

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

News for Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

December 2016



Neighbors Help Light Up the Night



The Willow Ridge Civic Association Lighting Committee rode through the neighborhood on December 15, selecting this year's best light displays in the neighborhood.

'Once again, the neighbors of Willow Ridge have outdone themselves in putting on a festive light show,' said President Jim Cwierley. 'There were many impressive displays, and the judging panel argued into the night to hammer out a list of winners.'

The list of winners appears on this page. The Civic Association Board is still determining prizes for the winners, who must be Civic Association members to win. A representative for the Civic Association will contact you about prizes.

The award for the best display in Willow Ridge is the Griswold Award, named after the National Lampoon's movie character. For 2016, that house is 43 Manor Oak Drive, home of the **Donald Winkle** and family.

Donald is a labor representative for an elevator constructors union. He has lived in Willow Ridge for the past 15 years, along with his wife, Sue, son Kodie Gallie (20, a Niagara County Community College student in law enforcement) and daughter, Teal (14, a freshman at Sweet Home High School and varsity swimmer).

(continued on page 2)

In This Issue

- 2 *Board Contacts*
Lighting contest
- 3 *President's Message*
- 4 *Minutes*
- 5 *Home Safety Tips*
- 6 *Avoid Falls this Winter*
- 7 *Welcoming the Season*
- 8 *House Lighting*
Boy Scout Collection
- 9 *Membership Forms*

Lighting Contest Winners

145 S. Ellicott Creek Road
43 Manor Oak Drive
(Griswold Award winner)
85 Manor Oak Drive
233 Willow Green Drive
80 Sweetwood Drive N
101 Willow Lane
694 Kaymar Drive
68 Westcliffe Drive
10 Jonathan Place
7 Maricrest Drive

Contact Us

President:

Jim Cwierley 525-1893

Vice President:

Erich Krueger 691-9952

Secretary:

Marijean Nichols 691-4375

Treasurer:

Donna Mosteller 635-7268

Board of Directors:

Tom Amodeo 691-5150

Andy Annesi 812-8851

Connie Holovics 553-7433

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

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.

Light Up the Night (cont.)

We sat down to learn more about the family, and what gets them in the Christmas spirit:

Why do you go 'all out' for Christmas decorations?

DW: It was always something that my family did when I was a kid. When our kids were young, I wanted to carry the tradition on. It's nice to see the neighborhood all lit up, and the families all walking by.

How long have you been putting up a light display?

DW: The whole time we've been living here. We get something new to put up every year. This year, we put up some lit Santa boots. And instead of colored lights, we did white icicles on the house.

When do you start putting up the decorations? How long does it take you to put them all up?

DW: We start right after Halloween. We try to get the house itself done before the ice and snow come. The whole family helps to put it up. We work on it a little bit at a time, some each evening or each weekend. This year, our daughter choreographed the lawn arrangement, and I staked it in, and hooked up all the power to it.

What does this do to your electric bill?

DW: It's about 40 percent higher, but the LED lights we're using now helped out a lot.

How long do you leave your lights up?

DW: Just until after New Year's; we try to get them off the lawn if there is a break in the snow.

What tips do you have for people who are starting out and want to do this type of display?

DW: My suggestion is add on a little bit each year. Otherwise, you'll get overwhelmed and you won't enjoy it.



Message from the President

Willow Ridge, it's time to light it up in 2017

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of serving as judge for the annual house lighting competition. There were some dazzling displays, and I was very impressed at the amount of time and effort that goes into those displays. A list of this year's winners can be found in this edition of Wind in the Willows.

Riding shotgun with me was incoming president Erich Krueger, currently vice president, who will start his two-year term in January.

The past two years have been a time of growth for the association, and I'm extremely proud to have been part of it. First, we grew the number of opportunities for us to come together as a neighborhood. We re-booted the wine tasting event, added a Christmas tree lighting in December, and continued the popular movie nights in Bedford Park.

We also expanded our relationships with the community around us. The bond between the Association and the Town of Amherst continues to grow; we've been asked for direct input on the future of development of land, and been asked to work on a study on growing out Niagara Falls Boulevard. Town departments, such as the highway department and emergency services, continue to reach out for feedback and have been very responsive to residents' needs.

The Civic Association also reached out to the neighbors in our communities, involving them in events such as the Halloween Party and National Night Out. It is exciting and appropriate for us to work with ALL members of the community to form a stronger Willow Ridge. I am so happy that we got the ball rolling, and will be thrilled to see it continue in the future.

I'm also very happy that we've managed to put the Association back on better financial footing. With the rapid loss of members and business partners, we needed to make major changes so we can continue to deliver the services you expect and deserve. With a newly-recharged team of block reps and volunteers, we're poised to add even more members.

Most of all, I want to thank you, my fellow neighbors, residents, and friends. I really enjoyed working with all of you while on the board. It was my honor to work with, and for, you. Even though I'll be stepping away from the WRCA, I still will continue to be your neighbor.

Best wishes and happy holidays!

