

# THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Anthony Gimellia, Editor

# *The* CITY EDITION

## At Your Service Department

*Service Director, Donald A. Lazar*

The Service Department would like to wish all of the residents of Richmond Heights and their families a Very Happy & Prosperous New Year.

**Recycling...** Since no dates are set for the upcoming recycling round-ups, keep in mind they will start in the spring. Look for the dates on the Community Board at City Hall or on the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District web site at [www.cuyahogawd.org](http://www.cuyahogawd.org)

**Snow Reminders...** Rural Mailboxes – The Service Department is **not responsible** for rural mailboxes hit with snow or ice; however **they will make repairs** if a mailbox is directly hit by one of our snow plows.

**Private Plowing...** If you will be having someone plow your driveway this winter, please be sure to remind them of the following:

Do not block sidewalks with snow.

Do not push snow into the street.

Keep snow on the same property as being plowed; do not push onto your neighbor's property.

## A Message from Mayor Daniel J. Ursu

About twelve years ago, in order to continue the best possible service to residents, the City began to review its physical plant needs, especially for the Fire and Police Departments at the obsolete City Hall complex. The current City Hall building dates back to 1962 when Richmond Heights had less than 1/2 of our current population of 11,000 and roughly 1/4 of the employees. Architect Claire Dickson of Dickson & Associates was asked to formulate options for the City to consider which ultimately led to Richmond Heights voters passing a ballot issue to construct a Police Department building in 2001. That project was completed in 2002 and the City began further review with Claire on how to address the remaining needs.

Claire's renovation options that resulted were typically in the \$5M range but the City's budget could only support an approximate \$2M project. Faced with this dilemma, Council Finance Committee Chairman Mark Alexander's committee began to consider less traditional forms of renovation which led the City to pursue the "design-build" process. This is becoming popular for local governments working with a fixed budget. For instance, the City of Beachwood recently successfully completed a renovation of some of its major facilities using the design-build model.

A Design-Build Renovation Committee was established chaired by Mark and consisting of: City Engineer Lee Courtney, Economic Development Director Lee Gase, Planning Commission member Dennis McAndrew, Council member Don O'Toole, Council President David Roche, Building Commissioner Bob Rodic, Finance Director Lynda Rossiter, and myself. Over the past year, the committee requested contractor proposals based on our budget and criteria. The committee received 8 proposals, and through many meetings and hours of review, narrowed the list down to three.

The most innovative and best value for Richmond Heights residents for the dollar was determined to be the Marous Brothers proposal. It was unique in that it suggested that Richmond Heights avoid the high renovation expense of dealing with asbestos, mold, hazardous materials, and other unknowns inherent in old buildings by 1) partially demolishing City Hall, 2) maintaining and expanding the existing Fire Department space, and 3) building a new City Hall structure to the east of the Fire Department. This also would allow a phasing whereby the costly and disruptive extra expense of relocating City Hall staff during the renovation would be largely avoided. Approached this way, Marous also believes that Homeland Security monies will be available to further defray costs.

If all goes according to current plans for 2007, you should see this construction begin soon!

## 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.

## EXTERIOR PROPERTY INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Building Department will again conduct a systematic inspection of the exterior building and property areas beginning in the spring as the weather allows. The streets slated for this year's program are: Chardon Road, Newcome Street, Sedley Street, Beverly Hills Drive, Chelford Avenue, Brookdale Road, Sunset Drive, Skyline Drive, Glen Oval Circle, Edgemont Drive, Richmond Road, Horizon Drive, Swetland Boulevard, Nan Linn Drive, Karen Isle Drive, Allendale Drive, Fairlawn Drive, Anthony Street, Donald Avenue, Geraldine Avenue and Monticello Boulevard.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS CULTURAL COMMISSION INVITES YOU TO ATTEND "NO TV NIGHT IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS" WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

The City of Richmond Heights Community Connections Cultural Commission is excited to present another cultural-related activity appropriate for the whole family!

- WHAT:** You are cordially invited to participate in a book discussion of ***The Color of Water by James McBride.*** This outstanding memoir about growing up in a multi-cultural family in the United States is an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award winner.
- WHEN:** **Wednesday, February 7, 2007**  
**7:00 pm** - Refreshments  
**7:30 - 9:00 pm** – Book Discussion
- WHERE:** **Faith United Church of Christ, 575 Richmond Road,** (North of & next to the Richmond Town Square Mall)
- WHO:** The Rev. Dr. Eugene McAfee and the Faith United Church of Christ book discussion group have graciously offered to host a discussion of the book *The Color of Water* during their monthly book discussion meeting. Ages high school to adult are welcome to join in the discussion of *The Color of Water*. Deborah Todd, Mayfield Library Children Services Manager, will be discussing ***Maniac Magee, by Jerry Spinelli.*** *Maniac Magee*, a Newbery award-winning book, is a very funny, sometimes touching, story of Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee, a young man who is a legend in his youth. Fourth through eighth graders are welcome to join in that discussion. Childcare will be available for children kindergarten through third grade.

