

WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS

News for and about Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

March 2016



Sweet Home School Superintendent Anthony Day Presents At The WRCA February Board Meeting's Distinguished Speakers Series

The WRCA was honored to host Sweet Home School Superintendent Anthony Day as the guest speaker for the Membership meeting held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Mr. Day was kind enough to come out on a cold snowy evening to update those in attendance on the most current information and statistics that shape the Sweet Home District.

Enrollment at Willow Ridge Elementary includes 321 students for the 2015/16 school year. The average class size in our elementary school is 16.9 pupils per classroom. The middle school's enrollment is 739 students with an average class size of 21.7 pupils per classroom. The high school's enrollment is 1037 students with an average class size of 21.6 pupils per classroom. Total enrollment for the Sweet Home District, grades K-12, is 3171 students.

The district is working on increasing Elementary and Middle Proficiency rates by 5% per year in each building. While the graduation rate for the high school is currently 93.9%, the District is working on improving advanced designation graduation rates. The Sweet Home Schools are working to improve the quality and effectiveness of core instruction by identifying and responding to student learning while in process. Instructional coaching will be a critical component to build greater student engagement and foster classroom communities.

The District is also working to establish Career Pathways at the High School level and elementary enrichment via Library/Science and Math enrichment through Math Specialists.

The work on upgrading the sports facilities at the high school has been completed; Willow Ridge Elementary School has undergone improvements to increase the safety of students with an enhanced school entry system and by the work done to the parking lot, making safer entry and exit areas for cars picking up students while the school buses are doing the same.

The estimated percentage increase for the 2016-17 tax levy is 2.49%. Under this proposed budget draft, all current programming and school configurations will remain the same. This tax levy meets the local tax cap figure.

The Sweet Home School District was the first to provide I-pads to all students for instructional use at grade level. Mr. Day answered questions about using calculators in the solving of math problems, when children are taught basic cursive writing and regarding busing. The Superintendent finished his presentation around 8 pm.

While no official business was conducted, the Board discussed several issues after Mr. Day left. This short discussion about upcoming community events is reported on page 3.

Respectfully submitted,
Marijean Nichols, Secretary

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.

In This Issue

- 2 Board Contacts/President's Message
- 3 WRCA Minutes
- 4 Classified/Neighborhood News
- 5 Town Of Amherst Board Meetings/Opportunities
- 6 Advertising
- 7 Snowflake Dinner Dance
- 8 Children's Easter Party

Contact Us

President:

Jim Cwierley 525-1893

Vice President:

Mark Hammer 691-4042

Secretary:

Marjean Nichols 691-4375

Treasurer:

Donna Mosteller 635-7268

Board of Directors:

Tom Amodeo 691-5150

Andy Annesi 812-8851

Connie Holovics 553-7433

Erich Krueger 691-9952

John Radens 691-7389

Wind-in-the-Willows Editor

Debby VonLangen

wiweditor@gmail.com

691-6420

Membership/Directory

Jane Sieman

564-0913

Visit us on the web at

www.wrca.info

Find us on Facebook

WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday,
March 8, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Ellicott Creek

Fire Hall

All Members

Welcome

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

A Message from the President's Desk

Dear friends and neighbors,

We're almost at the finish line. It's hard to believe, but we've almost snuck our way through a fairly mild winter. At the Cwierley house, I still haven't had to refill the gasoline in the snow blower.

It's exciting to think that spring is on the way. Soon we'll be able to clean up the yards, the green will return, and the kids can get back to playing outside again. It's exciting to be able to chat with neighbors we haven't seen since the cold drove us in last year.

Two things will inevitably happen before we get to that happy occasion, however. One of them is the extremely popular Snowflake Dinner Dance. That's coming up this March 12 at Classics V. Carol Zaffram has been working hard these past few months to put on this excellent event.

