Wind-in-the-Willows Willow Ridge Civic Association

Willow Ridge Civic Association

President

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Jane Sieman	564-0913			
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Mary Rose	691-6393			
Connie Holovics	691-9569			
Kathy Smead	691-6787			
Jackie Sommer	691-5705			

Bulletin Board

WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING <u>Tuesday</u>, December 13, at 7:30 p.m. Fire Hall *All Welcome*

- DEADLINE FOR THE JANU-ARY WITW IS DECEMBER 9
- Classified (page 2)
- Christmas Card Delivery
 (page 6)
- Minutes (page 4)
- Directory Ad Info (page 7)

From the Presidents Desk Hello Neighbors:

Are you ready for the holidays? More specifically, are you ready with your outside decorations for the annual decorating contest sponsored by the association? The winners not only receive a \$10.00 gift card, but bragging rights that are priceless. Have you stocked up on a few extra canned goods to donate to the annual Ellicott Creek Fire Department's drive to help feed those in need? Have you dropped of your Christmas cards for your neighbors to the scouts for delivery around the neighborhood? These are a few of the traditions in Willow Ridge that literally go back generations. My neighbor has proof: me in the '70's with my cohorts taking time out from delivering cards to pose for a group photo! (If we have space we will try to squeeze the photo into this issue).

I would like to promote an action to help make this a safer and friendlier place to live. It goes out to all the dog owners (of which I am one.) Please do all you can to keep your dog secured at all times for its safety, as well as the safety of others. I've had people mention to me they've had their dog attacked while out for a walk with their dog on a leash.

My final comment is a word of thanks to our advertisers and all those that have promoted us to our advertisers. They have made it possible for the board to authorize a thousand dollars to be spent on college scholarships next year to high school graduates from the Willow Ridge area. We hope this will become an annual event. Many of the details will be forthcoming in future issues, but for now, thank you!

To all, on behalf of myself and the entire board, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and our wishes for you and yours to have a Happy and Healthy New Year.



EARLY BIRD WRCA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/05

You may renew your WRCA membership now for a **rate of \$12** (a savings of \$3.00) if you send your check to the association treasurer by **December 31, 2005**. Complete the membership form and mail it with your **\$12** check made out to **WRCA**. Your block rep will be informed of your payment and your 2006 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.

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,* a newsletter filled with relevant information about the latest happen-



ings 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 <u>Classified</u> section, in which you may advertise **free** of charge

Classified Advertisements

Editors Note: *Classified* is a service provided for the use of <u>Willow Ridge Civic Association members</u> 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

Automobile: 1997 Nissan XE Extended Kingcab Pickup: air conditioning, bedliner, 5 speed manual, am/fm/cassette, 101K miles, 4 cylinder, very good condition, great on gas \$3400/BO. 691-0474

Furniture: Night stand, solid wood, painted glossy black, one large drawer and top and bottom shelf, very sturdy. \$10.00. 691-7084

Furniture: Glide type rocking chair \$50.00. 691-7242

Household: Commercial Bubble Gum Machine for recreation room or business. Twenty-five cent gumballs roll down spiral inside yellow machine. Clear globe on top. Lifetime guarantee on Beaver coin mechanism. Almost five feet tall, good condition. \$225.00. * CD tower, 52" tall, slightly curved metal design, holds hundreds of CDs! \$10.00. * Floor lamp, gold metal with swing arm and beige shade. Needs new harp. \$10.00. 691-7084

Household: SAT books, slightly used: College Board 2005, Princeton Review 2006, Grubers New SAT, Maximum SAT 2005, Testmasters, Math Workbook SAT, Rocket Review 2005. 691-8809

Lawn and Garden: Snowblower, Toro, 24" 5 hp, new belts and oil change, \$75.00; Lawnmower, 22" push mower, runs great, \$40.00. 691-7242

Sports and Leisure: Youth foosball/air hockey table plus extras, excellent condition, \$50.00. 691-8277

Sports and Leisure: Golf clubs, Ladies' Powerbilt irons: 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and wedge. Oversize heads, graphite shafts, good condition, \$50.00 or b/o. * Battery operated golf cart, Clubrunner brand with battery recharger and new battery (value \$65.00) Original cost \$500.00, asking \$75.00 or b/o. 691–6967

Tires: Snow tires: 4 Michelin Alpine Snowtires, P225-70 (P16) good condition, \$150.00 or b/o. 691-6967

LOST AND FOUND

Found: Large American flag after windstorm in Manor Oak area. 691-5496



"Willow Ridge's Hardest Working Realtor"



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ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY REPORT

Our 2005 Halloween party was a spooky success! Many thanks to everyone who dedicated their time and talents to ensure that our 60 little guests had a wonderful time. The "pumpkin patch," face painting, and games were great! I think I even reached into a bowl of "eyeballs," and another bowl of "worms!"