~ Jim Cwierley

The December meeting of the WRCA was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Jim Cwierley.

In attendance were Vice President Erich Krueger, Treasurer Donna Mosteller, Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Members John Radens, Connie Holovics and Andy Annesi. Jane Siemen and Cassie Schwab also attended.

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

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of November was \$1,244. Expenses for the month were \$26. The balance for November 2016 is \$1,384. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report for November. Projected income and expenses for December were noted on this report.

President's Report: The holiday lighting contest will be judged on the week-end of December 16-18 this year. Santa will be collecting canned goods in the neighborhood again this year on December 17 starting at 4 p.m. Trader Joe's and Starbucks provided refreshments for the annual tree lighting/singing ceremony held earlier this month.

Speakers for 2017, such as the Sweet Home School Superintendent and Amherst Highway Supervisor, will be set up by the incoming board. The Wine Tasting Event, our annual community fund raiser, will be held on held at Classics on January 21, 2017, the cost is \$25/\$40 a couple. The annual Snowflake Dinner Dance will be held at Classics on March 4, 2017, the cost is \$80/ couple.

Old Business: John brought the board up to date on the traffic fatalities on Niagara Falls Boulevard. The lack of adequate lighting between Willow Ridge and Ellicott Creek may be a contributing factor and traffic patterns may need to be addressed with the new construction along this

stretch of road.

The Treasurer will be opening a new checking account for WRCA with the remaining balance. This banking change will update the treasury as the term for the 2017 board takes effect. Block reps are still needed to greet new neighbors, encourage membership and deliver the directory. Jane is updating the membership list and the Wind In The Willow will only be emailed to members starting with the February 2017 issue.

A reminder to pay for WRCA membership will be in the December and January issues of the newsletter. A copy will be provided for members who do not have email on request. We are still looking for volunteers to coordinate activities/events for the children and for an editor for Wind In The Willows.

New Business We are seeing an increase in advertisers during our current membership drive. Jim will get official letterhead to Andy and will firm up the forms to give to advertisers. Erich would appreciate any donations for prizes to our Wine Tasting community fundraiser. Donna reminded the board that the next insurance payment will be due in January. The construction on the new hotel and Delta Sonic between Willow Ridge and Ellicott Creek was discussed. A submission date for articles/information for Wind In The Willows each month will be set up for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting of the WRCA will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Marijean Nichols

Tips to keep your home safe during the holiday season

The Christmas season is one of merriment. Sadly, statistics also indicate that burglaries around this time of the year spike exponentially.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) over 400,000 burglaries take place during the holiday season. Burglars are aware that there are lots of gifts in the house and probably extra money lying around.

The following tips will help to keep your home safe.

- Remove temptation by making sure gifts aren't visible from outside
- Watch what you post on social media
- Be careful about disposing of packaging
- Keep your windows closed; don't run external lights through a window
- Make sure your home is well-lit
- Put your lights on a timer
- Make use of motion sensors
- Be wary of door to door donation seekers
- Secure your home

Christmas season is a merry and busy time. By taking these steps, you can effectively reduce the chances of becoming a victim to a burglary.

HOME SALES IN OUR WILLOW RIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD IN 2016!

Address	Recorded Sale Price	Address	Recorded Sale Price
59 Amberwood Dr	\$212,000	74 Parkhaven Dr	\$169,000
67 Amberwood Dr	\$136,000	92 Parkhaven Dr	\$135,000
107 Amberwood Dr	\$236,500	130 Parkhaven Dr	\$185,000
110 Brookpark Dr	\$170,000	139 Parkhaven Dr	\$206,000
26 Dalewood Dr	\$83,000	266 Peppertree Dr	\$163,000
51 Dalewood Dr	\$140,000	280 Peppertree Dr	\$167,000
98 Dalewood Dr	\$163,000	294 Peppertree Dr	\$135,000
99 Dalewood Dr	\$135,000	317 S. Ellicott Ck	\$176,000
255 Denrose Dr	\$128,500	23 Rockdale Dr	\$225,500
276 Denrose Dr	\$181,000	70 Rockdale Dr	\$152,000
727 Edgewater Dr	\$200,000	10 Rumson Rd	\$200,000
763 Edgewater Dr	\$206,900	32 Rumson Rd	\$165,000
892 Edgewater Dr	\$160,000	32 Sweetwood Dr	\$183,500
897 Edgewater Dr	\$215,000	50 Sweetwood Dr	\$193,000
93 Hubbardson Pl	\$249,000	88 Willow Lane	\$185,000
45 Jeanmoor Ct	\$210,000	65 Willow Green Dr	\$173,000
2 Kaymar Dr	\$140,000	66 Willow Green Dr	\$183,000
84 Kaymar Dr	\$144,000	245 Willow Green Dr	\$171,900
360 Kaymar Dr	\$180,500	438 Willow Green Dr	\$105,000
426 Kaymar Dr	\$219,000	453 Willow Green Dr	\$171,000
31 Manor Oak Dr	\$197,000	147 Willow Ridge Dr	\$250,000
14 Maricrest Dr	\$212,000	186 Willow Ridge Dr	\$153,000
23 North Brier Rd	\$173,888		

