

North Ridgeville Community Connection

Quarterly Newsletter of the City of North Ridgeville ~ July 2013

7307 Avon Belden Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039 (440) 353-0819

Visit us at www.nridgeville.org

Mayor's Message...

Kitten Controversy

Probably the biggest controversy since I have been Mayor, I wanted to let the community know what we are doing to follow up on the situation.

We have met twice with the Friendship Animal Protective League, who is the designated legal agency in Lorain County in regards to animal control. We appreciate their input, and look forward to working more closely with them in the future to revise and develop policy for responding to nuisance animal complaints, and building strategies for addressing the unfortunate problem of unwanted animals which continues to exist in our City.



Mayor H. David Willock

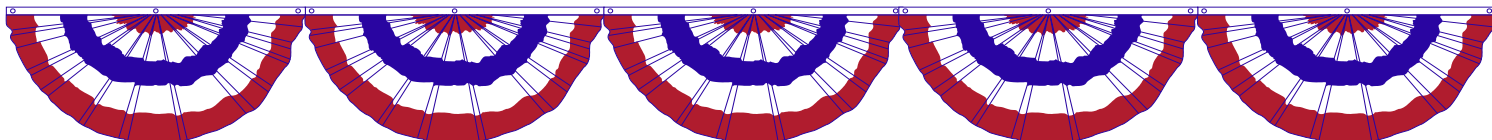
The City will continue to offer assistance to our residents for these situations, but our City personnel will no longer respond to calls involving cats. What we will do, depending upon availability, is provide traps to our residents so they can trap the cats and deal with them in the appropriate humane manner, hopefully with the assistance of the local APL and any willing animal rescue organizations, if the same are available and able to assist.

We are also in the preliminary stages of putting together a list of community members, essentially a Community Action Committee of volunteers who we expect will assist residents who find themselves with a problem involving stray or feral cats, and who will provide continued input to the City Administration concerning the same.

Every situation is different. Some cats might be able to be neutered and kept by the property owners. Others might require that they be removed from the premises. In certain situations, such as when there are a large number of stray or feral cats or "cat colonies," the Friendship Animal Protective League has offered their assistance. It will be up to the property owner to make this decision.

Safety of our residents is always paramount when dealing with animals such as these. Although I recognize and understand the dissatisfaction which has and continues to be quite vehemently expressed concerning the manner by which our animal control officer responded to the specific complaint which has focused so much attention on our City, I believe it is important to remind those looking in that his response and eventual action was precipitated by a distressed call from the resident claiming the cats were causing a health risk to her family. Although I will repeat that the manner in which the officer responded, and the destruction of the cats by a City employee, will no longer be an action authorized or permitted by this Administration, it is very important to note that at the time of the subject's response, his action was within the parameters of department policy.

While calls concerning wild or problem cats are relatively few, when a resident does call it is usually because of undesired interaction between the animals and the resident. The City's responses and service which has historically been available to the resident in North Ridgeville will no longer be available, and the matters will be referred to the local APL and any willing rescue organizations. The Police or Animal Control Officer will provide limited assistance if requested by those organizations, or of course in emergency situations. I am hopeful that these new procedures and protocols that we have and are continuing to develop with the assistance of the local humane society will give the resident the tools they can use to remedy the situation safely and effectively, as well as in a manner in which the individual deems ethical and humane.



Safety Tips from the Police Department

With summer upon us, many of us will take advantage of the weather to enjoy outdoor activities, go on vacation and take their families to fun places. For criminals, however, it's a very busy time of year. It can be easy to forget to close a door or window, but if they are left open it creates an easy opportunity for a thief or burglar. Criminals focus on easy targets; make it difficult for them to choose you. The North Ridgeville Police Department wants to remind you of some tips to keep yourself, your family, your home and your valuables safe.

At Home:

- Always lock your doors and windows especially at night and when you're away.
- Close your garage and pet doors.
- Secure ladders and tools so they can't be used to gain entry into your home.
- Be wary of anyone who approaches your front door and don't let them take up too much of your time. Criminals work together; one will come to your door and distract you while the other sneaks into your home. Ask for an ID of a utility person.
- Be a good neighbor, look out for one another.
- Excessive dog barking could be a sign of an intruder and may warrant a call to the police.
- Report suspicious activity to the Police Department's non-emergency line (440) 327-2191.

When going on vacation:

- Lock up your home, activate your alarm.
- Don't broadcast your plans on social media.
- Hold the delivery of your mail and newspaper or ask a trusted friend to pick them up for you.
- Buy a timer for your lights and set them in a random pattern.
- Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway.
- Contact the NRPD and get on the vacation watch list so the NRPD Auxiliary can help keep an eye on your home.
- If you are going to be gone from your home for a long period of time, make arrangements to have your grass mowed.
- Contact a neighbor/friend to bring in your garbage cans.

