

# WIND IN THE WILLOWS

New for Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

September 2016



## WRCA Chalks Up Another Great Summer

Dangerous animals. Unsafe landscaping. Dog poisoning rumors. Potholes. All these issues and more were addressed over the summer by your Willow Ridge Civic Association.

Thanks to some media attention, the Town of Amherst and the Erie County Health Department both stepped in to address a long-standing issue of an exposed in-ground pool that had become a fox den at an abandoned home on Hubbardston Place. A hard cover has since been placed over the pool and debris removed, making the space less attractive to animals considering residency.

In addition, concerns of a possible dog poisoning were brought to our attention via social media. To help get more answers and bring awareness, WRCA reached out to the local media.

Potholes along Chestnut Ridge and Willow Ridge Drive and unkept grass along Chestnut Ridge once again reared their ugly heads. With the assistance of the town, both were addressed. In addition, the forested area on Edward White Drive was cleaned up.

August was a busy time in the neighborhood, with National Night Out on August 2 and the annual movie night on August 5. WRCA extends a big thank you to the Amherst Police for their annual donation to this event. Adding to the usual activities, the Amherst Baptist Church on Willow Ridge Drive provided hot dogs and refreshments.

Thank you to all of the neighbors and volunteers who make Willow Ridge a wonderful place to live and play.



The miniature ponies are always a big hit at National Night Out.

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Join us for the Annual  
**Children's  
Halloween Party**  
for WRCA Members

Saturday, October 22  
10 a.m. - noon  
Willow Ridge Elementary School

*For more information or to volunteer,*

**contact** [dj.erich@hotmail.com](mailto:dj.erich@hotmail.com)

## Contact Us

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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).

## Neighborhood News

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Kody Gallie** of Manor Oak Drive.

Kody, we are proud of your accomplishments and of the man you are becoming.

*Love Don, Mom, Teal and Baby*

Congratulations to **Brandon Miller** of Kaymar Drive who graduated from Sweet Home High School. Brandon is a member of the National Honor Society, German Honor Society, and is an AP Scholar and Scholar Athlete. He played varsity volleyball, varsity baseball, and the trumpet in the wind ensemble and jazz band. Brandon most recently completed his Eagle Scout Project and will earn the Eagle Scout Rank this summer. Brandon will be attending Gannon University in the fall where he is enrolled in the Physician Assistant Program.

Brandon, we are so proud of your many accomplishments, but mostly of the warm, kind-hearted young man you have become. Your future looks bright, and we love you dearly!

*Love, Mom, Dad, Jonathan and Ashley*

### Welcome

We are pleased to welcome several new neighbors to WRCA.

At 744 Edgewater Drive, look for **David and Danette Black** and their one-year-old daughter Dia. They joined us after living in North Buffalo for several years. David is a machine operator and Danette is an office manager.

Welcome to **David & Jen Preyer** who recently moved from Snyder to 205 N. Brier, right across from Jen's sister. They have two sons: Kaiden, six-years-old and Kamnden, four-years-old. Jen is an insurance broker with NYCM Insurance and David is self employed. She is anxious to get involved with WRCA and has already volunteered to be a block rep.

### Farewell!

Friends and neighbors in Willow Ridge will soon be saying a sad good bye to the Stones. **Chris and Joan Stone** have made 10 Rumson Road their home for the last twenty years.

They have raised their children, Laura and Jeffrey, here and have decided it is now time for them to move on. They will be making their new home near Vero Beach, Florida. We wish them good neighbors and a happy life.

## Classifieds

### For Sale:

#### Baby Items:

Bassinet. Very Good condition.  
\$30. Call Virginia 691-7704

### Wanted:

#### Volunteers

The Willow Ridge Civic Association is looking a **newsletter editor**. This is key communications role and requires writing, editing, and design experience.

