

# DeWeese-Ridgecrest Civic Association

We have a lot planned for 2014. Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February Association Meeting	Monday, February 24	7:00 PM	Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue
April Association Meeting	Monday, April 21	7:00 PM	Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue
Neighborhood Garage Sale	Saturday, June 7	All day	Details and how to sign up will be available in May
Neighborhood Picnic	Saturday, June 14	3:00 PM to 7:00 PM	Triangle Park Large Picnic Shelter
Neighborhood Garden Tour	Saturday, June 21	All day	Numerous gardens throughout the DeWeese-Ridgecrest neighborhood
October Association Meeting	Monday, October 20	7:00 PM	Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue
December Association Meeting	Monday, December 15	7:00 PM	Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark Auditorium, 1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue



**WE WANT YOU**  
to be a DRCA Member in 2014!

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 next 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](mailto:aschenking@woh.rr.com).

**2014 DeWeese Ridgecrest Civic Association Dues**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(We are always 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

## The February DRCA Meeting will include Bridges, Gardens, Warm Conversation and Cold Facts

We all know it's been a brutal season. Arctic cold. Howling winds. Slippery ice and blowing snow. Cars that won't start and a winter that doesn't seem to want to quit.

This might be just the time we most need the warmth of companionship and the opportunity to share our tales of winter woe with one another. And to also look to the warming Spring ahead. Yes, it will thaw out someday!

Please join us on Monday evening, February 24<sup>th</sup> for the next DeWeese Ridgecrest Civic Association meeting.

We promise it will be much warmer in the Wegerzyn Auditorium than it will be outside. And there are some big events coming in the immediate future you'll want to learn about.

Several years ago the neighborhood got a great new bridge over the Stillwater River at Siebenthaler Avenue. We're now ready to break ground on an equally modern bridge at Ridge Avenue. Learn how the construction will affect you and what the new bridge will offer in amenities and convenience. Ask Stephanie Goff of the Montgomery County Engineer's Office; she'll be there to answer questions and to provide information.

Is there a better way to get your mind off winter than to picture a walk through a beautiful garden? How about eight of them? We'll be planning for this year's Garden Tour and Sharon Deis will lead the way.

Those topics and more are on the agenda. Dress warmly, wear your boots, and join us at Wegerzyn on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!**

**DRCA February Meeting**  
Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.

Wegerzyn Gardens  
MetroPark Auditorium  
1301 East Siebenthaler Avenue

**AGENDA**

- Ridge Avenue Bridge Replacement (Stephanie Goff, Montgomery County Engineer's Office)
- Previewing the June 21 Garden Tour (Sharon Deis)
- DRCA Officer Elections
- Crime Prevention Tips (Dayton Police Department)
- A Year in Review in DeWeese Ridgecrest (Mike Herrlein)
- Socializing and tasty refreshments

**February 2014**

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2013 DRCA Board Officers

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

The Benefits of Being a DeWeese Ridgecrest Civic Association Member

by Mike Herrlein

If you're not reading this online, then you're holding a copy of the DRCA Newsletter in your hands. Where did it come from? You found it tucked into your front storm door, or found it in your mailbox (Oops! We aren't supposed to do that) or a nice person walked up and handed it to you at your house. In any event, it reached your hands.

Statistically, you are probably not a dues-paying member of the neighborhood Association. How do I know? Well, fewer people in DeWeese-Ridgecrest have formally joined the Association than those that haven't yet.

Does that mean you aren't involved in your neighborhood or don't care about it? Of course not. You want to live in a nice home in a nice neighborhood with nice neighbors and you care about the world around you. If you had a choice, you probably chose

DeWeese-Ridgecrest because it's a very pleasant area, close to downtown yet woodsy and quiet. There are lots of parks, a couple of rivers and most people seem to keep their homes and yards in very nice shape.

So what's the point in joining a "civic association"? Isn't that for people with time on their hands. You know, the busybodies who need something to keep them occupied. Maybe it's for people who have a "cause" - like they're for something, or more likely they're against something. You know, those kind of people.

I have to admit, even though I have lived here for a number of years, I couldn't have given you a good answer until a year ago. I knew plenty of people who live around me, but I wasn't an active member of DRCA. That changed on the fateful day when I said yes to the offer being formally involved in the Association.

