

# Wind-in-the-Willows

## Willow Ridge Civic Association

### Willow Ridge Civic Association

#### President

Cameron Hill 691-8608

#### Vice President

James Prentice 691-8915

#### Secretary

Neil Cuomo 691-3014

#### Treasurer

Jack Baker 691-5972

#### Board of Directors

Clayton Cobb 564-0500

Karen Decker 691-3277

Bob Foladare 691-7272

Edward Goetz 691-7079

Pat Land 691-4613

William Pujolas 691-9386

#### Wind-In-the-Willows

##### Editor

Debby VonLangen 691-6420

##### Advertising WITW

Cam Hill 481-4310

##### Member Circulation

Laura Lewis 691-9527

##### Directory

Jane Sieman 564-0913

##### Area Head Reporters

Lee Baker 691-5972

Marj LaHood 691-4648

Patti Burns 691-6942

Doreen Notaro 691-3507

Charlene Vitale 691-3356

Doris Pepi 691-8309

Patty Daddario 691-5354

Mary Rose 691-6393

Connie Holovics 691-9569

Kathy Smead 691-6787

Jackie Sommer 691-5705

### Bulletin Board

[www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info)

WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
**Tuesday, September 12 at**  
**7:30 p.m. Fire Hall All Welcome**

- **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER WITW IS AUGUST 11**
- **Classified (page 6)**
- **Graduates (page 6)**
- **Letter to Zoning Board (page 4)**
- **National Night Out (page 8)**

### From the Presidents Desk

Hello Neighbors:

This month's letter will be mainly concerned with a proposed dormitory project for Chestnut Ridge, much of what needs to be reported can be found in a letter written by Neil Cuomo inside this issue. Mr. Cuomo's letter addressed to Mr. Speth the chair person of the Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals on behalf of the Willow Ridge Civic Associations. This letter gives a great background on the proposed projects for this site.

The main objections I've heard aired to this current project are; with no official connection to any college, they would be free to rent rooms to anyone (including non-students). A project like this would almost certainly come with a car for every bed, greatly increasing area traffic. A similar project across from Sweet Home High School has already resulted in hundreds of calls to the Amherst Police Department, many for very serious problems

We feel there are many other concerns that need to be looked at before this project is allowed to move forward. If you share similar concerns, please let the people in town government know. We will also be keeping you informed of appropriate meetings by the Town Boards, where you can join the other residents of Willow Ridge to voice your concerns. If you would like more information on this project, please contact Bob Foladare, who has agreed to act as the point person for the Willow Ridge Civic Associations Board.

In closing I'd like to remind you to check out the details for "Summer Boat Cruise" aboard the Miss Buffalo that can be found in this issue. Ask anyone who was aboard last year to hear what a wonderful time was had by all.

*Cam Hill*

Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals  
Meeting Tuesday, August 15th

### Summer Softball!

Sunday, August 20, 2 pm  
Meet at Bedford Park

We can set up one or two games, based on number of interested players. No registration necessary! Just join us on the date. Bring your equipment, some enthusiasm, and we can pick teams at that time! (Everyone plays —with the goal of having a fun and casual game!) Questions? Please call Jennifer Hubert, 691-4239 for more information.

## Willow Ridge Salutes the Graduates of 2006

### University at Albany Graduate

Congratulations to Alexandra Dunker, a 2002 graduate of Sweet Home High School has joined *Teach for America*. *Teach for America* is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong advocates for educational excellence and equity. Alexandra, daughter of Bill and Grace Dunker of S. Ellicott Creek Road, graduated in May from the University at Albany with a B.A. in Sociology. She will teach English at Northampton East High School in Conway, North Carolina starting in August.