*Interested parties, please contact Willow Ridge Civic Association president, Jim Cwierley, at [wrca.president@gmail.com](mailto:wrca.president@gmail.com).*

*Classifieds are 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.*

*Classifieds are not to be used for business purposes.*

*Deliver to 136 Dalewood Drive or email it to [WITW@WRCA.US](mailto:WITW@WRCA.US).*

## Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

As I'm sure many of you noticed, there was no delivery of a *Wind in the Willows* over the summer. We didn't get lost at the beach, and forget to put out an issue. I would like to apologize for not putting out a newsletter this summer. We had to cancel the edition due to the harsh economic realities the WRCA was facing.

Due to declining membership numbers, our budget over the summer was stretched painfully thin. As a result, we only had enough money to fund either the National Night Out festivities, or mailing out a copy of the newsletter.

We know National Night Out is a very popular event, and is widely attended by our residents, so we decided to fund the event. As always, it was well attended, and the families there had a great time.

Special thanks go out to John Miller of Kaymar Drive, for his continued hard work in organizing the event. We'd also like to thank the Amherst Baptist Church, which generously brought and served refreshments at the event.

As we get further into fall, we will once again get into our annual membership drive. Now, more than ever, we're going to need your help to make it a successful one.

We value your continued membership, and hope you can help us identify new neighbors who have moved in and let them know about us. As you talk about the WRCA, tell them why you value the membership, and why it's important to join.

Let them know about all the great events we have planned, including the children's Halloween party coming up in October. Talk to them about how we work with local government agencies to make improvements to the neighborhood.

But most importantly, ask them to join. Without new members, we won't have the funding to put on events, or print and send out this newsletter.

If you'd like to join us in making Willow Ridge a great place to live, we always need volunteers to continue our mission.



# WRCA Board Meeting Minutes

# September 13, 2016

The September meeting of the WRCA was called to order at 7:40 pm by Board President Jim Cwierley. In attendance were Treasurer Donna Mosteller, Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Members John Radens, Tom Amodeo and Erich Krueger. Community members present included Cassie Schwab, Ian McNess and Jen Preyer.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes from the June meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income and expenses for the month of July was \$0. Income for the month of August was \$2,430. Expenses for August were \$1,767. The balance for the month was \$1,238. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report for July and August.

**President's Report:** The media coverage generated by the WRCA brought positive action in resolving problems within the community. After much investigation by authorities, the dog suspected of being poisoned was determined to have succumbed to the choking, not foul play. After the news reported on the suspicious death of the dog, the Erie County Health Department became aware of the problem with the fox den seeming to have taken residence in an abandoned house in the community. An inspector came and set up bait to lure the foxes out of the community. The pot holes on Chestnut Ridge and Willow Ridge Drive have been repaired and the green area on Edward White Drive has been cleaned up. WRCA has had input into the town's "Imagine Amherst" plans for future business and community development and will also participate in reviewing the Niagara Falls Boulevard corridor. The town will be holding a charette to display some designs from September 24-28 throughout the town. Information on locations can be found on the "Imagine Amherst" website. An Asian market and small mini-mall will be going into the Walmart site. The directory was published and should have been delivered. Members who did not receive their directory should contact their block rep or a board member to receive your copy. The WRCA is at a crossroads and we need to make changes before we fail our members, our neighborhood family and ourselves.

**Old Business:** National Night Out held on 8/2/16 was another successful event. Thank you to John Miller for coordinating all the activities, to Erich Krueger for donating the music and to the Amherst Baptist Church for providing hot dogs and refreshments to all who attended this community awareness event. The WRCA website is moving closer to

becoming fully functional. Rain moved our annual movie night on 8/5/16 from Bedford Park into the school cafeteria where "Zootopia" was enjoyed by all.

