
**Saturday, July 13 - The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Junk in the Trunk 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
Registration forms for a space are available on the Greenwood Farm website and at Richmond Heights City Hall.  
**Saturday, September 21 - The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Fun Fest at the Farm.**

# *The* CITY EDITION

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Mark Alexander, Council-Ward 4 (216) 481-9015

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Richmond Heights City Hall (216) 486-2474

Richmond Heights Information Number (216) 383-6300

## The City with the *Forward* Look!

Editor's note: I would like to thank Nancy Benander, Dina Griesl, and David Roche for their assistance during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article for their contribution. A special thank you to University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center, the sponsor of the Summer 2013 City Edition.

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