### Baldwin Wallace College Graduate

Congratulations to Lisa Raymond, daughter of Dave and Sharon Raymond of Beaumont Drive who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Baldwin Wallace College. She will be leaving the area on July 29 to begin a 10 month costume internship at the Perseverance Theatre in Douglas, Alaska. *We are so proud of you and all you accomplishments. We will miss you very much. Love always, Dad, Mom and Mike.*

### Sweet Home High School Graduates

Congratulations to Sara Cuomo, who has graduated from Sweet Home High School. Sara will be attending SUNY Geneseo in the Fall majoring in Bio-Chemistry. Sara wants to become a vet. *Sara, you have wanted to be a vet since you were a little girl and you're still holding on to your dream! We will miss you when you are away at college but what an exciting time in your life! You will have fun and hard work waiting for you but we know you are up to the challenge. You have become a wonderful, hard-working and enthusiastic young woman and we are very proud of you! Lots of Love, Mom, Dad, Frank and Nick*

Congratulations to Christina Benevento of Roundwood Court, who is a 2006 graduate of Sweet Home High School. Christina has been accepted into the Department of Art Education at Buffalo State College and will be attending this fall. *We are so proud of all you have accomplished!! Love, Mom and Dad, Gina and Danielle*

### CGS Property Maintenance Group Inc.

"Serving the community one project at a time"

P.O. Box 871  
Williamsville, NY  
14231-0871

Phone (716) 570-1947  
Fax. (716) 691-4807  
Email.CGSLawn@gmail.com

#### \* LAWN CARE MAINTENANCE

- Mowing - Dethatching - Aeration
- Athletic Field Maintenance -

#### \* PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- Landscape - Rototilling
- Landscape Restoration -
- Spring/Fall Cleanup -
- Shrub Removal - Sod Work
- Top Soil - Mulch

#### \* EXTERIOR HOME DETAILING

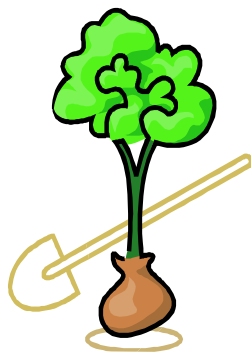
- Gutter Cleaning Starting @ \$59.99
- Power Washing - Deck
- Fence
- Concrete

Window Cleaning

#### \* PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

#### \* SNOW PLOWING

**FREE ESTIMATES & ANALYSIS**  
**FULLY INSURED**



BUY ANY LARGE  
PIZZA GET A  
MEDIUM 1 –  
TOPPING  
**FREE!**

WR  
CA

Dine In or Carry Out

1400 Niagara Falls Blvd.

835-3636

3010 Niagara Falls Blvd

692-7771

Not valid with any other offer 2005PH

One coupon per party per visit



# See Clearly No Surgery!

WAVEFRONT CORNEAL MOLDING™

## Vision Care

Center

21 26 N. Falls Blvd • Tonawanda  
www. BartelsVisionCare.com

Dr David P. Bartels  
693-4606

**Joseph R. Battaglia**  
Licensed Real Estate Professional

**HUNT**  
Since 1911

Always There For You! ERA

voice-mail: (716)743-5610  
e-mail:  
JoeHasHome4u@aol.com



*“Willow Ridge’s Hardest Working Realtor”*

**NOTICE: HOME DEPOT IS OFFERING ITS 10% DISCOUNT TO WILLOW RIDGERS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THAT MONTH’S WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS AND PROPER ID. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM OF SOME NOT RECEIVING THEIR NEWSLETTER IN TIME FOR THE DISCOUNT.**

**ST CHRISTOPHER CHURCH**  
2660 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda

*Presents*

**SUMMERFEST 2006**  
**August 4, 5, and 6**

**Friday**—BW’s Fish Fry, 4:30-7:00pm; “West of the Mark” Live Music, 7—11pm **Saturday**—Homemade Chowder, Noon; Polish Heritage Dancers, 4pm; “Greg Juke & The Mighty No Star Blues Band” 7—11pm **Sunday**—Chiavetta Chicken Dinner 1—6pm; “Sons of the Gaels” 2—4:30pm and Rince na Tiarna Irish Dancers 3:00pm, and Classic Car Show! Enjoy great food, entertainment, games of chance, Black Jack, theme baskets, attic treasures, children’s games and more all weekend long! **Raffle drawing for \$16,000 CASH or 2006 FORD MUSTANG (outright ownership) or 2006 JAGUAR “X” TYPE (2 year prepaid lease) For further information or raffle tickets call the rectory, 692-2660.**

WNY’s Leader in Maintenance Free Fencing!