**Both books will be available at the Richmond Town Square Mall Mini Library beginning in January. *The Color of Water* will also be available as a book on tape (both cassette and CD) at the Mini Library. A limited number of copies of *The Color of Water* will be available for purchase at a discounted rate through City Hall after January 1. The Cultural Commission enthusiastically encourages you to obtain the books, spend time reading as a family, and then on February 7, 2007, turn off the TV to join your friends and neighbors in a thoughtful discussion.**

**REGISTRATION:** Please call City Hall at (216) 486-2474 by February 5 to indicate your attendance.

## RICHMOND HEIGHTS NIGHT AT QUICKEN LOANS ARENA

This is your chance to see the playoff-bound Cleveland Cavaliers! As a resident of Richmond Heights, join us Tuesday, February 27 for Richmond Heights Community Night with the Cleveland Cavaliers. LeBron James and the Cavaliers will be battling the New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets. Limited tickets are available on a first-come basis. The Richmond Heights group-cost for a lower level ticket is \$49 and an upper level ticket is \$20. Please register at City Hall in the Recreation Department. For more information, please call (216) 383-6313. The deadline for this special offer is February 19.



## 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 Richmond Heights Senior Citizens Club.

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

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

The general meetings with snack and entertainment are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays. Presently, bowling takes place every Monday morning 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (special discount rates-\$2.50/3-lines) then having the highlight of the day: a great lunch at a local restaurant. Several card games are on tap for Fridays at the Kiwanis Lodge. Special event dinner parties are held during the year. The group also participates in the evening event on the first Wednesday of the month: music/dancing and refreshments sponsored by the City of Richmond Heights with cookies provided by Grande Point. Trips to interesting locations and entertainment out of town also is being planned. Presently membership is in excess of 125 individuals, with 60 to 80 active members attending the general meetings.

Come join in on the fun. You will meet new people and make new friends. The dues are only \$5 per year. General meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 the group a try. For more information, please contact Senior Club President June Endres at (216) 486-4552.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Date & Times	Event Specifics	Location
January 27, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Winter Youth Programs, Saturdays until 2/24	Richmond Heights Elementary School
January 27, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Youth Basketball Program, Saturdays until 2/24	Richmond Heights Middle School
February 7, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Winter Dance- Jacobs' Field Band	Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge
February 7, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	No TV Night in Richmond Heights	Faith United Church, 575 Richmond Rd.
February 25, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Youth baseball, softball & Swim Team signups	Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge
March 7, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Winter Dance- The Golden Notes	Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge
March 31, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Recreation Department Spring Show	Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge

**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**

<b>SENIOR HALL</b>	\$250	\$350
-tables and chairs for 164		
-air-conditioned		
<b>KIWANIS HALL</b>	\$250	\$200
-tables and chairs for 100		
-air-conditioned		
-permanent bar		
<b>BOTH HALLS</b>	\$400	\$500

**UPCOMING CASINO BUS TRIPS**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 7 **Greektown Casino** in Detroit, Michigan

**Cost:** \$30/\$20 coin voucher & a \$5 food voucher

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

**Arrive back at Richmond Town Square:** 7:00 p.m.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 9 **Seneca Allegany Casino** in Salamanca, New York

**Cost:** \$30/\$20 slot dollars & a \$5 food voucher

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

**Arrive back at Richmond Town Square:** 6:30 p.m.

**Date:** Wednesday, June 6 **NEW Presque Isle Casino** in Erie, Pennsylvania

**Cost:** \$25/incentive to be determined

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

**Arrive back at Richmond Town Square:** 5:30 p.m.

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

**LAWN CARE NATURALLY**

As we put the patio furniture, barbecues and lawn mowers away for another season and plan for next year, our lawns can continue to give back naturally to our environment. Things to keep in mind that protect your lawn and our local natural resources as we close it down for another year and practices to use throughout the year:

**Compost leaves through mowing.** Dumping them along a streambank can increase too many nutrients to our local streams that limits aquatic fish from residing in our streams. If shredded with grass clippings and left on the lawn, this provides natural organic matter to the soil beneath the lawn.

**Apply fertilizer sparingly.** Obtaining a soil test and exploring the use of many of the commercially available organic lawn fertilizers can reduce the amount of fertilizers entering our streams. Check with your local supplier when the best times to apply fertilizer are.

**Re-seed bare spots.** Things can get muddy in the Spring if lawns have not been prepared for the wet season which can mean more dirt in our streams. Fall is a great time to re-seed those bare spots and get your lawn ready for the Spring. Check again with your local supplier.

Preparing our lawns for hibernation in a natural way can make a difference to our local streams when we thaw out our yards next Spring.



**CPR CLASSES OFFERED BY RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Richmond Heights Fire Department will be offering monthly CPR Classes. This will be the American Heart Association Heartsaver AED Course. The individual course dates are February 22, March 28, and April 25 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Call City Hall at (216) 486-2474 if interested. Class size is limited to 12 per class. These classes are **FREE** to residents of Richmond Heights. Residents must show proof of address at the time of the class. The cost for non- residents is \$50.00. This course is for the general public; it is not the Healthcare Provider Course. Participants must be at least 16 years old to attend.

