

# RICHFIELD PARKS & RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT 2023



 **RICHFIELD WOODS**



 **BABB'S ORCHARD PARK**



 **EASTWOOD PRESERVE**



 **TOWN HALL**

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## **READY FOR SPRING!**

The annual Parks and Recreation Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 1st. We had over 150 children come out and participate in the event. Over 2,500 eggs were scattered on and around the baseball field behind Village Town Hall. Everyone joined us to hunt for eggs within their age group.

This is the most attended Village event!



# PROJECT PRIDE DAY

Project Pride and Arbor Day was once again a huge success, despite the rain and cold we endured. The event was held Saturday, April 22 from 9:00 - noon. Community members of Bath and Richfield joined together for the annual roadside litter clean-up. The event included: free paper shredding, electronic recycling, medication disposal, recycling of gently used clothing, roadside clean-up, and tree sapling give-away.

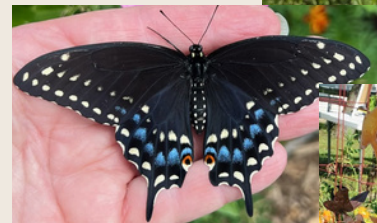
- The Richfield Police Department collected three boxes full of unused medications.
- 600 hundred tree saplings were giving out to our community members.



# EASTWOOD COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Gardens are located at the Eastwood Preserve, the Preserve is a 28-acre parcel of land located in the heart of Richfield and is the headwater to Yellowcreek. The property was acquired through a Clean-Ohio Grant in 2004. Our gardeners have logged over 200 volunteer hours making the garden the beautiful place that it is.

People in and around our community are able to rent a 12 x 12 foot garden plot at the preserve to grow their own flowers, vegetables, herbs, and more! Plots are \$50 for Village Residents and \$60 for Non-Residents. This is an organic, pesticide free garden.



# SUMMER CONCERTS ON THE GREEN

We held four summer concerts on the Village Green this year. Many people had the chance to grab their blanket and chairs and enjoy a wonderful evening listening to a variety of music. We had over 150 people at each concert. The Parks and Recreation Department supplied popcorn, chips, and candy bars at one of the concerts. We had a couple food trucks attend too. A special thank you to Kiwanis for cooking hot dogs and hamburgers!

- Friday, June 9, 2023 The PopTarts
- Friday, June 30, 2023 New Barley Corn
- Saturday, July , 2023 The BEAMS
- Sunday, July 23, 2023 The ReBeats



# SUMMER CAMP 2023

Summer Camp began on June 12th. Summer camp continued for seven weeks – with us being closed during the week of July 4th. We continued to have two field trips each week. There was also before and after care available for families, half hour before the start of camp, and one hour after the conclusion of camp. We went fishing and made a craft every Wednesday. We also went creeking behind Town Hall every other Friday.

Field Trips included: Akron Zoo, Memorial Park Pool, Bowling @ AMF, Great Lakes Science Center, Akron Rubber Ducks game, Cleveland Zoo, Sweeties Candy Store & putt-putt, and Ledge Pool.

Each week our incredible camp staff had a fun theme day, or fun National Celebration. We had crazy hair day, Olympic Day, Root beer floats day, Luau Hawaiian Day, Jersey Day, Blue Day, National blueberry muffin day, S'mores Day and so much more.



# SUMMER CAMP 2023

Summer Camp had a maximum of 50 campers each week. We had a 100% overall capacity with a wait lists up to 45 children. We had an incredible staff this past summer, and we would not have been able to have such an incredibly successful summer without the tremendous hard work, and dedication from our high school volunteers.



# SUMMER CAMP 2023



# EASTWOOD SPEAKER SERIES

During the spring / summer months we had a chance to bring back our monthly Speaker Series located at the Eastwood House and Preserve. We had an opportunity to welcome several speakers to come and share their gardening skills and passions.

**This year's speakers included:**

- **Geoff Rapp, Local Wildflower Naturalist** discussed “Five under appreciated wildflowers and their healing properties.
- **Christina Merk, Master Gardener** discussed the indigenous paw paw tree.
- **Robert Najjar, President of Summit County Beekeepers Association**
- **Jan Weber, shared her stories** growing up in the house and on the farm at Eastwood.



## 2023 EVENTS & PROGRAMS



**Victory Self-Defense Class** took place Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at Masonic Hall. Parents and their children joined instructor Adam, in learning the basics of self defense.