It's been an interesting experience. The first thing I learned was that DRCA fills a gap between people and the big systems (government, organizations) that make the world run. They put a human face on issues that affect you.



What's missing from this picture? Could it be YOU?

Then I learned that almost everything DRCA does happens without formal funding or outside management. It's a classic case of people who are just folks playing a part in how their community works. If you don't like the way things are, you can do something about it.

Finally, I discovered that the people in DRCA are selfish. Here's what I mean: Rather than being a bunch of do-gooders, I find that DRCA people do what they do because they get more rewards from their involvement than the effort they put into it. And that goes for me, too.

Attention All Gardeners or Those who Appreciate Beautiful Gardens - the 2014 DeWeese Ridgecrest Garden Tour will Happen on June 21 and You Can Be a Part of It!

by Sharon Deis

The DeWeese Ridgecrest Neighborhood will host a Garden Tour on June 21, 2014. We are looking for eight fantastic gardens to be part of the tour!

The neighborhood Garden Tour occurs biannually (or in other words, every two years) and always attracts a large and appreciative throng of visitors from throughout the area.

We try to rotate the participating gardens so that we provide as many D-R residents as possible with the opportunity to show off their efforts and provide tour visitors with new gardens every tour.

If you would like to host a garden, or if there is someone you would like to nominate to be a part of the tour, please provide the name, address,

and telephone number to Sharon Deis at 279-1964 or email me at sharon.deis@med.ge.com.

If you are more the type who wants to help with the background work, we are also seeking anyone who would enjoy planning, mulching or being part of the Garden Tour Tea Party during the event. We would love to have you join in on the fun!

Highlights from past Garden Tours...



There is a simple reason why so many DeWeese Ridgecrest residents have beautiful gardens. Our neighborhood attracts people who love nature, the outdoors, and just being active. But what's also striking is how much garden some folks can create in a small space, a modest side yard, or even a few containers. Not everyone needs an acre to create a masterpiece!



This rock garden rocks!



OK, there's a pond, a farm, several waterfalls, a small community of homes and businesses, a lighthouse (of course), covered bridges, rock walls, stone walls, not to mention a three ring circus. And yet Jerry Humston has actually found spaces to raise a variety of plants and flowers. It's an amazing garden!

# Talking Trash - Bulk Trash, That Is... *by Ann Schenking*



What's bulk trash?

Basically it's anything that won't fit in your big green roll-out trash container. For example, furniture, carpet, tree limbs, tires and appliances.

The City of Dayton offers free bulk trash pick-up once a month. Upcoming 2014 bulk trash pick-up dates for the DeWeese Ridgecrest neighborhood are:

- February 28
- March 28
- April 25
- May 23
- June 27
- July 25
- August 22
- September 26
- October 24

So let's say you have bulk trash. How do you get it picked up?

**Bulk pick-ups must be requested and scheduled in advance,** so first call the Public Works Call Center at **333-4800** between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to request a pick up.

You will need to list the types of materials to be collected. This is important because city crews are only able to pick up what's on the list. If it's not on the list, there's a good chance it won't be picked up.

Don't wait until the day before to request a pick-up; call a few days or more in advance. Be kind to your neighbors and wait until after 3:00 p.m. of the day **before** the scheduled pick-up to set out your bulk trash items. City crews begin pick-ups at 6:30 a.m. the day of the pick-up.

- Separate metal items (stoves, refrigerators, etc.) from other bulk items because metal items are picked up by a separate truck. Remember to remove refrigerator doors so nothing (or no one) can get trapped inside.
- All loose and small items must be securely contained, bundled or bagged for easy pickup.

- Yard waste (brush, hedges, tree limbs, etc.) must be tied into bundles not larger than four feet long and 18 inches in diameter, otherwise they are too big to get into the truck.
- Bundles are limited to 25 pounds each so they aren't too heavy for crews to pick up and toss into the truck.
- Sorry, the City cannot pick up concrete, rocks, brick blocks, sand, gravel, or hazardous waste.

