

Wind-In-the-Willows

Willow Ridge Civic Association

Willow Ridge Civic Association

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Wind-In-the-Willows

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From the Presidents Desk

Hello Neighbors:

I would like to thank all the people working on this year's membership drive. The 2005 drive is off to a great start, with over 400 families already signed up as of the January board meeting. With your help we hope to reach our goal of 1000 families this year.

If you haven't signed up yet and need a reason when the block reps come a-calling, I've come up with a list. It's my "Top Ten Reasons for you to spend \$15.00 and join the Willow Ridge Civic Association."

10. *Our National Night Out* has the real McGruff the crime dog.

9. Willow Ridge Drive isn't four lanes to Millersport Highway. (This almost happened in the late 60's)

8. The Willow Ridge Directory not only has listings by last name, but also a cross reference by street. It includes a neighborhood map, coupons that offer great savings, and a babysitter directory.

7. There are no entrances to the Wal-Mart/Home Depot on Willow Ridge or Chestnut Ridge (can you imagine the traffic cutting through our streets?).

6. You think you've got problems with skunks now...you should have seen it in the 70's. It was so bad the Association bought traps and launched its own catch and release program (we may look into this again).

5. The second Tuesday of every month is 10% off at the Home Depot with a WITW and a driver's license.

4. The beer is always cold at the Octoberfest (and it's a great way to get to know your neighbors.

3. Who else could get the grass cut along Willow Ridge Drive and at the pump station on the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood?

2. The Snowflake Dinner Dance. A meal, music, and an open bar for \$55.00 a couple, need I say more?

...and the number one reason to join the Civic Association.

1. You get 12 issues of the *Wind-in-the-Willows* a year to keep you up to date on things happening in your own backyard (not to mention 10 more letters from the president.)

Your membership is the key to making this a united and informed community.

Sincerely,

Cam Hill

Bulletin Board

WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:30
p.m. Fire Hall All Welcome

- **DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH WITW IS FEBRUARY 11**
- **Membership Renewal** (page 1)
- **Snowflake Dinner Dance** (details page 5)
- **Cub Scout Can/Bottle Drivers** (details pages 3)
- **Easter Party** (details page 4)

WRCA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You may renew your WRCA Membership by completing the membership form and mailing it with your check for \$15.00 made out to WRCA. Your block rep will be informed of your payment and your 2005 WRCA Directory will be delivered during the regular membership drive in February. Note that the zip code is slightly different. The PO Box provides for added security and flexibility. Your check will be deposited within one week of receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

Amherst, NY. 14228

Mail form and check to:

WRCA Treasurer

PO Box 86

Amherst, NY 14226

February 2005

BLOCK REP BREAKFAST SET FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2005 AT CLASSICS V

This year we'll be sharing stories, and coming together to greet new faces! Free breakfast *and* a chance to escape Saturday morning chores...what more could you want? Seriously, though, this is the one chance that we have to come together and thank you for the important work you do for the association! I hope you'll join us for a fun and friendly way to kick off the February membership drive!

Are you interested in becoming a block rep? Are you looking for a way to meet and greet new neighbors, as well as get involved in our community? Please contact Membership Coordinator Laura Lewis @ 691-9527 for more information.

Classified Advertisements

Editors Note: *Classified* is a service provided for the use of Willow Ridge Civic Association members free of charge. Please print or type your ad on a full-sized sheet of paper. Sign your ad (not the envelope) and include your address and phone number. *Classified* is not to be used for business purposes. Deliver to 221 N. Brier and place in porch box. Thank you.

FOR SALE:

Appliance: Gas stove, white, 30" Whirlpool, will deliver, \$100.00. 691-0474

Auto: 2002 Chevy Tracker, low mileage, 6 cylinder, 4 door, great condition, \$10,500 or b/o. Glenn or Joanne @ 564-1334

Clothes: Hip boots, Adirondack by Red Ball, non insulated, never worn, size 10, \$30.00, call 691-6198

Electronics: Dell GX1 low-profile desktop PC. Pentium II 350 MHz. 320mb RAM, 6 GB HDD, 8x4x32x CD Burner, 17" monitor, speakers, keyboard & scroll mouse. Loaded with Windows XP Pro (w/SP2). Integrated 100mb Ethernet & sound. 2 USB ports, NO modem, manuals or discs...sold as is. Excellent physical & working condition from clean, smoke-free, pet-free home. \$150.00 Also For Sale.. IBM G54 15" Monitor...works perfectly, \$20.00. 691-7887 (leave message if no answer).

