

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Anthony Gimellia, Editor

The CITY EDITION

NEW SIGNS WELCOMING AT THE CITY BORDERS



This decorative new monument sign is located at the top of Highland Road hill. This same design can be seen at major road City borders. The signs were installed last fall.



Newly-appointed Eloise Henry will serve as Ward Three's City Council Representative.

NEW WARD 3 COUNCILPERSON

Eloise Henry was appointed by Mayor Ursu to serve as Ward Three's City Council representative. Eloise has lived in Richmond Heights for nine years. She has worked on the Recreation Board for the past four years. Eloise has also been a member of the Joint Recreation Committee (PACE group) for the last two years.

Eloise has enjoyed serving the City as a Recreation Board member and looks forward to continuing service to the community as Ward 3's representative.

A Message from Mayor Daniel J. Ursu

Some of you have contacted City Hall recently about the so called Richmond Heights "Cluster Ordinance". I thought that it would be worthwhile to highlight some facts for you.

Most suburbs have similar ordinances and subdivisions. Beachwood has such subdivisions south of Beachwood Mall; Lyndhurst has them on Richmond Road across from and north of Hawken School; Highland Heights has them at the Aberdeen Golf Course community, to name a few examples nearby. If you have been to the new 'Crocker Park' shopping center in Westlake, you might have noticed them south of there on Crocker Road. The list of such new home subdivisions in suburban Cleveland could fill this page.

These ordinances provide for how sublots are laid out on uniquely shaped property or especially when wetlands or rugged terrain make some parts of a parcel unbuildable. They do not portend substandard homes; in reality, the homes built in Richmond Heights under this ordinance have ranged from about \$225,000 to \$300,000, well in excess of our average home value of \$140,000 according to the most recent census. A frequent feature of these subdivisions is a Homeowners' Association that provides all landscaping and maintenance which presents an attractive and uniform appearance that is appealing to many homebuyers interested in new construction. These high-value homes add tangible wealth to an already affluent Richmond Heights and help decrease the average age of our homes.

The overall average age of housing stock is extremely important to a community since financial institutions, investors, and rating services all use it in part to judge a city's economic well being. As such, our new home construction is the envy of many eastside communities that have had relatively few or no new homes built in recent years!

The new homes are also evidence of the strength of our community because developers and investors would not spend the millions of dollars required to build subdivision roads, utilities and houses if they were not in demand. This demand for new homes in Richmond Heights is a result of stable and fair government with quality services, a modestly sized school system with excellent administrators and teachers, that is perfect for nurturing students' personal growth and leadership development; a full-service hospital in 'University Hospital of Richmond Heights'; convenient shopping at the recently renovated 'Richmond Town Square', 'Hilltop Plaza', and small neighborhood plazas; and an ideal location close to, but not on the major interstates making for a quick ride to downtown and the University Circle cultural opportunities.

As we reflect on how lucky we are to be in a stable, secure community like Richmond Heights, let us not forget that many on the U.S. Gulf Coast are still struggling from last summer's hurricanes especially east of New Orleans and in Mississippi and who are now mostly forgotten in the media. If your economic situation allows, your merciful act in donating to charitable organizations such as the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army, would help the affected residents and their communities survive and become habitable again. Have a safe and prosperous 2006!

CITY HALL, AT YOUR SERVICE!

Richmond Heights City Hall business hours are weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The address is 457 Richmond Road, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. The phone number to City Hall is (216) 486-2474. The information line, (216) 383-6300, can be accessed 24 hours a day/seven days a week. Recorded information includes: Council meetings, **rubbish collection schedule changes**, cancellations, various registration information, and the Recreation Department's major City events. Information is updated on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Numerous forms and applications are available at City Hall. Also available is current information regarding special events and programs.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS GIRL'S SOFTBALL INFORMATION

Although it's still snowing and cold outside, it is not too early to start thinking about the girl's youth summer softball leagues. Richmond Heights Girl's Softball is gearing up for the 2006 season and wants to inform families about the upcoming softball program.

This year, girls ages 6 - 18 will have the opportunity to participate in slow-pitch softball. The fast-pitch program will be available to girls ages 13 - 18.

The sign-ups for Richmond Heights Girl's Youth Softball start on Sunday, February 26 at the Kiwanis Lodge in the Richmond Heights Community Park between the hours of 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Registration will continue at City Hall in the Recreation Department office through Friday, March 17. The participants sign-up date will determine placement on teams.

