

WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS

News for and about Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

February 2016



WRCA to vote on board size reduction

There may soon be one less seat at the table for the Willow Ridge Civic Association.

By unanimous vote, the WRCA decided to reduce the number of board seats from 10 to 9. This eliminates a seat that was vacated when Donna Mosteller became treasurer in January. In accordance with WRCA by-laws, this motion was tabled until the February meeting to allow for public comment.

After that comment period, the board will vote on the motion again at that meeting. If the motion carries a second time, the WRCA by-laws will be amended to reduce the board members to 9. **The next board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall, 45 S. Ellicott Creek Road.**

'The move allows the WRCA to function more smoothly, while still providing great service and representation to the neighborhood,' said Jim Cwierley, WRCA president.

The board reduction is a procedural rule that increases board functionality. By WRCA rules, a 2/3 majority of board members must be present for a board meeting to be legal. With 10 members on the board, 6 needed to be there to hold a valid meeting.

By reducing the number to 9, only 5 need to be there for the meeting to 'count'. This had been an issue in the past, when there wasn't a quorum of board members there. Eliminating the seat does not mean there will be a loss in representation for the neighborhood. With just more than 400 member families, there still will be one board member for every 44 members.

If any WRCA members want to comment on the proposal, please come to the meeting on February 10.

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**To Submit Articles for the
Wind-in-the-Willows:**

**wiweditor@gmail.com; or
place signed articles in porch box at
221 North Brier Road.**

**The deadline is 15th day of the
month previous to
desired issue.**

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Visit us on the web at
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**WRCA
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
Wednesday,
February 10, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Ellicott Creek
Fire Hall
All Members
Welcome**

*The Deadline for the
March issue of the
Wind-in-the-Willows is
February 15.*

A Message from the President's Desk

When we take visitors out to see the 'new' Buffalo, we always go downtown to the waterfront. There are always events going on, new construction and exhibits abound. Even when there are no events, people are just out and about, enjoying the scenery along the waterfront.

There is a new buzz in Buffalo, and it's easy to get swept up in that energy when you're in the middle of it. It's the same sort of buzz that I felt at the WRCA winetasting event in January.

About 50 friends and neighbors showed up at the event, helping us raise money for the board's scholarship fund. DJ Erich cranked out the tunes, while several vendors brought out the good spirits in everybody.

And while it may be cliché to drag out the old line, 'a good time was had by all,' what's more important was who helped to make up that crowd. Many of the revelers didn't live in Willow Ridge; they were invited by friends and family from the neighborhood. Most of the ones I talked to during the tasting were impressed by the event and seemed interested in the neighborhood. Plenty said they'd be back for the event in coming years.

These events can be the best recruiting tool we have at getting people to look in Willow Ridge. Invite a cousin to come with you to the children's events, or see a movie in the park. Are you and your friends past the kids' phase of life? Get them together for a night out at the Snowflake Dinner Dance.

As someone who had shopped around Western New York for a home before luckily settling in Willow Ridge, I can't stress enough how unique that is. Most neighborhoods don't have that sense of community and the organized events that we do. It really does make us stand out, and is a great drawing card for us.

Last, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who helped make this event such a success. We couldn't have put this on without the great help we got from Dave Askey of DB Liquors, John and Sandy Radens, Andy Annesi, Mark Hammer, Erich Krueger, Carol Zaffram and Dawn Cwierley.

I also wanted to thank all of my neighbors who took the time to reach out to me after the January newsletter was mailed. I really do appreciate the feedback on how we can build membership in the Civic Association again. Any organization is only as strong as its membership, and I definitely take your advice to heart.

With that in mind, I have a new question for you, dear neighbors. What type of events would you most like to see us work on in the future? Is it a wine tasting, a bocce tournament, or something else? Is it a block party? I'm eager to help organize events that the neighborhood will enjoy and attend. We're open to all suggestions.

Jim Cwierley

WRCA Minutes; January 12, 2016

The meeting was opened by President Jim Cwierley at 7:30 pm. Also in attendance were Vice President Mark Hammer, Treasurer Donna Mosteller and Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Members John Radens, Andy Annesi, Connie Holovics, Errich Krueger and Tom Amodeo. Jane Sieman also attended. There was one member from the community who attended. The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of December was \$1,394. Expenditures for the month were \$1,727. The balance for December 2015 was \$3,455. The report for December was approved.