Car Safety:

- Never leave your car running unattended, even to run into a store.
- Always roll up your windows and lock your car even in hot weather.
- Never leave valuables in plain sight.
- Park cars in well-lit areas.
- Never leave any keys in the car or ignition.

Bike Safety:

- Always wear a helmet.
- Follow the rules of the road.
- Ride with the flow of traffic, not against it.
- Wear bright-colored or reflective clothing.
- If you're not riding, lock your bike.
- Parents, set parameters on where kids are allowed to ride.



Pictures are from this year's Safetyville Program that was held in mid-June. The program provided an educational setting for 234 children entering Kindergarten in the fall. The children were taught crucial skills such as traffic, school bus, bicycle and pedestrian safety, stranger danger, 911, drug safety and fire safety.





Update on Street Repairs, Paving Projects and Waterline Replacements

Full-Depth Concrete Street Repair Projects. The City has completed its 2013 full-depth street repair projects and was able to replace 3,300 square yards of concrete on the following streets: Bayberry Circle, Deborah Drive, Elyria Street at Main Avenue, Gem Circle, Jade Circle, Jewel Circle, Main Avenue, North Barton Road at Englewood Court, North Mills Creek Lane at Shady Moss Lane, Paula Boulevard at James Road, Pleasant Avenue, Sourbrook Lane and Topaz Court.

Chestnut Ridge Road Repaving Project. The design work and bid process for the Chestnut Ridge Road Phase 2B repaving project is underway. The anticipated construction will begin in August 2013. The Phase 2B repaving project begins 2,200 feet east of Lear Nagle Road to the county line and includes repaving the driving surface with asphalt, a slight widening of the driving lanes to eleven feet wide, some sidewalk replacements and the addition of a four-foot shoulder. The total length of the project is approximately 1,750 feet. One way traffic will be maintained during construction.

Asphalt Milling and Paving Projects. Otten Road and Bender Road will be tarred and chipped; Chestnut Ridge Road from relocated Route 83 to Eaton Township line, Barres Road from Meadow Lakes Blvd. to Otten Road, and Cross Street will be milled and paved. All of the above projects are expected to be completed by the end of July or early August.

Waterline Replacement Projects. The design work and bid process are underway for waterline replacement projects on South Barton Road, Cornell Avenue and Denise Drive. Construction should begin sometime in August or September. Traffic will be maintained during the construction.

Planning Home Improvements? Don't Forget Your Permit

Building permits are required for most home improvement projects including additions, alterations, decks, sheds/barns, fences, swimming pools, replacement windows, re-siding and re-roofing. When in doubt, contact the Building Department to inquire what other projects may require a permit. Building permits benefit the occupants/owners of the property and the city. These permits insure good construction practices and a safe environment in the city through the required inspections. All applicants are informed of necessary inspections when permits are issued.

Depending on the home improvement project, supporting drawings may be required along with the application. The Building Department's certified plan examiners will review your plans to insure the intended construction complies with the Residential Code of Ohio, local zoning ordinances and other applicable regulations. It is important that you review your plans carefully when you receive your permit before proceeding with your project. Often the plan examiner will make important code required notes or changes in red.

Prior to hiring a contractor to conduct any work on your property, contact the Building Department to insure the company is licensed and bonded to work in the City of North Ridgeville. The Building Department is located in City Hall at 7307 Avon Belden Road, hours are Monday-Friday from 8 AM-4:30 PM, and their phone number is (440) 353-0822.

City Receives Funding from ODOT Safe Routes to School Program

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Safe Routes to School Program provides funds to eligible applicants for projects that enable or encourage children, including those with disabilities, in grades K-8 to walk or ride their bikes to school. In partnership with the North Ridgeville City School District, the City formed a Safe Routes to School Committee comprised of city, school district and community members to identify areas of concern surrounding the schools that serve K-8 students.

After nearly a year-long process, a School Travel Plan was completed and approved by ODOT, and an application for funding was made by the March 1, 2013 deadline. Late in May, the City received notification that a portion of the city's Safe Routes to School infrastructure application was selected for funding in the amount of \$376,000. In addition, the school district received notification that a portion of their non-infrastructure application for educational purposes received funding in the amount of \$22,000.

On June 27, 2013, representatives from ODOT completed an on-site visit to further identify the project's eligibility. Based on their review, the City will move forward with the engineering design to include sidewalks, crosswalks and signage around Lear North Elementary, Liberty Elementary and Wilcox Elementary. The work should begin sometime during the summer of 2014.

