RICHMOND HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS  
Wednesday, February 3  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Kiwanis Lodge  
27285 Highland Road  
Mayor David H. Roche, City Council and members of the City of Richmond Heights administration will host productive conversations.  
The meetings are resident-driven conversations about our City and will include roundtable discussions with members of the administration representing the various City Departments. The goal of the small group discussions will be to build and strengthen relations, as well as help residents better understand our challenges, bridge gaps, generate innovative solutions and inspire collaborative action.

A Message from Mayor David H. Roche  
2015 – Collaboration Makes it Happen  
When I think about all we were able to accomplish in 2015, I appreciate the ways that our many government, non-profit and business collaborations helped make it all possible. Just a few of our new collaborators this year include the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, Cuyahoga County Information Technology Department, Richmond Town Square and the YMCA. These agencies help us serve you better.

For example, the Land Bank is now managing the demolition of blighted structures in the City with the use of $100,000 in Demolition Bond Fund grant dollars awarded to Richmond Heights from the County Department of Development. Cuyahoga County is also instrumental in creating our new interactive website, widening Highland Road to accommodate cyclists and devising a fresh approach to developing County-owned lands across from our County Airport.

Another collaborator, the State of Ohio Department of Administrative Services, has been a resource for us by providing us with the best possible prices for purchasing equipment including a leaf collection machine, as well as police, fire and EMS vehicles. On the federal level, we used GovDeals.com, to sell more than $20,000 of surplus equipment and vehicles.

Our collaborations with non-profit agencies such as the YMCA and the Heights Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Commerce (“HRCC”) proved to be extremely valuable in 2015. The YMCA managed and staffed our City’s pool this past summer and today, we are in discussions with the Y about the summer 2016 pool season. We hope to offer additional lessons and programming opportunities at the pool this year. As to the HRCC, it continues its tradition of being an avid supporter of the City’s business and community development activities. We see that support getting even stronger in 2016 as we work with the HRCC and our surrounding communities during the Republican National Convention.

2015 brought new collaborations with private industry and retail to facilitate our economic development objectives. We held our first ever Real Estate and Business Showcase at Richmond Town Square with the support of Richmond Town Square’s management to facilitate business to business networking. We are also now working with local realtors Tim and Eileen Baur of Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate to help us meet our objective of selling unwanted properties.

We finished the year with our first, ever movie filming Greenwood Farm was the set for a horror film called “Bye, Bye Man”. This private industry collaboration resulted in improvements to the Greenwood Farm house and it brought financial benefits to the City and our region.

Looking ahead, we will discuss the budget and our plans and objectives for 2016 at the Community Conversations on February 3rd at the Kiwanis Lodge. Among other things, we will discuss ways Richmond Heights can respond to the State’s 2016 budget decision to redirect money known as “Local Government Funds” away from the cities; thereby shifting the State financial burdens onto the shoulders of local municipalities. State cuts have adversely effected city services such as street repairs, lighting, park services and safety forces that cities can provide.

We are looking forward to a financially stable situation with a balanced budget this year. With your help, I will do my part in maintaining and improving our quality of life.

Happy New Year!
**RICHLAND HEIGHTS AWARDED K-9 GRANT FROM THE BEN ROETHLISBERGER FOUNDATION**

The Richmond Heights Police Department is pleased to announce that they have been awarded one of three Cleveland Area K-9 Grants from the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation at The Giving Back Fund. The Ben Roethlisberger Foundation seeks to support police and fire departments throughout the U.S. with a particular emphasis on support for K-9 units and service dogs.

The Richmond Heights Police Department is hoping to re-establish a K-9 unit after the loss of Kubo, the Department’s previous canine officer, in 2013. The Police Department will continue its fundraising efforts with the hope of re-establishing a K-9 unit in the months ahead. Area residents who would like to contribute to Richmond Heights’ K-9 fund should contact Police Chief Gene Rowe at police.chief@richmondheightsohio.org.

For more information about the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation or, The Giving Back Fund, please contact Jessica Duffaut or www.bigben7.com or www.givingback.org.

**GREENWOOD FARM WELCOMES HOLLYWOOD!**

Greenwood Farm was the set of a horror film called “Bye Bye Man”, with a star-studded cast to include Faye Dunaway (Bonnie & Clyde, Chinatown), Carrie Ann Moss (Matrix Trilogy, Red Planet) and Michael Trucco (Librarians), (TV), Hush (2016). The film resulted in financial benefits to the City as well as to our region and improvements to the Greenwood Farm house. We look forward to its October 2016 release!

**COUNCILPERSON MARCIA STARKEY MORGAN RETIRES THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS SAYS THANK YOU FOR 42 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE**

At midnight on December 31, 2015, an era will come to an end in the City of Richmond Heights. At the December 22 City Council Meeting, Ward 1 Councilperson Marcia Starkey Morgan announced that she will be retiring at the end of her current term. Her retirement will bring to a close an exemplary, 42-year career of service to the City. Marcia is, without question, the longest-serving elected official in the history of Richmond Heights.