If you've gone in the past, you know that it's a great way to see neighbors you haven't seen in a while. It's also a great way to introduce your friends to the neighborhood, to see the camaraderie we have here. If you haven't come out in a while, this is a great time to meet up with old friends, and meet some new ones as well. We have tons of new neighbors in Willow Ridge, and this is a great place to see them.

The second thing that will inevitably happen: we're going to get whacked with snow at least one more time. I'm sorry. We live in Buffalo. We're never really outside of winter's grasp until May.

With that in mind, I have a personal plea to you, dear neighbors. Please think of the older folks that live around you after a heavy snowfall. If you can spare a few extra minutes, help them clear their sidewalk. Even a drive-way, if you're feeling really ambitious or want extra karma points.

This small act of kindness will mean the world to them, and take a load off their minds. Everyone has a grandparent or parent somewhere, and the odds are they don't live with you. I know we all would rest easier knowing that their neighbors were there for them, and you don't need to rush right over to make sure they don't fall or get stuck in the snow.

Likewise, if you think you might need a hand during the winter or any other season, please don't hesitate to reach out to the WRCA. We are blessed in Amherst to have some terrific groups that are willing to come out and help you out. It would be my honor to help connect you to these warm and caring people.

I was saddened this month to hear about the house fire that happened on the end of my street, Edgewater Drive. My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family, who will be helping them through this stressful time. Everyone made it out of the house OK, which is a relief. I'd also like to send out thanks to the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Department and Amherst Police Department for quickly getting things under control.

Continued on page 3.



WRCA Board Meeting February 10, 2016

The February Meeting of the WRCA was called to order at 7:15 pm. In attendance were Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Member Erich Krueger. Community members Dick and Sunny Lippold also attended, Sweet Home School Superintendent Anthony Day was the guest speaker, addressing the WRCA until around 7:50 pm. During Mr. Day's presentation, Treasurer Donna Mosteller and Board Member Connie Holovics made it through the snowy, cold to attend, along with Scot Mosteller. There was one other member from the community in attendance.

No business was conducted as we did not have the required quorum to vote on any issues or reports before the Board. However, after Mr. Day concluded his presentation, the Board discussed several upcoming events. The Wine Tasting event held in January had around 50 guests and was a success. The Town of Amherst will be sponsoring our annual movie night this year which is held on the Friday night after National Night Out in August. If the weather is inclement, the movie will be shown inside at Willow Ridge School that night.

Due to the decreased membership, those activities that were paid for by the WRCA need to be reduced or eliminated during National Night Out this year. Instead, we need to go back to activities such as children decorating their bikes or providing children's games and volunteer-based activities. We can no longer afford expenses such as face-painting or horse rides.

The annual Snowflake Dinner Dance is coming up on March 12th, 2016 at Classics V. The cost is only \$75/ couple for dinner and open bar. The children's annual Easter Party will be held at Willow Ridge School on March 19, 2016. Volunteers are needed to help with this event.

The WRCA Board Members were then lucky enough to talk with long-time community members Dick and Sunny Lippold.

Continued on page 5.

Continued from page 2.

A house fire is a very personal disaster that takes a heavy toll on the family involved. While life goes on as normal as few as 10 feet from that house, some very rough times are in store for that family. There is cleanup from the water damage, smoke to clean out, in addition to any structural work that needs to be done. The road to recovery from a fire is long; please keep your neighbors in your thoughts.

I'd like to close this month with a quote from one of my favorite philosophers, Jerry Springer. He always ended his shows with great advice: 'Take care of yourselves, and each other.'

Jim Cwierley

Many eager Buyers are paying
Premium Prices.

The time is **NOW** to get the highest
price for your home.

Call or text Connie today if you are considering a move.