Membership Report: To date, we have 401 paid memberships for 2016. See President's Report for update on new membership and directory volunteer.

President's Report: Volunteers are needed for the Annual Wine Tasting Event (to be held on 1/30/16 at Classics at 7:00 p.) to take tickets, help with raffles, etc. Tickets are still available to attend this event. Lynn Getzin no longer wishes to be involved with the membership and directory. Jane Sieman has once again stepped forward to work on the 2016 membership directory. Jane will work with Connie on finally updating the membership list to give to the block reps so they can get involved again.

As we transition to a new Treasurer, Donna will take a look at the books so she can forecast where we are financially for the new year. Jim asked the Board to make a constitutional change to reduce the WRCA Board from 10 members to 9 by eliminating one Board Member position (currently vacant). A motion to do this was made and seconded. According to the Constitution, this change must now be published in the *WITW* for membership input before it can be voted on. After much discussion by the board, both pro and con, this motion was tabled and is now being published for membership input. A vote on the motion will then be taken at the next meeting. Jim also raised the issue of reducing the number of meetings we hold each year. There was much discussion on this suggestion, but no changes are being made at this time.

New Business: Derrick Ong, former Board Member, had set up applications to be used with our website and new app. Tom Amodeo is working with the former webmaster on this new architecture to get the website and app working to full capacity.

In the past, WRCA has had a volunteer who filed taxes for the organization each year. As a not-for-profit group, we do not have to file a tax return, however, we are in need of a new volunteer.

There have been some issues in the neighborhood with items being delivered by UPS, etc., being stolen when left at a residence's door. There will be an increased police presence in the neighborhood. A new task force has been set up to address the increasing problem of foreclosed/abandoned houses in Amherst.

The Easter event for the Willow Ridge children is scheduled for 3/19/16. Plans are being firmed.

Old Business: The winners of the holiday lighting party will be awarded their prizes shortly. Each winner will receive a \$10 Valu Home Center gift card, donated by Valu Home Centers, a locally owned business. Anthony Day, Superintendent of Sweet Home Schools, will be the guest speaker at the WRCA February meeting. All members interested in our schools are encouraged to attend (note the change of meeting day and time for this event).

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

Respectfully submitted, Marijean Nichols, Secretary

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.

For Sale

Elliptical—SoleE25, very good condition, \$450 or B/O. Delivery available for additional fee. 573-1424

Neighborhood News

Welcome

A warm welcome to Kyle and Sharon Lutz and their three children, Derek, Dylan, and Kate to their new home at 52 Jeanmoor. The Lutz family moved from Ken-Ton the week of December 19 to have a wonderful Christmas in their new home. They love being close to a brother on Black Spruce and parents on Willow Green Dr., and look forward to many happy years in Willow Ridge.

Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Get your Thin Mint fix from the Willow Ridge Girl Scout Troop #30615. Remember, it's not just a chance to enjoy a sweet treat. The cookie program also helps girls to learn business and marketing skills. If you haven't seen a Girl Scout at your door, call Liz Bechtel at 691-2142 or Mary Hocutt 691-6467 who are happy to take your order. In addition to the perennial favorite, Thin Mints, girls are selling Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Caramel deLites, Thanks A Lot, Cranberry Citrus Crisps, Lemonades and Shortbread.

Orders are being taken through Feb. 28. There is free delivery in the Willow Ridge neighborhood also, when the cookies arrive in the first week March. Cost is \$4 per box. Don't fret if you forget to place your order, Girl Scouts also conduct booth sales through March, including at the "Dollars for Scholars Craft Show" at Sweet Home High School on Sat. March 12; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Thanks for helping to build girls of courage, confidence and character.



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914 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Happy Anniversary To The Willow Ridge Garden Club



Members are celebrating their 50th anniversary and installation of officers for 2016, with a luncheon at the Twentieth Century Club, 595 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo. During the year members will have many wonderful events to help celebrate and remember fifty years of gardening experiences. New members are welcome to join us for a fun filled year.

Garden Tip:

This is the time of the year to plan your garden projects for the spring using all the garden catalogs sent to you. Try to select new varieties of perennials and annuals to give your garden new color for summer and the fall.

