

# WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS

News for and about Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

May 2016



## Neighborhood Children Make Spring Cleaning A Breeze in Willow Ridge!

On Sunday April 16—in just one hour—this crew of neighborhood kids filled 20+ large bags with litter from streets, curbs, aprons and hedgerows on the west side of Willow Ridge. Great job, kids, and thank you to our sponsors, Tom & Gail Cefalu/Millennium Construction!



For Earth Day, we challenge other Willow Ridgers to pitch in. Whether on your next walk or with a larger group of friends, grab a garbage bag and fill it up!

Pictured: Travis McNelis, Kyle Horvatis, Jeff Theil, Jessie Simpson, Sam Wrobel, Sienna Cefalu, Caroline Theil, Nick Gueverra, Michelle Theil, Daniel Horvatis, Lisa Horvatis, Jeff Carlino, Lexi Rydzynski, Brynn Kalinowski, Natalie Kalinowski, John Horvatis, Amber Murak, Isabella Vega, Caroline Carlino, Mia Harding, Briella Harding, Jack Carlino, Jason Freda, Drew McNelis, and Colin Harding.

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Participants who are not pictured: Dawn Rydzynski, Gail Cefalu, Tom Cefalu, Nicole Carlino, Matt Martinez, Jessica Martinez.

## Contact Us

### President:

Jim Cwierley 525-1893

### Vice President:

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Marjean Nichols 691-4375

### Treasurer:

Donna Mosteller 635-7268

### Board of Directors:

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Jane Sieman

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Visit us on the web at

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

Find us on Facebook

## WRCA MEMBERSHIP

### MEETING

Tuesday,

May10, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Ellicott Creek

Fire Hall

*All Members*

*Welcome*

*The Deadline for the  
June issue of the  
Wind-in-the-Willows  
is May 15.*

## A Message from the President's Desk

There is a popular sign that is making it's way across the Internet these days. They've been found posted near baseball diamonds, soccer fields, and other places families congregate. The sign reads: 'Before you complain....Have you volunteered yet?'

In Willow Ridge, we need an influx of new volunteers to keep our events running smoothly and complaint-free. Can you step up and help us put together the great events your family and friends look forward to?

Even if you only have a little bit of time to give, we can find a way to use your time and talents. Do you love working with children? Are you a crafty person, or enjoy putting together games? We're looking for volunteers who can help keep the popular Halloween and Easter parties going.

I understand that kids events aren't for everyone. Maybe you just want to talk to your neighbors a little more often? It may not seem like much, but this is a vital need for the neighborhood. Block reps, who welcome new neighbors, also introduce them to the WRCA. They are vital to the future growth of our organization. If you've done this before, we definitely want you back. If it's something new for you, we'd be glad to have you.

We also need help developing business relationships with the community. This helps us generate the revenue we need to fund all of our popular events, in addition to new ones that are sure to become traditions in the future.

These are very fast-paced times that we live in. It seems like it can be hard to find the time to talk to your neighbors, let alone volunteer with them. But it's people coming together for the common good that makes our neighborhood so special.

If you're interested in helping out with an event, becoming a block rep, or even if you just have a suggestion on how to make things better, please contact us at [board@wrca.us](mailto:board@wrca.us). We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Editor's Note: The above article has been unedited upon request.

### Bowling, Anyone?

Looking for lady bowlers for a friendly league starting in September and ending in April. If you have the time and interest in bowling, beginners or novices, there will be an opportunity to join a bowling league which will be starting on Wednesday, September 7, and ending at the end of April 2017:



EVERY WEDNESDAYS EXCEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

TIME: BOWLING BEGINS AT 9:30 AM

PLACE: TONAWANDA BOWLING CENTER (TBC)  
ON YOUNG STREET, TONAWANDA

If you are interested to join or know about the league, please contact:  
Sunny Lippold (Willow Ridge Resident since 1973) 691-7080 or  
President of Parkview Bowling League: Sheryl Tabak 695-0446

## WRCA Board Meeting

April 12, 2016

There has been some confusion concerning the Holiday Lighting Contest as reported in the minutes from the March 2016 meeting. The following explanation should clear up any misunderstanding.