Entertainment: Tickets (2) Disney's THE LION KING at Shea's Performing Art Center for Saturday, March 26, 2005, 8:00 p.m. Excellent seats— lower level middle section. ORCH3 Row V Seats 113 and 114 (on isle). Face Value of each ticket is \$67.50. Will sell both for \$100.00. 691-5727.

Exercise: Nordic flex weight machine, great condition, solid construction, \$250 or b/o. Also, exercise bike, good condition, Air Toner, \$125. Or b/o. Glenn or Joanne @ 564-1334

Furniture: Sofa and loveseat; buttercream background with some blue flowers, pink/peach flowers and lots of green leaves. Can be sold separately for \$100 ea., or for both \$175. Call Wendy or Bud @ 691-7001

Furniture: China cabinet, colonial, maple finish, 73" h x 46" w, light, glass shelf, 4 doors. Excellent condition, \$500. 691-6098

House: 3 bedroom brick front ranch, furnace/central air 2 years old, new counter tops, lots of updates, partially finished basement with bathroom, 390 Kaymar Drive. Call Carol Zaffram @ 691-5504

LOST:

My blue and white Sweet Home umbrella blew off my front porch on January 6. Please call 691-3636 if it ended up on your porch.

Snowflake Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 12, 2005

Classics V Banquet Center
Niagara Falls Boulevard

6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Open Bar and Hors d'oeuvres
7:45—9:00 p.m.—Sit-down dinner, entrée choices:

Prime Rib of Beef
Chicken Wellington
Italian Style Orange Roughy
Vegetable Stir -fry

Dinner includes: wine, soup, Caesar salad, vegetable medley
Twice baked potato, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, tea
(11:30 p.m.—coffee and Danish)

9:30—12:30 p.m. Open Bar

8:30—1:00 a.m.—Music by Audio Dynamics Sound Systems

DOOR PRIZES

ALL FOR ONLY \$55.00 PER COUPLE!!!
(\$60/Couple, Non-members of WRCA)

*****TICKETS NOW ON SALE*****

As usual, the early-birds have been making phone reservations and getting tables set for another WRCA Snowflake Dinner Dance. We thank those who have done so and encourage all of you who are planning to attend to make your calls and organize things. As you are reading this issue, the date of March 12 is just over 4 weeks away and tickets will go on sale beginning February 11. We've had a mixed bag of weather so far but no matter what Mother Nature brings us on March 12, we will be cozy, comfortable and close to

home in the beautiful banquet facility of Classics V.

As always, we hope new residents or anyone who has not experienced this annual, 300+ community-wide gathering will contact us; please seriously consider trying us out and let us know if there is anything more you would like explained. It will be pretty hard to find a better, more enjoyable bargain in WNY! Here are the basic reminders to help and assure us that things will go as smoothly as possible on March 12.

*Round tables hold 10-12,; partial tables and individual reservations are welcomed;

*Full tables need a CAPTAIN to call in the reservation, collect monies, entrée selections and pick up the tickets for the table;

*Tickets will be ready at our home from February 11—March 6 as well as at the Block Rep Breakfast;

*Checks must be payable to WRCA; cash is acceptable. Please write your entrée choice(s) on your check.

In addition to having a GREAT idea for table favors, Pam McNess is giving us much assistance with door prizes from local businesses. This is an added bonus for our wonderful evening and we again request and appreciate YOUR help, either from personal business or other sources you may have. Please give us advance notice so your donation may be listed on the flyer placed on each table. We have acknowledgment letters as well.

Come and experience the exceptional hosting and dining that Dan and Lisa May and their staff provide for us each year and enjoy this special evening with our great WRCA community!

Jack and Lee Baker, Adult Recreation, 691-5972

To the Members of the Willow Ridge Civic Association:

THE WILLOW RIDGE DIRECTORY FOR THE YEAR 2005 IS DONE!!

The directory lists the names, addresses and telephone numbers of more than 1,200 families who live in the Willow Ridge area. Residents rely on it to contact neighbors and committees and to locate local goods and services. The directory is especially useful to those who are just moving into the area. There is also a public service directory located in the front of the directory compliments of Town Supervisor, Susan Grelick.

If anyone has a change over the coming year, (such as a birth of a child) please do not hesitate to contact your block rep or myself at 564-0913. I like to keep all this information as current as possible throughout the year.

I wish to THANK all the advertisers for supporting our association. A great many of them generously contributed coupons in a special tear out section of the directory.

I hope the directory will continue to be a useful reference book and that the contents are as accurate as possible.