**CONNIE
HOLOVICS**

LICENSED ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

www.ConnieHolovics.com

Office: 634-4200 Cell: 553-7433

CHolovics@RealtyUSA.com

6000 Sheridan Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221



Classified

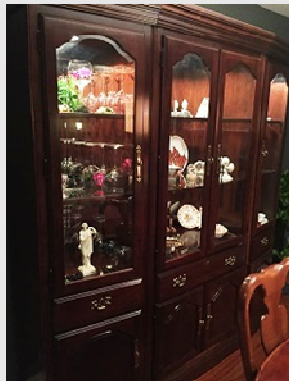
Classified is a service provided for the use of Willow Ridge Civic Association members free of charge. Please print or type your ad on a *full-sized sheet of paper*. Sign your ad (not the envelope), include your address/ phone #. *Classified* is not to be used for business purposes. Deliver to 221 N. Brier and place in porch box, or email to wiweditor@gmail.com.

For Sale

Crafting Material: FREE to a good home, pieces of various material, perfect for crafts, doll clothes, projects. Call Sandy at 691-7389 for pick up or delivery.

Furniture: Gorgeous American Drew solid cherry dining room set. Comes with beautiful cherry table in pristine condition along with table pads. Table measures 90x43 when both 15" leaves are inserted and 60" without leaves. 6 Queen Anne Style chairs, 2 captain chairs and 4 side chairs. Lighted China cabinet (Overall: 29" H x 65" W x 19" D) has beautiful detail, glass selves and plenty of storage. All in perfect condition. Will also include several table cloths of different sizes with several holiday

ones included.
\$1,500 or best offer.
Call 716-868-9015.



Joseph Battaglia
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Cell: 716.863.4586
Office: 716.689.8100
Email: Joehashome4u@aol.com

914 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Neighborhood News

Sympathy

Former neighbors and friends throughout Willow Ridge send our sympathy to Rita and Liz (Chris Young) and family, formerly of 154 Dalewood Drive, on the loss of Don Batz. Husband of 49 years, father and grandfather of 8 month old Brayden, Don passed away on February 11 after a short illness. A Veteran of the Korean conflict, Don worked in sales, in real estate, for the town of Amherst and formerly as a bartender before retiring. The Willow Ridge family of friends gathered at a friend's home on Willow Lane to honor Don with Rita, Liz, Chris and Brayden. He will be remembered fondly by our Willow Ridge family of friends.

Your ad could be here!

**For advertisement rates
visit wrca.info**

WILLOW RIDGE LANDSCAPING & SNOWPLOWING, INC.
20 MANOR OAK DRIVE
AMHERST, NY 14228
716.799.0835

Tony Cangialosi, Owner and Willow Ridge Resident

Landscaping
Lawn Maintenance
Cleanups
Gutter Cleaning
Snow Plowing



Servicing Willow Ridge and surrounding areas Residential and Commercial Property Maintenance

Town Of Amherst Board Meetings

March, 2016

Mar. 1, Glen Park Joint Board, 7:00pm
Mar. 2, Amherst Conservation Advisory Council, 6:30pm
Mar. 2, Traffic Safety Board, 7:00pm
Mar. 3, Minority/Woman Owned Business in Amherst, 1:15pm
Mar. 3, Energy Conservation Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:00pm
Mar. 7, Town Board Work Session, 4:00pm
Mar. 7, Town Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Mar. 8, Recreation Commission, 5:00pm
Mar. 8, Historic Preservation Commission, 7:15pm
Mar. 9, Senior Services Advisory Board, 8:30am
Mar. 9, Youth Board, 7:00pm
Mar. 14, Town Board Work Session, 4:00pm
Mar. 14, Amherst Veterans Committee, 5:30pm
Mar. 15, Zoning board of Appeals
Mar. 15, Amherst Committee on Disabilities, 7:00pm
Mar. 21, Town Board Work Session, 4:00pm
Mar. 21, Town Board Meeting, 7:00pm
Mar. 29, Information Technology Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:00pm

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

Fabulous Fish Fry Fundraiser, Friday, March 4

Want to help Nepali people devastated by last year's huge 7.8 earthquake? Come get a fish fry on Friday, March 4th 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 4th between 4 – 8 pm for Take Out or Eat In. Every little bit helps!

