



# Riverlea

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## Our Aging Infrastructure: What You Need to Know

*Eric MacGilvray, Council President*

As many of you know, the physical infrastructure in Riverlea is nearing the end of its useful life. Repairing and replacing it is the main challenge facing the Village over the next several years. Planning for that process has been one of the main topics of discussion among Village officials over the past several years. This article will bring you all up to date on what work needs to be done and what the financial implications are likely to be. We will of course make every effort to keep you informed as things progress from here.

### What needs to be done?

The Village's physical infrastructure can be divided into four main categories: streets and curbs, water lines, sanitary sewers, and storm sewers.

**1. Streets and curbs.** The streets in Riverlea were last paved in the early 1980s. At that time the asphalt surface was extended over the gutter pan, leaving only the vertical part of the curbs exposed. Since then the Village has been patching holes as necessary and has periodically applied a "slurry seal" over the

entire surface, most recently in 2010. The slurry seal is a thin layer of asphalt – about 1/8 of an inch on average – which seals cracks and other imperfections to maintain a smooth driving surface. It can be expected to last 5-7 years on streets with our level of traffic.



As you know, the curbs are in poor condition and crumbling in many places. Moreover, the repeated application of slurry seal over the original surface means that they are now very low relative to the grade of the street in some areas, creating drainage problems. There's no way to mill down the street surface and repave without destroying

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**Riverlea News**

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## Our Aging Infrastructure *cont.*

*We're also fortunate that, while our infrastructure is old and deteriorating, we're not in a crisis situation and can therefore be somewhat flexible about when the work is done.*

the original gutter pan, which is probably in poor condition anyway. That means that the curbs will need to be reconstructed when the streets are resurfaced, increasing the cost substantially. A new street surface can be expected to last for 20-30 years, and the curbs considerably longer than that. The cost of this project has been estimated at about \$4.2 million.

**2. Water lines.** We're still using the original water lines that were installed when the Village was platted in the 1920s, and that have been in active (and increasing) use since construction of houses began in the 1930s. Our history of water line breaks has actually been pretty good. Apparently we've had fewer breaks than the parts of Worthington with lines of similar vintage. However the expected life of water lines is typically on the order of 75-100 years. We can see from places where the lines have broken that the pipes are corroded and partially blocked from sediment buildup. Because the water lines run under the streets, it would be foolish to invest in a new street surface when it's likely that we'll have to tear it up to replace the water lines in the near future. The cost of this project has been estimated at about \$2.4 million.

**3. Sanitary sewers.** The sanitary sewer system, like the water lines, is as old as the

Village itself. Riverlea, like all Columbus-area municipalities, was placed under a mandate by the Ohio EPA in 2009 to inspect its sanitary sewer system and make repairs as necessary. This inspection has been done and the necessary repairs will begin in the late summer and early fall of 2013, at a cost of \$665,000. As many of you know, the Village successfully applied for a 30-year interest-free loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission to cover the cost of this project. The \$22,000 annual cost of servicing this loan (the real cost of which will decline over time) can and will be covered through the Village's operating budget.

**Lift station.** Some of you may recall from the annexation discussions in 2011 that the Village was planning to remove the sanitary sewer lift station and connect our system to a new gravity sewer line running in from Worthington and out through Rush Run Park, at a cost of \$350,000. The City of Columbus blocked that project because they're not willing to have a large sewer line run through the park. That means that this expense is now off the table. The Village will continue to be responsible for the cost of maintaining the lift station and force main (the pressurized pipe that transfers sewage from the lift station back into



the gravity sewer) for the foreseeable future.

**4. Storm sewers.** The storm sewers are also original to the Village. We know very little about their condition, although we aren't aware of any serious issues. However, since the storm sewer system runs adjacent to and under the streets, it would be prudent to identify any problems now so that the necessary repairs can be done in conjunction with the street and water line work. Council has recently approved a mapping and inspection of the system to determine what work, if any, is needed.

