DeWeese-Ridgecrest Civic Association

We still have a lot planned for 2013. Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

EVENT	DATE and TIME	LOCATION
DRCA Fall Meeting	Monday, October 21, 7:00 PM	Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue
Last bulk waste pick-up for the year	Friday, October 25	Must be scheduled in advance by calling 333-4800
Trick or Treat	Thursday, October 31, 6:00 -8:00 PM	Throughout the neighborhood
Fall leaf pick-up dates	November 7, 21, and December 5, 19	
DRCA Holiday Meeting	Monday, December 16, 7:00 PM	Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue

A big **THANK YOU** to our United Dairy Farmers at Siebenthaler Avenue and North Drive. They were generous enough to donate 200 servings of ice cream for attendees of National Night Out on August 6th. We held our event at the Children's Garden at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark and it was a great success!

United Dairy Farmers

Mural to Beautify Large Shelter at Triangle Park

With the help of the City of Dayton and the K12 Gallery, our neighborhood association received funding, supplies and artistic help to paint a mural on the large picnic shelter at Triangle Park. The painting will begin next spring and folks of all ages (that means you and all members of your family!) will be invited to help K12 Gallery artists paint the mural. At our October 21st DRCA meeting, we will tell you more about the project and we will pick the mural design. Get those paint brushes ready!

WE WANT YOU
to be a DRCA Member in 2013!

Consider giving the gift of a **membership** to yourself, a new neighbor or friends in the neighborhood. Dues are bargain-priced at $10 a household.

The money we collect from dues allows us to provide a number of services to you and your neighbors such as printing the newsletter, renting a room for our meetings, providing food for the annual picnic, and covering garden tour expenses.

We also offer neighborhood news and neighborhood watch email updates. Please help us continue to provide these important services by completing the form below, bringing it to our October meeting, or mailing it with your dues ($10 a household) to:

Becky Drewing
DRCA Treasurer
2727 Lindale Avenue
Dayton, OH 45414

cut here

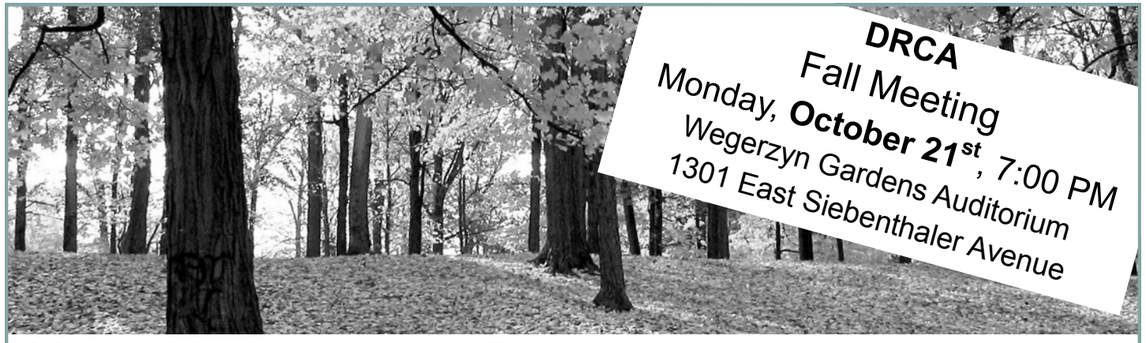
Membership questions? Need to know if your dues are paid up?
Contact Ann Schenking, Membership Co-Chair, at 277-8022 or aschenking@woh.rr.com.

2013 DeWeese Ridgecrest Civic Association Dues

Name(s) _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____

(We are updating our email list. If you wish to begin receiving or continuing to receive neighborhood watch updates and news via email, please provide us with your current email address.)



DeWeese-Ridgecrest Civic Association

The Newsletter of an Urban Forested Neighborhood Five Minutes from Downtown

October 2013

A (Field) Piece of History in DeWeese-Ridgecrest

by David Hamilton, CPT, USA, Ret.