Councilperson Starkey Morgan explained to Jeff Piorkowski of the Sun News that, “certain personal and unanticipated matters have arisen that have compelled me to make serious decisions regarding my future capacity to represent (my) ward.” Ms. Starkey Morgan added that although, “…she is not experiencing any serious health problems”, “…one never knows what time you’ve got left and you want to enjoy some of it.”

Marcia Starkey Morgan was first elected to public office in 1973 and she has faithfully and continuously served the residents of this City for more than 42 years. Among her individual achievements, along with the many positive changes the City has seen during her tenure, Ms. Starkey Morgan established the City Edition Newsletter in 1990 and served as its editor until 2001. She has also, more recently, been instrumental in assisting the City and County in ensuring that the old Amoco Station at the corner of Richmond and Chardon Roads and its associated brownfield is demolished, remediated and made available for future development.

It was with mixed emotions that the Mayor, Department Heads, fellow councilpersons and guests in attendance, including County Councilperson Sunny Simon and former Mayor Daniel Ursu, learned that Ms. Starkey Morgan will not take her oath of office on January 1st, 2016 to begin the term she won in the November 2015 election. The City and its residents, particularly those in Ward 1, owe Councilperson Marcia Starkey Morgan a tremendous debt of gratitude. And, although the City Officials and guests present at her announcement are pleased that she will now be able to fully enjoy her retirement, we are also saddened at the departure of an extraordinary colleague. Starting January 1, 2016, the Ward 1 Council Seat will remain vacant while the Mayor searches for a candidate to recommend for Council’s approval.

**GREENWOOD FARM NOW LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Greenwood Farm passed its final hurdle and is now on the National Registry of Historic Sites to make it an even better asset for Richmond Heights. The Greenwood Farm Board has openings for members and volunteers. Please contact cashpenny@msn.com for more information.
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Richard Olexa attended the 68th Session of the Police Executive Leadership School for 3-weeks in the fall and graduated on November 20, 2015. Sgt. Olexa is the fifth member of the Police Department to attend this prestigious leadership training program which has been presented by the Law Enforcement Foundation of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police since 1987. The other members that have attended the college are, Chief Gene Rowe, Lt. Robert Glaettli, Sergeant Denise DeBiase-Janson and Sgt. Todd Leisure.

DIVISION OF FIRE RECEIVES GRANT FUNDING FOR NEW CARDIAC MONITOR DEFIBRILLATORS

Division of Fire is proud to announce that we have been awarded a $71,000.00 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The grant provides 95% funding ($67,620.00) for the purchase of two (2) LIFEPAK 15 Cardiac Monitor Defibrillators from Physio-Control, as well as, a mechanical CPR device called the LUCAS 2. The new life-saving equipment was placed into service on the City’s two rescue squads in October.

CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS HAS OPENINGS ON BOARDS/COMMISSIONS

The City of Richmond Heights has openings on the following boards/commissions: Board of Ethics, Board of Review City Tax Committee, Community Mediation Commission, Greenwood Farm Board, Recreation Board and Senior Commission on Aging. If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please email a letter of interest to: hr.manager@richmondheightsohio.org or send letter directly to City Hall, attention: HR Manager.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR WARD 1

If you are interested in being considered for this opening, please send a letter of intent by January 23, 2016. Please email information to: search.comm@richmondheightsohio.org Qualified candidates must be a registered voter and reside in the Municipality or the Ward for at least 2 years prior to the date of appointment.
RICHMOND HEIGHTS POST OFFICE IS RENOVATED FOLLOWING PUSH FROM FEDERAL, STATE & CITY OFFICIALS

In November, 2015, the United States Postal Service invested approximately $200,000 in external upgrades and new windows at the post office at the corner of Highland Road and Richmond Road. These upgrades came as a result of a year-long code enforcement effort started by Building Commissioner Phil Seyboldt, which Councilman Frank Lentine and United States Representative Marcia Fudge championed until the Postal Service completed the job. Upgrades include a newly repaved and striped parking lot, two new concrete aprons, new handicapped ramps, new windows, replaced catch basin and rewired and reset lampposts.

“It all started at the beginning of 2015 when residents kept stopping into my barber shop and complaining that the post office was in bad shape. I noticed it too every time I went into the post office”, explained Lentine who added that the condition of the post office “reflected poorly on our city. I didn’t want our city to become that city…”

So Lentine contacted Marcia Fudge to get more support for the work that Commissioner Seyboldt was already doing. “She had me writing letters to Washington, D.C. and Kentucky to get someone to respond” says Lentine. Eventually, “everybody got on board” says Mayor David Roche and our renovated post office is the result of numerous people doing their part for the good of the community.

