

# WIND IN THE WILLOWS

News for Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

February 2017



## Thanks for Supporting our Signature Events



Winter in Willow Ridge provides two great events for residents.

Saturday, March 4 marked our annual Snowflake dinner dance, a chance for our adult neighbors to gather at Classics V for food, drink and music. Thanks to everyone who stopped out.

Then, Saturday, April 8 will be the annual Children's Easter Party, held at Willow Ridge Elementary School from 10 a.m.—noon. This special event is packed with fun for our younger neighbors, including crafts, a bounce house, and much more!

Thank you to all of our Willow Ridge Civic Association members; your dues make this party possible.

## Town of Amherst Issues New Home Assessments

By now Willow Ridge neighbors by have received a letter from the Town of Amherst regarding their new assessment. This is the first re-assessment that Amherst residents have faxed in seven years.

This determines how much you pay in property taxes. Many are also wondering if this number accurately reflects the price for which they could realistically sell their property.

The town will sponsor a series of public information sessions to explain the re-assessment, and to instruct people how they can file a grievance if they feel their assessment is too high.

Schedule an appointment to attend an informal educational forum about the process by calling (866) 910-1776. Property owners can also call that number to schedule an assessment review.

## In This Issue

### 2 *Board Contacts*

*Neighbor News*

### 3 *Letter from the President*

### 4 *Minutes*

### 5 *Accidents on the Boulevard*

### 6 *Community News*

### 7 *Membership Forms*

## WRCA Membership Meeting

Stop out to meet your new board at our next WRCA membership meeting on Tuesday, March 14 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

WRCA meets monthly at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Remember, the deadline to submit materials for the next newsletter is March 8.

## Contact Us

### President:

Erich Krueger 691-9952

### Vice President:

Tom Amodeo 691-5150

### Secretary:

Jane Sieman 564-0913

### Treasurer:

Donna Mosteller 635-7268

### Board of Directors:

Andy Annesi 812-8851

Connie Holovics 553-7433

Marijean Nichols 691-4375

John Radens 691-7389

### Wind in the Willows

#### Executive Editor

Marijean Nichols 691-4375

### Membership/Circulation

Jane Sieman 564-0913

### Advertising Sales

Andy Annesi 812-8851

### 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).

## Neighborhood News

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Ryan Poydock of Edgewater Drive. He was named Sweet home Modified Swim MVP.



### Welcome

A warm welcome to Nadhum & Muna Abid Wannas and their children, Alaa, Riyam, Mohhmed & Hasan who have moved in at 117 Parkhaven.

Welcome to new neighbors Len & Kathy Krucenski and their children, Emily and Brent have at 130 Parkhaven.

John & Cynthia Benzo and their son, Sam also joined the neighborhood, moving into 139 Parkhaven,

Antoine & Hanaa Atallah and their children Joseph, Anthony and Jessy have moved into 74 Parkhaven.

### Condolences

We are saddened to mark the passing of Andrew Torre, father of Michael Torre of Kaymar Drive. Gratefully he died peacefully in his sleep on February 5, leaving Roz, Nicole, and Mike with many happy memories and "the afterglow of smiles". The Kaymar neighbors express their sympathy and prayers of comfort to the family.

The neighbors on Kaymar Drive and Peppertree Drive offer Sheila Hickey and her family condolences on the death of her father, Robert Barrante, just before Christmas.



**Joseph Bataglia**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Cell: (716) 863-4586  
Office: (716) 863-4586  
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# Message from the President

Unless you are a cross country skier or a snowshoe enthusiast like myself, our lack of snow has been blessing.

First thing I would like to address is reports of a problem with rodents in the Edgewater and Jeanmore section of our neighborhood. I have been in contact with Amherst Refuse Control Office and they are sending an exterminator to the affected residents' houses to try to curb this nuisance.

One thing you can do is be sure there is not a food source for them. That includes bread or bird seeds on the ground. Also make sure that your garbage and recycling totes are closed.

If you do see rodents in your area, please contact Amherst Refuse Control Office 631-7119.

I also wanted to share that as of this newsletter, another incursion of apartments has been tabled by the Town Planning Board. Thank you to the residents of Denrose and Connie Holovics for going to the Town Meeting and speaking up against this project. I know this fight is not over, but at least we as a neighborhood have won the first battle.

Lastly I would like to thank Dawn Cwierley and Marijean Nichols for their work over the last year on the Wind In the Willows. I and many of our members, appreciate the professional look of our newsletter and the hard work and time it took them to get it this way. They will be passing the torch to our new editor Barb Wenke. who is a teacher at Bryant and Stratton.

In closing, thanks to everyone that came out to this year's Snowflake Dance!

~ H. Erich Krueger

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**Save 10% on insurance!**

## Want to save money on car insurance? (It takes 6 hours, not 15 minutes)

### Take a NYS Defensive Driving Class

**Saturday, March 25, 2017**  
**9:00 am – 3:45 pm**  
Amherst Baptist Church, 100 Willow Ridge Drive

Instructor: Mr. Charles F. Husvar Jr. , New York Certified Master Instructor # 2045

Taking a live course offers better learning,  
a chance to participate, and more fun!  
Free, delicious lunch provided by ABC people!