**CAPITAL**  
FENCE CO., INC.

Vinyl ~ Ornamental ~ Chain Link ~ Wood  
~ Vinyl Railing ~

Financing Available!

Showroom at  
42 N. Ellicott Creek Rd.,  
Amherst, NY.

Bill Schiferle- Willow Ridge Resident

716-691-7438

www.capitalfence.com

**ATTENTION: ANY WILLOW RIDGE RESIDENT WHO IS INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ELLICOTT CREEK VOUNTEER FIRE CO. MAY CONTACT THE FIRE CHIEF AT 691-7439 EXT. 230.**



**The following is a letter written by Neil Cuomo, WRCA Secretary and an attorney with Hellerer, Cuomo, and O'Connor to Joseph Speth, Chairman with the Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals regarding 4460 Chestnut Ridge—Opposition to Variance Request**

Dear Mr. Speth:

I represent the Willow Ridge Civic Association, which is comprised of over 1,300 homes in West Amherst, bounded by Niagara Falls Boulevard, South Ellicott Creek, Sweet Home, and Chestnut Ridge Roads. We are disappointed and concerned by the accelerated pace at which the proposed student housing project on Chestnut Road seems to be progressing. It abuts our development, and has our residents quite concerned. We seek the opportunity to address your Board, in order to express our concerns.

Back in 2001, MJ Peterson proposed a 440-unit series of apartments on the site in question. At that time, we expressed our concerns to the Town Board, as did representatives of the Sweet Home School District, regarding increased traffic congestion, as well as the negative ramifications of a possible “cut through” street into Willow Ridge at the end of Dalewood Drive.

Ultimately, in 2003, the Town Board approved a much smaller scale project of 136 units of the southwest portion of the property, with a condition that there be no cut-through into neighboring Willow Ridge, and that further site development would require separate approval. It appears we are now back where we started. The approved project has never been started, although MJ Peterson has obtained a number of extensions of the approval.

The current proposal is for over 200 units of “student housing,” that will be located on the easterly portion of the parcel. The present proposal is **in addition to** the 136 units already approved, and seeks a Variance, due to the planned third floor of housing. This proposal is far different than the initial proposal made in 2001.

The very character of the proposed housing does not appear to fit the MFR5 zoning designation of the land. Furthermore, there has been no compliance with the SEQR mandates, as an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has not been done, nor has the Army Corps of Engineers provided any input on this proposed project. The proposed project cannot rely on the EIS from an entirely different proposal, submitted almost 6 years ago.

Every precaution should be taken in evaluation proposals and granting variances, considering the poor drainage, rodent proliferation, and sinking foundation issues plaguing parts of our town. Consideration must also be given to the substantial new construction which has already taken place in our area, since the first MJ Peterson proposal. It would be irresponsible to allow this project to be approved and a Variance granted, without further study.

It cannot be understated that to date, there has been **no approval of this proposed project**. The approval of the MJ Peterson units referenced above, while on the same parcel, specifically required new studies as a predicate to any subsequent approval for site development, including this separate and distinct project.

Since the construction of similar student housing on Chestnut Ridge near Sweet Home, and on Sweet Home across from the high school, police calls have increased ten fold in the area. A project of this magnitude will surely result in a substantial increase in traffic on Chestnut Ridge and the surrounding roads.

The cut-through to Dalewood Drive remains of great concern to our residents. It would in effect create a thoroughfare running directly through the middle of a residential neighborhood, disrupting the quiet nature of the area.