WHERE DO MY TAX DOLLARS GO?

Local Tax Revenues, consisting of Real Estate Taxes and Income Taxes, represent 87% of total General Operating revenues in the City of Richmond Heights. These revenues that support the majority of services provided by the City to its residents.

REAL ESTATE TAXES

The City of Richmond Heights receives 17% of the total real estate taxes paid by Richmond Heights residents on their property. The majority of Real Property taxes collected are distributed to the Richmond Heights School District (57%) and Cuyahoga County (26%).

INCOME TAXES

83% of all income taxes received by the City of Richmond Heights are paid by non-residents working in Richmond Heights. Residents who work in Richmond Heights pay only 4% of the total income taxes received by the city. Richmond Heights residents who work in other cities pay 13% of the total income taxes received, due to the 100% income tax credit provided to these residents. As neighboring cities increase their tax rates, the City of Richmond Heights sees our income tax revenue decrease.
FLOWER BASKET PROGRAM

Individuals and businesses can contribute to Richmond Heights’ beautification through the support of the Flower Basket Program. This summer, the City plans to purchase and install 24 flower baskets at the main intersections in Richmond Heights, and at 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” and mail to: Finance Director; City of Richmond Heights; 26789 Highland Road; Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. Recognition of your donation will be publicized in the “City Edition” by calendar year and on the City website.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

* If you have a tree cut down by a private contractor you must have them clear away and chip the branches. The Service Department will not chip them, the chipper is not made to do this type of work. Another option for you to get rid of tree branches is to bundle them up, tie them and put them out with your trash on Mondays. Just make sure they are manageable for one person to pick up and that the branches are no longer than about 4-feet.
* If you have carpeting you need to get rid of you must roll and tie and cut into 4-foot lengths and put out with your trash.
* If you have large items such as a sofa, chair, TV, dresser, etc., this also goes with your regular trash on Mondays.
* Any questions about trash, call Waste Management (866) 797-9018.
* Stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators, & freezers. For pick-up call the Service Department at (216) 731-7014. Please give at least a day’s notice so it can be added into the daily schedule.

Hopefully we will have a mild winter, but we do live in Cleveland Ohio so…

* Please be patient with the City snowplow drivers when there is a bad storm as they are doing the best that they can. Don’t drive to close behind a plow truck, they may stop suddenly or backup and may not see you. Be patient, they are out there to help make the roads safe.
* Make sure your rural mailboxes are secure, snow coming off the snowplows can knock them over and the City is not responsible for repairing or replacing them.
* Do not push snow from your driveway or apron into the street. If you are seen doing this, you could get a citation. Also, City plow trucks do not remove snow from driveway aprons.

WATCH LIVE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ON YOUR PC, TABLET OR PHONE

City Council meetings are now available via live webcast on the City's YouTube Channel! Beginning at 8:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, residents can watch a live feed of each Council Meeting in real time from the camera and microphones recently installed at City Hall.

For complete instructions on how to access the City’s livestream broadcasts, visit the City’s webpage at www.richmondheightsohio.org and click on the link in the Events Calendar located about midway down the homepage.

2016 RECYCLING EVENTS

Recycle Your Computer Dates

Months of April and August, every Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monitors, towers, keyboards, printers, laptops, & cell phones are accepted.

Scrap Tire Round-Up

Every Saturday in the month of August 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Tires must be removed from rims.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Every Saturday in the months of January, April, July and October 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Accepted Items: Oil or solvent based paint, sealers, primers or coatings (aerosols or liquid); varnishes, polyurethanes, shellacs; paint thinner, mineral spirits, turpentine; pesticides, herbicides, fungicides; caustic household cleaners; pool chemicals; automotive fluids, motor oil, car batteries, adhesives, roof tar, driveway sealer; kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid; fluorescent bulbs (6 foot max).

Materials Not Accepted: Latex paint; explosives, gun powder, ammunition flares; medical waste, medicine, smoke detectors; tires; electronics, appliances, business or commercial waste.
BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On Saturday, December 5 Santa made a visit to the Kiwanis Lodge to meet and greet the children who attended the ever-popular “Breakfast with Santa” event. The well-attended event was entertaining and memorable for all participants.

FRIENDS OF EUCLID CREEK ANNOUNCES THIRD ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP!

The Friends of Euclid Creek (FOEC), a grass-roots, non-profit charitable organization which advocates for the health of the Euclid Creek watershed, is pleased to announce the availability of its third annual scholarship in environmental studies. This scholarship was created in order to aid one deserving student in his/her pursuit of a degree or certificate in environmental studies, field biology, or any scientific field related to watershed health.