Community Calendar

- ★ DAILY SPLASH PAD is open daily from 10 AM-8 PM at South Central Park through September 2. The splash pad is free and open to North Ridgeville residents only.
- ★ August 5, 19 CITY COUNCIL meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- ★ August 9, 10, 11 CORN FESTIVAL on Bainbridge Road between Root & Avon Belden Roads. Friday 6-11 PM; Opening Ceremonies at 7 PM; Golden Kernel Award 7:15 PM; Saturday 11 AM-11 PM; Sunday 12-6 PM; Grande Parade 2 PM. For more information and a complete listing of events, visit www.nrcornfest.org or call 1-440-218-9802.
- ★ August 16 DINO TO DIAMOND fundraising concert with Scott Brotherton at the North Ridgeville Education Center, 5490 Mills Creek Lane, from 2-3 PM. Advance tickets are \$6 and can be purchased at the Senior Center; \$8 at the door.
- ★ September 2 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED in observance of Labor Day.
- ★ September 3, 16 CITY COUNCIL meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- ★ September 18 BIG BAND DANCE at DeLuca's Place in the Park, 6075 Middle Ridge Road in Lorain, from 7-10 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the Senior Center.
- ★ September 27 SPAGHETTI DINNER at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.
- ★ October 7, 21 CITY COUNCIL meeting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- ★ October 11, 12 SPOOKVILLE at South Central Park from 6-9 PM. Visit the spooktacular haunted forest walk along a 1/4 mile trail at a cost of \$2 per person. This event can be enjoyed by children of all ages. Spookville is presented by the North Ridgeville Lions Club.
- ★ October 12 FALL FEST is a free event that is held from 4-6 PM at South Central Park. Come out and enjoy an interactive DJ, pumpkin painting, face painting, magic, straw fight and hay rides (weather permitting); food vendors will also be available. Sponsored by the North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation.
- ★ October 19 LORAIN COUNTY SHRED DAY at the Lorain County Solid Waste District Collection Center, 540 South Abbe Road in Elyria, from 9 AM-noon. Free to Lorain County residents; must present ID to show proof of residency. Limit 5 boxes or 5 blue grocery bags per vehicle. For more information, call the Collection Center at (440) 329-5440.
- ★ October 25 SPAGHETTI DINNER at the Senior Center from 5-7 PM. Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$4 children 10 and under. Take-out available.
- ★ October 25 TOTS TRICK-OR-TREAT at 1 PM at City Hall. Bring out your little witches and goblins to march in a parade and gather treats donated by city employees. This is a free event for ages up to 5 years old. Please pre-register by October 23 by visiting the Parks & Recreation Department's website or by calling (440) 353-0860.
- ★ October 31 TRICK-OR-TREAT will be observed 6-7:30 PM - citywide.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

For up-to-date class and program information, please visit the Parks & Recreation's website at: www.nridgeville.org/parksandrec or call 353-0860. Watch for the fall issue of the Rec Gazette in your August utility bill for a detailed listing of events.

SENIOR CENTER NOTES

Reservations are required for the following events.

To make reservations or to obtain a complete listing of activities, please call 353-0828.

TAI-CHI, August 20 demonstration and August 27 balance demonstration at the Senior Center from 10-11 AM.

"YOUNG AT HEART" BREAKFAST, August 29 at 9:30 AM, Felicia King, Ohio Attorney General's Office, presentation on senior scams.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & CAR SHOW, September 5 from 9-10 AM at the Senior Center; cost \$3.

SUMMER SOCIAL PICNIC, September 11 at the Senior Center from 10 AM-2 PM; cost \$3.25.

SENIOR FAIR, October 29 at the Senior Center from 10 AM-2 PM (information, health and more).

SOCIAL, LUNCH & BINGO meets every Wednesday at the Senior Center from 10 AM-2 PM; cost \$3.25.

MEN'S BREAKFAST, first and third Thursday each month at the Senior Center from 9-10 AM; cost \$3.

WOMEN'S BRUNCH, fourth Thursday each month at the Senior Center from 10:30-11:30 AM; cost \$3.

BLOOD PRESSURE TESTING, third Wednesday each month at the Senior Center from 9 AM-noon.

FOOT CLINIC, Wednesdays, August 21, September 25 and October 23 at the Senior Center from 8-11 AM.

SUPER THURSDAY LUNCH, second Thursday each month at the Senior Center at noon; cost \$5.

CANASTA meets every Wednesday at the Senior Center from 12:30-4 PM. PINOCHLE and EUCHRE meets every Thursday at the Senior Center from noon-4 PM. If interested in joining a group, please call Shelly at 353-0835.