Continued from page 3.

Both Dick and Sunny had been involved with the WRCA from it's former years of greatness. They stressed the importance of the force of strong membership, and the power WRCA was able to use when action is needed on issues affecting all of the residents of Willow Ridge. Negotiating on the impact of building Walmart/Home Depot, extending some of our streets to cut through to N. Ellicott Creek Rd. or Chestnut Ridge or Sweet Home Rd. are just a few examples of positive results in having a strong community association. The Lippolds' provided the WRCA with many suggestions to help us become that force to be reckoned with once again. The involvement of the Block Rep's is critical to our going forward. While the current board has realized just how much we need and APPRECIATE the block rep's, the Lippolds' strengthened our resolve to get them back. (A personal thank you to Connie Holovics for realizing the problem and reaching out to the block reps for at least the last two years that I have been involved). And, a thank you to Dick and Sunny for caring enough to come out in bad weather and spending time talking with us. Our discussions ended around 8:45 pm. The next meeting of the WRCA will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, 2016 at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Marijean Nichols



An evening of comedy to benefit Boy Scout Troop 173

Help send our scouts on a High Adventure

Friday, April 1st, 2016

Rob's Comedy Playhouse

1340 North Forest Road, Williamsville

Doors open at 7:15p.m, Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

Basket Raffle and live auction to follow

Credit cards accepted

Tickets \$25.00 (Includes the show and two bar drinks)

Food available for purchase

For tickets contact:

Sharon Chace (716-949-6486)

John Miller (716-868-6865)

Weed Man®

Promises Kept

**20% off our full, prepaid
'Promises Kept' Program
for
Willeus Ridge
Civic Association members**

FULLY GUARANTEED 6 Visit Program includes:

- ◆ A full-season of slow-release Granular Fertilizer
- ◆ Weed Control
- ◆ Pre & Post-Emergent Crabgrass Control
- ◆ Treatment for Weeds & Crabgrass
- ◆ Surface Insect Control
- ◆ Grub inspection
- ◆ Complete Balanced Winter Fertilizer

** If you're not satisfied, we're on
your lawn in 24 hours!*

**Contact us about
our Customer
Referral Program!**

Call us today!

1-800-815-1144

www.weedmanusa.com

**We've been
servicing lawns
in your area for
over ten years!**



WILLOW RIDGE ANNUAL ***SNOWFLAKE DINNER DANCE***

MARCH 12th 7pm– Midnight

To reconnect with old friends and neighbors,
and make some new one's too, this venue is for you!

CLASSICS V

On The Menu:

STUFFED SHRIMP

PRIME RIB

CHICKEN COQ AU VIN ROUGE.

Entertainment by DJ Helmut Erich Krueger

ALL FOR ONLY \$75 COUPLE FOR DINNER AND OPEN BAR

SERVING WELL DRINKS

Bottle beer all you can consume but DO NOT drive because we are nice and close to home.

MENU CHOICES AND MONEY NEEDED BY MARCH 8.

CALL CAROL ZAFFRAM 716-913-4980

inknmore06@gmail.com

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #862
BUFFALO NY

March 2016

Blustery March Arrives With Something For Everybody!

Snowflake Dinner Dance

Adults

March 12, 2016

7pm—Midnight

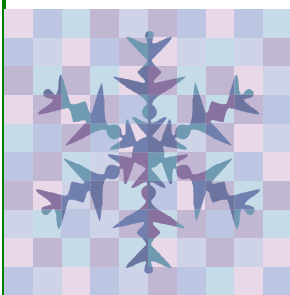
Menu Choices Needed By
March 8.

Music Dancing Open Bar

Great Food

A Night Out!

See Page 7 for details..



Willow Ridge Easter Party

Kids

March 19, 2016

10:30am—Noon

Willow Ridge School

Crafts Games Bounce House
Snacks

Fun!

