

Sept/Oct 2017



# Wind in the Willows

## Message from the President



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 21st**  
Kids Halloween Party

**Early December**  
Holiday Tree Lighting

# Fall is Upon Us

I first would like to apologize for not getting a September issue out.

We had a great summer here in Willow Ridge. National Night Out was as always a GREAT HIT!! Thank you once again John Miller for your outstanding work putting that event together!

We had our first Membership Meeting for the 2017-2018 on September 12th.

We got the power turned back on at the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood North so now our flag and sign are lit up again. Thank you Barry Moir for maintaining the flag and lights.

I would like to thank Bob Lannen for his attendance at the last meeting, Bob was Willow Ridge's past Historian and has a treasure trove of archived records and while I am writing about this I would like to see if anyone wishes to take over where Mr. Lannen has left off.

On September 18th I attended the Amherst Town Board meeting to ask about the progress on the

Town Codes for the Micro Cell Towers / WTFs that the telecom industry wishes to put up around Willow Ridge and Amherst. At this point the answer I got is that they are still working on the codes. While there I asked about the Trees behind Denrose and an environmental study...I have gone over the video from the meeting a couple times and it seems the answer was there are studies done from other areas. So I will need to go back and ask it again. I will keep working on this.

I would like to say in closing that we as a community should stand with the neighborhoods against the Westwood project. We have seen here in our corner of Amherst the elimination of green spaces and forests by developers for more apartments. We really do not need more apartments, office building and strip malls. The area where Westwood Project is would make a wonderful park for all of the residents of Amherst to enjoy.

**H. Erich Krueger**



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**Visit us on the web at**

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

**Share your stories!**

Do you know of a new neighbor or maybe a long time friend leaving Willow Ridge?

Have you or your child made a significant achievement lately?

**We want to know about letters of intent, National Honor Society honorees, special certifications, Girl Scout Gold Awards, Boy Scout Eagle Scouts, and much more!**

Send your news and photos to 136 Dalewood Drive or email it to [WITW@WRCA.US](mailto:WITW@WRCA.US).

Follow us on Facebook  
Willow Ridge Civic Association



## Neighborhood News

### Welcome to Willow Ridge.

Neighbors on Amberwood Dr welcome the Armstrong family to 59 Amberwood. Don, Amanda and son Dylan moved in Fall of 2016. On April 28th, Don and Amanda and big brother Dylan welcomed Emma Lynne Armstrong. Born @ 7:41 PM 8lbs 14 oz and 20.5 inches. Welcome to Willow Ridge.



### You will be missed by our community

On a sad note, Robert (Bob) House passed away June 11th. Bob, Helen and family were one of the first residents of Willow Ridge, moving in Dec 1960. As a resident of Willow Ridge for over 55 years, Bob was known for his well kept lawn, tidy garage and sitting out front greeting those who passed by. He was involved in the early days of the WRCA and Cub Scout Pack 173 and never missed a flag day parade, watching the Elementary kids each year from the corner of Willow Ridge and Dalewood. You will be missed by our community.

Who do you know that would like to live in *OUR neighborhood?*



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# WRCA Minutes

## WRCA MINUTES FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

The September WRCA meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

In attendance were President Erich Krueger, Treasurer Donna Mosteller, Secretary Jane Sieman and Board Members Cassie Schwab, Andy Annesi, Marijean Nichols and Connie Holovics. Excused were Vice President Tom Amodeo and Board Member John Radens. Also in attendance were Bob Lannen and Barry Moir.

Secretary's Report

Motion was made to approve the June meeting minutes as published by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Connie Holovics.

Treasurer's Report

Donna Mosteller submitted the treasurer's report. Income for the month of June was \$126.16. No income reported for July and August. Expenses were as follows: June \$1,337.65, July \$0, and August \$275.00. The Balance at the end of August was \$4,523.13. Motion made to accept by Andy Annesi and seconded by Marijean Nichols.

Discussion

Tax status - No update as of today's date.

Table cloth for WRCA events - It was discussed that WRCA design and purchase a table cloth to have when we have a table/presence at a event. After we submit design and receive estimates, we hope to have the table cloth by Halloween Party. Discussion was held about having a basket raffle at next year's National Night Out.