The Willow Ridge Civic Association sponsors the Annual Holiday Lighting Contest each December. Acknowledgement and small prizes are awarded to the winning members of this contest each year. The contest is open to any residence that is a member of the Willow Ridge Civic Association. The judges of the 2015 Holiday Lighting Contest selected the top ten decorated homes in the community. Each of the ten winners was to be awarded a \$10.00 Valu Home Centers gift certificate, donated to the Willow Ridge Civic Association by Valu for this purpose. The decorated homes are judged independently, based on the merit of their decoration. After touring the neighborhood, twenty homes were considered and the top ten homes were voted as winners. Once selected, the judges then go to the membership roster so the winners can be acknowledged appropriately. Of the top ten winning homes, only five of the winning residences were qualified as members of the Willow Ridge Civic Association. After five of the top ten winning homes did not meet the necessary membership requirement, the judges re-considered the remaining ten homes and the qualified winners were then chosen for award.

Hopefully, this clears up any misunderstanding. The WRCA works for the benefit of our membership. That work benefits the entire community, regardless of membership. However, it is our membership dues which allow the WRCA to function. While officers and board members do not receive any compensation, the events we sponsor for the community do need funds to provide the quality of life we enjoy in Willow Ridge.

The April meeting of the WRCA was called to order at 7:30pm by President Jim Cwierley. In attendance were Treasurer Donna Mosteller, Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Members Tom Amodeo, Andy Annesi, John Radens and Connie Holovics. A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes from the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of March was \$85. Expenses for the month were \$1,255. The balance for the month of March was \$1,424. A motion was made and approved to accept the March report.

At this time, Treasurer Donna Mosteller updated the Board on new workflows as she fully takes over the Treasurer's position. Expenses will now be recorded at the time they are accrued instead of when checks are cashed. All monies collected for events and payment to vendors will be processed through the treasurer. Invoices from vendors need to be received in order for payment to be made. Any volunteer or member who incurs expenses in the course of providing services for the WRCA will now need to turn in detailed receipts for and explanation of the expense before payment is reimbursed. Donna needs to meet with the new

*Continued on page 5.*

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*Special thanks to my WR clients who helped make 2015 a big success. You gave me 7 sales in the neighborhood, as well as referrals outside of WR, which made me a Top 20 RealtyUSA agent in Buffalo. I truly appreciate when you call!!*

Connie with President/CEO Merele Whitehead

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## Classified

**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), include your address/ phone #. **Classified** is not to be used for business purposes. Deliver to 221 N. Brier and place in porch box, or email to [wiweditor@gmail.com](mailto:wiweditor@gmail.com).

### For Sale

Chair-lift, for 37" Wide hall and 12 steps between 2 landings. Gently used. Call 691-6101 for appointment to look at it. \$500.

House for sale by owner. Large lakefront property with terrific views from awning covered deck. 4 BR including master suite with walk-in-closet and Jacuzzi tub, Den, DR, LR, FR and spacious updated Kitchen. On market May 21 with open house Sunday May 22, 1-3pm. Location, 41 Black Spruce Ct. Leave message at 691-6730.

Willow Ridge House for sale by owner on North Brier Rd. Beautiful, updated, many extras. Three bedrooms one and a half bathrooms. For an appointment call 984-4256.

WRCA info can be found on Facebook, E-Wind, *Wind-in-the-Willows* or simply call a board member.



Won't you consider becoming a voice and lending a hand to the WRCA? Please come with your ideas to our next board meeting, May 10, 7:30pm at the Fire Hall.



**Joseph Battaglia**  
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Cell: 716.863.4586  
Office: 716.689.8100  
Email: [Joehashome4u@aol.com](mailto:Joehashome4u@aol.com)



914 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

## Neighborhood News

Welcome

A big, warm Willow Ridge welcome to Peter and Louise Freedman and their children Patrick and Elena. They come to us from Corning, and now make 92 Parkhaven their home. They can be reached at 607/654-3669.

## Willow Ridge Garden Club

"CELEBRATIONS" is a small standard flower show as Willow Ridge Garden Club celebrates 50 years of gardening. The show is open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on May 7th, at the Zion United Church of Christ on Parker and Koenig Roads, Tonawanda. Club members are designing flower arrangements for the following categories, Happy 50th Anniversary, Breakfast for Mom, I Could Have Danced All Night, Happiness Is, and five horticulture categories.