**Abbella's Craft & Sip Class** took place Monday, June 12, 2023 at Masonic Hall. This class was a fun-filled evening. Attendees painted and assembled round, wood signs to hang in your home!



**14th Annual Butterfly Camp** took place on Saturday, July 22, 2023. Ellen Daniels hosted her annual Magical Butterfly Camp. During this camp, Ellen educated the public on how to care for and feed their butterflies. Each family got caterpillars and milkweed plants. We had 42 people in attendance.



**Mayor's Fitness Challenge** kicked off on May 7th. Teams of four were challenged to walk a total of one million steps during the month of May.



## 2023 EVENTS & PROGRAMS

**Community Day** included a Parks and Recreation Department table. We had mini putt-putt for kids to play and win prizes.

People also got to see the current programs and events the department offers, as well as what to expect in the future!



**Fall Fest** was held on September 16, 2023.

This annual event was at Eastwood Preserve. The festival had live music, activities for children, hayrides, food trucks, local vendors, and a scavenger hunt.

**Cookie Decorating Class** took place Saturday, October 15, 2023 at Masonic Hall. This class was taught by Richfield resident Kelly. She is a self-taught cookie decorator. She started her own business back in 2020. During this class, Kelly taught people how to create beautiful cookies like a pro.

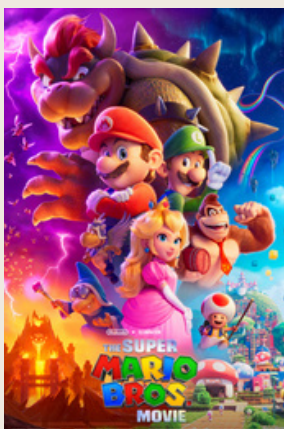


## 2023 EVENTS & PROGRAMS



**Halloween trick-or-treat** parade was at the Richfield Fire Station. Park staff had a table and was on hand to pass out candy on Halloween night.

**Christmas Tree Lighting** happened the weekend after Thanksgiving. Parks & Recreation staff decorated the Masonic Hall for the annual tree lighting. A local Girl Scout Troop came up on stage to sing Christmas carols. Afterwards, Mr & Mrs. Claus were waiting inside anxiously to hear what the kids wanted for Christmas.



**Kid's Movie Night** took place Friday, December 8, 2023 at Masonic Hall. We had over 20 kids join us in their pajamas to watch Super Mario Bros. The kids got to create a holiday craft, play board games, eat pizza, and watch the movie.

# PARKS

**The New Basketball Court** was constructed at Richfield Woods beginning in the middle of June. The court sits next to Johnson barn, on the left hand side as soon as you enter the park. Along with the court, a new sidewalk was put in. Construction was completed with the installation of the hoops and the painting of the lines at the end of August.



**A New playground** was put in at Richfield Woods, including a new swing set. The official ribbon cutting happened on October 12, 2023.



**The Sledding Hill** at Babb's Orchard Park officially opened with a ribbon cutting on December 21, 2023. A special thanks to our service department for building a new fire pit for the park as well. A very special thank you to the Lobalzo family and Sam Petros for donating the property.



# RECREATION

**Broadview Heights Recreation** partnership continued to be a huge success in 2023. Through the Village Parks Department residents could pick up a voucher to join the recreation center. In 2023 we spent \$29,438 for 203 vouchers, with 403 residents enrolled in the recreation center. In 2022 we had paid \$26,045 and had a total of 188 vouchers obtained.



**WALK with FitKare** is an exercise class that has a '3 mile' INDOOR WALK with periods of higher intensity intervals (HIIT). Which is then followed by strength training using hand weights and resistance bands. ALL fitness levels are welcome as modifications will be shown. This is heart-pumping, strength building FUN. This class has a consistant group of six that come every Tuesday and Thursday.

**Jump Start Sports** and the Parks and Recreation Department continued their partnership. Jump Start Sports provided our community with introduction to a variety of different sports. This year during the spring and summer months we offered Hummingbird Soccer, and T-birds t-ball for 3 & 4 year olds, as well as 5 & 6 year olds.



# **PARKS & RECREATION 2023**

## **Additional items:**

- Starting on November 7, 2023, we no longer require a security deposit when renting any of our halls, or pavilions.
- We brought back and redesigned our spring / summer brochure.
- We brought back a lot of our past programs, and tried some new ones.
- We have enjoyed continuing to provide programs and events that allow the community to come together.



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**Provide recreation and leisure activities, facilities and public spaces that create opportunities for health, fitness, relaxation, enjoyment, learning, and community interaction.**