What if you see bulk trash in the neighborhood looking forlorn? Please do the neighborhood a favor and call the Public Works Call Center at **333-4800** and ask if a bulk pick up is scheduled. If one isn't, you can ask that it be picked up. **You don't need to be the property owner or tenant to call for a bulk trash pick-up.** The Call Center will need the address of the bulk trash and a description of the items to be picked up.

recycling container and the City will do the rest. Call **333-4800** to receive either a "Big Bin" 96-gallon recycling container or the smaller 32-gallon recycling container. Each household is entitled to one container.

## Sometimes it's just... Too Good to Throw Away

Not everything is trash! Paper, cans, many plastics, bottles and other glass containers? Recycling in the City of Dayton is easy and convenient because there is no sorting or separating required. Just pitch all of your recyclables into a

# Old Man Winter's Freeze *by Bobbi Beyer*



This winter has been extremely snowy and bitterly cold....a winter we haven't experienced in several years. Most people think that there is nothing good coming from this winter. However, I beg to differ. All of the snow accumulation that we have received is going to help replenish our soil that was devastated two years ago with the drought we had, with much needed moisture that will be beneficial to our plants, trees and lawns.

The bitter cold is also going to provide us a little reprieve from the devastating effects of the Emerald Ash Borer as notable U.S. foresters are predicting the extremely temperatures will probably reduce the Emerald Ash Borer population in Ohio by 10-20%. Other annoying insects like ticks and mosquitoes might also be less in numbers this year, as

these insects don't winter over well in extremely cold temperatures.

For our lawns, the extreme cold and deep snow might cause some stress, especially if grass seed was planted in late fall as their tender roots might not be able to survive these extremes. New grass seed might need to be re-planted to replace what was planted in the fall.

For already established grass that appears to be stressed, such as blades laying flat or the grass appearing yellow or pinkish, you just need to take out your leaf rake and lightly rake your lawn. The raking of the lawn will allow the grass blades to straighten up and dry out properly. Dropping the mower blade to one inch lower than the normal height that you cut your grass in spring will help to remove the damaged layers of grass and help stimulate the grass

to grow. After the first couple of grass cuttings in the spring, your lawn should be greening up.

All of the snow fall and the freezing weather has provided some of the most beautiful scenery on the trails in the local metro parks. Tracks crisscrossing the trails tell a story of life that is still thriving in these extreme conditions. Deer, with their grayish brown coats, and birds, such as cardinals, chickadees, nuthatches, provide a colorful sight to a wintery backdrop. The freezing temperatures have transformed the flowing waterfalls in Englewood Metro Park into shining ice sculptures. This winter's snow has given our youth the chance to take advantage of hitting the slopes with their sleds, toboggans and snowboards.

If winter isn't your thing, relax. Spring is only six weeks away.

## Important and Useful Telephone Numbers

Emergencies	<b>911</b>	Waste Collection	<b>333-4800</b>
Police - non-emergency	<b>333-COPS</b> (333-2677)	Housing Inspectors	<b>333-3977</b>
Fire - non-emergency	<b>333-FIRE</b> (333-3473)	Water Emergency	<b>333-4905</b>
DP&L Power Outage	<b>1-877-468-8243</b>	Street Light Repair	<b>333-3850</b>
Northeast Priority Board	<b>333-3670</b>	Bulk Waste Pick-up	<b>333-4800</b>

## Our Neighborhood Loses a Bit of History but Gains a Much Needed New Bridge *by Stephanie Goff, P.E., P.S.*



Montgomery County, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Transportation, the City of Dayton and the County Engineers Association of Ohio, is replacing the existing Ridge Avenue Bridge over the Stillwater River.

This project will replace a two-span steel girder bridge constructed in 1927 with three spans of pre-stressed concrete I-beams on reinforced concrete wall type abutments and wall type piers. The project includes the installation of a left-turn lane from westbound Ridge Avenue onto Riverside Drive and a left-turn lane from eastbound Ridge Avenue onto Riverside Drive.

The new bridge will provide 10-foot wide sidewalks, an improvement over the current 6-foot sidewalks on the structure. The project will also include improvements to the existing bus stop located at the southeast corner of Ridge Avenue and Riverside Drive.