Garden Tip:

Nurseries and The Farmers' Market in Tonawanda will have hundreds of beautiful annuals. A mixture of annual bedding plants such as snapdragons and petunias keep color going as perennials come in and go during the growing season. This would be a good time to create a scrapbook, showing the location of your flowers as they bloom, where the plants were purchased and when. This will be a master plan of your garden for future plantings.



## Town Of Amherst Board Meetings

### May, 2016

May 2, Town Board Work Session, 4:00pm  
May 2, Town Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
May 3, Glen Park Joint Board, 7:00pm  
May 4, Amherst Conservation Advisory Council Meeting, 6:30pm  
May 4, Traffic-Safety Board, 7:00pm  
May 5, Energy Conservation Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:00pm  
May 9, Town Board Work Session, 4:00pm  
May 9, Amherst Veterans Committee, 5:30pm  
May 10, Recreation Commission, 5:00pm  
May 10, Historic Preservation Commission, 7:15pm  
May 11, Senior Services Advisory Board, 8:30am  
May 11, Youth Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
May 12, Citizens' Financial Advisory Committee, 8am  
May 16, Town Board Work Session, 4:00pm  
May 17, Zoning Board of Appeals  
May 17, Amherst Committee on Disabilities, 7:00pm  
May 19, Planning Board, 6:30pm  
May 31, Information Technology Advisory Committee, 6pm

Amherst Municipal Building  
5583 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221  
To verify, please call (716) 631-7013.

#### Members:

Barry A. Weinstein, Supervisor  
Steven D. Sanders, Deputy Supervisor  
Ramona D. Popowich, Councilmember  
**Deborah Bruch Bucki, Councilmember**  
Francina Spoth, Councilmember

## Sweet Home Central School District Board of Education Meetings

The Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District meets for a study session on the second Tuesday of every month (except July and August) and meets for a voting meeting on the third Tuesday of every month. All regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center, 1901 Sweet Home Road, Amherst.

All voting meetings also air on Time Warner Public Access Channel 22. The voting meetings air on Mondays from 8-10pm and on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30pm.

### Sweet Home Board of Education Members

**Douglas J. Galli, President**  
dgalli03@yahoo.com

**Michael F. Morrow, Vice President**  
mmorrow@sweethomeschools.org

**Marianne Jasen, Member**  
mjasen@sweethomeschools.org

**Scott M. Johnson, Member**  
sjohnson@sweethomeschools.org

**Joseph Miranda, Member**  
jmiranda@sweethomeschools.org

**Conor Jackson**  
*Ex-Officio Student Member*

Membership Chair to discuss the process of dues collection. Donna is working to update our financial reporting and to make sure we are in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations regarding the treasury.

President's Report: The WRCA 2016 directory is still a work in progress. As we are working on fully updating the directory and are still working on advertisers for the directory (and *WITW*), publishing has been delayed. We are looking to have the directory ready for publication sometime in May. We are still in need of an Advertising Director as the revenue from the ads in the directory and *WITW* help to fund the activities sponsored by WRCA. Upcoming events are the annual June garage sale, National Night Out in August and our summer movie night which will be sponsored by the Town of Amherst this year. We are in need of volunteers for several of our events. Dawn Cwierley has been in charge of the children's recreation events for the past several years and sadly must relinquish her duties in providing all the fun activities and parties our neighborhood children have been enjoying. Dawn thanked all the volunteers who have helped her and we thank Dawn for all she has done. The children's activities are one of the greatest benefits provided by membership in WRCA and we look forward to someone new to volunteer to take over this huge responsibility for our children. Jim attended the monthly meeting of the Parkview Association, our Tonawanda neighbors right across NFB. Their neighborhood association has been in existence as long as WRCA and they face some of the same concerns and problems. We are hoping to work more closely with Parkview in sharing information and resources in the future.