WTF/Micro Cell: President Erich Krueger to attend the next town meeting to represent Willow Ridge asking for an update on the town codes. Residents encouraged to attend as well.

Membership Drive for 2018. Jane Sieman reported. Invoice will be submitted for the website and paypal by the end of September. Membership drive for 2018 will begin with the November issue of the WITW which will be a mass mailing to all residents in Willow Ridge.

Halloween Party-Saturday, October 21, 2017, 10 a.m - Noon at Willow Ridge School. Set up will take place Friday night at 7 p.m. Lots of fun events and treats. Amherst Baptist Church will be volunteering and assisting us for this event. Cassandra Schwab is contact for this event. Details this issue of WITW, facebook and twitter.

WITW Advertising-Discussed advertising and billing/payment policies for the newsletter. Andy Annesi is contact for advertising in the WITW Newsletter.

Wine Tasting Event - discussed proceeds going towards Willow Ridge Scholarships. Looking for input on month to have this event. Snowflake Dinner Dance - Contacting Carol Zaffram for date and details.

Community Open Forum:

Barry Moir, WRCA member and resident, discussed the flag at the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood North. Flag is due for replacement and lights are out on the Willow Ridge Bldg on the corner and have been out for quite some time. President Erich Krueger to call town to get lights replaced.

Bob Lannen, WRCA member who resides on Denrose, discussed the concern that the developer who

owns the property between the residents on Denrose and businesses on Niagara Falls Blvd will tear out the trees and replace with more apartments all the way down to the fire hall. An environmental impact study was never done for that area. President Erich Krueger to follow up and request study at the next town meeting.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting came to a close at 9:10 p.m. Motion was made by Connie Holovics to adjourn and seconded by Andy Annesi.

Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. All welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Sieman - WRCA Secretary

## NEXT WRCA MEETING

When:

7:30 PM October 10, 2017

Where:

Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company 45 S Ellicott Creek Rd, Amherst, NY 14228  
Downstairs Meeting Room.

Brian Kulpa will be at the next meeting, he running for Amherst Supervisor.



## For Sale

Black & Decker Power Saw  
Black & Decker Drill Press  
Craftsman Radical Saw 10"  
Pro-tech Bench Grinder 6"  
716-691-4660

# National Night Out 2017

Fantastic Night! National Night Out!

Huge shout out to John Miller and Amherst Police Department!

The success of this event is John's hard work!

Thank you Target for bicycles for the raffles and the prizes for the bicycle decoration contest, you made a lot of children happy tonight!

Thank you Amherst Baptist Church the Hotdogs were tasty and from the amount of sticky faces I saw, I believe the cotton candy was also a hit! Thank you for use of the Bounce House!

Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Dept thank you for leading the bicycle parade!

Wegman's for donation of Water and Freezies.

Thank you Boardmembers Jane, Donna and Andy for being at the WRCA table.

Thank you John and Sandy Radens for taking photos of prize winners!

And A HUGE THANK YOU to Bob Sieman, I could not have pulled this off with out your help! I'd still be tangled in extension cords.

I want to thank the Vendors who help this event every year! Anderson's Ice Cream, Face Painting by Shelia, and Shenandoah Acres for the Pony rides.

***We are blessed to have such a great neighborhood!***

Erich Krueger  
WRCA President





# SIDEWALK SAFETY

Now that I'm a "Granny Nanny", I find myself walking the neighborhood again. It has been many years since I was pushing a stroller over our sidewalks. Doing so recently has brought to my attention the dangerous condition of our aging walkways. I know a few years ago, my sidewalk was marked by the town as needing repair and it was not half as bad as some of the "bumps" I've experienced lately. I don't think we need to be told by Amherst to do something about a hazardous situation when we know we are responsible for any injuries resulting from our neglect.

I referenced the town regulations and found a few facts I'd like to share with our WRCA. Section 83-9-5 (Code of the Town of Amherst, Building Construction Administration) and Section 151-60C (Property Maintenance) both require the property owners be responsible for sidewalk repairs. I know it doesn't seem fair that we have to deal with the damage done by a TOWN tree, but upon request, the Highway Department can grind the tree roots or remove the tree if they so determine. Call the Highway Department, Forestry Division at 631-7117. However, the homeowner is still responsible for the walkway.