**\$30.00 per person**  
(payable to Pro Paradigm Ltd.) in advance.  
Mail with contact information to:  
Amherst Baptist Church,  
100 Willow Ridge Drive,  
Amherst, NY 14228

**MORE INFO??**  
Contact Church Office : 691-9456  
Email: [info@amherstbaptist.com](mailto:info@amherstbaptist.com)  
**SPACES ARE LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE**  
Bring pen and driver's license



**4 points off your driving record!**

**Check your policy...save maybe \$60 each year!**

**No need to pack a lunch!**

**2 cars?  
2 drivers?  
2 courses!  
Save 2x the \$\$!**

**Savings lasts 3 years!**



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## WRCA MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

The February WRCA meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m. by President Erich Krueger. (Meeting previously scheduled for February 14, 2017 was rescheduled to February 7, 2017 due to date published in January issue of WITW).

In attendance were President Erich Krueger, Treasurer Donna Mosteller, Secretary Jane Sieman, and Board Members John Radens, Andy Annesi, and Marijean Nichols. Excused were Vice President, Thomas Amodeo and Board Member, Connie Holovics.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The New Business and Adjournment sections for January's WRCA Minutes were inadvertently left out of January WITW as follows:

Guest Speakers - we will reach out to residents via Facebook regarding guest speakers at WRCA monthly meetings. Looking to set up Sign Up Genius where WRCA members can sign up to attend. If a percentage is not reached for attendance at sign-up, the speaker will be canceled.

WITW Newsletter - We have a new editor, Brendan Dabkowski, for the WITW. Dawn Cwierley will be working with him to make the transition smooth. A agreement will be made for \$75 per issue to produce our newsletter. The vote was unanimous to accept the new editor and payment amount. A motion was made by Donna Mosteller, and seconded by Connie Holovics. Articles will now be submitted to Erich Krueger and he will forward all to the new editor. Deadline dates to be discussed.

Easter Party- The Willow Ridge Children's Easter Party event will be held Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Willow Ridge School, 10:00 am - Noon. Cassie Schwab is the contact for this event. More details to follow.

By-laws were reviewed regarding committee positions and board positions. All in agreement to keep as is.

Motion was made to approve the January meeting minutes as published in the January Issue by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Andy Annesi.

### Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting came to a close at 9:10 p.m. Motion was made by Erich Krueger to adjourn and seconded by Connie Holovics. Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Motion was made to approve the January meeting minutes as published in the January Issue by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Andy Annesi.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Donna Mosteller submitted a treasurer's report. Income for the month of January was \$2,705. Expenses for the month of January was \$1,561. The balance for the end of January was \$7,058. Board approved to modify the budget for newsletter printing expenses from \$0 to \$250. Motion made to accept treasurer's report by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Andy Annesi.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Attended and represented Willow Ridge at the Amherst Planning Board Meeting on January 19, 2017 regarding the development and building of Apartments from 190-212 Edgewater behind Andersons. Proposal is being tabled at

this time due to lack of information from the Army Corp of Engineers because of wetland issues. Residents attended as well.

### DISCUSSION

Membership/Circulation/Directory - Jane Sieman reported. Membership - drive is doing well.

Block Rep System was put into place and packets for approximately 35 block reps were distributed. Materials due back by the block reps by February 15. New memberships received by February 25 will be updated in the 2017 Directory. Circulation - newsletter to be delivered within 72 hours of Ewind issue to the few that require a hard copy. Directory - 24 advertisers received to date with more expected. Proofreading will be done later this month and submitted to printer between March 1 and March 6.

Wind In The Willows Editor - We are in search of a newsletter editor again. Contacts are being made to those who may be interested along with a continued search through WITW, facebook and twitter until we have an editor secured. Newsletter content format was also discussed.

Website - Domain was paid for the year. Email addresses are current and working. Bill will be sent to P.O. Box instead of emailed.

Easter Party - Amherst Baptist Church will be providing bounce house and help needed.

The Willow Ridge Children's Easter Party event will be held Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at Willow Ridge School, 10 a.m. - Noon. Cassie Schwab is the contact for this event.

Snowflake Dinner Dance - Erich Krueger and Lisa Raimondi will be collecting money, names and dinner choices for Carol Zaffram. Event will be held March 4, 2017 at Classics, the cost is 40/\$80 a couple. Carol Zaffram is the contact for this event. Info will be listed in the WITW, Facebook and Twitter.

Wine Tasting - Event was held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at Classics with DB Liquors hosting/providing the vendors. Attendance was low but profit was made.

Holiday Lighting Contest - Unforeseen circumstances caused a delay in distribution of prizes. Prizes will be distributed by the end of February. Motion made by John Radens to allow for \$60 to purchase Valu gift cards, seconded by Andy Annesi.

Guest Speakers - Due to lack of attendance at monthly meetings, guest speakers have been put on hold.

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 173 for their assistance in removing a trampoline that was damaged and found in a resident's yard due to high winds recently.