New Business: We need to find out why new members are not getting information after they join. Those new members affected should receive a free membership for the upcoming year and we need to fix this problem. The Scouts are sponsoring their chicken dinner fund raiser in a couple weeks, we will send a reminder via E-WIND. June is the end of our fiscal year and the May meeting will be concentrated on working on the budget for the upcoming year. The Board asked for a budget preview to be e-mailed before the meeting so we can be prepared for discussion.

Old Business: The confusion over the Annual Holiday Contest was brought up (see explanation above). New passwords are needed for the new website and app. The web host can't get to the old site to upload information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. The next meeting of the WRCA will be held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 at 7:30pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Marijean Nichols

# Weed Man<sup>®</sup>

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Dear Willow Ridge Neighbors,

My heart pulled as I watched the yellow school bus swallow up my youngest daughter, the door collapsing behind her with a soft *whump*. She was dressed in her brand new “first day of school” clothes with her name safety-pinned in pink securely to her dress. My youngest daughter was stepping into the roller coaster world of academia with her two older sisters by her side.

Blinking my eyes clear I began working on the *Wind-in-the-Willows*, my newest project. I was a newbie of sort in Willow Ridge. We had moved in only five years earlier, when that same little girl, who had just been swept up and away to kindergarten, was born. WRCA President Ed Cavan had asked me if I could serve as the editor of the neighborhood newsletter. If you sit in the silence and pay attention, Life, or maybe it is Instinct, tells you it is time to move on. Kelly was now also in school, and there was a spot to fill in my life. So, I said “yes” to Ed, thrilled at the concept of assembling the newsletter for the WRCA.

I gazed at the heap of paper from neighbors in front of me - all manner of colors, sizes, and shapes, many of which were handwritten. Time had to be spent deciphering the cursive styles. In these early days, there was no email, or any electronic transfer of information. Once the sorting was done, the keyboarding began, using the latest and greatest software, Word Perfect. All aspects of this task appealed to me; the sorting, diligence and art of creating the newsletter which was previously accomplished by three volunteers.

Once entered into the computer (yes, we had computers), it was printed out on the dot-matrix and checked for errors, re-edited and reprinted. Now it was time to add the clip art, painstakingly cut and pasted to the copy using scissors and rubber cement. Product complete, I now had to drive to the printer on Union in Cheektoaga. Obviously, all this did not happen in one or two sittings, it occurred in between the chaos of family life for two weeks every month.

I'm smiling as I think back at the time-saving strides technology has provided in thirty years. These days the only pasting that is done is electronic. I've grown older in that span of time. Nine years in from the day I started as editor, my husband acquired an illness that left him paralyzed for a month. Ten years in, we added a son to our three girls. Twenty-four years in, I began working again outside the home. Fast forward to the present; my girls are married and my son has grown up and out of the house. In the thirty years I have been the *Wind-in-the-Willows* editor, I have gone from being a *young* mother to (allow me to go out on a limb here) a *young* grandmother of *seven* grandchildren! My parents, incredibly and thankfully are still with us and surprisingly healthy. My life is wonderfully – well, ALIVE! In that time I have not only lived a span of years, I have been recording the life and breath of the WRCA and the experiences of many neighbors who make up our family of Willow Ridge. I have met so many of you in person, and many more of you I know by voice on the phone or by email. What an honor I have been afforded! The WRCA and this neighborhood are combined to make a very special entity, and for me to have served in this capacity for so many years, well, if I may steal a line from a song Julie Andrews rendered in the *Sound Of Music*, “I must have done something good.”

Dear neighbors, I have been sitting in silence and listening once again. Life, or yes, maybe Instinct, is telling me that it is time to move on. I am happy to say that through thick and thin, ups and downs, I have never missed producing an issue of the *Wind-in-the-Willows*. I have worked with countless board members, presidents, block reps, and neighbors and have met so many wonderful people who have contributed their essence to whom I strive to be. I wish I could name all of you, but there are simply too many. As I retire, my heart pulls yet again as I thank you, the heart of Willow Ridge, for filling that “spot” in my life with something permanent and special. It has been an extraordinary experience helping to be that neighborhood voice or, if you would, a “wind” in the willows here in Willow Ridge. Debby VonLangen, Editor

**Wind-in-the-Willows**  
Willow Ridge Civic Association

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**May 2016**

**Willow Ridge Garage Sale**  
**June 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2016.**

