

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

New for Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

June 2016



Summer Fun in Willow Ridge

With winter far behind us, and spring sprung, families in Willow Ridge are looking forward to the summer months.

The season kicked off with the annual Willow Ridge Garage Sale on June 3, 4 and 5, at dozens of homes throughout the neighborhood.

National Night Out, a community event that brings together police, firemen, and the communities they serve together, will be held on August 4. Watch our Facebook page for more details. Neighborhoods only get stronger – and safer – when we all get to know each other and build solid relationships.

Events like National Night Out let us meet our neighbors and help us learn how to protect ourselves in case of danger.

One of the best ways to end a hot summer day is lounging in the park. Add in a popular movie and good friends, you have a great night in store for all.

This summer, the Town of Amherst has added Bedford Park to its 2016 Summer Movie Series, screening Zootopia on August 5 at 8:30 p.m.

Bring chairs, a blanket and some snacks for this free family movie night. In the case of bad weather, movie night will take place at Willow Ridge Elementary School's cafeteria.

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Emma Amodeo enjoyed the Minion Movie with her family and friend at the 2015 Movie Night.



Nearly 150 friends and neighbors came out for the 2014 Movie Night.

Neighborhood News

Contact Us

President:

Jim Cwierley 525-1893

Vice President:

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Marijean Nichols 691-4375

Treasurer:

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Visit us on the web at www.wrca.info

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of our local graduates!

If you would like share news about your grad, please submit the following details prior to June 15.

Print the following information on a full sheet of paper and drop off at 136 Dalewood Drive or email it to WITW@WRCA.US.

- Graduate's name
- Address
- Graduating school (college or high school)
- Special accomplishments

Graduation listings will appear in the July/August edition.

Accomplishments!

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.

Vacation Bible School
M - F, June 27th - July 1st
9am - 12:30pm

For children who've completed Grades K-6

FREE!

SUBMERGED
FINDING TRUTH BELOW THE SURFACE

FREE!

FREE!

More information?
Contact Kathryn Napoli,
Director of Children's ministry,
at Kathryn@AmherstBaptist.com

Amherst Baptist Church
corner of Willowridge & Peppertree
Register at www.AmherstBaptist.com

Community News

Amherst Youth & Recreation

Did you know that as residents of the Town of Amherst you may purchase Resident ID Cards from the Youth & Recreation Department Office?

These give you access to local pools throughout the summers.

Amherst Youth & Recreation is located in the Northtown Center at Amherst, 1615 Amherst Manor Drive. Payment is cash, check or credit card.

Last Day of School, Watch for Kids

School is out for summer as of June 22. When driving, pay attention and scan the entire area around you. Look for kids playing near the street and slow down. Children are often unpredictable and unaware of danger around them. Slow down around children and other pedestrians.

Boy Scout Troop 173 Helpful & Kind!

Local scouts from Troop 173 pitched in full strength on May 7 to help with spring cleanup at Amherst Baptist Church. The troop gave the church's entire Fellowship Hall a beautiful, fresh coat of paint.

What a difference they made. The congregation really appreciated their generous service.

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

These past few weekends have been perfect for getting into the garage, cleaning out clutter to sell in the upcoming Willow Ridge garage sale.

Our neighbors, the family of the late Al and Eileen Jones, unearthed a real treasure for us. It's a gift they shared with me that I am happy to pass along to you: a stack of *Wind in the Willows*, from 1968 and 1969.

I've always been an avid student of history, and believe in the old saying 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' After taking the time to read them, another adage comes to mind: 'The more things change, the more they stay the same.'

I'm not saying that's a bad thing; that old-timey charm is one of the things that really drew me to this neighborhood. It's one of the top things my friends say to me when they come in for their first visit. What I did see was the problems we're encountering on the WRCA board today are eerily similar to the ones of yesteryear.

Reports on membership drives lamented the lack of neighbor membership, and questioned whether the organization could survive. The membership totals were roughly the same as they are today. The difference was 85 percent of the households were members. Only 5 percent of households refused to join.

A meeting in 1969 might seem like one from 2016 in the things our neighbors grumbled about. Dogs messing up the lawn. Dirt and dust from construction vehicles. Cars speeding down streets and blowing through stop signs. All things that haven't really changed that much. Except for bumper surfing. I don't think the kiddos are doing that any more.

I'm not trivializing any of these complaints. YOUR civic association is here to help you, in any way we can. These neighborhood annoyances have likely always existed, and your grandkids will be the ones telling people to 'get off my lawn' 30 years from now.

We are currently scanning these old newsletters, and hope to have them online soon. If you have any older copies of *Wind in the Willows*, please contact us, as we are trying to build our archives up.



WRCA Board Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2016

The May meeting of the WRCA was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Jim Cwierley. In attendance were Treasurer Donna Mosteller, Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Members Andy Annesi and Erich Kreuger. Also in attendance was Ben Procopio and Rick and Debby VonLangen.