Jane Sieman

Editor, 2005 Willow Ridge Directory

1, Issue 1

WILLOW RIDGE GARDEN CLUB

On Wednesday, February 2, 2005, at 7:30 pm, the Willow Ridge Garden Club will meet at the Zion United Church of Christ, 15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda, NY. Gary Carrel of the Erie County Dept. of Environmental Conservation will present a program "Re-Use it in the Garden." Members will also vote on a slate of nominated officers for 2005-2006. Husbands and guest are most welcome.

The Willow Ridge Garden Club will hold their Installation Luncheon Buffet on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, at the Holiday Inn, 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd. Amherst, NY, at noon. Installation of the 2005-2006 club officers will follow the luncheon. Husbands and guests are cordially invited.

For further information call Mira, 693-8666
-Theresa Dybas, Publicity Chairman, 691-8495



SYMPATHY

Friends and neighbors of Barb and Ed Skorka of 390 Willow Green Drive offer our condolences for the untimely passing of Ed's son, John, of East Amherst on December 20. We know the heartache you, his wife and two children must be suffering and we will keep you in our prayers.

FAREWELL

It's not good-bye Sweetwood Drive says the DeLucas says the DeLucas, Russ and Carrie, and their beautiful girls. We're glad you're staying in the Willow Ridge neighborhood and that we'll be able to stay in touch through Willow Ridge events. North Brier is lucky to have you!

WELCOME

Welcome to Brandon Stilb and Valerie Pepsell who moved into 32 Sweetwood Drive. Brandon and Valerie are getting married in June. We're sure they will love being Willow Ridge residents.

Neighbors on Willow Ridge Drive would like to wish the Miller family much happiness in their new home on Hubbardston.

A warm Willow Ridge welcome to the Goodwin family who moved into 408 Willow Ridge Drive. Dan works for Latina's Food Service and Lisa works for Allegiance Health. They have a new little one—Tyler who was born on September 8. They can be reached at 564-1344. We wish you much happiness in your new home.

Hubbardston Place welcomes the Millers, Chuck, Kathleen, Alexis and Reggie. The Millers are former residents of Willow Ridge Drive. We wish them all the best in their new home at #94.

CONGRATULATIONS

Joyful news came for the Skorka family when Barb and Ed became GREAT-grandparents. Their granddaughter, Kelly, and husband Chad Abbott brought Blake Daniel Abbott into their lives on December 23.

A sweet Christmas surprise came to the Hocutt family on December 21 with the birth of Emily, a little elf weighing in at 6' 3oz and 18" long. Mary and Jeff, along with big brother Daniel are the proud family members. Congratulations!

John and Jennifer Hubert of Amberwood Drive, welcomed Lauren Sophia on January 1, 2005; weighing 9 lbs. 6 oz. She was Mercy Hospital's first baby of New Year 2005. Proud big sisters include Alex, Emma, and Hannah Hubert. Congratulations on your new addition!

THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

Its time to renew or become new members of the Willow Ridge Civic Association. In this age of information and communication that we all depend on, membership in the association becomes an invaluable tool. As members, one receives the directory, ie. a listing of everyone in the neighborhood, nearby businesses, money saving coupons, and services, not to mention phone numbers of the schools in the area. Need a babysitter? You'll find a babysitter listing in the directory. Do you own a business? Why not place an ad in the directory, which Willow Ridge residents use to locate local goods and services.

Besides the directory, you will receive a monthly copy of the *Wind-in-the-Willows*, the newsletter filled with relevant information about the latest happenings in Willow Ridge. Through this newsletter you will always be notified of the great activities offered and sponsored by the civic association. Your neighbor's daughter is getting married? Somebody moved in down the street? It's great to be "in the loop!" Another important feature of the *Wind-in-the-Willows* is its Classified section, in which you may advertise **free** of charge.

These are only some of the benefits you'll enjoy as a member of the WRCA. To become a new member, or to renew your membership, please complete the form on page 1, mail it and your check to the WRCA treasurer. **Along with a hearty welcome, an invitation is extended through the WRCA to use your membership to become a voice and a volunteer in the community.** WRCA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Fire Hall. Let's reap the rewards that come by joining together in helping Willow Ridge continue to be the ideal place to live.

ATTENTION!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005.

SEE YOU THERE!

