The City With The *Forward* Look!

Summer 2014
Volume 51, Issue 1

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Anthony Gimellia, Editor

the CITY EDITION

A Message from Mayor Miesha Headen

Reform is here and more is coming. Since the Headen administration took office in December, we are proud to report that we have accomplished a number of important milestones.

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

First, we took the necessary steps toward ensuring a healthy financial future for Richmond Heights. The City submitted its 2013 year-end financial statements and 2014 on time in compliance with State and Local laws. The City submitted a balanced budget for 2014 projecting an ending balance of nearly $2 million. While these may appear to be small steps, the impact on improving the City's bond rating, reducing our cost to borrow, and putting us in a position to build again is huge. Secondly, we are rebuilding a robust culture of public safety. Three new firemen-paramedics were hired in April as a result the Richmond Heights Fire Department will be fully staffed for the first time since 2008. Within the next two months, the City will be offering the Civil Service exam in order to hire two new police officers. And, we have also contracted with Cuyahoga County's ReadyNotify system so that mass communication to all residents can be provided in real time regarding water main breaks, power outages, and various other emergency conditions. (See page 4 for further details on ReadyNotify)

Snow removal in this most harsh of winters in recent memory was outstanding. We are fortunate, indeed, to have deeply devoted, hard-working members of our Service Department who demonstrated so clearly their commitment to providing superior service to our community.

The Easter Egg Hunt returned to Richmond Heights this year, delighting more than 250 participants who attended this fun event in Richmond Park.

Lastly, we have hired a dynamic, new Director of Recreation: Barron Deniese Spencer. We made a promise Let it be known that our public pool will be open this year. Hiring the Recreation Director is part of the administration's commitment design its expenditure of tax payer dollars and delivery of service around the expressed desires of the residents. In February more than 40 people attended the People's Budget: Recreation to advocate for their ideas about revamping the department. These ideas are being compiled into a comprehensive recreation program to serve the young and the elderly throughout our city.

WORK IN PROGRESS

There is still much more to be accomplished in this year of clean up. The administration and council are working together to execute plans for economic development. There was a public hearing at the Cuyahoga County Airport on May 22 to discuss the plans for the runway rehabilitation and make the leasing of corporate space more robust. Before the end of May, the City will issue a Request for Proposals for an end-developer to build upon the abandoned gas station at the intersection of Richmond-Chardon Roads. Finally, the City is in court to compel the owner of the former BP gas station at the intersection of Wilson Mills and Richmond Road to tear up the concrete and create a park-like setting.

The Website Committee, comprised of a group of knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers, crafted a Request for Proposal to be sent out to web design companies in order to modernize the City's digital presence.

Lastly, the Charter Review Commission is working on reviewing the entire Charter of the City of Richmond Heights. The Charter is the constitution of the city; it is the guiding document for all other laws. The Charter Review Commission may recommend amendments to the document which must be put before the voters in November. If you would like to attend any of these meetings or give testimony, please go to the Richmond Heights website to review the calendar for meeting dates.

Pool Opens: June 9, 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Pool Closes: August 17, 3:00 p.m.

POOL & SPRAYGROUND HOURS:

June & July

Monday - Friday 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

August

Monday - Friday 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

REGISTRATION

Register for pool passes and identification cards at the Pool.
Register for the Swim Team in the Recreation Department at City Hall.

FEES

Identification Card.....$4

Resident Individual Pass.....$50

Resident Family Pass for 4 $110
Resident Family Pass for 5 $120
Resident Family Pass for 6 $130
Each additional family member $10

Non-Resident Individual Pass.....$70

Non-Resident Family Pass for 4 $155
Each additional family member $15

General Admission.....
$4/with valid passholder
$5/without passholder

Swim Team for children ages 4 - 18 registration fee is $45 and the Swim Team Booster fee is $25.

*The Swim Team Booster's fee will be used for Championship Meet entrance fees and a party at the end of the season.Make a separate check payable to the Richmond Hts Swim Team.

IN RECREATION NEWS...

The City of Richmond Heights is announcing that Barron Deniese Spencer, also known as "Coach Niese," was named Recreation Director in April.

Deniese is a long time resident of Richmond Heights and she is dedicated to the Richmond Heights community and its citizens. Deniese worked in the school system of Richmond Heights as both the Family and Civic Engagement Coordinator and a security officer. She earned her name "Coach Neise" by coaching Volleyball, Basketball, Fastpitch Softball, and Track. Deniese is the wife of Mike Spencer and mother of three lovely daughters Ky, Sidney, and Taylor.

Deniese's message to the City of Richmond Heights is "with the help and support of the community, there is a lot to do, but I will work diligently to get the Recreation Department back on track with all the programs we used to have and then some."

2014 SWIMMING LESSONS SCHEDULE SIGN-UP AT THE POOL

SESSION 1: 2 weeks, June 16 - June 26, Monday-Thursday
Register at pool: (Richmond Heights residents ONLY Friday, June 13)
Open registration at pool: Saturday, June 14 & Sunday, June 15
SESSION 2: 2 weeks, June 30 - July 10, Monday-Thursday
Register at pool: (Richmond Heights residents ONLY Friday, June 27)
Open registration at pool: Saturday, June 28 & Sunday, June 29
SESSION 3: 2 weeks, July 14 - July 24, Monday-Thursday
Register at pool: (Richmond Heights residents ONLY Friday, July 11)
Open registration at pool: Saturday, July 12 & Sunday, July 13
SESSION 4: 2 weeks, July 28 - August 8, Monday-Thursday
Register at pool: (Richmond Heights residents ONLY Friday, August 5)
Open registration at pool: Saturday, August 6 & Sunday, August 7
Swimming Lessons Fees: The cost for each Learn to Swim Session is $20 with a pool pass, $35 without a pool pass.
To qualify for $20 fee, children under 5 must have a parent with a pool pass.

SWIM PROGRAMS INCLUDED WITH ABOVE SESSIONS

Learners (ages 4 - 6) Start Times: 10:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Children will be put into groups according to skill & ability to learn the basics of beginning swimming. (30-minute lessons)
Red Cross Learn to Swim (Levels 1- 6)
Times: 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

EXER-SWIM TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Monday - Thursday

FREE for Senior Citizens! Water exercise is beneficial and easy for everyone to do! Set your own pace. Being able to swim is not necessary as participants will use the shallow end of the pool only.
Exer-Swim will begin on June 16 and conclude on August 8.

SUMMER JOBS AVAILABLE

The City of Richmond Heights is hiring seasonal summer jobs. These opportunities include two positions at the concession stand in the Recreation Department, and two manual labor positions with the Service Department. If you are interested in summer employment, please pick up an application in the Recreation Department of City Hall at 26789 Highland Road.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Greenwood Farm Historical Cultural & Arts Association, a non-profit organization, seeks volunteers and members to support the renovation of the property located at 267 Richmond Road. If you are interested in participating, please contact Marilyn Wilson at wdonmar@sbcglobal.net.

RECYCLE BAGS AVAILABLE

The Recreation Department won a $4,500 grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District in March 2014. A portion of this grant is used to provide free recycling bags to our residents. Please pick up some bags at the City Hall in the Recreation Department or upstairs in the Administration Offices.

FREE WOOD CHIPS

Please be advised that the wood chips next to the Kiwanis Lodge in the Richmond Heights Community Park are FREE. Come and pick up some wood chips to beautify your yard.

PLANNING ON COMING TO THE PARK THIS SUMMER? SEE THE PARK RULES ON THE RECREATION PAGE www.richmondheightsohio.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE COMING EVENTS

RESOLUTION HONORING SERVICE DIRECTOR DON LAZAR UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Tuesday, May 27, 8:15 p.m. at Richmond Heights City Hall

Please join us at Richmond Heights City Hall as we honor retiring Service Director Donald Lazar for his 24 years of dedication to our community. For more than two decades, Lazar has protected our properties, plowed our roads, and maintained our park. Help us celebrate an honest and hardworking man.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PARTY AT THE POOL!

Monday, June 9, 1:00 p.m. - 8 p.m., Richmond Heights Municipal Pool

The pool is re-opening and that is cause for celebration! Join us for a day of free fun and free swimming as we collectively enjoy our public pool. ***Please see page 2 for all the Pool information.***

FREE SENIOR BREAKFAST

Friday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. at the Richmond Heights Kiwanis Lodge

Meet in the morning at the Kiwanis Lodge for free breakfast food and conversation. All seniors in Richmond Heights are welcome to attend. You will have the opportunity to meet the Mayor, the Recreation Director, and members of the Commission on Aging.

BE PATRIOTIC ON FLAG DAY

Saturday, June 14, 10:00 a.m., Richmond Heights Community Park

Please join the Mayor, member of Council, and veterans as we observe Flag Day. We will raise the colors and fete the United States of America. Live free or die!

MEET NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Thursday, June 19, 6:00 p.m., Richmond Heights City Hall

Meet a representative from the NEORSD to discuss cross-connections, flooding basements and stormwater management fees. The Richmond Heights City Engineer and the Building Commissioner will be available for questions.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS SHRED DAY: GREENING THE CITY

Saturday, June 21, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Richmond Heights City Hall

Shred your confidential papers for free. The giant shredding truck will be located in the parking lot of Richmond Heights City Hall.

OCT 4

ASHES TO BEAUTY HOME FOR WOMEN

This home will be a place of refuge and transformation for women who need to be coached towards re-adjustment into society after recovering from addictions, breaking free from abusive relationships, and struggling to overcome mental illness and emotional distress. Our ultimate goal is to transform the brokenness of these women by providing counseling to the women and their children and ensuring each know their true beauty inside and out. For more information, please call (216) 355-8606 or ashestobeautyhome@gmail.com.

RECREATION BUS TRIP

Rivers Casino Pittsburgh

Date: Saturday, July 12

Cost: $35/includes $15 slot dollars

Departure Time: 8:00 a.m. from Richmond Town Square

THE CITY BEAUTIFICATION PLAN IS BACK!

Richmond Heights will be looking lovely in just a few weeks. Large flower baskets will be displayed on the poles of the major intersections, city buildings, and park locations. Fire hydrants will be repainted bright red throughout the summer. We are going to paint the town red!

The City is therefore seeking contributions from families and businesses to the beautification program. Suggested support is $40 for individuals and $100 for businesses. Baskets can be purchased "in the honor of" someone special. Please make checks payable to the City of Richmond Heights (note to the Flower Basket Program) at 26789 Highland Road; Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143.

HAVE YOUR PRIVATE FUNCTIONS AT THE PARK!

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 any 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 any 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.

SIGN UP FOR READY NOTIFY

What is Ready Notify?

ReadyNotify is a mass notification system used by Richmond Heights in cooperation with Cuyahoga County to issue emergency notifications to the public. It is similar to the communications systems schools use to notify parents of closures or other time-sensitive information.

The system delivers messages to residents and businesses by telephone, cellular phone, text message, or electronic mail. The system is capable of sending messages to specific communities or the entire county.

ReadyNotify is primarily used for emergency notifications, when rapid and accurate information is essential for your immediate safety; however you may choose to be notified of general government news as well.

What Type of Notifications Will I receive?

You can expect to receive notifications about: emergency events, Richmond Heights government news, water boil alerts, Safety Messages and Other Information.

What Type of Information is Required to Register?

Participating in the ReadyNotify Program is **voluntary, but must be done online at http://ready.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/ReadyNotify.aspx.** A valid email and phone number will be needed to sign-up. During the registration process you will be asked to give information about yourself such as your address, your primary language, and if you require any special assistance during an emergency event.

How Will I Receive Messages?

When you sign-up in the system, you will first receive emails, and then have the opportunity to choose how to receive additional messages. They can be delivered via Cell Phone, Home Phone, Work Phone, SMS/Text Messaging and/or Fax.

Did you know?

Having redundant sources of emergency notifications on mobile devices will ensure you get the right message during an emergency.

CELEBRATING ALL FATHER'S COOKOUT

Saturday, June 28 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Richmond Heights Community Park

YEAR IN REVIEW

ELECTED OFFICIALS SWORN INTO OFFICE

In November 2014, the Honorable Nancy Fuerst, judge in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, administered the oath of office to Mayor Miesha Headen and councilmembers Juanita Lewis, Donald O'Toole, and David Roche.

TEEN CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Richmond Heights Teen Citizen of the Year award for 2013 was granted to Johanna Tomsick, alumnae of Beaumont, and the Runner Up was Demetrius Scott, alumni of Benedictine. The city has been awarding the Teen Citizen of the Year for 21 years. The selection for the award is based upon achievement in academics, sports, volunteerism, and charity work. Congratulations, winners!

LIEUTENANT ROBERT ARMSTRONG RETIRES

Lieutenant Armstrong retired from the Richmond Heights Fire Department in January 2014 after 26 years of dedicated service to our community. During his tenure, Lieutenant Armstrong was instrumental in developing and implementing paramedic services. He has made a positive difference in countless lives.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL RECOGNIZE EAGLE SCOUT JASHAWN MOLTON

In January 2014, Mayor Headen and City Council recognized the outstanding accomplishment of Richmond Heights Local Schools senior, Jashawn Molton, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

(Left to Right) Carmen Matz-Scoutleader, Tamitra Peavy-mother of Jashawn Molton, Jashawn Molton, Mayor Miesha Headen, Elder Gonelcha Askew-Spiritual Leader, at Eagle Scout Ceremony held on February 16, 2014

JOHN BOOS PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT

In February 2014, John Boos was promoted to Lieutenant in the Fire Department. John has been a firefighter in Richmond Heights for 23 years. He serves on the Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team as the Assistant Commander.

THREE NEW FIREFIGHTERS HIRED

The City of Richmond Heights was fortunate and blessed to receive a federal grant in order to hire three additional firefighter-paramedics. In April 2014, the division of fire hired Aaron Benjamin, Andrew Nagy, and Richard Rousch, three highly qualified and capable professionals.

BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM HONORED

Mayor Headen and City Council presented the Richmond Heights Local Schools Varsity boys' Basketball Team with a resolution congratulating them for a successful 2013-2014 season. They were the OHSAA Barberton District Division IV Champions and Head Coach Jason Priah was named CVC Coach of the Year.

ARBOR DAY IN TREE CITY U.S.A.

Early in May 2014, the City of Richmond Heights, under the leadership of Council President David Roche, celebrated Arbor Day by planting a cherry tree next to the tennis courts in the Richmond Heights Community Park. The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club and Garden Club donated the tree. The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Richmond Heights as a Tree City USA for 16 consecutive years. This is quite an achievement!

LED Traffic Signal Project

A project was begun in 2013 to replace all of the incandescent traffic signal bulbs in the City with low energy LED bulbs. The purpose of this project was to both save tax payer dollars and to reduce energy consumption. By taking advantage of the State of Ohio's buying power, the City was able to purchase 571 LED light bulbs at the lowest possible price. In addition, through a program offered by FirstEnergy, "*energysaveohio*" the city was reimbursed in the amount of $ 23,145.00 for the project as an incentive to reduce energy consumption. The project was completed in February 2014. A review of the energy costs to the city since the new LED lights were installed compared to the costs for the old incandescent lights, reveal that the city has reduced its monthly costs from $ 745.61 a month to $ 78.24 a month, an 89.5% decrease. This reduction will amount to an annual savings of approximately $ 7,200.00. In addition, the city has reduced the energy consumption by 90.5%.

CITY OF RICHMOND HEIGHTS ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

The following are notable Ordinances and Resolutions passed so far in 2014:

Resolution No.: 4 -2014, passed 1-14-14
A resolution confirming the appointment by the Mayor of Anthony C. Green to fill a vacancy on the Architectural Board of Review of the city.

Resolution No.: 6 -2014, passed 1-14-14
A resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City the renewal of a partnership agreement to a memorandum of understanding as a member of the Euclid Creek Watershed Council with the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Resolution No.: 10 -2014, passed 1-28-14
A resolution appointing Frank Lentine as the Councilmember for Ward 2 for an unexpired term and declaring an emergency.

Ordinance No.: 15 -2014, passed 3-11-14 An Ordinance
To make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014; to repeal Ordinance No. 66-2013, and declaring an emergency.

Resolution No.: 22-2014, passed 4-29-14
A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a purchase agreement through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' cooperative purchasing program for computer equipment.

Resolution No.: 25-2014, passed 4-8-2014
A resolution confirming the appointment by the Mayor of Barron Deniese Spencer as Director of Recreation of the city.

SERVICE DEPARTMENT NEWS 2014 SPECIAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal This collection will be held every Saturday from 9:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the months of **July & October**

Accepted Items	**Materials *NOT* Accepted**
Oil or solvent based paint, sealers, primers, or coatings (aerosols or liquids)	**LATEX PAINT**
Varnishes, polyurethanes, shellacs	Explosives, gun powder, ammunition
Paint thinner, mineral spirits, turpentine	Flares
Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides	Medical waste, medicine, sharps
Caustic household cleaners	Smoke detectors
Pool chemicals	Tires
Automotive fluids, motor oil, car batteries	Electronics, Appliances
Adhesives, roof tar, driveway sealer	Business or commercial waste
Kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid	
Fluorescent bulbs (6 ft. max.)	

Recycle Your Computer will be held in August
every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. & Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Scrap Tire Round-Up All of August
Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & Saturday's from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

COMPOST SEMINAR AND RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS

Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District and the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will be hosting a Rain Barrel Workshop and compost seminar with the city of Richmond Heights, Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural & Arts Assn., and the Friends of Euclid Creek on Tuesday, July 15 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Greenwood Farm at 264 Richmond Road in Richmond Heights 44143.

A rain barrel is a container used to collect and store rainwater that would otherwise be lost to runoff and likely diverted to a storm drain. Collected water may then be used to water lawns and gardens. The cost is $60 (Friends of Euclid Creek members receive a $10 discount) and includes the barrel, all materials and the downspout diverter.

Composting is a great way to keep organic materials out of landfills, and an inexpensive way of adding nutrients back into your soil. Two styles of compost bins are available at the seminar for you to choose from for $50 each.

To register for this seminar and/or workshop (registration is required by July 8), contact Claire Posius at (216) 524-6580 extension 16 or cposius@cuyahogaswcd.org.

For More In-Depth Articles, Schedules and Forms Please visit www.richmondheightsohio.org

ANNUAL FIRE HYDRANT TESTING IN RICHMOND HEIGHTS

The Richmond Heights Division of Fire has begun conducting its annual Fire Hydrant Testing Program on May 5. The work should be completed by the end of June.

The goal of our testing program is to assure a reliable water supply in the event of a fire. The testing is required by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) and must be completed annually in order to maintain our Fire Protection Rating, which directly affects property owner insurance premiums.

In addition to being a requirement of ISO, hydrant testing provides many benefits for fire personnel. We gain firsthand knowledge of where hydrants are located, assure they are visible from the road, operational as a "first water" source, and are able to confirm they are maintained on a regular basis.

Annually the division of fire conducts inspections to assure the hydrants we depend upon for extinguishing fires are operational, provide adequate water flow, and maintain adequate system pressure. NFPA standards also call for all public fire hydrants to be inspected on a regular basis. We perform annual inspections not only for the purpose of complying with the standards, but we need to assure that all hydrants will perform properly in an emergency.

A number of circumstances can affect a hydrant's performance, such as vandalism, accidental damage, wear and tear, mechanical malfunction and even contractors who perform work on water lines and then forget to reopen hydrant tap valves. We want to detect any of these problems and correct them prior to the hydrant being needed.

This year starting in May we will resume our normal hydrant testing and maintenance program. Testing includes cleaning the threads, then flushing and checking for working condition and flows. All testing is done by on-duty personnel. Any fire hydrant found to be in need of repair is identified and tagged. Repairs are then reported to and completed by the Cleveland Division of Water.

Should you notice fire personnel checking hydrants in your area, be assured our intentions are not to waste water or destroy property; we are working to ensure your safety. Should you notice a hydrant in need of repair, please call the Division of Fire or the Service Department so repairs can be initiated.

RICHMOND HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS
447 RICHMOND ROAD RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44143
FALL REGISTRATION
2014/2015

To schedule an appointment, please call **(216) 692-7395.**

Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 30, 2014 are eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2014.

We look forward to meeting you.

"Transforming the District to meet the Needs of our Students"
www.richmondheightsschools.org

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Oil or solvent based paint, sealers, primers, or coatings (aerosols or liquids)
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 ft. max.)

Materials *NOT* Accepted

LATEX PAINT
Explosives, gun powder, ammunition
Flares
Medical waste, medicine, sharps
Smoke detectors
Tires
Electronics, Appliances
Business or commercial waste

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