More interesting facts

Average Price Per Sqft. - 3 Bedroom

low \$53 average \$108 high \$146

Average Price Per Sqft. - 4 Bedroom

low \$59 average \$97 high \$117



www.ConnieHolovics.com

Office: 634-4200 Cell: 553-7433

CHolovics@RealtyUSA.com

6000 Sheridan Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221

Give Falls the Slip this Winter

The most dangerous time to slip and fall is when the snow starts to thaw and freezes over at night. Walking on snowy areas in general is dangerous because you cannot see what is underneath. How do you prevent slipping on the ice and getting injured?

Matthew Clemens, cert. MDT, of Jeanmoor Drive, a physical therapist at Kenmore Mercy Hospital's AthletiCare Department, provides a few tips to help get through the icy conditions.

- Wear the appropriate foot wear will help.
- Avoid boot and shoes with smooth surfaces on the soles and heels.
- Wear shoes and boots with a non-slip rubber or neoprene with grooved soles.
- Use extra care when getting in and out of the vehicles and buildings.
- Schedule enough time to walk with caution to your designated area.
- Walk on the designated walkway that are shoveled and salted.
- When walking on slippery surfaces, walk with your feet slightly toed out and shoulder width apart.
- Take small steps at a slower pace with your knees slightly bent and spread your weight equal throughout your feet.
- If you happen to fall, try to relax your muscles as you fall and avoid landing on your knees, wrist, or back.
- If possible, try to fall on a more fleshy area like your side. Wearing thick clothing will help cushion your fall.

WRCA Membership Meeting

Stop out to meet your new board at our next WRCA membership meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

WRCA meets monthly at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.



Joseph Bataglia

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Cell: (716) 863-4586

Office: (716) 863-4586

Email Joehashome4u@aol.com



Save the Date!

Snowflake Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 4, 2017

Classics V

\$80 per couple

***includes dinner, open bar
and music/dancing***

Call 913-4980 for more information.





Wine Tasting

Saturday, January 21, 2017
from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Classics Five Banquet Center

Tickets are \$25 per person
or \$40 per couple.

For more information,
call 949-2561.

Please consider a donation of a basket for our raffle at the event. Contact 949-2561 regarding your donation.

Neighbors welcomed the season with song

Willow Ridge neighbors joined together in song on December 3 to usher in the holiday season at the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas Tree at the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweethome.

Approximately forty neighbors were led in Christmas carols by the Amherst Baptist Church.

A special thanks to our friends at Trader Joes for donations of snacks and Starbucks on Niagara Falls Boulevard for their donation of coffee.



Help Light the Way

When the judges for the house lighting competition took their annual drive earlier this month, they saw some dazzling displays. Sadly, there were several houses that had great Christmas lights, but were lacking one very important detail: a house number that you can actually see from the street.

That's a real problem, not only for Santa or the pizza delivery guy, but for public safety officials who patrol our streets.

"Not being able to see house numbers has always been an issue," said Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Department **Chief Joe Osika**. "It can delay our response to a residence if we are searching for the numbers. We also rely on the light poles in Willow Ridge as they do have the number of the house there in front of on the pole."

As we all know, seconds count in the case of an emergency. Paramedics, police and fire departments will be able to find you faster if they can see a house number.

Not everyone is going to be familiar with Willow Ridge, and a house number might be the only thing they have to describe where you are. If a neighboring fire department needed to provide help, they might not be as familiar with your street and lose valuable time trying to find you.

If faster response time from emergency services aren't enough to motivate you, how about a fine from the town? According to Amherst law, house numbers must be visible from the middle of the street, be at least four inches tall, and half an inch in thickness.

The numbers also must be in contrast with the color of your house. If the town asks you to make changes, and you don't comply, it's possible to get a fine from them, according to the code.

Besides it being the law, it's just being a good neighbor. How often have you gone looking for a house in the neighborhood, and couldn't tell what house number I was looking at. If you can drive by your own house and not see the number, it may be time to take a trip to the hardware store and make a change.

Cans for Cubs 2017

Cub Scout Pack 173 will be holding its annual pop can/bottle drive on Saturday, January 7, 2017 from 10 a.m.–noon.

Money earned from the returns will be donated to a charitable organization.



On Saturday, January 7, please leave your New York stamped returnable cans and bottles in a plastic bag on your front porch or driveway.

You can also call 860-3921 to arrange a pickup (leave message, be sure to include your address).

Only NY stamped returnable pop/beer cans and bottles will be accepted at our redemption center (no recyclables or wine/liquor bottles).

Your ad could be here.



Contact our advertising manager **Andy Annesi** at 812-8851 to discuss advertising opportunities.



WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2017 Membership Invoice

-DUES-

DUES FOR 2017 ARE \$17.00. Please renew/join by December 31, 2016.

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 _____