Dear Fellow Richmond Heights Residents:

This letter is written on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural, & Arts Association, Inc.

The Board is aware of much misinformation being circulated throughout the community regarding the purchase price of Greenwood Farm, the intended use for the Farm, and what the Board has accomplished thus far. The purpose of this letter is to answer those questions as factually and simply as possible.

What did the City pay for Greenwood Farm?

After a series of discussions which began in January, 1995, (some initiated by city leaders; some initiated by various members of the Phypers family), and continued over the years until ultimately the City purchased the front 9.3-acre parcel of the property from June Phypers’ heirs for $480,000 in 2004. Resolution #70-2004.

The back 7.6-acre parcel of the property, was purchased by the City for $183,848.93 in 2006. Resolution #83-2006.

The two parcels, totaling 16.9-acres were purchased for a total of $663,848.93 from the City’s Capital Fund, which was later financed over a 10-year period to be paid in 2015. This works out to about $39,000 per acre. For comparison purposes, the developer of the Waterford senior citizen complex across Richmond Road from Greenwood Farm, purchased that property for $130,000 per acre.

What are the intended uses for the Farm?

- The library in the main house will become the site of the Richmond Heights Historical Society. The house will be an ideal location to retain important historical records, antiques and memorabilia of Richmond Heights.
Current Richmond Heights businesses and those in surrounding communities, their employees and clients flying into the County Airport will one day have the ability to hold meetings and/or off-site retreats at Greenwood Farm. The close proximity to the Airport and the unique pleasant setting makes it a perfect, time-saving location to be a welcome center for the businesses in the community to greet new employees and clients.

The grounds will be transformed into the beautiful gardens and spaces that once were. The peace and tranquility of the property will provide a perfect setting for weddings or showers. University Hospital Richmond Heights Medical Center can use the property for wellness retreats; the churches in the community can use it for spiritual retreats.

Greenwood’s beautiful 17 acres will become a “living lab” that could be used in collaboration with the Richmond Heights Schools to enhance the School’s curriculum in the natural sciences, environmental studies, conservation, the arts, etc.

The house and grounds will continue to be used for programs and events for the benefit, education and enjoyment of Greenwood Farm members and members of the community.

What has the Board of Directors accomplished thus far?

Since the establishment of the Greenwood Farm Historical, Cultural and Arts Association, Inc., the Board of Directors, along with a corps of community volunteers have:

- Established a Mission Statement, obtained the Federal income tax exempt status under the section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and in February of 2013, completed a three-year Strategic Plan.
- Established a renovation and restoration program for the main house, cottage and barn.
- Made a number of improvements to the grounds and main house.
- Secured a grant of $187,500 from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the creation of porous pavement parking areas, (creating additional parking), with bioretention areas.
- Established a number of annual events and program activities for the benefit and enjoyment of Greenwood Farm members and members of the community,
- Engaged the support and involvement of numerous organizations such as Friends of Euclid Creek, RH Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, RH Seniors Club, RH Garden Club, RH Key Club, RH Schools, Highland Heights Green Task Force, and more.

In addition to all that is listed here, the Board of Directors and those who helped form the Strategic Plan for Greenwood Farm, envision a future Greenwood Farm that will be a treasured resource that enriches the identity, civic pride and sense of community among residents of Richmond Heights. Our city leaders made a wise decision when they voted to protect this crucial area in the heart of Richmond Heights.

Respectfully,

Marilyn E. Wilson, Secretary
Greenwood Farm Board of Directors