### How are we going to pay for this?

As you can see, the known cost of the outstanding repairs has been estimated in the range of \$6.5 million. The unknown costs for storm sewer repairs, lift station upgrades, and possible force main repairs or replacement could push the total infrastructure cost up to \$7.5 million. Those are big numbers for a small community like ours, but the cost can be spread over 30 years via a loan or bond issue. Looked at that way, the cost works out to an average of about \$950 a year, plus interest, for each household, more or less depending on the value of your home (\$6.5 to \$7.5 million ÷ 230 households/30 years). We can think of that as a very rough cut at a worst case scenario.

Fortunately, the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) has a generous program to assist small municipalities with infrastructure repairs. As I said, the Village has already taken advantage of this program to fund our sanitary sewer work, and having applied once, we're



now familiar with how the grant writing process works. We're also fortunate that, while our infrastructure is old and deteriorating, we're not in a crisis situation and can therefore be somewhat flexible about when the work is done. That means that we can afford to take several cracks at getting state funding before we need to go to the voters for a bond issue.

There's no way to know in advance how much support from the state we will ultimately get, but we're optimistic that the OPWC will help us to cover a substantial part of the cost. There's a chance that all of it can be covered through a mix of grants and low-interest loans. The Village is also eligible for assistance from other programs administered by the state and federal governments, and we will be aggressive about pursuing those funding sources as well.

**The bottom line is that the Village will face significant challenges in the coming years as it overhauls its aging infrastructure.** The good news is that we've identified promising funding sources that will help us to minimize the financial burden on residents. We look forward to working with you all to get our infrastructure working as it should, and to set the Village on firm footing for the next several decades. 🍷

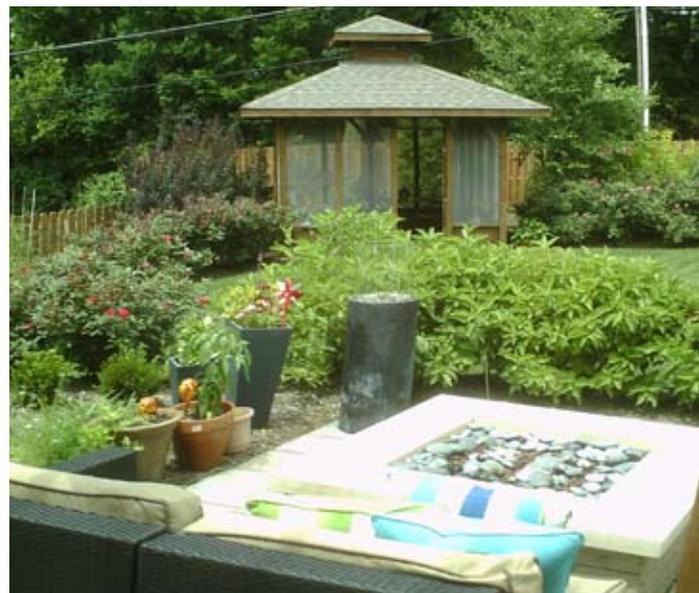




# Thank you, Riverlea

*The Home and Garden Tour Committee*

The Home and Garden Tour Committee of the Worthington Historical Society thanks you, Riverlea residents, for your warm and gracious hospitality in sharing your homes and gardens during the tour July 14th. Many of the tour-goers were not familiar with Riverlea, and were delighted to be met with such friendliness, beautiful homes and gardens, and welcoming attitude. The tour did exceptionally well, and proceeds support their three properties and educational programs for children in the Worthington School District, St. Michael School and Grace Brethren School. 📍





## La Chouffe Beer Tasting Event at La Chatelaine in Worthington

Jeff Colwell

On April 11, 2013 *La Chatelaine* in Worthington had a beer tasting event that focused on the range of beers offered by the Achouffe Brewery located in Achouffe Belgium. The evening was hosted by the restaurant manager, Jacob Collar, and the local distributor's representative. Both were available to answer questions and to set the stage for each serving. Fourteen of us that were seated in a separate room where we were able to meet new people and share notes on the beers and the food.