Yearly taxes were discussed. Donna Mosteller, Treasurer, will contact Wilson, Schunk, CPA's to attend March meeting to discuss tax questions with the WRCA Board.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at hand, the meeting came to a close at 9:14 p.m. Motion was made by Marijean Nichols to adjourn and seconded by Andy Annesi. Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Sieman – WRCA Secretary

# More Accidents Along Niagara Falls Boulevard

Five people have been killed on a 1.7-mile stretch of Niagara Falls Boulevard adjacent to Willow Ridge over a recent 39-month period.

There was another accident near Thistle Avenue along the Boulevard on February 15 that sent a young woman to the hospital.

With a 45 mile per hour speed limit and with five lanes of traffic, it has identified as one of the most dangerous sections of road for pedestrians in the state. The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) did install pedestrian signals at 18 intersections along the Boulevard between Kenmore Avenue and Tonawanda Creek Road. In addition, there is not a traffic light at every intersection and therefore, no pedestrian signals.

However, the DOT has since embarked on new, comprehensive pedestrian safety initiative that provides \$110 million for pedestrian safety improvements across the state.

The towns of Tonawanda and Amherst are also in the early stages of working with the state Department of Transportation and National Grid to install more street lights along both sides of the boulevard, The hope is that pedestrians will be better seen by drivers in the early hours of the day when most of the accidents have occurred.

**Let your voice be heard.**

**You can reach out to your local officials who are listed below.**

## **Town of Amherst Elected Officials 2017**

Supervisor: Barry Weinstein [bweinstein@amherst.ny.us](mailto:bweinstein@amherst.ny.us)

Deputy Supervisor/Councilmember: Steven Saunders [ssaunders@amherst.ny.us](mailto:ssaunders@amherst.ny.us)

Councilmember: Ramona Popovich [rpopovich@amherst.ny.us](mailto:rpopovich@amherst.ny.us)

Councilmember: Deborah Bruch Bucki [dbucki@amherst.ny.us](mailto:dbucki@amherst.ny.us)

Councilmember: Francina Spoth [fspoth@amherst.ny.us](mailto:fspoth@amherst.ny.us)

Highway Superintendent: Patrick Lucey, Jr. [plucey@amherst.ny.us](mailto:plucey@amherst.ny.us)

Town Clerk/Tax Receiver: Marjory Jaeger [mjaeger@amherst.ny.us](mailto:mjaeger@amherst.ny.us)

## **Erie County**

County Executive: Mark Poloncarz 858-8500

5th District Legislator: Thomas Loughran 836-0198

## **New York State**

146th District Assemblyman: Raymond Walter 634-1895

61st District Senator: Michael Ranzenhofer 631-8695

**Directories will be delivered April 1st by Boy Scout Troop 173.**

## Community News

### Fish Fry

Come support the ongoing world outreach efforts of Amherst Baptist Church on Friday, March 17 at the church, corner of Willow Ridge & Peppertree!

For \$8, you'll get a fish fry or chicken fingers dinner with choice of two salads, roll, homemade fries, drink (for those who eat in) and dessert.

If you can help the church's future outreach efforts, come Friday, March 17 between 4 – 8 p.m. for take out or eat in.

### Defensive Driving

The NYS Defensive Driving Course (or Accident Prevention Course) is a comprehensive driver safety course which provides knowledge and techniques for safe and lawful driving.

When you complete an approved defensive driving class, you receive a 10% reduction of the base rate of your auto and motorcycle insurance premiums each year for three years. You can also refresh your driving knowledge and reduce up to four points from your NYS DMV driving record if necessary.

A class is being offered Saturday, March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Amherst Baptist Church at Willow Ridge & Peppertree. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Contact church office : 691-9456 or email [info@AmherstBaptist.com](mailto:info@AmherstBaptist.com) for information or to register by Mar.18<sup>th</sup> . Spaces are limited to 40 people. Each driver on your insurance policy should take the class.

### Boy Scout Fundraiser

Join Boy Scout Troop 173 for their annual fundraiser night at Rob's Comedy Playhouse. They will have baskets and auction items. This year they are focusing on our local businesses to help support them as they are being so generous to us. Summer 2017 some of the scouts will be going on the high adventure trip to Sea Base in the Florida Keys.

Tickets for the event are \$25 each and include two drinks. Adults 21 and over only.

Contact Jennifer Poydock for tickets at 418-3659 for tickets and information.

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to discuss advertising  
opportunities.



# WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## 2017 Membership Invoice

### -DUES-

DUES FOR 2017 ARE \$17.00.

**PAYMENT METHODS:**

-- Mail your check payable to: WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 86  
Amherst, NY 14226

**Due to outdated information on file, please fill out the form below with all current information for the 2017 Willow Ridge Civic Association Directory. Thank you**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names \_\_\_\_\_

**Babysitter Directory Listing:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide email address used for distribution of E-Wind and newsletter only.*

*Email address will NOT be published in WRCA Directory.*

E-mail Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

**The following information is for the WRCA app:**

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Interest/talents you wish to share \_\_\_\_\_



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