Committees and Activity Chairpersons

Adult Recreation	Jack & Lee Baker	691-5972	Octoberfest	Tom Halter	691-5318
Couples Bowling	Roy Svensson	691-1672	Publicity	Debbie Haendiges	691-5902
Directory	Jane Sieman	564-0913	School Brd Liaison	Mike Morrow	691-8031
Garage Sale	Helene Motyka	691-8682	Boy Scouts	Bob Sieman	564-0913
Garden Club	Virginia Winter	691-7704		Scott McNess	691-5621
Historian	Bob Lannen	691-5270	Cub Scouts	Steve Skinner	833-5938
Holiday Lighting	Neil Cuomo	691-3014		Doug Collins	691-9932
Junior Recreation	Jennifer Hubert	691-4239	Girl Scouts	Karen Lambe	691-4817
Ladies Bowling	Connie Holovics	691-9569	Sunshine	Lee Baker	691-5972
Membership	Laura Lewis	691-9527	Webmaster	Greg Weber support@wrca.info	
National Night Out	Gary Roussie	Unlisted			

WRCA Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. In attendance were Cam Hill, president; Jim Prentice, vice president; Neil Cuomo, secretary; and Board Members Ed Goetz, Andy Adams and Bob Foladare. Also present were Ben Procopio, and Laura Lewis. Excused were Treasurer Jack Baker, Jane Sieman, Bill Pujolas, and Clayton Cobb.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The minutes from the December 2004 meeting as published in the January *Wind-in-the-Willows* were reviewed. No additions, deletions or corrections were offered. A motion was made by Robert Foladare, seconded by Neil Cuomo to accept the minutes as written, which was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Laura Lewis gave the Treasurer's Report for Treasurer Jack Baker. She reported a checking account balance of \$8,599.00 which includes \$4,137.00 for advanced payment of 2005 membership dues. She provided the Board with a line by line budget analysis for 2004. A motion was made by Bob Foladare and seconded by Ed Goetz to accept the treasurer's report which was carried.

Neil Cuomo made a motion that Ben Procopio conduct an audit of the books for 2004, which was seconded by Jim Prentice. The motion carried, and Ben Procopio agreed to do so after all checks and deposits from 2004 had cleared.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No correspondence was received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership (Laura Lewis)

Laura Lewis reported that over 400 members are paid to date, most of whom took advantage of the discounted early enrollment. She also reported that a block rep, and area head reporters breakfast, chaired by Kathy Huber and Charlene Vitale, is scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 2005 at Classics V. All reps will be notified and asked to RSVP. She also advised that she is still trying to fill some vacant slots for block reps.

Adult Rec (Jack and Lee Baker)

The Snowflake Dinner Dance is scheduled for March 12 at Classics V. Details will be in the February edition of the *WITW*.

Directory (Jane Sieman)

Jane Sieman submitted a report wherein she reported that she has 60 ads to date for the directory, totaling \$4,800.00, and that a few more ads are expected.

Holiday Lighting (Neil Cuomo)

Neil Cuomo reported that 26 prizes were awarded and each of the winners will receive \$10 gift certificates from Home Depot.

School Board Liaison (Mike Morrow)

Mike Morrow submitted a notice concerning public meetings which will be held to discuss the 2005-06 school budget. A notice received from him will be published in the *WITW*.

OLD BUSINESS

President Hill submitted a proposed budget for 2005 that projects a slight deficit for this fiscal year, which perhaps can be closed by an increase in membership, and reduction of our printing/distribution costs. After some discussion, a mo-

tion was made by Jim Prentice, seconded by Andy Adams to accept the proposed budget which was carried.

Bob Foladare opened a discussion concerning a proposed boat cruise on the Miss Buffalo. Bob and Ed Goetz will work on that committee and report back on the feasibility at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

After some discussion, a motion was made by Jim Prentice, seconded by Andy Adams, to move the Board meeting dates for February, March, April, May and June from the second Tuesday to the first Thursday of each month. The matter would then be reviewed in the Spring concerning the Fall schedule. Carried.

COMMUNITY OPEN FORUM

Ben Procopio reported problems with deer in the neighborhood. He reported that he has successfully placed deer netting around his bushes, which he purchased at Home Depot.s.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business being at hand, a motion was made by Bob Foladare, seconded by Ed Goetz to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. which was carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil Cuomo, Secretary

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO CUB SCOUT PACK 173
Cub Scouts and their families are celebrating the Cub Scouts 75th Anniversary. At this time, the pack committee would like to thank the Willow Ridge Community for their tremendous support over the past year. Our popcorn sale this fall was one of the most successful in the pack's history. Cub Scout Pack 173 will be celebrating at their Blue and Gold Dinner this month, along with camping, and another fundraiser. This year, the pack is donating profits from the CANS for CUBS bottle/can drive to Tsunami Relief efforts.