Terry Yerkic, Girl's Softball Commissioner looks forward to a fun and exciting summer of softball for the girls, and he hopes to see you at the opening day of sign-ups.

POLICE IN THE SCHOOLS

In December, Detective Denise DeBiase instructed the Third Graders at the Elementary School on the importance of wearing seat belts. The point is made using an egg in a small vehicle and showing what happens to the egg when it collides with something that is not secured. The collision demonstration is conducted again, but the egg is secured with a rubber band in the second collision and the egg survives. This has been a popular program with the children and has been administered for the third graders for a number of years.

D.A.R.E.

Detective Denise DeBiase, after a year hiatus, will be teaching D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to the 5th Graders the second semester of the school year. The Ohio Attorney General's Office has once again provided the Richmond Heights Police Department with a grant to help off set some of the expense of administering this important course of instruction. The program is popular with students and parents alike. It is educational, but Detective DeBiase makes it fun learning for the students.

NEW ELECTED COUNCILMAN

Joseph Steffen was elected to serve as a City Council at Large representative. Joe has been a resident of Richmond Heights for 18 years. Joe worked for the Richmond Heights Police Department for 23 years. He retired in 2004 as a Lieutenant. Joe taught the D.A.R.E. program to Richmond Heights students for 13 years. In concert with his interest in the students, he was instrumental each year in determining the recipient of the Teen Citizen of the Year award.

On Council, Joe plans to keep working hard for the City.



Newly-elected and re-elected City officials. (From left to right) Bottom row re-elected Mayor Daniel Ursu, newly-elected Council President David Roche. Top row re-elected Council at Large representative Donald O'Toole and newly-elected Council at Large representative Joseph Steffen.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Do you have a background in nursing, social work, or some other type of outreach worker training? Would you be interested in volunteering your time in facilitating referrals for Meals-on-Wheels for our Richmond Heights residents who are homebound and in need of this home-delivered meal program in order to maintain their good health and live independently? If so, please call the City Hall at (216)486-2474 for more information.



(From Left to Right) Councilwoman Kathryn Gambatese, Ward 2; Councilman Mark Alexander, Ward 4; and Councilwoman Marcia Starkey Morgan, Ward 1.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS NIGHT AT QUICKEN LOANS ARENA

This is your chance to see the new-look Cleveland Cavaliers! As a resident of Richmond Heights, join us Monday, February 6 for

Richmond Heights Community Night with



the Cleveland Cavaliers. LeBron James and the Cavaliers will be battling the Milwaukee Bucks. A LeBron James figurine and CAVS ski cap are also included with this game. Limited tickets are available on a first-come basis. The Richmond Heights group rate cost for a lower level ticket is \$47 and an upper Center (rows 9-17) \$25. Please register at City Hall in the Recreation Department. For more information, please call (216) 383-6313. The deadline for this special offer is January 25.

Play with me, Mommy (12 months - 2.5 years)

Kiwanis Lodge, Tuesdays 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. January 31 - March 7

Classes for toddlers and their caregivers, where through fun creative activities that focus on social, emotional, and physical development, children will build listening and speaking skills, practice gross and fine motor abilities, and strengthen the emotional bond between you and your baby. We'll be using mostly home-made materials, so you can replicate and enjoy them at home as well. **Cost: \$45**

Li'l Da Vinci's (2.5 - 5 years)

Kiwanis Lodge, Monday 11:15 a.m. - Noon January 30 - March 6

Come and join us on the Animal Parade! Through a structured and engaging curriculum, children will be introduced to the Animal Kingdom through new discoveries in language, math, and science. The activities will support the fundamental concept that children learn by doing and by interacting with their world, and by building on their own personal life experiences. Parents are welcome to participate. **Cost: \$45 + \$10 supply fee**

Discovering the Kitchen (children age 3-5)

Kiwanis Lodge, Tuesday 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. January 31 - March 7

Your child will discover the Chef within! Children will be introduced to the art and the science of cooking, through age-appropriate activities. They will strengthen their fine motor skills through cutting, shaping, molding, and developing a taste for new food by cooking and trying new recipes and discovering the world around them through experimentation and literature. They will also have fun creating theme related art projects and participating in group games. Parents' presence is requested in the cooking portion of the class.