The Building Department inspectors enforce the Town Code in response to complaints within a specific area. Inspectors mark sidewalks that are a safety/tripping hazards to pedestrians. An "R" means that the section of sidewalk needs to be repaired or replaced. A horizontal line, drawn on the tripping hazard, means that you can provide an acceptable filler. If you have any questions, you can call the Building Department at 631-7080 between 8 and 10 AM (recommended). The compliance date will be noted in the letter sent by the Building Department shortly after the inspection. If you have difficulty completing the required repairs by that date, an extension may be arranged.

So now the big question: how much will the repair cost? Typically, the cost of a new sidewalk can range from \$6 to \$8 per square foot (\$160 per 4' x 5' block) if the Town has the work done. It is

recommended that you seek price estimates from private contractors, make sure the contractors are fully insured, willing to provide references, and will enter into a written contract to perform the work. A list of contractors is on file at the Town's Engineering Department. As the property owner, you may defer the cost by having the Town manage the installation and adding the cost to your property tax bill. If added to the tax bill, the costs may be spread over a 5-year period. If payment is spread over five years then a service charge of \$150, along with an interest rate of 6% per year on the unpaid balance will be assessed and added to your tax bill.

Failure to comply will result in further enforcement action by the Town of Amherst. The Town may arrange to have the violations corrected either by the Town of Amherst or an independent contractor hired by the Town. The cost of the repair will be added to the property's taxes. In addition, the Town may serve you with an appearance ticket if you do not perform the required work.

For the safety of our neighborhood, let's examine our sidewalks and do the right thing. Then all the babies in strollers, youngsters riding their bikes, and our older residents, who are not so steady on their feet, will be able to enjoy their time outside this upcoming autumn.

*Contributor: Sandy Radens*



## DJ Erich

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**NEXT WRCA MEETING Brian Kulpa will be there to meet the residents of Willow Ridge.**



**VOTE - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7!**



**Effective leadership.**

**Proven results.**

*Paid for by Friends of Brian Kulpa*

## Fall Checklist

**G**et your mind in the gutters. Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts. Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk. Get on top of roof problems. Inspect your roof for damaged or curled shingles, corroded flashing, or leaky vents. Walk the walks (and drives). Take steps to repair damaged sidewalks, driveways, and steps. Chill out. Drain and winterize outdoor faucets and irrigation systems. Freshen your filter. Clean or replace dirty furnace filters. Give your furnace a physical. Have a professional inspect your heating system. Gather round the hearth. Check fireplaces for soot or creosote build-up. Better yet, schedule a visit from a reputable chimney sweep. Keep the humidifier humming. Clean the plates or pads to ensure efficient operation.

Head-off gas problems. If you have a gas-fired room heater, have it inspected by a pro. Also, perform any routine maintenance recommended by the maker.

### **K**eeP your family safe at home.

A home safety check should be an annual ritual in every household. Test smoke and CO monitors, inspect (or install) fire extinguishers, review fire escape plans, and rid your home of old newspapers and other fire hazards

**I have buyers for Willow Ridge, call me to find out what your home is worth!**

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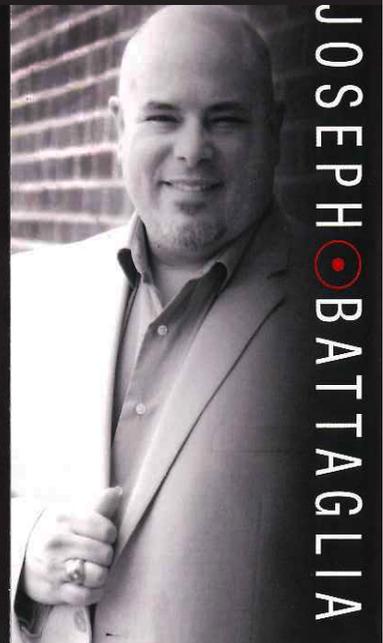
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# Where Public Transit Goes... Community Grows

It's true - not only does public transit better connect people and places, it drives community investment. The Buffalo-Niagara Region is experiencing unprecedented development, fueling momentum for our NEW Buffalo. Extending Metro Rail will accelerate this investment and bring billions in direct, indirect, and induced investment to WNY, and position WNY to better compete for jobs and growth.