Public service reminder for Veterans



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Town Of Amherst Board Meetings

February, 2016

Feb 3, Amherst Conservation Advisory Council, 6:30pm
Feb 8, Town Board, Work Session, 4pm
Feb 8, Town Board, 7pm
Feb 10, Senior Services Advisory Board, 8:30am
Feb 11, Citizens' Financial Advisory Committee, 8am
Feb 23, Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Members:

Barry A. Weinstein, Chairperson
Mark A. Manna, Member
Guy R. Marlette, Member
Ramona D. Popowich, Member
Steven D. Sanders, Member



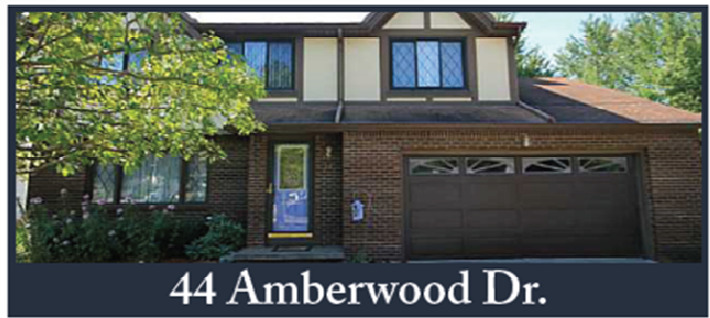
Family Finance Course Offered

Do you need a plan that will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more? *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is that plan! FPU classes meet for 90 minutes each week for nine weeks, starting Thursday, February 4th at 6:30pm. Classes will be held at Amherst Baptist Church, corner of Willow Ridge & Peppertree. Through video teaching by well-known financial expert Dave Ramsey, class discussions and interactive small group activities, *Financial Peace University* presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to learn how money works. Each lesson is broken down into simple Baby Steps. We all need a plan for our money. Why not start now?! The first class is free, then the cost of the course is \$93 per family/couple. With the fee, you get access to online information and can make up one missed class. Call 691-9456 to sign up!

Fabulous Fish Fry Fundraiser

Want to help Nepali people devastated by last year's huge 7.8 earthquake? Get a fish fry on Friday, March 5th at Amherst Baptist Church, corner of Willow Ridge & Peppertree! For \$8, you'll get a Fish Fry with choice of 2 salads, roll, homemade fries, drink (for those who eat in) and dessert. The people of Nepal will get a visiting work team to help, teach & encourage their people next November! Amherst Baptist currently has connections in Nepal and with a Buffalo Nepalese church. This is a great opportunity to help make a difference. The April 2015 Nepal earthquake killed over 8,000 people and injured more than 21,000. The team from Amherst Baptist Church will be working with Nepalis in Northern India, which just suffered another earthquake in late December. Though 6 people are currently signed up for the team, more are desired, and of course, that means more funds. If you can help by eating a fish fry, come Friday, March 5th between 4 – 8 pm for Take Out or Eat In. Every little bit helps!

Another Satisfied Customer...



Connie,
We'd just like to say **THANKS** for doing such a great job selling our house. This is the only house we have ever owned or sold and we appreciate all your help and advice getting it ready for market. Selling was bittersweet for us, but you made it easier for us emotionally & physically. Everything went so smoothly. You are the only one we would call to sell our house in WR and will highly recommend you to anyone considering making a move. Thanks again, Gerry & Elaine Love



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Williamsville, NY 14221



Come on out to support the Sweet Home XC and Track Boosters at our Annual Parents Night Out!

Saturday, February 27, 2016

7:00 pm—10:00 pm

\$25. 00/ticket pre-registered

(Or \$30.00 at the door)

Paddock Golf Dome
70 Brompton Road, Tonawanda, NY

Enjoy 3 hours of draft beer, well drinks, pizza & wings, along with a basket raffle, 50/50 split raffle and mini golf competition

Reserve your ticket on-line: www.tinyurl.com/sweethometrack or contact Kennedy Schultz for tickets.

Questions? Contact: Kennedy Schultz:
kennedy.schultz@gmail.com

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February 2016



Wine Tasting Memories!

Next up, Snowflake Dinner Dance March 12, (see page 7)

And

The Children's Easter Party on March 19! Watch for

E-Wind and your next *Wind-in-the-Willows!*