Many of the homes in our neighborhood back up to this parcel on Chestnut Ridge, and allowing a taller structure than properly zoned, literally in their backyards, seems unreasonable. Here should be discussion and consideration to the use of berms or other buffers, or other alternatives, in order to lessen the impact on neighboring housing units and communities, before this proposal is allowed to proceed in any form.

Our Association was never notified about this proposal, and would not have learned about it but for being contacted by concerned residents in the affected area. I understand that your Board is meeting on July 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Although this proposal has been tabled and is slated to only be discussed in Executive Session, we would like the opportunity to express our concerns at your regular meeting. We appreciate your consideration in this matter, and look forward to your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Hellerer, Cuomo and O'Connor

(Neil N. Cuomo)

cc: E. Thomas Jones, Amherst Town Attorney  
Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals  
Amherst Planning Board

Amherst Town Board  
Supervisor Satish Mohan  
WRCA President Cam Hill

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



### Sympathy

Friends and neighbors extend sympathy to Ray and Mary Ann Fliss of 353 Willow Green Drive, their children Laura and Greg, and their families on the recent death of Ray's mother, Jean M. Fliss. Mrs. Fliss lived to 93 and was the matriarch of a wonderful family of many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great, great grandchildren. We know her spirit and memories will be with you all.

### Farewell

It's a sad time for us to be leaving our home at 77 Willow Green Drive after 40 years! We were the first family to move into the new section, originally called "Willows North," back in August of 1966. Our two oldest children, Michele and Michael were of the first group of students to attend Willow Ridge Elementary, followed in time by Kathleen and Patrick. We're not moving far away, a condo in Beacon Park, which is near Sweet Home High School. Our thanks to the many neighbors who were so nice and helpful through the years! - Bill and Patrick (and Judie in memoriam.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Neighbors and friends on Willow Green and throughout Willow Ridge whose lives undoubtedly have been touched by the DeGraw's wish them a fond farewell. Please take along the "Willow Ridge spirit" and our best wishes and come back to visit often!

### Welcome

A hearty Willow Ridge welcome to Alisa and Mike Tofil and 18 month old Jillian Marie who moved into 97 Jeanmoor from Baltimore, Md. Mike works at Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Alisa works at HSBC Bank. After being away from the area for fifteen years, they made the decision to move back so Jillian could get to know her grandparents and cousins. Welcome back!

### Congratulations

. Congratulations to Ann and Rob Thomann, 121 Rockdale Drive, on the birth of their first great grandchild, Mason Anthony Gregory, son of Ryan and Katie Gregory, of Eglin AFB, Florida, born June 15 at 8 lbs., 6 oz. Ryan is the grandson of Ann and Rob. We wish the family much joy!

June 23, 2006 will be a DAY TO REMEMBER for Jim and Carolyn Koons of 393 Willow Green Drive. Early evening on that day they proudly watched their daughter, Jennifer, an Honors graduate from Sweet Home High School, receive a Regents Degree with Advanced Designation. She will attend Niagara University studying U.S. History and Political Science. At 5:16 p.m. on that same day, (possibly just as Jennifer was walking across the stage to receive her diploma) her sister, Noelle, gave her parents their first grand-child, a baby girl, Cassandra Leigh Brennan, 8 lbs., 13 oz., and 20" long. Whoa, what timing!! Congratulations and good wishes to all, grandparents Jim and Carolyn, aunts Jennifer and Pamela, parents, Noelle and Roger Brennan who live in Tonawanda.

---

**Admission: \$5.00 Adults, \$1.50 Children, Members, FREE**

**Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, 12:30—4:30 p.m.**

### Amherst Museum

3755 Tonawanda Creek Rd.

Amherst, N.Y.

**Amherst Museum's Historic Dann Road House**—Originally located at 200 Dann Road, the house is typical of the early farmhouses of the Niagara Frontier. Built in the 1840s, it remains unrestored; various stages of development and construction elements are visible in the house. Now open for visitors with regular admission.