We have been fortunate to enjoy these parties over several years due to the work and efforts of Girl Scout Troop #988, Karen Ammerman, Linda Stuck, and Jackie Baker along with their scouts: Nadia Abdallah, Nofa Abdallah, Anna Marie Alfonso, Adrianna Ammerman, Jeanette Baker, Katie Griffin, Lauren Stuck, and Vilona Trachtenberg. However, the troop leaders have informed me that their girls will soon be moving on to other endeavors. This year, the party "work force" welcomed troop #709 leader Jane Guadagna, and scouts: Julianne Burke, Emma Burke, Nicoletta Capizzi, Lisa Gagnon, Jenna Guadagna, Leah Harris, Megan Harris, Alex Hubert, Emma Hubert, Hannah Kuntz, Tarah Lavett, Angela Pandolfi, Nylah Robertson and Emma Weber, along with parents, Karen Burke, Patti Capizzi, and Grandma Pandolfi, who assisted in party preparations

On behalf of the Willow Ridge Civic Association, our sincerest thanks and appreciation to all who assisted and to our special guests who enjoyed the celebration! Jennifer Hubert

Junior Recreation

P.S. Stay tuned for our newly planned springtime activities featuring free outdoor fun!

FROM OUR WILLOW RIDGE HOME TO YOURS ...





We would like to extend our warmest thoughts and best wishes to all our neighbors, for a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

> For all your bank financing needs call Judith Allen Baker VM: 743-7465 • Office: 651-5626 Jbaker@1stprioritymortgage.com

Happy Holidays!



School News for December 2005

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1 **NO SCHOOL GRADES 6-8, PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY**; BOE Administrators Open Forum, 5pm @NVCC

2 NO SCHOOL GRADES 6-8, PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY; Drama Production, 7:30 pm, H.S.

- 3 Drama Production, 7:30 pm, H.S.; SAT I & II, 7:45 a.m.
- 4 Drama Production, 2 pm, H.S.
- 5 PTO Holiday Dinner Meeting, M.S.
- 6 PTO Meeting, 7 pm, WR

7 Concert Chorale, Mixed Chorus, Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 pm, H.S.

- 8 PTSA Meeting, 7 pm, @HS Library; Snowflake Shop ping, 12/8—12/9, WR; Holiday Gift Shop, 12/8-12/9,MS
- 9 NO SCHOOL GRADES 9-12, PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY, Activity Night, 7 pm, MS

10 ACT, 7:45 am, H.S.; FBLA/JCC Snowflake Dance, 7 pm, H.S.

12 NO SCHOOL GRADES 9-12, PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE DAY, 8th Grade Declamation Contest, M.S.

13 BOE Study Session, 7 pm @ NVCC; 7th Grade Declamation Contest; Grade 8 Student Orientation for High School @ Middle School; Grade 8 Parent Orientation for High School, 7 pm @ High School

14 Grade 6 Band, Orchestra & Chorus Concert, 7:30 pm @ H.S.; 6th Grade Declamation Contest; Health & Wellness Committee Meeting, 3:30 pm, D.O.

15 Elementary Gold Band & WR chorus Concert, 7pm H.S.. **'05Issue 6**

- National Honor Society Induction, 7 pm, H.S.
- 20 BOE Meeting, 7 pm @ NVCC; Sweet Home Hockey Tournament 12/20-12/21, H.S.