WILLOW RIDGE COMMUNITY

CUB SCOUT PACK 173

BOTTLE-CAN DRIVE

CANS FOR CUBS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2005

Cub Scout Pack 173 will be going through our neighborhoods on Saturday February 12, 2005 collecting your donations of bottles and cans. As a community project and fund-raising activity, money received from your donations will be donated to a national organization that will provide 100% support to Tsunami Relief efforts on the other side of the world. On Saturday, Feb. 12, please put your empty refundable bottles & cans in bags or boxes outside your front door. With the help of their leaders and parents, the Cub Scouts may stop by between noon and 2 pm to pick up your donations.

If you would like to donate bottles or cans but are unable to leave them outside your home on Feb. 12, please call to arrange for a day and time to pick up your donation. Call Sherry Schriver, 691-3006 or JoAnn Simon, 564-3007. Your generosity in this effort will be

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT



At the Schools In

- 1 PTA Meeting, 7pm, Willow Ridge
 - NYS Grade 4 ELA Test 2/1—2/3
 - 4 Athletics Hall of Fame Inductions, High School
 - 7 Alumni Meeting, 7:30 am, High School
 - Common Sense Parenting, 6:30—8:30 pm @ NVCC
 - PTA Meeting, 7 pm, Middle School
 - NO SCHOOL GRADES K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences**
 - 8 BOE Study Session, 7pm @ NVCC
 - Spring Sports Physicals High/Middle School
 - 9 Symphony Orchestra, Concert Chorale & Wind Ensemble Concert, 7:30 pm, High School
 - 10 PTSA Meeting, 7pm High School
 - 11 February Frolics, 6-9pm, Willow Ridge
 - Activity Night, 7pm, Middle School
 - 13 Dollars for Scholars Phone-a-Thon, 2/13-2/15, High School
 - 14 Common Sense Parenting, 6:30-8:30pm @ NVCC
 - Ice Cream Sale, Middle School
 - 15 BOE Meeting, 7pm @ NVCC
 - Spring Sports Physicals, High/Middle School
 - 16 Musical 7:30pm 2/16-2/17, Middle School
 - 17 BOE Student Open Forum, 1:15pm @ NVCC
 - 18 Team 6 Spirit Day, Middle School
 - 21—25 **NO SCHOOL, K—12 MID-WINTER RECESS**
 - 28 School Resumes
 - Common Sense Parenting, 6:30-8:30pm @ NVCC
- Information is taken from the Sweet Home District Calendar. Details subject to change.
Refer also to handouts and mailings.*

Starting this month, the Board of Education will hold series public meetings to discuss the upcoming 2005-2006 school budget. Talking to our local state legislators, there is an expected New York State budget deficit projected for the end of this fiscal year. If the same political atmosphere continues as last year, Sweet Home won't know their final NYS school aid until after the May 17, 2005 local school budget vote. Last year the NYS legislators passed the New York State budget on August 8. The following dates will be posted in the Amherst Bee, Tonawanda News and the Buffalo News.

Saturday, February 12—8:00—12:00

Saturday March 2—8:00—12:00

During the months of October, November, and December, the Board of Education held a series of open forums to discuss ideas for renovating the Sweet Home Middle School on Maple Road. The community members, parents, local businesses, staff members and students were presented five different options for renovating the Middle School. At our December study session, our architect presented some additional cost required by NYS mandates to meet fire and safety building codes.

Sweet Home School District also has been approached by a local developer about purchasing our Middle School on Maple Road. Do we renovate the existing building or build a new school? This project is on our agenda for this month. If you have any feedback about the Middle School project, please call any Board member or our school superintendent.

Bonnie Bolea, Willow Ridge Elementary Principal, announced her retirement effective June 30, 2005. Sweet Home has posted her position and will start interviewing after the spring recess.

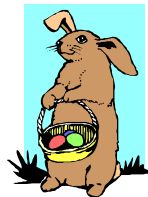
IT'S THE WILLOW RIDGE EASTER PARTY!

Where: Willow Ridge Elementary School

When: March 19, 2005

Time: 10 a.m.—Noon

Admission: FREE!



****CRAFTS**EGG HUNT**BOUNCE HOUSE**TREATS****

Bring a non-perishable food item, if you would like to assist with our Easter Bunny's contribution to a local food pantry!



Questions? Call Jennifer Hubert at 691-4239. Please call if you have time/talents you wish to contribute.

Volunteers welcome!

VISIT WITH THE EASTER BUNNY