**New Business:** The annual Halloween Party will be held on October 22 from 10 am - noon in the cafeteria of Willow Ridge Elementary School. Erich Krueger is in charge of this event and more volunteers are needed to help with set up and activities. Volunteers should arrive at the school by 9 am that morning to decorate for the party. Ben Procopio has agreed to audit WRCA's books from 2013 through 2016 to make sure everything is in order. If Vice President Mark Hammer is unable to complete his term of office, a motion was made and approved to appoint Erich Krueger to serve as Vice President for the remainder of the term. The board thanks Mark for his service and will keep him in our thoughts. Amherst Town Board member Steve Sanders will speak at the October meeting about the proposed recreation center to be built in our area. Elections for new officers for the WRCA will be held in November. Residents are now spotting a large number of raccoons in the neighborhood.

We need to make changes to our budget if we are to survive as an organization. Of the \$17/year membership dues, \$15.50 goes towards publication costs, leaving only \$1.50 per member for events. The board welcomed comments from the new community members who attended tonight's meeting. After much discussion and debate on how to cut expenses, a motion was made and seconded to cut the cost of circulating the Wind In The Willows. Several ways to do this were discussed including cutting down publication to six issues a year,, publishing Wind In The Willows electronically starting immediately, or phasing out the printed and mailed Wind In The Willows. with the next two editions. The board reluctantly voted in favor of this last option. Options for non-digital subscribers are still in discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm. The next meeting of the WRCA will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marijean Nichols

# back to School



## Put Safety on Top of the Back to School List

The bells have rung, marking the start of a new school year. Be sure you are taking steps to keep your children's trip back to the classroom safer.

Parents should take the following steps:

- Make sure the child knows their phone number, address, how to get in touch with their parents at work, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 9-1-1.
- Teach children not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don't know.

## SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

If children ride a bus to school, they should plan to get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb while waiting for the bus to arrive. Other safety steps for students include:

- Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver or attendant has instructed you to get on.
- Only board your bus and never an alternate one.
- Always stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.
- Cross the street at the corner, obeying traffic signals and staying in the crosswalk.
- Never dart out into the street, or cross between parked cars.



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Williamsville, NY 14221

## Willow Ridge PTO Basket Raffle



Friday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Willow Ridge Elementary School

## Virginia Winter Receives Volunteer Award

Congratulations to Willow Lane neighbor **Virginia Winter**. She recently received with The Mother McAuley Merit Award from Catholic Health's McAuley Residence, a local continuing care facility.

It is presented each year to an individual who reflects the virtue of Mother Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, through their service to the sick and vulnerable.

According to Rev. Joseph Blatz, chaplain at the McAuley Residence, Virginia is, "a humble and unpretentious presence who lovingly brings the presence of the Lord in the form of Holy Communion to our residents and patients every Wednesday. She has become a friend to all and a person who exemplifies the meaning of the dependable."

Virginia has been a volunteer Eucharistic Minister at McAuley Residence for almost five years. In addition, she has served at Kenmore Mercy Hospital for eight years greeting visitors at the front desk and offering assistance.

She currently serves as a block rep for the Willow Ridge Civic Association and vice president of the Willow Ridge Garden Club. She is a retired teacher for St. Leo the Great.



*Virginia was presented her award by Dawn Clabeaux, McAuley's administrator.*

Virginia and her husband Frank have been residents of the Willow Ridge neighborhood for 44 years. They have three grown children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

## Sweet Home Celebrates Homecoming

Sweet Home High School rang in the new school year in style with homecoming festivities fit for the entire family.

There were bounce houses, obstacle courses, music, and games. Also, for the first year ever, they welcomed several popular food trucks.

At halftime of the football game, Sweet Home celebrated its Decade of Champions to honor championship teams from 1966-67, 1976-77, 1986-87, 1996-97 and 2006-07.

Lastly, the Sweet Home Athletics Hall of Fame enshrined eight new inductees at halftime as part of its Class of 2016.



*Local elementary students helped to kick off the game by walking the cheer team and the varsity football players into the stadium.*

# Students Awarded WRCA Scholarship

At the end of the school year, **William Schultz** of Jonathan Place and **Kaitlin Okun** of North Brier Road were presented with the Willow Ridge Civic Association's annual scholarship.