**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.

**HOME SAFETY TIPS**

As temperatures drop outdoors and people take steps to warm their homes, it is important that homeowners and occupants be mindful of the risks associated with home heating which is second only to cooking when it comes to causes of home fires. Along with the colder temperatures that accompany winter, there is an elevated risk in using space heaters during December, January, February and March.

Improperly-used space heaters, excluding fireplaces and chimneys, were responsible for one-fourth of home heating fires in 2003 and were the most deadly, accounting for three-fourths of the fire deaths related to home heating.

Space heaters present a fire risk as they tend to be closer to household combustibles and the people occupying the home. They also require a more direct role by occupants in fueling, maintenance, and operation.

Even so, any widely used heating device can be used safely, if the rules of safety are followed.

**Suggested Rules of Safety for the Use of Space Heaters:**

- Maintain a 3-foot separation between things that can burn and heating equipment.
- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory. (i.e. Underwriters Laboratory)
- Install your stationary (fixed) space heater according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- Plug your electric-powered space heater into an outlet with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Use the proper grade of the proper fuel for your liquid-fueled space heater, and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use. Refuel only in a well-ventilated area and when the equipment is cool.
- Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied or under circumstances when manufacturer’s instructions say they should be turned off. Portable space heaters are so easy to knock over in the dark that they should be turned off when you go to bed, but make sure your primary heating equipment for bedrooms is sufficient to avoid risks to residents from severe cold.
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside, that the venting is kept clear and unobstructed
- Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.



## Flood Insurance Rate Map Revision

The Flood Insurance Rate Map for the City of Richmond Heights, dated January 4, 1985, has been revised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The revision, which was effective April 28, 2006, essentially removes the Hillary Place Condominiums from Zone A, an area having a one percent chance of flooding in any given year and places them in Zone C, an area of minimal flooding.

The revision was made at the City's request. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Building Department at (216) 383-6312



*The Richmond Heights Service Department.*

### REVISED PUBLIC WORKS TIMETABLE

Location	Type of Project	Estimated Construction Date
North Richmond, Skyline, Sunset	Sanitary Sewers	Assesments Certified
Cary Jay Boulevard, Dumbarton	Sanitary Sewers	Assesments Certified
Richmond, Chardon & White Roads	Sanitary Sewers	Completed
Anthony, East Donald, West Geraldine	Repair & Resurface	Completed
Loganberry, Sunset, Hillcrest, Dundee	Repair & Resurface	Completed
Old Catlin, North Dumbarton	Repair & Resurface	Completed
Cary Jay Boulevard	Repair & Resurface	Completed
Richmond Road Side Streets	Sanitary Sewers	Winter 2006/Fall 2007
Skyline & Glen Oval	Watermain & Paving	Spring 2007
2007 Road Program	Repair & Resurface	Summer 2007

**American Legion Post 775**

*Sunday, March 18*  
**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.

**SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY COUPLE!**

The Richmond Heights couple celebrating 45 years or more of marriage in 2006: **Ed and Phyllis Baron, 49 years on December 14.** Heartiest congratulations to the Barons from your home town!

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB**

The Garden Club's November Bake sale at the Richmond Heights Craft Show was a huge success. This year included a Chinese Auction of four theme baskets, the profits going toward the Garden Club's scholarship fund given yearly to several deserving students.

This year again the organization trimmed the Christmas tree at City Hall (see photo below).



*The Richmond Heights Garden Club Tree Trimming Committee decorated the Christmas tree inside Richmond Heights City Hall. From left to right top row: Dolly Sciaulino, Bernice Blue, Marge Zlatoper, Theresa Simmonds, Virginia Kostelec. Bottom row: Eleanor Riznar, Dorothy Smrtnik, Vi Scott. Not pictured but a special thank you to Richard Binder for setting-up the Christmas tree.*

As always, the annual Christmas Luncheon was held at the Villa Di Borally Party Center and got the holidays off to a festive start.

**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:**

Kevin Delaney Interim 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.

**Garden Club upcoming programs for February thru June include:**

**February 15 - Paul Allen will talk on the unique grocery store Trader Joe's**

**March 15 - Making Spring Wreaths with Chris Amos**

**April 19 - Annual Spring Luncheon and Style Show by Talbots**

**May 17 - Field trip - Mooreland Gardens and Mansion Tour in Kirtland**

**June 21 - Installation of Officers Luncheon**

Anyone interested in joining the Garden Club can contact Virginia Kostelec, Membership chairperson at (440) 585-7754.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month from September thru June at the Kiwanis Lodge, 27285 Highland Road. Dues are \$10 per year.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



## UPCOMING DANCE SCHEDULE

*First Wednesday of the Month*

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

*Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge*

**February 7 Jacobs' Field Band**

**March 7 The Golden Notes**

**April 4 Night School**

**May 2 Harmonica Star Review**

***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.

Editor's note: I would like to thank Nancy Benander for her assistance 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

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**The City with the *Forward* Look!**



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