## HELP CONTINUE PLANNING FOR GROWTH + DEVELOPMENT ALONG METRO RAIL!

The final round of TOD workshops will focus on neighborhood planning around several Metro Rail stations. These workshops will offer the opportunity for community members, government officials, developers, businesses, and not-for-profits to come together to plan for the future of the highlighted Metro Rail station areas. (Audubon, Boulevard Mall, LaSalle, Utica, Summer-Best, and DL+W)



## TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP #3

We invite you to come + share your ideas at one or more of the final workshops:

Tuesday or Wednesday

**October 3: 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**October 4: 1:30pm - 3:30pm**

**UB Educational Opportunity Center**

**Located at 555 Ellicott Street (Near Goodell)**

**October 4: 6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Weinberg Campus, Meadows Apartment 2nd Floor Lounge**

**Located at 2650 N. Forest Rd, Getzville, NY (Meadow Apartment Entrance)**

**Willow Ridge Civic Association &  
Amherst Baptist Church  
presents  
CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY!!!**



**Date : Saturday October 21, 2017**

**Where: Willow Ridge Elementary School**

**Time: 10 AM to Noon**

**COSTUME CONTEST! BOUNCE HOUSE!**

**FACE PAINTING! MUSIC!**

**GAMES! TREATS!**

**SCARY FUN!!!**

**Any Questions or you wish to help,  
Contact Cassandra The Good Witch at:  
[children.events@wrca.us](mailto:children.events@wrca.us)**

## Facts About World Records

The fastest bird is the peregrine falcon. It can fly at a speed of 168-217 miles per hour.

Hans Langseth had the longest beard at a record length of 17 1/2 feet long! When he died, his beard was given to the Smithsonian Institute.

The hottest continent on earth is Africa, where a record high of 136.4 degrees F was once recorded.

The blue whale is the largest animal that ever lived (it could reach 100 feet long and weight up to 150 tons!)

Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a basketball game in 1962, when he played for the Philadelphia Warriors.

The longest bout of hiccups lasted 69 years!

# Harry Potter Characters

## Word Search



- Lord Voldemort
- Lucius Malfoy
- Luna Lovegood
- Mad-Eye Moody
- Neville Longbottom
- Nymphadora Tonks
- Professor McGonagall
- Remus Lupin
- Ron Weasley
- Rubeus Hagrid
- Severus Snape
- Sirius Black

- Albus Dumbledore
- Bellatrix Lestrange
- Dobby
- Dolores Umbridge
- Draco Malfoy
- Fred Weasley
- Ginny Weasley
- Harry Potter
- Hedwig
- Hermione Granger



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## Rock your neighborhood

With a few supplies (flat, paintable rocks, acrylic paint, sealer, paint brushes), decorate your rocks and hide them.

So what do you do if there's not rock group near you? The following tips will help you design, organize, and maintain a Facebook "Rocks" group.



- Create a public Facebook page and create and post simple guidelines. Include rules such as no rock hiding in national parks, state parks, private property, cemeteries, etc., along with reminders for respectful interactions between group members on the Facebook page. You can check other groups for examples of guidelines.
- Designate at least two people as administrators for the page. These groups grow quickly, so it helps to have more than one person to manage the needs of the Facebook group.
- Provide some basics about painting rocks. Purchase materials (acrylic paint, sealer, brushes) and paint colorful pictures and messages. Then hide the rock for others to find. When you find a rock of your own, you can either keep it or re-hide it.



# *Ellicott Creek* **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**



## **Annual Fire Prevention Open House**

*Saturday October 14, 2017*

**1pm till 4pm**

**Station 1**



### ***This Year's Open House includes:***

- \*Meet and Greet with real firefighters
- \*Prize Drawings
- \*Tons of Activities for all Ages
- \* Erie County Sheriff's
- \*Fire Prevention Materials
- \* Firefighting Demonstrations
- \*Amherst Police
- \*Twin City Ambulance
- \*Home Depot Kids Club

***\*Food Trucks by J&L Blvd BBQ & Chilly Billy  
and once again this year...***

## ***Win a Ride to School on a Fire Truck***

Attend our open house and enter your name to ***win!!!!***

Ellicott Creek Fire Co. is located at 45 South Ellicott Creek Road

(Behind the Grapevine Restaurant) Call 691-7439 for more information

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