### Location

This project is located on Ridge Avenue which crosses over the Stillwater

River in the City of Dayton. The bridge extends between DeWeese Park to the North, Triangle Park to the South and Riverside Drive to the west. Ridge Avenue is an urban collector, carrying approximately 4,900 vehicles per day.

### Closure and Detour

Ridge Avenue between Riverside Drive and DeWeese Parkway will be closed to traffic during bridge construction and detours will be in place for vehicular, canoe, pedestrian and bike traffic.

Work will begin on the project on Monday, February 17, 2014.

The bridge will close to vehicular traffic on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 and remain closed until September 2015. Ridge Avenue will be closed between Riverside Drive and DeWeese Parkway during the construction. The detour route will begin just north of the bridge. The detour route will be north on Riverside Drive to Siebenthaler

Avenue, east on Siebenthaler Avenue, and south on Ridge Avenue.

The Stillwater Bikeway under Ridge Avenue will be detoured during construction beginning Monday, February 17, 2014. The bikeway will remain closed until September 2015. The detour will begin just north of the bridge. The detour route will be on DeWeese Parkway, across Ridge Avenue, along the south edge of the parking lot east of Ridge Avenue, and onto the Great Miami River Trail. Bicyclists can then follow the Great Miami Trail south back to the Stillwater River Trail at the bikeway bridge to Island Metro Park.

### Why a New Bridge is Needed

The existing bridge has a sufficiency rating of 45.1 (structurally deficient) and a general appraisal rating of 4 (poor/serious). Conditions noted at the time of the bridge inspection included advanced section loss, deterioration, spalling, and scour. The superstructure and substructure each received a "poor condition" rating and the deck received a "critical condition" rating. Retaining walls on the eastern approach are in poor condition. The guardrail on the east approach to the bridge has several areas of damage.

### The Proposed Structure

This project will replace a two-span steel girder bridge constructed in 1927 with three spans of pre-stressed concrete I-beams on reinforced concrete wall type abutments and wall type piers. Ridge Avenue will be realigned between Riverside

Drive and DeWeese Parkway to soften the curve and to transition from two lanes to three lanes on the bridge. The roadway will be 35' wide with 10' wide sidewalks. The project provides an opportunity to undertake other improvements to the benefit of area residents and motorists.

The project includes the installation of a left-turn lane from westbound Ridge Avenue onto Riverside Drive and a left-turn lane from eastbound Ridge Avenue onto Riverside Drive. The project will also include improvements to the existing bus stop located at the southeast corner of Ridge Avenue and Riverside Drive.

### History

This project has involved significant public involvement to determine the appearance of the replacement structure and the history of honoring World War I veterans will continue. Montgomery County Engineer's Office has worked hand in hand with the City of Dayton on this joint project.

The original decorative "bump-outs" east of the bridge featuring memorials to local WWI servicemen ["D" Battery] are still present. One of the plaques titles the bridge "Artillery Memorial Bridge". The new structure will include "bump-outs" east of the bridge and



the WWI memorial features will be reinstalled after construction. The site is an important monument to veterans recruited from the area who served in that artillery battery in WWI.

### Costs

Bids were taken for the project on January 8, 2014 and the contract was awarded to Brumbaugh Construction Inc. of Arcanum, Ohio on February 11, 2014 for \$5,283,170.00. Federal funds were secured for the construction of the project through the County Engineers Association of Ohio. \$4,901,191.55 is funded with Federal Funds and \$381,978.45 is funded with Montgomery County



### Will We Lose a Ghost? The Legend of the Bessie Little Bridge

Many of you may not be aware that the current Ridge Avenue bridge site is one of Ohio's Ghostly Greats, and was known also as the Bessie Little Bridge. It is said that the ghost of a murdered girl named Bessie Little returns regularly to this bridge site. She was murdered at this site on August 27, 1896 by her boyfriend, Albert J. Frantz. Bessie was pregnant and Albert didn't want to have to marry her, so he shot her in the head and arranged the scene to suggest a suicide. For some reason, however, he shot her twice, so it was obvious that she hadn't done it to herself. On November 19, 1897, Albert J. Frantz was strapped into the electric chair of the Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus and put to death for first degree murder. The legend says Bessie Little's ghost continues to haunt the bridge site to this day.