21 Dollars for Scholars Meeting, 8 am, D.O.

26—January 2 WINTER RECESS—NO SCHOOL

NOTE: ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE—PLEASE ALSO REFER TO SCHOOL MAILINGS

Bob Saraceno NYS Licensed Insurance Broker

V.F. Mitchell Agency LLC 831 Maple Road Williamsville, NY 14221 Office (716) 204-1088 800-701-5835 Fax (716)204-1099 E-mail BSaraceno@mitchellagencyllc.com

Business Home Auto Workers Compensation Insurance

WRCA Meeting Minutes November 8, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Cam Hill, president; Neil N. Cuomo, secretary; Jack Baker, treasurer; and Board Members Bill Pujolas, Ed Goetz, Jane Sieman, and Bob Foladare. Also present were Lee Baker, Ben Procopio and Bob Lannen

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The minutes from the October 11, 2005 WRCA board meeting, as published in the November edition of the Wind-in-the-Willows were reviewed. A motion was made by Bill Pujolas, seconded by Ed Goetz to accept the minutes. Motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jack Baker gave the treasurer's report. He reported a checking account balance of \$8,308.00, and projected a surplus for the fiscal year. He provided the board with a breakdown of deposits and withdrawals during the prior month. A motion was made by Neil Cuomo, seconded by Ed Goetz to accept the treasurer's report, which was carried. Jack also advised that Barry Moir would be collecting checks received from dues, directory ads and newsletter ads during January and February, and would be making the deposits into the WRCA account.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cam Hill reported that he had received a letter from the Town of Amherst advising of possible HUD funds available for community development during 2006. Cam appointed Neil Cuomo as chairman of a Community Improvement Committee, and directed that he send a letter to the Town seeking improvement to the drainage problems in Bedford Park, that may have even increased with the completion of the sidewalk extension. Anyone interested in working on that committee is encouraged to contact Neil Cuomo.

Cam also advised of a letter he received from Bill McDougall whose house abuts to the entrance to Bedford Park, expressing concern about the potential drainage problems with the new sidewalk extension, and the possibility of extending the sidewalk to the Jonathan entrance to Bedford Park. The board discussed possibly examining that option in the future. Anyone with ideas or opinions on that item is encouraged to contact a WRCA officer or board member.

The board was advised of a letter received by Neil Cuomo from Vincent O. Hanley of Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel LLP seeking a 2 year extension of the amendment to the deed restrictions allowing Home Depot and Walmart to continue their outdoor garden centers from April 15 to August 15 on the westerly sides of their respective buildings of 40' x 120' in size. The board agreed to request a representative from each store to appear at the December meeting to discuss the limitations before approval, as well as confirming obligations of those stores concerning snow removal, landscaping etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Report (Laura Lewis)

Laura reported 86 early bird renewals of membership for 2006. The monthly newsletter will continue to include a payment coupon for "early bird" rates on dues for 2006, of

which members are urged to take advantage. This will lessen the burden on block reps.

Webmaster (Jack Baker)

Jack reported that progress is being made in updating the website to make it more user friendly, and expects the new format to be up and running in the near future. More details will follow. The present site remains www.wrca.info. Holiday Lighting (Neil Cuomo)

Neil Cuomo reported that the holiday lighting committee will be judging displays in the neighborhood the weekend of December 16-18. Members are asked to have their lighting displays on from 6:30—9:00 pm those evenings. Twenty-five winners will receive a \$10.00 Home Depot gift

certificate. OLD BUSINESS

Sidewalk Extension Grant—The sidewalk extension in Bedford Park has been completed by the town, which may have added to the existing drainage problem in Bedford Park. Steps will be taken to try and improve that situation. **NEW BUSINESS**

Budget—Jack Baker submitted a proposed budget for 2006 which projected a modest surplus of \$1,150.00, based on conservative estimates of income from membership, directory and newsletter ads. The budget included funding for \$1,000.00 in scholarships to be given to deserving seniors within Willow Ridge, through the Dollars for Scholars program at Sweet Home High School.

Nominations—Cam Hill appointed Lee Baker and Ben Procopio as members of the nominating committee and directed that they present their slate of officers for 2006 at the next meeting, scheduled for December 13, 2005. The board will then accept nominations from the floor and then an election will be held. Anyone interested in running for the board and any of the offices can attend the December meeting and be nominated.

Scholarship Committee - Cam Hill appointed Bob Foladare and Ed Goetz to co-chair the newly formed scholarship committee and directed that they contact Dollars for Scholars and establish the criteria to be utilized for selecting a recipient(s).

COMMUNITY OPEN FORUM

Bob Lannen reported that as WRCA historian, he has in his possession the entire set of newsletters of the association dating back to inception. There was some discussion concerning attempting to archive those on-line, which will be looked at in the future.

Bob also expressed his concern about ABC Rental's clearing of woods behind Niagara Falls Blvd., that lie within the town's paper street, which ABC is seeking to have abandoned. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that a letter will be sent to town officials expressing the board's opposition to the abandonment of the town property.