Cost: \$45 + \$15 supply fee



The Recreation Department would like to thank the pictured volunteers, as well the volunteers not pictured, for another wonderful Breakfast with Santa event.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SWIM TEAM

Although it's still cold to think about outdoor swimming, the warm months are just around the corner. Registration for the Richmond Heights Swim Team will be on February 26 at the Kiwanis Lodge from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining the team, stop in for information. The Swim Team will have experienced parents who can answer your questions.

KIWANIS LODGE INFO

The Kiwanis Lodge is located in the back of the Richmond Heights Community Park at 27285 Highland Road and is available for rental for Richmond Heights residents' parties only. The resident must be the contact for the party before, during and after the party. **DO NOT RENT THE HALL FOR SOMEONE ELSE!** At the time of applying for rental of the Lodge, you must present two proofs of residency in Richmond Heights:

- 1) Driver's license
- 2) Current utility bill with Richmond Heights address

The hall(s) can be rented two (2) times per year per household

Payment for the Lodge is divided into two parts:

- 1) The refundable deposit
- 2) The rental fee

The refundable deposit is due when the application is filled out in the Recreation Office. The deposit is returned by mail to the resident if the staff finds no damages and all rules were followed by the renter.

The fee is due one month before the event. Payment may be made by check or cash previous to one month, but must be made in cash if it is made less than one month ahead.

The costs for rental are: **Deposit Fee**

SENIOR HALL	\$250	\$250
-tables and chairs for 164		
-air-conditioned		
KIWANIS HALL	\$250	\$150
-tables and chairs for 100		
-air-conditioned		
-permanent bar		
BOTH HALLS	\$400	\$350

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KENNY YUKO
Town Hall Meeting**

When: February 6, 2006
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Richmond Heights
Kiwanis Lodge

UPCOMING CASINO BUS TRIPS

Date: Wednesday, March 8 **Mountaineer Casino** in Chester, West Virginia

Cost: \$20/\$5 coin voucher & \$5 food voucher given

Departure Time: 6:30 a.m. from Richmond Town Square

Date: Wednesday, May 3 **Seneca Allegany Casino** in Salamanca, New York

Cost: \$25/\$15 coin voucher

Departure Time: 6:00 a.m. from Richmond Town Square

Date: Wednesday, June 7 **Niagara Fallsview Casino** in Niagara Falls, Canada

Cost: \$30/\$15 coin voucher

Departure Time: 6:00 a.m. from Richmond Town Square

For registration information, please call the Recreation Department at (216) 383-6313. Seating is on a first come basis.



Santa and Mrs. Claus give a friendly wave on their route through the city.

AT YOUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Numerous residents have inquired about what type of home appliances, furniture, landscape debris and other items the trash company picks up. Below are the items that are picked up and how to put them out and bundle it up.

Furniture: couches, chairs, etc... leave on your tree lawn and they will collect it with your normal trash pick-up. If you have a large piece of furniture such as a desk or bookcase, this should be broken up and bundled into manageable bundles.

Appliances: Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners: please call City Hall at (216) 486-2474 to schedule a pick-up.

Other Appliances: Will be picked up with your regular trash collection.

Carpeting: This needs to be cut up in four-foot sections and tied; just make sure it is manageable for someone to pick up. Place out with your regular trash.

Branches, twigs, etc... This also must be cut to four-foot lengths and put into manageable bundles. Place out with your regular trash.

Also, if you get a new appliance, please do not place the large cardboard box out on the tree lawn without breaking it down or cutting it up and tying into manageable bundles.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB

Many interesting programs are planned in the upcoming months for the members of the Richmond Heights Garden Club. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month, September through June, at 1:00 p.m. at the Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge. The dues are \$10.00 per year.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 19, Bonsai Gardening**
- February 16, Dr. Wildwood (an old fashioned herbalist & story teller)**
- March 16, Program on Gardens of Ireland**
- April 20, Spring Luncheon**
- May 18, The Gathering Place in Beachwood to tour the gardens**

If you would like to join the Garden Club, please contact Virginia Kostelec, membership chairperson at (440) 585-7754

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

All meetings are held at City Hall in Council Chambers

Formal City Council Meetings
Second & Fourth Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Council Committee Meetings
First & Third Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Board
First & Third Mondays 1:30 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals
First Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

Planning Commission
Second Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Board
Third Monday 7:00 p.m.