Five beers, each complemented by five small plates from appetizer to dessert, were served. The small plates were based on the full entrees available at the restaurant and were the perfect size as we tasted them with the selected beers. Belgian beers can have high alcohol content so the serving size of each beer was small to allow us to pace ourselves throughout the evening while still getting enough of each beer/food combination. All of these beers are unfiltered and refermented in the bottle.

- The first pairing was their summer pale ale, *Biere du Soleil* (4.5%ABV) with Belgian style fries served with mayon-

naise for dipping. This is a light summer ale with a yellow-orange color and a dry quenching citrus and spice flavor that worked well with the fries.

- The second pairing was Achouffe's take on an IPA, the *Houblon Chouffe* (9%ABV), and an arugula salad. *Houblon Chouffe* is a relatively new entry for Achouffe, and in my opinion was the highlight of the night. The spice and fruitiness provided a great balance to the bitterness of the hops that one normally gets with an IPA. The arugula salad was dressed with a light lemon juice and olive oil mix, and really complemented this beer.
- The third beer was *La Chouffe*, a strong ale (8%ABV), that I already like. It is fruity and spiced with coriander with a light hop taste. It was paired with Stan's (the owner) seafood sausage served on a toasted brioche with tarragon mayonnaise. While seafood and sausage are generally two words that I don't usually associate together, this sausage is excellent and you should try it if you get the chance.

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## Running in the Streets

*Josh Mehling*

Many residents may not be aware, but Riverlea is home to not one, but two groups of runners who frequent our streets. The first group is a running club made up of women from Riverlea as well as surrounding areas. They have dubbed themselves the **5:45 Club**, named for the time the starting time of the runs on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. In addition to these weekday runs, the group also runs at 7:30 AM on Saturdays and 8:00 AM on Sundays. Starting from the corner of South and High streets, their route is about 4.5 miles on weekdays and 5 miles on weekends. Local members include **Laura Bischoff, Katarina Levine, Kristin Scott, Nancy Derian, and Allison Macerollo.**

The second group of Riverlea runners is known as Marathoners in Training, or MIT. This group, which is open to people

who would like to train for a half or full marathon, holds workouts on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings. This group is open to runners across Columbus, though there are several Riverlea members. Jeff Henderson, the organizer of this group, says that he selected Riverlea for training for several reasons, including the safety of the streets, the shade provided by the trees, and the hill training provided by the incline of the roads. An added benefit of Riverlea is the ability to set up a meeting and hydration spot in the Circle, out of the way of traffic. Henderson's history with Riverlea dates back to when he ran in high school and later coached the Cross Country team at Thomas Worthington High School.

For more information on MIT, go to [www.fleetfeetcolumbus.com/training/marathon-training](http://www.fleetfeetcolumbus.com/training/marathon-training).



## Riding in the Streets

*Max Forloine, age 11*

Riding your bike, scooter, etc., down West Riverglen Drive or taking a turn on Pioneer's Court, then up the hilly West Southington Avenue, is a great place to ride your bike through Riverlea. But, don't take your hands off the handle bars—hint, hint, I fell off and skinned my knee—bad idea!

You can feel safe riding in our neighborhood because the neighbors and local police are always keeping an eye on things. ***So kids, remember to do your part: put on your helmet, ride with the traffic, and keep your eyes on the road!***

## La Chatelaine *cont. from page 5*

- The fourth beer was a strong dark ale, *McChouffe* (8%ABV) which is brewed in the style of a Scottish ale. It has a fruity flavor with just a hint of bitterness. It paired well with La Chatelaine's popular Beef Bourguignon served with mashed potatoes and puff pastry.
- The final beer was a dark winter ale, *N'ice Chouffe* (10%ABV), which was served with a chocolate-orange ganache tart. The beer was practically a dessert by itself. It is dark red in color and has thyme, curacao and light citrus flavors. The chocolate tart was excellent.