Secretary's report: A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes from the April meeting.

Treasurer's report: Income for the month of April was \$1,579. Expenses for the month \$2,238. The balance was \$765. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report for April.

President's Report: The signs for the annual garage sale to be held on June 3,4 and 5 this year are ready and notices will be placed in the Amherst Bee and The Buffalo News. The family movie to be shown at August's Annual Movie Night this year, sponsored by the Town of Amherst, will be Zootopia. The tennis courts are being resurfaced and a new pickleball court will be added as a part of this project. The WRCA Board will participate in the selection of this year's scholarship winners. We are still in need of volunteers for the upcoming WRCA summer events, as well as a volunteer to chair the junior recreation activities to plan for the October Halloween party. All postal correspondence should be sent to the WRCA post office box instead of individual board members and committee chairpersons homes. As the volunteers in these positions change over time, using our official post office box will ensure that all WRCA business is handled in a timely manner.

Old Business: The board received a letter from Membership Chair Jane Siemens regarding the 2016 directories. Jane expressed her personal regrets for not having as much time as she had planned to work on the directory. Jane also has completely updated the directory which

had not been done since the role of the block reps had been diminished several years ago. The directory is due to be sent for printing on 5/12/16 and Jane will update the Treasurer on membership and advertising revenue at that time. Any residents who have questions about delivery of their directory can call Jane at 870-3412.

New Business: Debby VonLangen, editor of Wind In The Willows is retiring as reported in the May issue. Debby attended the board meeting to let us know that her retirement is effective immediately and the May issue was her last. As June is an important month for Wind In the Willows in providing our busy summer schedule of events and congratulating our graduates on their accomplishments, Marijean Nichols will serve as interim executive editor for the June issue.

Any announcements, neighborhood news, articles of interest, non-business related classifieds (members only) or questions can be emailed to WITW@WRCA.US or dropped off at 136 Dalewood Drive. We will advertise for this position in the June newsletter along with the other positions that are currently unfilled.

Andy Annesi alerted the board to the problem of emerald ash borer infestation that is now affecting some of the ash trees in Willow Ridge.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting of the WRCA will be held on Tuesday, June 14th, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Marijean Nichols

Town Readying Tennis Courts for the Popular Pickleball

The courts at Willow Ridge are getting a facelift this spring, readying them for players of tennis, and now Pickleball too.

Pickleball is booming across the country. The sport, played on a smaller court with a hard paddle and a hard plastic ball with holes in it, enables those with good racket skills to play competitively without needing to run around as much as you would in tennis.

The sport was invented on Bainbridge Island, Washington, in 1965 by a pair of men looking for a family activity on an otherwise lazy day.

A combination of badminton, tennis, volleyball and ping-pong, the Pickleball is played with the same strategy of tennis, typically in a doubles format. It is played with a wooden paddle and a plastic whiffle ball.

According to Mary-Diana Pouli, "Pickeball has been gaining popularity throughout the area. We are excited to make it possible for enthusiasts to now enjoy this sport at the courts at Willow Ridge."

Kindergarden and Pre-K Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2016-2017 school year is underway. If you have a child who turns 5 by December 1, 2016 and the child is NOT currently enrolled in the Sweet Home Universal Pre-K program, Registration packets were mailed.

If you have a child turning 4 by December 1, 2016, your child will be eligible to attend the District's free Universal Pre-K program. The Universal Pre-K program runs 2.5 hours a day Monday-Friday. There are two sessions: 8:30am -11 a.m. or 11:45 a.m.—2:15 p.m.

Registration can be reached at 250 -1600.

Dive Into Free Vacation Bible School!

This summer, let your kids take an adventure like no other, deep within the mysterious sea. Start with free, local Vacation Bible School fun!

Children who've completed grades K-6th are invited for games, songs, crafts, snacks & Bible stories at the "Submerged" VBS Monday – Friday, June 27 – July 1, from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

There is no charge for this fun, busy, wholesome activity. Pre-registration by following the Submerged Link at AmherstBaptist.com. This helps with planning of supplies.

"Submerged" will be held at Amherst Baptist Church, at the corner of Willowridge & Peppertree. As kids submerge themselves in God's Word, they will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. He looked deep down on the inside.

A special Family Celebration will be held Thursday night, June 30 at 6:30 pm for parents to see & hear what the kids have been experiencing all week. An ice cream fellowship will follow.

So come on! Dive in!

For more information, please contact Kathryn Napoli, director of Children's Ministry, at Kathryn@amherstbaptist.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Willow Ridge Civic Association is looking to fill two important volunteer roles.

Newsletter Editor - This is key communications role and requires writing, editing, and design experience.

Junior Recreation Chair - This vital role plans and coordinates the annual children's Easter and Halloween parties.

Interested parties, please contact Willow Ridge Civic Association president, Jim Cwierley, at wrca.president@gmail.com.



