

RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2019

Rick Dula, Director

Pool Management/Hastings Water Works

During the summer months of 2019, the City of Richmond Heights hired Hastings Water Works to staff and manage the outdoor community pool and spray ground. The Recreation Director worked closely with the pool manager to ensure the facility was being maintained and operated appropriately.

Programming & Events

The 5th Annual Richmond Heights Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was in early February. In the month of April, the Recreation Department hosted the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Community Park. This year, four Summer Concerts were offered on Wednesdays in July which included The Pop Tarts, Kyle Primous, Motor City Gold and Swing Time Big Band. The Recreation Department also coordinated the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony in May. The Community Garage Sale was held in Community Park on a foggy damp day in early May. Family Day was held in early July with a DJ, outdoor movie, free swimming, free hotdogs, chips and pop along with an ice cream treat. The Recreation Dept assisted the RHPD with the National Night Out in early August. This event which was moved indoors at the last minute due to a torrential downpour. The Fall Fun Fest at Greenwood Farm in early September was the biggest ever. Breakfast with Santa in early December had a record number of tickets sold at 154. Also, in 2019, we received grant funding from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District which allowed us to host two very well-attended community shred days, one in March and the other in October. The SEL Soccer Club held two sessions at DeSan Park, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. In October, Pickleball moved indoors to the Christian Assembly Church and continued throughout the winter months on Tuesday nights. Residents also had the opportunity to enjoy two on-going fitness classes held at the Lodge. We offered an R & B line dancing with Richmond Heights resident instructor Tina Swift, a Senior Exercise class and a Zumba class both led by Richmond Heights resident instructor Cindy Herak. The monthly "Lunch Bunch" program showed a slight increase in participation. The Friday "Senior Adult Card Playing" group was still meeting on a regular basis but attendance was down. The Youth Basketball League completed its 2018/19 season in late February.

Community Partnership on Aging (CPA)

The City Council supported by the Administration and the Recreation Department, passed legislation to become part of the CPA.

Recreation Board

The Recreation Board began the year by meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. In November, the meetings were moved to Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm. Current members included Charlotte Camp, Angela Jordan, Karen Cunningham, Patricia Thompson and Mary Mehring. The Recreation Board offered a Fall Bus Trip to Amish Country on a Saturday in October. The charter bus trip was so popular, we had to use two busses and the trip was sold out. Participants had a nice time in spite of some mechanical issues with one of the busses.

Greenwood Farm Programming

Greenwood Farm was the site of the annual Fall Fun Fest at the Farm—which in 2019, was extremely well-attended because of some great offerings. Entertainment from DJ Jamin' Joel, Magician Rick Smith Jr., an outdoor movie and free hayrides, a Kids' Zone with inflatables, and a good number of delicious food choices from the Christian Assembly Church and other community groups. It is also used as a meeting site for the Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural & Arts Board of Directors. An outdoor Yoga class was also held in the summer.

Senior Transportation Connection

The Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County is committed to providing “comprehensive, efficient, and affordable transportation services for older adults.” By contracting with STC, the City of Richmond Heights helps to ensure older residents have curb-to-curb transportation access for medical appointments, social gatherings and more.

Grant Funding

The Economic Development Dept wrote a matching grant that the City received from the 2019 ODNR NatureWorks program of \$120,712.00 to build a new playground at Community Park. The total project funding will be \$160,950. The City provided approximately \$38,000 towards this project and the National Kiwanis organization donated \$2000.00 to the City through our local Richmond Hts. Kiwanis chapter.

The City also received a \$2505.00 grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to provide two shred days sponsored by the City and the printing of some recycling educational materials.

City Edition

This annually published 8-page newsletter featured three editions in 2019, Winter/Spring, Summer and Fall. This publication featured pertinent information from each of the City's departments as well as the city's Community organizations. It is mailed to all households.

Pavilions Rentals

In 2018, 31 permits were issued for the Pavilion and 3 permits were issued for the area of the park next to the Pool. Approximately 1355 people attended functions in or near the Pavilion in 2018. In 2019, 50 permits were issued and approximately 2511 people used the Pavilion for events in Community Park.

Lodge Rentals

In 2018, approximately 10,744 people used the Lodge for rentals. In 2019, 11,178 people used the Lodge for rentals.

Meals on Wheels

Recreation Director, Rick Dula, continued to strengthen our connection with the "Hillcrest Meals on Wheels" organization as an ad hoc member of the Hillcrest Meals on Wheels Board of Trustees. This service is offered Monday—Friday and is designed to meet the nutritional needs of homebound, disabled and elderly residents of Richmond Hts who are unable to shop or prepare meals for themselves.