**August 19—22nd Annual Scottish Festival and Highland Games**—Visitors can enjoy a variety of Scottish food,

shop with Scottish vendors, see sheep herding demonstrations and watch Highland Athletics. Representatives of various clans will be available to help you trace your own Scottish roots. The highlight of the event will be Scottish and Celtic music. Five bagpipe bands will play continuously throughout the day. Celtic trios and harpists will play in several venues around the Museum grounds. The Glengarry Bhoys will headline a program of contemporary Scottish music, featuring Stone Row and Penny Whiskey, in the entertainment area. The Scottish Festival is an event for the entire family. Even the smallest children will enjoy the animals and music. There is something for everyone. Admission is \$8 for adults; children under 12 are free; members, \$6. Parking is free. Admission includes all current museum exhibits, grounds and historic buildings and Scottish Festival events.

## **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:** Large George Foreman Grilling Machine, hardly used, \$20.00; Royal Hand Vac, Dirt Devil, almost new, \$25.00. 691-7792

**Automobile:** 1996 Ford F150 2 WD SuperCab, White, auto, ac, am/fm, cruise, helper springs, trailer hookup, straight 6, will run forever, 186k highway miles, (Blue Book-4300) asking \$2200.00. 691-8981

**Electronics:** ONKIO 5 disk changer, excellent condition, \$65.00. 691-7792

**Furniture:** China cabinet, 2 piece, solid oak (light), \$400.00 or b/o. 691-3356

**Household:** Small luggage carrier, \$5.00. 691-7792

**Pet:** Plastic pet carrier/home cage for large dog/pet. Approximately 3.5 ft. x 2.5 ft., \$15.00. 691-8981

### **WANTED**

**Child Care:** Looking for someone to watch my special needs child in the home 2:30-4:30/5:00 week days next school year.

Amy @ 691-0635

**Babysitting:** Red Cross certified, age 14, call Alanna Olear @ 693-3345

## ***Cooking Up Great Marketing Ideas for YOU!***

*Connie is always serving up the best in marketing menus and has all the ingredients to serve your real estate needs*

***DONE TO PERFECTION!***

**CONNIE**  
**HOLOVICS**  
LICENSED BROKER/ASSOCIATE



Office: 634-4200

24 Hr. VM: 743-7433



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



## **PAPER PRODUCT DRIVE—SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006**

-Sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 709

For SONRISE Food Pantry, serving families in the 14228 area

**PAPER TOWELS FACIAL TISSUES TOILET PAPER**

Please leave your donated paper products in a visible location outside your home by NOON or drop them off anytime at 269 Willow Green Drive

Thank you!

Jean Guadagna—564-4545

## *Wind-in-the Willows* *Advertising Rates*

<b>Whole Page</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Half Page</b>	<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>Quarter Page</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Eighth Page</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>