ADJOURN

No further business being at hand, a motion was made by Bill Pujolas, seconded by Bob Foladare to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., which was carried. Respectfully submitted, Neil Cuomo Secretary



Wind-in-the Willows Advertising Rates

Whole Page	\$150.00
Half Page	\$90.00
Quarter Page	\$50.00
Eighth Page	\$30.00

10% discount with a 12 month commitment. WRCA members can save an additional 10%. For more information contact Cam Hill @ 481-4310

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Sympathy

All of the neighbors on Sweetwood North wish to express their sympathy to the Brooks family for the loss of Joanne's mother, Betty. She will be missed by all the families and their kids in the neighborhood.

Farewell

Neighbors on Kaymar Drive bid a fond farewell to Ed and Sandy Balkin, long time Willow Ridge residents, who recently moved to their new home in Florida. The civic association also extends its sincere thanks to Ed for his many years of work in making our National Night Out the very successful event it has become.

Welcome

Carol and Bruz Parkhurst of 344 Willow Ridge Drive welcome a new grandson, Dennis, by adoption. He is the fifth child (third adopted) of their daughter Tami and her husband, Gary McClenthen. Dennis joins the family of two sisters and two brothers..

Congratulations

On Saturday, November 5, LCDR. Erik Baker, son of Jack and Lee Baker, was married at St. Mary Catholic Church in Chicago to Amy Natanek, formerly a Navy nurse who met Erik while they were both stationed in Italy. The newlyweds are now living in Philadelphia where Erik flies the Navy C9 (i.e. MD80/DC9) out of Willow Grove Naval Air Station, and Amy is an emergency room nurse at Univ. Penn Hospital. Among the guests at their wedding were Kay and Barry Moir, Sandy and John Radens, Joyce and Jeff Schmidt and former Willow Ridge residents, Beth and Richard Pedersen, as well as Erik's sister, Amy and family from Cambridge, England. Jack and Lee report that it was a grand time—although only half the size of the Snowflake Dinner Dance!

Congratulations upon their retirements to Barbara and Bill Gardiner of 378 Willow Green Drive; she as a paraprofessional at Amherst High School and he as a teacher at Niagara Falls High School. However, this achievement also brings a move at the end of the school year to Columbus, Ohio where they will be close to daughter, Laura and family, and 6 month old Mathew; and to son Bill and family in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and 2 year old Liam. Friends and neighbors on Willow Green will miss these nice people who are fondly referred to as "Boomer's parents," who dutifully walk and care for their much loved, LARGE golden retriever. We all wish you many grandparenting joys and good health.

ANNUAL SANTA FUN AND FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 BEGINNING AT 5 PM

All donations collected go to local food pantries. If you would like to make a donation of nonperishable food, look for Santa and the firefighters in your area. If you are not going to be home, please place your donation in a plastic bag or box and leave it in a location that is visible to firefighters. If you wish to drop it off at the fire station, 45 S. Ellicott Creek Road, you may do so beginning at 4:30 p.m. on December 17. In the past this community has donated over 2000 lbs. of food, giving some families a little brighter holiday. We are very proud of all the members of this community for your generous and continued support with this great effort. If you have any questions please call the fire station direct at 691-7439.



What's New With the Scouts Willow Ridge Community Cub Scout Pack 173 Bottle and Can Drive Annual CANS For CUBS — Saturday, January 7, 2006

For a third year, Cub Scout Pack 173 will again be going through our neighborhoods on Saturday, January 7, 2006, collecting empty bottles and cans. As a community project and fund-raising activity, money received from your donations will be forwarded to a charitable organization that helps families in need. Last year, we collected \$321.00, which was given to the American Red Cross. On Saturday, January 7, 2006, please put your empty refundable bottles and cans in bags or boxes outside your front door. With the help of their leaders and parents, the cub scouts will collect them between 12:00 and 2:00 pm. If you would like to help but are unable to leave bottles and cans outside your home on January 7, please call to arrange a day and time for them to be collected. Call JoAnn Simon @ 564-3007. Your generosity in this effort will be greatly appreciated.