Richmond Heights Garden Club members at the Richmond Heights Elementary School sponsoring the Adopt A Class program. The Garden Club works with the second graders once-a-month creating a gardening or horticulture project. This is the eighth year for the Adopt A Class program. The Garden Club participants from left to right Rita Koehler, Dorothy Smrtnik, Bernice Blue, Elementary School Principal Pam Barovian, Bettie Weber, Dolores Scianlino, Nancy Liu and Alicia Schatz.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

If you're a Richmond Heights Resident and 50 years of age or older, there is an activity for you with the Seniors Club.

There is Entertainment, Bowling, Golf, Cards, Dancing, Trips, Refreshments, all in a friendly atmosphere of friends and neighbors.

We are presently actively recruiting new young-thinking seniors. Come alone; better yet, bring a friend or neighbor. Remember to bring some fresh ideas; we are open to organizing new and interesting activities. The Senior Citizens Club is the place to be.

Our general meetings with snack and entertainment are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Presently, we are bowling every Monday morning 9:30 a.m. - Noon (special discount rates-\$2.50/3-lines) then having the highlight of the day: lunch at a local restaurant. Several card games are on tap for Fridays. Special event dinner parties are held during the year. We also participate in the evening event on first Wednesday of the month: music/dancing and entertainment sponsored by the City of Richmond Heights with refreshments that are provided by the Richmond Heights Boosters. Trips to interesting locations and entertainment out of town are also being planned. Presently our membership is in excess of 125 individuals, with 60 to 80 active members attending our general meetings.

Come join in on the fun. You meet new people and make new friends. The dues are only \$5 per year. General meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge which is located at the back of the Richmond Heights Community Park. Please come and give us a try. For more information, please contact newly-elected Senior Club President June Endres at (216) 486-4552.



**BUILDING DEPARTMENT
UPDATE**

WHAT'S NEW IN TOWN

Ashley Stewart

691 Richmond Road

Underground Station

691 Richmond Road

Mo Bazz Barber Shop

691 Richmond Road

Jurassic Aquatics

26000 Chardon Road

**SEPTIC TANK DISPOSAL
SYSTEM INFORMATION**

In December, City Council adopted legislation regarding the conversions of septic tank disposal systems to connections to the public sanitary sewer. The new guidelines will provide for inspection by City staff that is designed to prevent cross connections between the sanitary water disposal system and the clean (storm) water disposal system. This will assist the City in complying with the rigid storm water II regulations set forth by the Ohio E.P.A. and prevent the County's wastewater treatment plants from working unnecessarily by treating clean water.

HEADWATER STREAMS – THE ARTERIES OF A WATERSHED

Headwater streams are like the “capillary system of a blood supply network – just as the health of the whole organism depends upon a functioning capillary system, the health of larger streams and rivers depends upon an intact primary headwater stream network.” Headwater streams, generally less than one square mile of drainage, are those little channels that flow into the larger creek and river systems of a watershed. Although small, these headwater streams can provide quite a benefit to your community's storm water infrastructure.

Healthy headwater streams can provide reduction of sediment into our major streams, reduce the amount of nutrients like fertilizers from entering the stream system, provide flood control and create “nourishing” stations to downstream segments of streams.

To take care of these headwaters, you as a homeowner can help keep these “arteries” running smoothly as a healthy system.

- Ø Limit mowing on edge of stream banks.
- Ø Remove grass clippings with municipal services rather than dumping along stream banks.
- Ø Limit driveways and buildings or other impermeable infrastructure near headwaters.
- Ø Plant native stream bank vegetation to get those headwaters working for the watershed.

Headwaters are a key part in the make-up of a watershed. Keeping them working properly will ensure a healthier place to live for everyone in the watershed.

Information provided by the Cuyaboga Soil & Water Conservation District with references provided by Ohio EPA's Headwater Habitat Initiative.



Carolers at the Holiday Walk in the Park on November 26.

Revised Public Works Timetable

Location	Type of Project	Estimated Construction Date
Euclid Chagrin & Meadowlane	Repair & Resurface	Completed
Douglas, North Harris, Dumbarton	Recycle & Resurface	Completed
Richmond, Chardon & White Roads	Sanitary Sewers	Restoration Remains
Sunset Drive	Repair & Resurface	Restoration Remains
Richmond Road Side Streets	Sanitary Sewers	Spring 2006
Donald, Cary Jay, Hillcrest, Dundee	Repair & Resurface	Spring 2006
Skyline & Glen Oval	Watermain & Paving	Summer 2006

The above dates are the latest estimates submitted by City Engineer, Lee Courtney.