- Schedule - All application materials must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2016. Questions - Direct questions to jeanette.evans@sbcglobal.net.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS EASTER EGG HUNT

GREENWOOD FARM
264 RICHMOND ROAD

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

TICKETS ON SALE AT CITY HALL STARTING FEBRUARY 8

SNOW PARKING BAN

Whenever snow accumulates in excess of 2 inches on City streets, a snow parking ban shall exist which prohibits vehicles from parking on any and all City streets. Vehicles found in violation will receive a citation and may be towed at the owner’s expense.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SCHOOLS NEWS AND NOTES

The Richmond Heights Local School District begins the second semester more focused than ever on regaining its academic footing. The new Technology Hub is up and running, with a very nice conference space that can even be accessed by the community at large. Please call the Superintendent’s assistant, Rhonda Dulaney at (216) 692-0086 to find out how to reserve the space. The Richmond Heights High School basketball teams are playing well, and the girls team even has an eye on the road to Columbus. Support our youth, support our schools!
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR R.H. GRADUATING SENIORS

It’s scholarship time for deserving high school seniors in the class of 2016. All Richmond Heights residents who are high school seniors are eligible for the Richmond Heights Garden Club and Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club scholarship program. Area high school guidance counselors have copies of the scholarship application to duplicate and distribute to students of the Richmond Heights community.

Applications are due in the Richmond Heights High School Guidance Office no later than Friday, April 8, 2016. Applications received after that date will not be eligible for consideration. Along with the completed application, please make sure each student who is applying for scholarship consideration includes a transcript and list of school activities. Keep in mind that the application process will be confidential and the material will be passed along from the guidance office to the Richmond Heights Garden Club and Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club Scholarship Committees only. Completed applications should be returned by Friday, April 8, 2016 to: Candice Meintel, Guidance Office
Richmond Heights High School
447 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143
Attn: Kiwanis Club Scholarship OR Attn: Garden Club Scholarship
A copy of the applications along with the letter to the counselors is posted on our city website: www.richmondheightsohio.org

SAVE THE DATE
KIWANIS CLUB COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY MARCH 6  9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS KIWANIS LODGE

KIWANIS CLUB OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

It has been said that “Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.” This is the mission and goal of our local Kiwanis Club. We need you to help us advance our mission. The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club is actively looking to add new members interested in becoming involved in the community. Contact Jerry Hoover, President, at (216) 780-4087.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

If you’re a resident, 50 years of age or older, consider joining the Senior Citizens Club. Together we enjoy bowling, golf, cards, trips, and other entertainment all in a friendly atmosphere with friends, neighbors and refreshments!

Presently, bowling takes place at Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe every Monday morning from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. After bowling, the group has the highlight of the day which is a great lunch at a local restaurant. A card party is held at City Hall on Tuesday afternoons starting at 12:00 p.m. Special event dinner parties are held during the year. Presently, membership is in excess of 40 individuals.

The officers for 2016 are: Mitzi Binder, President; Flo Lovas, Secretary; Aire Roche, Treasurer.

Come join in on the fun. The dues are only $10 per year. General meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge. Please come and give the group a try. For a schedule of the meetings or more information, please contact Mitzi Binder at (216) 531-1585.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS GARDEN CLUB

There are interesting garden related programs planned for March through June 2016 including our “Annual Spring Luncheon” in April and a field trip in May.

The Garden Club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month 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 Dolores Sciaulino at (216) 382-7866.
Editor's note: I would like to thank Stephanie Barry, Christel Best, Judy Karla, Valerie Stevenson and Gwen Warren for their assistance during the production of this City Edition. I also want to thank everyone who submitted an article or took photographs for their contribution.

Anthony Gimellia, Editor
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David H. Roche, Mayor/Safety Director (216) 291-2207

Eloise Henry, President of Council (440) 465-3310

Open, Council-Ward 1

Frank Lentine, Council-Ward 2 (440) 461-7991

Jeremy Kumin, Council-Ward 3 (440) 520-4138

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

Emergency 9-1-1

Richmond Heights City Hall (216) 486-2474

Richmond Heights Information Number (216) 383-6300

The City with the Forward Look!

NEW AND IMPROVED CITY WEBSITE

The City of Richmond Heights website is getting an overhaul. The new website features easier to use navigation, a customizable calendar and a form-based feedback system designed to make it simple to connect with City Hall. The website will also be phone and tablet friendly! The new website is scheduled to come online in early January and should be up and running by the time you read this article. But, if it's not, it will be soon. Be sure to check us out at www.richmondheightsohio.org and while you are there, sign up for the City e-Newsletter!

SET CLOCKS AHEAD
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Don’t forget it’s time to “SPRING AHEAD”. Set your clocks ahead one (1) hour on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 a.m. This is also the time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THE RICHMOND HEIGHTS BI-MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER?

Please e-mail to special.projects@richmondheightsohio.org

Please type in the subject field: “RH E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION”