

# The City of Richmond Heights

Anthony Gimellia, Editor

# CITY EDITION



## Police Officers Recognized



Mayor Kim Thomas and the City Council presented Richmond Heights Police Officers Kevin Watts, Sean Lawlor, and Kevin Rodriguez with a Resolution of commendation for their brave work in the arrest of the assailant of fallen Officer Shane Bartek.

## A Welcome Message From Mayor Kim Thomas



As I continue to settle into my new role as your mayor, I want to thank you for your support and for believing in me to lead us toward "A Brighter Tomorrow."

Transitioning from Councilwoman of Ward 1 to Mayor for the City of Richmond Heights has been a fantastic journey. While serving as Councilwoman, I worked on behalf of the residents in Ward 1 and throughout Richmond Heights.

I hosted community resource forums to disseminate information, food pantries to help residents with food insecurities, and a community vaccination site, in collaboration with University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center to help save the lives of our residents by providing life-saving vaccines.

For anyone who has committed themselves to public service, you know it is not about the income, but rather, it's about the outcome. I want to ensure good results for the residents of Richmond Heights.



## Mayor Thomas is scheduling civil wedding ceremonies

Before the wedding, the parties must obtain a marriage license from the **Cuyahoga County Probate Court** and at least one applicant must reside within Richmond Heights. For more details, please contact the Mayor's Special Assistant **Tara Grimm** at **(216) 486-2474**

Cuyahoga County Probate Court  
1 West Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113  
(216) 443-8920

## Division of Fire Awarded A \$1 MIILLION Staffing Grant



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has awarded the Richmond Heights Division of Fire a \$1,007,663.94 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

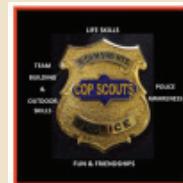
The SAFER Grant Program provides funding directly to fire departments to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The SAFER grant will fund the salary, pension, and benefit expenses for three additional firefighters for a period of three years. The \$1 million grant is 100% funded and there is no local cost share to the City of Richmond Heights.

Winning the SAFER grant was an extremely competitive process, and the Division of Fire had to demonstrate its need compared to other fire departments across the U.S. The new firefighters are expected to begin their fire service careers with the City in March 2022.

## New EMS Chase Vehicle in Service

The Richmond Heights Fire Department new EMS Chase Vehicle is in full service and is responding to emergency calls in Richmond Heights. The 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe is used to supplement staffing during medical calls while at the same time providing available personnel in the event of an overlapping call. Firefighters respond to overlapping calls 22% of the time. This is also outfitted with radios, equipment, and compartments to function as a Command Vehicle during large-scale incidents. The new EMS Chase Vehicle will facilitate our firefighter paramedics safe, effective response to the scenes of emergency medical and public safety incidents for many years to come.

## COP Scout Program



Cop Scouts is a fun police youth outreach program where young people (ages 8 to 14) engage with Richmond Heights police officers in fun activities to build friendships and trust. They are accepting applications for the program now. If interested, call Chief Tom Wetzel at (216) 383-6305 or email [police.chief@richmondheights.org](mailto:police.chief@richmondheights.org)

## New Pill Drop-Off Box

The Richmond Heights Police Department now has a pills-only drug drop-off box in the Police Station lobby. The box will provide a safe and environmentally friendly way to dispose of unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Please do not put loose pills, needles, or liquids in the box. Thank you to Cuyahoga County Sheriff Sergeant Pat Devlin and CCSO Deputy Jim Pavlas for delivering the box.

## Mayor Thomas 100-Day Plan

- Putting our residents **FIRST** always.
- Revisiting our Master Plan and help to bring City Hall into the 21st Century by upgrading our technology and strengthening our infrastructure.
- Implementing more programs for our seniors so that they can not only survive but thrive.
- Building a stronger relationship with our school and help implement more youth programs.
- Continuing to grow our economic development by welcoming new businesses into our community.
- Ensuring that our city staff is treated with respect, in a positive work environment, and provided with equitable pay.
- Lastly, in June 2020, we declared racism a public health crisis in Richmond Heights, and now it is time to implement action steps to include diversity, equity, and inclusion and ...

We have only just begun!

## United States Conference of Mayors 90th Winter Meeting



Mayor Thomas and  
Mayor Muriel Bowser  
District of Columbia, DC



U.S. Conference of Mayors  
90th Winter Meeting



Mayor Thomas and  
Mayor Andrew Ginther  
Columbus, Ohio

Mayor Thomas attended the United States Mayors Conference in Washington D.C. with Mayors from around the country to learn about the funding available to provide valuable resources and programs for our residents and small business owners.

Speakers included seasoned Mayors, members from the White House Administration, and members of Congress who talked about best practices, shared challenges, and ways to find solutions to help cities run more effectively and efficiently.

## Meet The New Council President Bobby Jordan



Bobby T. Jordan is a 16-year resident of Richmond Heights who grew up in Cleveland. With a well-established career in social work, he currently serves as a mental health case manager at Signature Health Mental Clinic.

Mr. Jordan has been responsive to the needs of people experiencing a wide range of circumstances, as his career began at the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services.

A husband and father, Bobby Jordan first set his sights on serving his community in elective office as a member of the Richmond Heights Board of Education. For six of his 11 years on the school board, he was the President. In the last 4 years Mr. Jordan has not only been Vice-President, but played a crucial role in assuring that the new Richmond Heights Upper School would become a reality.

Bobby earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Western Illinois University, where he attended on a full scholarship. Ultimately, the most critical aspect of Bobby's life is his family. Married for 29 years, he and his wife are the parents of three children and the grandparents of one.

## Dr. Erron Bell Appointed Ward 1 Councilwoman



Dr. Erron Bell was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. She attended Case Western Reserve University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with a Minor in Communication Sciences. She received her medical degree at Wright State University School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio (now Boonshoft School of Medicine). Dr. Bell completed a residency in Family Medicine at Dayton Community Family Medicine Residency and served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Bell has over fifteen years of experience in Family Medicine with special interests in Medical Education, Minority Health, Women's Health, Adolescent Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Travel Medicine, Corporate Health, Occupational Medicine, and Weight Management.

She is currently the Medical Director of Primary Care for MetroHealth Cleveland Heights Medical Center and Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In 2019, she was named by the Cleveland Magazine as Best Doctors in Family Medicine. Dr. Bell resides in Richmond Heights with her husband and two children.



## Community Partnership on Aging

As March begins, please remember that Community Partnership on Aging (CPA) is your partner for a healthy, happy, and fulfilling year. Do you want to get some exercise in? They offer a variety of exercise and movement classes in each of the six-member city community centers that Richmond Heights residents can attend, including a Tai Chi class from 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. at the Kiwanis Lodge on Mondays. Want to get more comfortable with technology? Check out CPA Connects, the technology training initiative - you may even qualify for a free Chromebook to stay in touch with family and friends.

Is eating healthier on your to do list? Richmond Heights residents can enjoy a hot delicious lunch at the Kiwanis Lodge on Mondays and go to lunch at the Highland Heights Community Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. You can still take advantage of pick-up lunch options like a Chef prepared Lunch Box twice a month or the frozen entrée pickup in Lyndhurst on Tuesdays. Please call (216) 650-4029 for all meal reservations and inquiries.

Need to talk to someone about caregiving issues, benefits like HEAP or other utility programs or want to borrow some equipment like a walker or wheelchair? How about finally getting around to putting in those grab bars or railings to make your home safer? CPA has a program to help with that too. Give the Social Work team a call at **(440) 442-2626 extension #244**.

Information about these offerings and much more is available in the CPA Connections newsletter. The newsletter can be picked-up at the Richmond Heights City Hall and Dave's Markets or call the main office at **(216) 291-3902**.

## Senior Fitness Classes at the Kiwanis Lodge

Seniors come join the Wednesday & Friday morning fitness classes at 9:30 a.m. Classes included lightweights, chair exercises, latin dance & fitness moves. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes with light traction. Bring light hand weights, a hand towel, and water. No registration is required. Open to all.

**Cost: \$3.00 per class For more information, contact Cindy (216) 346-8909**

**Congratulations to the Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest winners from the Richmond Heights Local Schools**



- Jalani Ball
- Chaleyah Buggs
- Olankan Fadeyi
- Taelynn Lassiter
- Genesis Rhodes
- Arielle Thompson
- Cedvion Thornton

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

The Recreation Department and Kiwanis Club are joining forces for two Special Events!

**Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny Kiwanis Lodge**  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt Community Park**  
10:00 a.m.

Free pancakes for children ages 2-12 that participate in the Egg Hunt. For the Pancake Breakfast, the child must be accompanied by a paying adult.

**Richmond Heights Voting Locations**

**Primary Election Day**  
**Tuesday, May 3**

**Ward 1**

Christian Assembly Richmond Heights Schools  
25595 Chardon Road 447 Richmond Road

**Ward 2 and Ward 3**

**Ward 4**  
Church of the Nazarene  
499 Trebisky Road

**Get Involved**

Looking for Community Ambassadors to help plan upcoming events!

**Call Anthony Gimellia**

(216) 383-6313 or email  
[assist.recdir@richmondheightsohio.org](mailto:assist.recdir@richmondheightsohio.org)

**Register Now for ReadyNotify**

**ReadyNotify** is an emergency notification system used by the City of Richmond Heights, Cuyahoga County, and other participating municipalities to issue notifications to the public. You can expect to receive messages about: Emergency Events; Water Boil Alerts; Safety Messages; Trash Delays; and other information via text, phone, or email. Sign up today!

<https://ready.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/readynotify.aspx>

**City of Richmond Heights Seeking Board and Commission Members**

- Architectural Review Board
- Civil Service Commission
- Ethics Board
- Planning Commission

Interested applicants should forward their resume, and cover letter to [hr.manager@richmondheightsohio.org](mailto:hr.manager@richmondheightsohio.org) or call (216) 486-2474 extension #248 for additional information.

## 2022 Recycling Events

### Richmond Heights Service Garage 26260 Chardonview Road

#### Recycle Your Computer

Monitors, towers, keyboards, printers, laptops & cell phones are accepted.  
Every Saturday in May and August  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### Scrap Tire Round-Up

Every Saturday in August  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Reminder: No tires will be accepted with rims.

#### Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Every Saturday in May  
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

#### Accepted Items:

Oil or solvent-based paint **ONLY**, 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.



## COMMUNITY **SHRED DAY**

### Shred Day and Richmond Heights Kiwanis Food Drive for The Greater Cleveland Foodbank

**Saturday, April 30  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Richmond Heights City Hall**

### Youth Soccer Leagues Starting in April



The Richmond Heights Recreation Department and the SELECT Soccer Club boys' and girls' youth soccer leagues registration has begun. There is an early bird discount for registration through March 1. The games for children ages 3 & over will start in early April at the DeSan Park Soccer Field. Register for the league at [SELSC.org](http://SELSC.org).

For more information: call (216) 359-1391

### Sign-up for the Richmond Heights E- NEWSLETTER

On the City website under Subscription tab or email [assistant.mayor@richmondheightsohio.org](mailto:assistant.mayor@richmondheightsohio.org)

### Appliance Pick-up

For refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, dryers, or hot water tanks. Call the Service Department for pick-up **(216) 731-7014**. Please give one day notice for all pick-ups.

## Economic Development News

In December 2021 City Council approved financial assistance programs supporting the \$220 million Belle Oaks Marketplace residential and retail development. These economic development programs, created and authorized by the State of Ohio, include a 15-year Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) tax abatement and 15-year Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Urban Renewal tax exemptions, all of which will support the bond financing component of the overall Belle Oaks financing package. In addition to the bond financing, the developer, DealPoint Merrill, will contribute \$40 million in equity financing together with construction loans of approximately \$122 million. Groundbreaking is anticipated this Spring, followed by demolition of the former Richmond Town Square Mall (except for the Life Storage building) and initial sitework for construction. In addition to previously approved apartment units and restaurant/retail space, it was announced that Belle Oaks Marketplace would include a 159,900 square foot Meijer store at the southern end of the development facing Wilson Mills Road.

The first phase of upgrades to walkways in the Community Park and on the east side of Richmond Road along the Cuyahoga County Airport has been completed using funds from a \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awarded to the City by Cuyahoga County last year. The final asphalt layer to the walkways will be applied this coming Spring.

New concrete walkways from the parking lot to the Kiwanis Lodge Community Center were also completed as part of the walkway project. This Spring will also see the installation of a new playground at DeSan Park using funds from a \$50,000 Community Development Supplemental Grant (CDSG) awarded to the City by Cuyahoga County last year.

Richmond Heights applies annually to Cuyahoga County for CDBG and CDSG grants. If awarded, the City utilizes these funds to achieve City Master Plan goals of improving all facilities at the municipal parks including playgrounds, recreational facilities, trails around the park and the Kiwanis Lodge Community Center.

Community Development Block Grants, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), are administered by Cuyahoga County through its Department of Development. CDBG funds are restricted for programs and projects in designated low/moderate-income (LMI) areas, where 51% or more of its residents are deemed low income, according to HUD's annual income limits. In Richmond Heights, the designated LMI area is east of Richmond Road between the northern boundary of the City and Highland Road to the south.

All CDBG funded projects and programs must meet one or more of the following national objectives: benefit a majority of low/moderate-income residents; or aid in the prevention or elimination of conditions of slum and blight; or meet community needs that pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and welfare of the community having no other financial resources available to meet the need. CDBG program funds may be used, but are not limited to, for the following types of projects: community master plans; infrastructure; streetscapes; community and senior centers; housing and commercial demolition; public safety; parks and playgrounds; or exterior storefront renovations. CDBG funds have been applied to projects in the Richmond Heights Community Park and at the Kiwanis Lodge Community Center as they are located within the designated Richmond Heights LMI area. Both are important community amenities that support the continuing stability and viability of Richmond Heights.

The Cuyahoga County Supplemental Grant is a competitive grant program administered by Cuyahoga County to help strengthen cities, encourage regional collaboration, and improve the quality of life for County residents.

The CDSG program is funded by casino tax revenue to provide grants for community development projects. The grant is available to all municipalities and eligible community development corporations in Cuyahoga County. The program is intended to complement or otherwise enhance projects funded through other sources. It will be administered in conjunction with and using the same process as the federally funded CDBG program.

If you drive by Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road, you can see the steel structure taking shape for the new Flexjet Global Operations Center. This facility, when completed, will be the nerve center for tracking and monitoring all Flexjet operated corporate aircraft worldwide 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



## Welcome! New Business in Richmond Heights

**Eldorado Healthcare**  
5241 #25 Wilson Mills Road

**Good Fellas**  
5156 Wilson Mills Road

**He Loves Curves**  
5194 Wilson Mills Road

**J.L. Handyman Service**  
5241 #31 Wilson Mills Road

**Living Rich**  
740 Richmond Road

**Salon/Loges**  
26915 Chardon Road

**Seafood Stop**  
26199 Chardon Road



## Belle Oaks Marketplace Update

### Anticipated Construction Schedule as of February 2022 (Subject to Change)

- Sitework/Mall Demolition: Commences in Spring 2022
- Leasing Center: Construction begins April 2022; Opens December 2022
- Phase I Apartment Buildings: Construction begins Spring 2022, Opens June 2024
- Phase II Retail: Construction begins September 2022, Opens September 2023
- Meijer's Store: Construction begins February 2023, Store Opens May 2024

## Local Food Pantries

**Community Partnership  
on Aging  
Produce Plus**  
3rd Thursday of the month  
**South Euclid Community Center**  
10:00 a.m. - Until the food runs  
out.  
\* Must bring an ID for each  
person in vehicle

**M.A.C.E. Food Pantry**  
4th Thursday of the month  
26901 Chardon Road  
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
\* Must bring ID.  
Open to everyone

**Richmond Heights Mobile  
Pantry**  
3rd Thursday of the month  
**Richmond Heights Upper  
School**  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Open to everyone

## **Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club**

The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club is where you can help sustain the local community with a special focus on supporting youths. They are the longest, continuously running service organization in Richmond Heights. They are youth-focused, with the whole organization designed to support children. The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club has an annual scholarship program for graduating seniors who are Richmond Height's residents no matter which high school they attend. A \$2,000 donation was made to Richmond Heights Schools to be utilized directly for the students at the new campus. They sponsored a Harvest for Hunger campaign. Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club received a \$1,000 KARES Grant from Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation that provided two hand sanitizing stations installed at the new Richmond Heights Community Park Playground. The 45th Annual Golf Outing in honor of past chairman, Jim Giarelli, was held last August to support the scholarship fund and other charitable programs for children.

The Club is open to individuals ages 21 and older, and members pay a small annual membership fee of \$120. General meetings are held each Thursday at the Lodge at 6:30 p.m. It starts with a standard opening, and then members enjoy a delicious meal together before engaging in a general meeting format. At times, meetings include a special guest speaker. On occasion, the group also participates in special entertainment, such as hosting tasty clam bakes, organizing Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, other holiday festivities and enjoying a Kiwanis Night at the Captains.

The Kiwanis Club is free to check out, and members of the public are welcome to join a general meeting to explore what the Club is about. For more information, please contact **Bill Morrison** at **(216) 772-2623**.

## **Kiwanis Bench Program**

The Richmond Heights Kiwanis Club is furnishing individuals and organizations the opportunity to sponsor a Richmond Heights Community Park bench that can feature personalized plaques. Up to two plaques can be featured on each bench. Richmond Heights Kiwanis has already placed eight benches in the park and has three new benches available to be placed. Sponsorship is \$250 per plaque. For more details about this program, contact **Aire Roche** at **(216) 291-2207**.

## **Richmond Heights Garden Club**

The Richmond Heights Garden Club celebrated its 51st anniversary. Earlier last year, members enjoyed many informative and interesting gardening and horticultural programs and field trips to garden spots. The Garden Club meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Kiwanis Lodge during normal times. 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**.

## **Greenwood Farm Historical Cultural & Arts Association Membership**

The Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural & Arts Association is accepting new memberships and membership renewals for 2022. If you are interested in becoming a member or help in any way, please check the Greenwood Farm website.

A HUGE thank you to our Service Department employees for working tirelessly around the clock to clear the roads throughout the City this winter.

## Service Department

Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Monday – Friday  
Phone: (216) 731-7014



### Please be patient with the snowplow drivers during a snowstorm.

- Please do not drive too closely behind a plow truck as they may stop suddenly or back up and not see you.
- Please do not push snow from your driveway or apron into the street, if you are seen doing this, you could get a citation.
- The Service Department will not remove snow from driveway aprons, which is the responsibility of the homeowner.
- Please inform your snowplow drivers not to put the snow in the middle of your cul-de-sacs or on someone else's tree lawn. Please note: Snowplow drivers must obtain a \$10 snowplow permit per vehicle from the Police Department to remove snow in Richmond Heights.
- Please make sure to check your rural mailboxes throughout the winter months. Snow and ice coming off the snowplows can loosen them and eventually knock them off. The Service Department is not responsible for repairing or replacing them if they do not directly hit them with the plow.
- Waste Management will pick up large furniture. Please call Waste Management at **1(866) 797-9018** to inform them and inquire about any special instructions. Special note, fabric, mattresses, chairs, couches, etc. Must be wrapped in plastic and sealed with either duct tape packing, or they will not pick it up.
- If you have carpeting to get rid of, you must cut it into 4-foot lengths, roll it, tie it, and wrap it. Make sure each roll is not too heavy for one man to pick up, or they will tag it and leave it on your tree lawn.
- Waste Management will not pick up automotive parts, tires, blocks of concrete, rocks, earth, logs, bushes with roots, and household hazardous waste materials.
- Waste Management will pick up yard waste with your garbage pick-up. When bagging grass and other yard materials, keep the weight to a maximum of 30 pounds. They will pick up branches. Also, you need to have them cut in lengths of 3- 4 feet, bundled, and tied.

# CITY EDITION

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**Daylight Saving Time begins March 13. Set your clocks forward 1 hour.**

*Don't forget to change your batteries in your smoke detectors*

*Editor's note: I would like to thank everyone who submitted an article or photo for their contribution.* 