Girl Scout Troop 383 Inkjet & Laser Printer Cartridge & Cell Phone Recycling

Girl Scout Troop 383 is collecting and recycling ANY old or used inkjet and/or laser printer cartridges found in your home or office. They are also looking for computer or copy machines, as well as old cell phones. If you, your friends or family members, or the company you work for are not already saving them, we can surely use them. Please call Donna at 695–6974 for a pick up or for any questions. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of the girl scouts. We are planning another drive in the spring, 2006, so keep collecting!! Thanks again! Troop 383



Annual Willow Ridge Christmas Card Delivery by Cub Scout Pack 173

Our Willow Ridge Cub Scouts will be spreading cheer and delivering Christmas Cards throughout the neighborhood once again. You can drop off Christmas cards addressed (complete addresses please) to your neighbors and friends in the Willow Ridge area at **80 Sweetwood North Drive until Thursday, December 8, 2005**. Our cub scouts will deliver all cards from December 10, 2005 through December 18, 2005.

ADVERTISING REQUEST FOR WILLOW RIDGE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY FOR 2006

It is time to begin assembling the Willow Ridge Community Directory again and you are invited to place an advertisement in the 2006 edition. Our directory will carry your advertising message into the homes of the community you serve in a handy 5 $1/2 \ge 8 1/2$ booklet that is kept, read, and used for a full year by our Willow Ridge residents.

The directory (published in February of each year) 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.

Prices are based on "camera-ready" copy (clear, black and white copies of a previous ad or one from another publication the same size as the one you wish to place in our directory. Typesetting will be extra. Minor changes are free. You may obtain quotes or help in setting up your ad by calling the directory chairperson. Full page ads are \$150.00, half pages are \$85.00, and quarter pages are \$55.00.

We will continue our policy of 10% discount for prepayment of an ad received by November 30, 2005. Ads will be placed in the directory in the order of receipt from front to back.

Many advertisers find our coupons to be helpful in generating business. We offer a coupon free of charge with any half or full page ad. (Quarter page advertisers can place a coupon in the directory for a \$4.00 fee). By offering a discount or special price for your goods or services, you draw attention to your advertisement. Coupons appear in a special tear-out section while your paid advertisement remains in the directory throughout the year.

If anyone is interested in placing an ad in our Willow Ridge Directory for the year 2006, please complete the contract on this page and drop it off to me along with your ad at 80 Sweetwood Drive North. *I will be accepting ads until December 31,2005. All payments due by December 31, 2005.* Thank you! Jane Sieman, Directory Editor, 564-0913

Make checks payable to **Willow Ridge Civic Associa**tion and mail to:

> Jane Sieman Directory Chairperson 80 Sweetwood Drive North Amherst, N.Y. 14228

the numes, addresses and tere		
	Cost of Ad	
Inside front cover (first choice to last advertiser)	\$200.00	
Inside back cover (first choice to last advertiser)	\$200.00	
Back cover (first choice to last advertiser)	\$250.00	
Full Page (V-7.5" x H- 4.5")	\$150.00	
½ Page (V- 3.7" x H- 4.5")	\$ 85.00	
1/4 Page (V- 3.7" x H- 1.5") or (V- 1.75" x H- 4.5")	\$ 55.00	
Discount: Paid in advance by November 30, 2005	-10%	
Total Enclosed		

Name of Company

Point of Contact

Phone No.

Address

Email Address

<u>Coupon</u> (text below or attach) Please note: Coupons are free with ½ or full page ad; \$4.00 with 1/4 page ad.



December 2005

MEMBERSHIP CORNER HELP!! OUR NEIGHBORHOOD STILL NEEDS ABOUT 7 NEW BLOCK REPS AND 1 HEAD REPORTER POSITION IS STILL AVAILABLE AS WELL.

A special thanks to Anita Glebe on Grasspointe for volunteering to be Block Rep for 107-140 Amberwood. Amberwood residents will have a chance to wish her a warm welcome during Update and Membership Times.

Current Block Rep positions available are for:

61-102 Willow Lane 88-112 Hubbardston 52-87 Dalewood 300-411 Denrose (just the even #'s) 45-80 Beaumont S. Ellicott Creek and 215-241 Kaymar specifically and Kaymar in general WE NEED 1 NEW HEAD REPORTER FOR Rumson, Jeanmoor, and Beaumont!

Are you thinking about being a Block Rep? Maybe you'd like to try it out by helping with membership this time around!! Give Laura Lewis a call today at 691-9527. Do you have friends or neighbors who could help out? You might ask them if they have considered taking on this important role!