All in all this was a great event – well planned and well executed – and worth the \$40 per person cost. Pam and I also came home with souvenir tulip glasses with the La Chouffe logo as part of the deal.

# Still haven't found what you're looking for?

Pattie Charles

If U2's hit song, *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*, plays in your head while you're looking for an address in our Village, well...you are not alone.

Welcome to the 5800 block of Dover Court. From looking at our little street, you would likely conclude that there are 4 houses, 5 driveways (Mike has two of everything), 12 people and 4 dogs. And you would be wrong. Officially (and I'm not sure who officiated) there are 3 houses, 3 driveways, 11 people and 3 dogs. And, they are not the ones you would think they are. In fact, our neighbors on the east side of our street don't even live here! One family lives on Southington and the other lives on Frontenac. This is crazy, you say? Well, it gets even crazier.

Not that long ago, two of my neighbors and I were trying to help a delivery driver find 5795 Dover Court. We were stumped. The 5700 block of Dover Court runs south of Southington. And the first address in our block to the north is 5803. All three of us told the driver he must have been given an incorrect address. But he had delivered in our neighborhood before, and he had a

hunch it was lurking around a corner. He was right. Once he told us the name of the resident he was looking for, we were able to say "Oh, of course, they live right there." That house is on the north side of Southington, facing Southington.

What's behind our village's mangled mess of street addresses? There are at least two interesting legends to consider. One is that both the lot numbers and street addresses were assigned simultaneously as the Village was plotted—before lots were purchased and houses designed. The other (and the one that I favor) is that early Riverleans placed quite a high value on their governmental independence. And so, it is rumored, they simply made it difficult for outsiders to find them.

There is a moral to this quirky little story...know thy neighbor and thy neighbor's name. Because for many of us, this is the village Where the streets have no (correct) Name if your house is on a corner lot.

Pattie Charles  
5825 Dover Court (we were spared)  
With help from Bill and U2



but i still haven't found what i'm looking for  
but i still haven't found what i'm looking for  
but i still haven't found what i'm looking for



## It's here: the *Riverlea Quarterly*

### Good to Know

Council Meeting  
August 19th, 2013  
Thomas Worthington  
High School  
7:00 pm, Room 127

Trash Pickup  
Tuesday, September 3,  
2013

August 2013 marks the publication of the *Riverlea Quarterly*, a new publication with news and information about Riverlea. It has been designed to be more like a magazine.

### All residents will receive the *Quarterly*.

Issues will have regular features such as a Kid's Corner, restaurant reviews, and social news. Each edition will have a theme with related articles. Riverlea resident Chris Coe, Senior Partner, **Salvato + Coe Group**, a local graphic design and brand development firm, has donated his expertise to create the *Quarterly*. Riverlea resident Tod Haman, owner of **Haman Midwest**, a commercial printing company located in Worthington has donated printing and distribution services. The *Quarterly* could not have become a reality without the generosity of these residents.

The *Riverlea News* will be published in those months when the *Quarterly* isn't published. It will be sent to those who have chosen to receive printed copies. The

*News* will still be available online (for those who have opted out of the printed copy).

Many thanks are due the Communication Committee for their efforts in developing the *Quarterly*: Council member Jon Ankrom, chair, Greg Bonk, Pattie Charles, Pam Colwell, Jody Croley Jones, Kathy McClintok, Sara Mehling, and Lois Yoakam, editor, *Riverlea News*.

### Babysitting

Regan Marcerollo, age 11  
Starting 6th grade at Evening Street  
Red Cross certified  
(614) 563-3989 or (614) 800-6682

Camryn Patton, age 13  
Starting 8th grade at Kilbourne  
Middle School  
Certified from Nationwide Children's  
Hospital  
(614) 781-6660

Classifieds

### Riverlea Quarterly

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