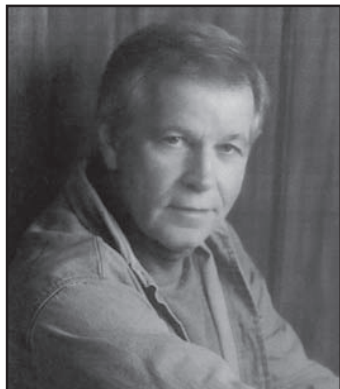
For further information regarding Public Works, please call (440) 449-4005.

American Legion Post 775

*Sunday, March 19
28th Annual Pancake Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Kiwanis Lodge
Cost \$5.00
Under age 6: FREE*

People who have served in the service are welcome to join American Legion Post 775.

For Legion Post 775 information, call Frank Urankar at (216) 531-7287.



Grammy Award nominee Ron Sluga will be performing at the Lodge on February 1.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Aircraft Complaints: Call the Cuyahoga County Airport Office, (216) 289-4111, to register complaints on aircraft operating between 11:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. Call the Control Tower, (216) 261-0550 for complaints on aircraft operating between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Preferably, write to:

Steve Nagy Manager
Cuyahoga County Airport
26300 Curtiss Wright Parkway
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143

Animal warden:

Call (216)486-1234

Richmond Heights Post Office:

454 Richmond Road, (800) 275-8777
Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

***** FREE E-FILE & E-PAYMENT OF MUNICIPAL TAXES *****

Residents and employers can file and pay Municipal Income Taxes on-line through **The Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A.)** at www.ritaohio.com.

INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS ARE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- Ø Paperless filing with immediate confirmation
- Ø An automatic calculation of taxes or refunds based on W2 wages and other income
- Ø Ability to file even if you moved in 2005
- Ø Electronic transfer of refunds into checking or savings accounts
- Ø Pay by ACH (electronic debit of checking/savings accounts), credit card, or debit card
- Ø Schedule payment of taxes – file as early as you like and set up an ACH payment anytime before April 15th

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO E-FILE:

- Ø Social Security numbers for yourself and your spouse.
- Ø W2 forms from all employers.
- Ø 1099 forms and Federal Schedules C, E, & F.
- Ø Date of move for residents that moved in 2005.
- Ø Bank Routing and Account numbers – for a fast refund or to pay electronically

EMPLOYERS FILING WITHHOLDING RETURNS ARE PROVIDED OPTIONS TO:

- Ø Fill in a simple withholding form, or
- Ø Attach a payroll file, then
- Ø Make an ACH payment (electronic debit of a checking account).

For more information log on to www.ritaohio.com or call the R.I.T.A. office at (440) 526-0900 or toll-free Ohio (800) 860-7482.



Richmond Heights Garden Club officials: (from left to right) Aire Roche, Vice President, Theresa Simmons, President.



UPCOMING DANCE SCHEDULE

*First Wednesday of the Month
7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge*

February 1 Ron Sluga

March 1 Fern Garner Quartet

April 5 The Revue

May 3 The Wayne Tomsic Combo

This schedule is subject to change or substitutions.

Dances feature a live band and light refreshments are served. Dances are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Cost is \$3 at the door. The Kiwanis Lodge is located at 27285 Highland Road in the back of Richmond Heights Community Park.



The Revue Band will be performing at the Kiwanis Lodge on April 5th.

Editor's note: I would like to thank Nancy Benander for her assistance and David Roche for photographs during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article or took photographs for their contribution.

CITY *the* EDITION

Anthony Gimellia, Editor
457 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143-1493

Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor/Safety Director
(216) 481-2534
David H. Roche, Council President
(216) 291-2207
Donald O'Toole, Council at Large
(216) 533-9697
Joseph Steffen, Council at Large
(216) 531-9174
Marcia Starkey Morgan, Council-Ward One & Editor Emeritus
(216) 732-9514
Kathryn Gambatese, Council-Ward Two
(216) 481-1685
Eloise Henry, Council-Ward Three
(440) 473-0903
Mark Alexander, Council-Ward Four
(216) 481-9015
Emergency
9-1-1
Richmond Heights City Hall
(216) 486-2474
Richmond Heights Information Number
(216) 383-6300

The City with the *Forward* Look!

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Daylight Savings Time

**Begins on
Sunday, April 2nd.
Don't forget to
Spring Ahead!**