Our Ridge Avenue bridge over the Stillwater River is scheduled for replacement. This bridge is officially known as Artillery Memorial Bridge – to honor D Battery, 134th Field Artillery, 27th Division, which fought in the first World War.

Standing guard just east of the bridge is a cannon – a French 75mm Field Gun, model 1897 A4. This may sound like an odd memorial since the nearby plaque commemorates *D Battery* - an American Army Field Artillery unit, but it is the perfect monument.

The French 75mm Field Gun was a quick-firing field artillery piece adopted by the French Army in

March, 1898 – officially known as *Matériel de 75mm Mle 1897*. It was commonly known as the "French 75" or simply the "75" and is widely regarded as the world's first modern artillery piece – modern because it featured a pneumatic recoil mechanism, rapid loading breech, flexible ammunition and precision sights using an aiming post system. It was mobile, fast, accurate and deadly!

French 75 an American Standard

Bridget, a French 75mm Field Gun, fired the first US Artillery round in action in the Great War - the American Expeditionary Force used French 75s throughout the war. We brought some of them back to the states after the war – we also manufactured French 75s in the US. This cannon became the standard artillery piece of the US Army, used even through the early battles of WWII.

D Battery Goes to War

Tools of war are only as good as the soldiers who used them. On May 20, 1918, Dayton's own D Battery was formed and organized in Triangle Park. The unit served proudly through the war until the very last day of fighting.

Honoring a Veteran

Our Artillery Memorial Bridge gun will soon be 100 years old – the barrel and breach were made in 1917! It clearly needs new paint and general refurbishing - the Montgomery County Historical Society has provided funds for this restoration. The French 75 served the French, British and American armies for half a century and most modern artillery pieces use features that were first introduced or perfected on the French 75. Please join us for an evening honoring this veteran of two world wars.

At the **Fall DRCA Meeting**, David Hamilton will complete the story of the French 75 and explain why it's such a fitting monument.

We hope to see you on **Monday, October 21st at 7:00 p.m.**!

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2013 DRCA Board Officers

Mike Herrlein, President	277-8022
Sharon Deis, Vice-President	279-1964
Karen Drewing, Secretary	277-8877
Becky Drewing, Treasurer	277-6989
Bobbi Beyer, Beautification Committee	901-5286
Mary Faulkner, Meeting Hospitality	274-4652
Jan Flanik, Priority Board Representative	277-8285
Mike Fortunato, Priority Board Representative	903-3559
Connie Nisonger, Meeting Programs	274-3808
Ann Schenking, Membership Co-Chair	277-8022
Alan Starnes, Membership Co-Chair	278-9319
Ralph Westgerdes, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator	277-1313

The Samuel Jackson Story

by Sharon Deis

DeWeese Ridgecrest neighbors discovered a new woodland creature living among us this past summer - a wild dog. Surely he was dumped in the park, like so many before him, only this dog was different. This dog can hunt like a coyote, has the speed of a rabbit, and jumps like a deer. He was thriving in our woodland neighborhood, 5 minutes from downtown. He began frequenting dog homes and making fast friends. He was fearful of people and would not come close; however the dog families grew to love him.

He made daily rounds to many households. Some would feed him, all would water him, yet some were concerned about him. The families south of Siebenthaler were calling him Jack and the families north of Siebenthaler were calling him Sam. The media would later insist on one name, so together we decided on Samuel Jackson, it seemed perfect for him.

After many reports were called in to the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center (MCARC), they had to act. On August 29th the MCARC darted Samuel Jackson in our neighbor's backyard and took him into custody. Samuel Jackson failed the standard testing three times. He was not responsive to people and during the third assessment he bit a leash in half with one snap. The experts determined he would not be suitable for adoption and was condemned to death. We were heartbroken.