William is a scholar athlete and completed Boy Scout's highest ranking of Eagle Scout. He was also a member of the school band, achieved state medals through track and field and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Through his youth group activities, William travelled to an area that had experienced disaster and helped the individuals there rebuild their lives. He plans to pursue Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering.

Kaitlin was an all-star athlete, having served as captain of the soccer and lacrosse teams. In addition, she has earned ranking as a National Honor Society student and was the senior class president, points chairperson and president of the Girl's Athletic Association, and vice president and secretary of the French Honor Society.



Schultz



Okun

Kaitlin has also been an active volunteer with the Western New York Special Olympics, Students for Hope, and the Ronald McDonald House. She plan to pursue a degree in Biology.

Congratulations William and Kaitlin and the best of luck in your studies.

## *Did you know that can help raise funds towards scholarship by shopping on Amazon?*

*Sweet Home High School is part of the Amazon Smile Foundation.*

*The SHHS PTSA will receive 0.5% of the purchase price. Simply log on to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose New York Congress 19-237 Sweet Home High School PTSA as your Charitable Organization.*



## WRCA Membership Meeting

Make an investment in your neighborhood.

Stop out to the next WRCA membership meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

WRCA meets monthly at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.



**Joseph Bataggia**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

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914 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

## New Beginning's Food Pantry

People in your own community struggle each day to make ends meet.

Thanks to the New Beginnings Food Pantry at Amherst Baptist Church, which participates with the Food Bank of WNY, people in the 14228 zip code are being served.

Between 70 to 100 households are served each month. amounting to about 3,000 meals worth of food. That is about 200 people. 40% are children, 40% are adults, 20% are seniors.

New Beginnings Food Pantry clients receive a five day supply of food based on the "Food Pyramid." There is often an abundance of fresh bread, fruits, and vegetables available on third Saturdays, especially in the summer months.

### Hours of Operation:

- Tuesday nights 6 - 8 p.m.
- Friday mornings 9 - 11 a.m. (closed the third Friday of the month)
- Third Saturday of the month 9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Please use the accessible entrance on Peppertree Drive.

If you would like to help our neighbors through the New Beginnings Food Pantry, donations can be dropped off during any of their open hours.

## Imagine More with the Town of Amherst

Have you ever asked yourself, "How come they never ask for my opinion?"

Well, now is your time to speak your voice. The Town of Amherst is looking for people to add their input into the future of the town.



Amherst is designing the a new look and feel for the businesses settling into the town. Major plazas, like the one at the former Northtown mall, as well as smaller developments in Getzville, Snyder, and Williamsville, are all under consideration.

Initial designs have been drawn up, but those plans won't be complete without you. Come meet with the committee and pitch in your two cents.

You can attend one of their upcoming workshops, starting this weekend. The first one will be taking place Saturday, September 24, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Place Buffalo/Amherst on Main Street. Closer to Willow Ridge, there will be a presentation at the Riverside Men's Shop, in the Northtown Plaza, 3063 Sheridan Drive, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, September 26.

Stop by to find out more about the Imagine Amherst Project or visit the website at [www.imagineamherst.com](http://www.imagineamherst.com). There you find a workshop schedule for everything they have planned.

## A Letter to Our Neighbors

*From Carol Zaffram and her boys*

I am humbled and blessed by the outpouring of support from my friends, neighbors and some people I don't even know in this incredible neighborhood we live in.

This whole disaster has me as you can imagine in a mindset that is totally overwhelming. There are times I keep waiting to wake up and find out it really didn't happen.

The process is a long one and I can't tell why or who is causing the holdup but by the time you read this hopefully we will be on our way to building/repairing our home.

I miss sitting on my porch waving and talking to neighbors.

There is no place anywhere like our neighborhood and I can't wait to be back. Thank you to all who supported us is so many ways. We will be back and I can't wait!