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

**Bob Saraceno**

**NYS Licensed Insurance Broker**

**Personal & Commercial**

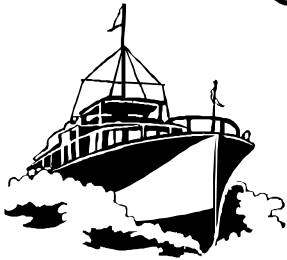
**V.F. Mitchell Agency LLC**

**831 Maple Rd. Williamsville, 14221**

**204-1088 Fax 204-1099**

**Bob@mitchellagencyllc.com**

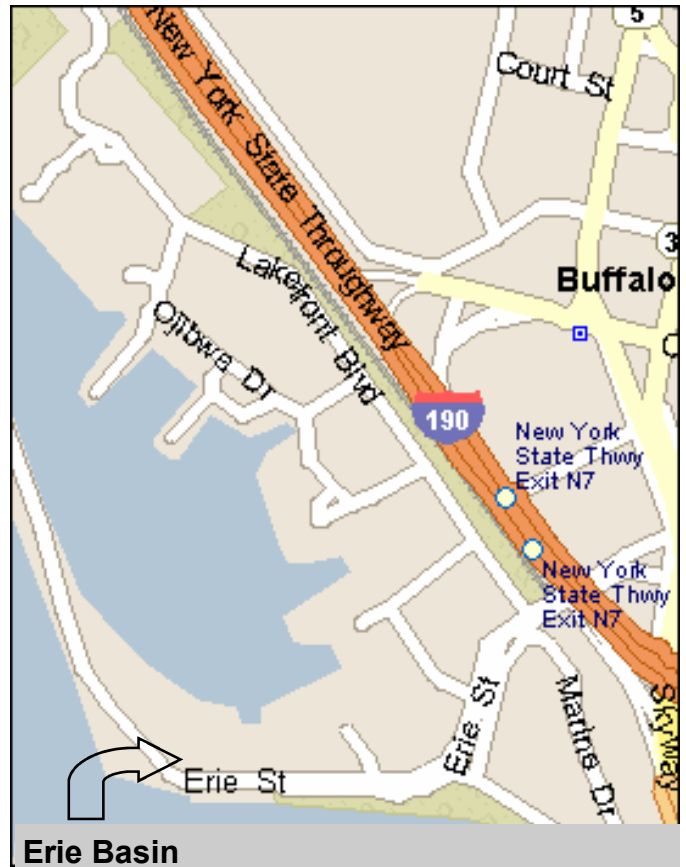
# WRCA Summer Boat Cruise



**Sunday, August 13, 2006**

**\$25.00 per person**

- Boat Departs @ 2:00pm Boarding begins @ 1:30pm
- Two hour Cruise aboard the *Miss Buffalo*.
- Enjoy **free** Beer, Wine and Pop aboard the ship.
- Snacks provided before departure at the Eire Basin starting at 1:00pm
- For **Tickets** contact Bob Foladare @ 691-7272 or Ed Goetz @ 691-7079



**Erie Basin**

### Committees and Activity Chairpersons

Couples Bowling  
Boat Cruise  
Directory  
Garage Sale  
Garden Club  
Historian  
Holiday Lighting  
Junior Recreation  
Ladies Bowling  
Membership  
National Night Out

Ed Goetz 691-7079  
Jane Sieman 564-0913  
Helene Motyka 691-8682  
Virginia Winter 691-7704  
Bob Lannen 691-5270  
Neil Cuomo 691-3014  
Jennifer Hubert 691-4239  
Connie Hlovics 691-9569  
Laura Lewis 691-9527  
Gary Roussie Unlisted

Octoberfest  
Publicity  
Scholarships  
School Brd Liaison  
Boy Scouts  
Cub Scouts  
Girl Scouts  
Sunshine  
Webmaster  
Project Leader

Tom Halter 691-5318  
Debbie Haendiges 691-5902  
Bob Foladare 691-7272  
Mike Morrow 691-8031  
Bob Sieman 564-0913  
Scott McNess 691-5621  
Steve Skinner 833-5938  
Doug Collins 691-9932  
Karen Lambe 691-4817  
Lee Baker 691-5972  
Jack Baker 691-5972  
Neil Cuomo 691-3014

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 1430  
Buffalo, N.Y.

## August 2006

### It's Here Again, Willow Ridge! **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2006**

The Willow Ridge Civic Association will again sponsor National Night Out activities on **Tuesday, August 1**. The event begins with a grand bicycle parade through the Willow Ridge Community that forms at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 6 p.m. (Please see route map). Children are encouraged to decorate their bikes. Activities, games, and prizes for the children will begin at the Willow Ridge School at 7 p.m. where Glenn Coulton will be providing live entertainment. There will be a bounce house and Brinks Security will have items on display. The police helicopter even may make an appearance. Girl Scout Troop 988 will be selling their hot dogs to keep you well fed. Please join your neighbors once again for this wonderful and worthwhile mid-summer event. National Night Out is a national program for the safety and crime awareness designed to bring neighborhoods together to promote crime prevention and home security.