The neighbor who witnessed the darting began to reach out to other neighbors and discovered many, many neighbors loved this dog. The children demanded a petition be started and believed we could "Bring Jack Back" in other words, "Save Sam"! Neighbors began bringing their dogs to visit Samuel Jackson in the MCARC. Others got onto Google and began searching for help. Before you knew it, the media jumped on the story and began helping get the word out and assisted us in saving Samuel Jackson. MCARC agreed to allow the neighbors to have a final visit for prayers on September 4th before he would be euthanized at 3 p.m. During the final visitation, after many phone calls to politicians, 200+ signatures, and the visitation of the dogs, the MCARC Supervisor was surprised by Samuel Jackson's response.

The Center took a step back and agreed to release Samuel Jackson under certain conditions. A neighbor needed to come forward to claim the dog and the Wild Dog Rescue needed to commit to come take the dog by 3:00 p.m. the following day. Samuel Jackson had just been saved in the 11th hour, before he would have been put down. Amazing!

The next day at 2:00 p.m., Samuel Jackson was released into the custody of the owner of the Wild Dog Rescue, who drove six hours to save this dog. After a no-drama transfer, Samuel Jackson is eating well and learning how to relate to humans. It will be a long journey for him, and the DeWeese-Ridgecrest neighbors are proud to be a part of his journey.

If you want to follow the progress of Samuel Jackson, go to:

https://www.facebook.com/wilddogrescue

Leaves of Autumn *by Bobbi Beyer*

As the lush green colors of Summer start to transform into the golden, red and orange hues of Autumn, along with the thoughts of pumpkins and gourds comes the thoughts of all of the leaves that will soon be falling from the trees. Think of leaves as free fertilizer and free mulch. Here are some Fall Tips for Leaf Removal:

Fertilize your lawn. Mulch up your leaves with your lawn mower (you don't have to have a mulching mower to do this; any power lawn mower will mulch leaves). The leaf pieces should be no bigger than dime size. A study done by Michigan State University showed that mulched leaves have great nutrient value (they are carbon rich and provide a great source of nitrogen) and that lawns where leaves were mulched in place had fewer dandelions. Mulched leaves on lawns provide a food source for earthworms and microbes, thus enriching your soil naturally and creating a healthier, thicker lawn. So skip the rake and fertilizer and mulch those leaves into your lawn.

Make leaf mold. Leaf mold is a great top dress for flower and vegetable beds as it is rich in nutrients and adds lightness to the soil. You can create Leaf mold by putting your leaves into a pile and letting them rot.

Compost your leaves. Leaves are one of the most value compost materials because they are carbon rich and are small enough to incorporate into a compost bin or pile. Only use deciduous leaves. Wait until the leaves turn brown before adding them to the compost. You can also mulch up the leaves before adding them to the compost and it will speed up their decomposition. If you own some woods, you can also compost your leaves by putting them in your woods as leaves also enrich woodland soils.

Mulch your flower and vegetable beds. You can either use whole leaves or mulched leaves. Leaves make a great organic mulch as they add nutrients to the soil, keep the soil moist and shaded, and provide a great food source for earthworms and microbes that turn these leaves into enriched soil. You can also put mulched leaves around your shrubs and bushes.

Rake the leaves. There are three primary tools you will need if you choose to rake your leaves: a good rake, a large tarp and comfortable garden gloves. A large tarp comes in handy if you have a lot of leaves that you need to move. Raking leaves burns about 300 calories per hour while toning your arms and strengthening your back and leg muscles. Make sure that you stretch before your start raking to avoid muscle strains and don't try to do your whole yard at once.

Leaf vacuums are handy tools when it comes to mulching leaves for beds or the compost pile.

A leaf vacuum with a 10 to 1 ratio means that machine will convert 10 bags of leaves into 1 bag of mulch. They are very nice machines and work well.

Important and Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergencies	**911**	Waste Collection	**333-4800**
Police — non-emergency	**333-COPS** (333-2677)	Housing Inspectors	**333-3977**
Fire — non-emergency	**333-FIRE** (333-3473)	Water Emergency	**333-4905**
DP&L Power Outage	**1-877-468-8243**	Street Light Repair	**333-3850**
Northeast Priority Board	**333-2022**	Bulk Waste Pick-up	**333-4800**