*We have another reason to work hard to make
YOUR Real Estate move a successful one!*

Connie & Dave are proud to present their 4th grandchild

Reid Alexander Barden
April 15, 2016
3:45pm 10lbs, 23 inches
Son of Josh & Melisa Barden

Whatever your reason for making a move, Call Connie

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Tree Killer Finds Home in Willow Ridge

An unwelcome new neighbor has been discovered burrowing into our community. The emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found making a home in the ash trees of Willow Ridge.



Millions of trees have already been destroyed in the northeastern United States and the rest of our ash trees are now in danger. The emerald ash borer is a pest that bores into the tree trunk at or near the soil line, causing tree dieback. It takes three to five years to kill the tree and can rarely be eradicated once it has infected a tree.

It is difficult to find an emerald ash borer infestation in the early stages. The larvae bore their way under the bark in curving tunnels. Once they mature, they leave the tree through D-shaped holes. This holes are one of the key features in identifying an infestation.

Other signs, per the US Department of Agriculture, include dying branches, bark splits, woodpeckers (which like to eat the bark) and sucker formations. The larvae or adults may even be seen.

When these epicormic shoots grow from the base of the tree, the upper branches will decline and die. Check your trees for these visible signs of emerald ash bore infestation.

Trees are worth treating if more than half the crown is still alive and the tree appears to be healthy with few signs of EAB infestation. Treatment is an ongoing expense for those trees which significantly enrich the landscape or have sentimental value to the owner.

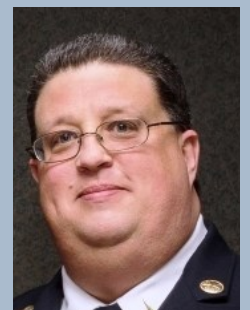
The Town of Amherst has been proactive in drawing up plans to deal with this destructive ash tree problem on town property. The NYSDEC has issued quarantines to prohibit the movement of ash trees and their by-products beyond the quarantined districts. Willow Ridge and the Town of Amherst are located within the quarantined boundaries of a NYS infected area.

More information on the emerald borer ash problem can be found on the Cornell Cooperative Extension website. Members of the WRCA can express their concern at the next monthly membership meeting. Membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month from September through June and members are always encouraged to attend.

Letter From The Fire Chief

It's been a while since we have submitted an update to the residents of Willowridge.

There has been a lot going on over the past year. We opened a Station 2 at 3000 Sweethome Road and have been busy with recruitment of new members. We have received our ISO Review this year and have stayed a Class 3 Fire Department. ISO grades Fire Department's on many things, from training, response times, water supply, dispatch and many other areas.



A Class 3 is extremely good for a volunteer organization. This is what Insurance companies use to base your homeowners insurance on. And lastly, you will start seeing our New Engine 3 over the next few weeks as we are taking delivery very soon. If anyone ever has any questions, feel free to stop by the station.

Thank you,

Joe Osika
Chief of Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company

Local Fire Calls

With many organizations celebrating Emergency Medical Service last month, May 17-22, this provided a opportunity to stress the importance of having the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company as our neighbors.

Did you know that during the month of April, the fire company responded to 43 EMS calls and 14 fire calls?

Since January 1, they responded to a total 164 EMS calls and 88 fire calls.

Thank you all of the dedicated men and women who put in long hours and sleepless nights taking care of the needs of our community.



Four fire companies responded to the blaze.

Fire Spotted on Parkhaven

During the afternoon of May 16, two neighbors spotted flames coming from a garage on Parkhaven Drive. A neighbor who was driving past the house immediately stopped and called 911. At that time, a second neighbor had just started taking his grandson for a walk. He alerted an occupant of the home who was in the front yard playing with his dog.

An Ellicott Creek firemen immediately responded to the scene. Soon after, firetrucks from Getzville and North Bailey Fire Companies arrived. Brighton Fire Company also responded to assist and the Amherst

Police helped to reroute traffic and keep the gathering neighbors safe. As additional hoses were hooked up, the firemen worked together to extinguish the fast moving flames. Watching these well-trained volunteers proved how professional our fire companies are.

The responders, from four different companies, worked as one cohesive unit, fighting towards the same goal - putting out the fire safely. The Willow Ridge community thanks the Getzville, North Bailey and Brighton Fire Companies for their assistance in helping our neighborhood.

It is with deep gratitude that Willow Ridge expresses our appreciation to the Ellicott Creek Fire Company, our volunteers who protect us every day.



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Willow Ridge Civic Association Mission Statement

The Willow Ridge Civic Association is organized for the mutual civic benefit of all living in the Willow Ridge Subdivision. Through its membership and organization, the Association promotes neighborliness through group activities and social events designed to foster community spirit. In addition the Association is dedicated to the preservation of property values through awareness of the local environment and by working closely with various Town of Amherst agencies.

June 2016 Edition

WRCA Membership Meeting

Make an investment in your neighborhood. Stop out to the next WRCA membership meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

WRCA meets monthly at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

The deadline for the July/ August issue is June 15