

WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS

News for and about Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

January 2016



WRCA ready to pop the cork on popular event

Willow Ridge residents will be sipping chardonnay for a good cause next month. A wine tasting event will be uncorked on January 30, with proceeds going to fund the WRCA Scholarship Fund and other neighborhood events. The tasting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Classics V Terrace Room, 2425 Niagara Falls Boulevard.

The event follows in the footsteps of the tastings organized by former WRCA board member Jim Prentice, who ran the event for the past four years. 'This is a long-running neighborhood event that has been very popular with our members,' said Jim Cwierley, president of the Association. 'It's a great time to shake off the winter coldrums and socialize with neighbors you haven't seen since the snow started flying.'

Tickets for the event are \$25 per person, and include wine and liquor tastings from multiple vendors. Appetizers will be served throughout the evening, and a cash bar will be available. If you like something you taste at the event, you'll be able to place orders so you can enjoy a glass at home. DB Liquors, located at 2333 Niagara Falls Boulevard, will be filling orders placed at the event. For information on tickets call Jim Cwierley at 525-1893, or email wrca.president@gmail.com.

This won't be the only chance for you to socialize with your Willow Ridge neighbors at Classics this spring. Planning is already underway for the Snowflake Dinner Dance, according to event organizer Carol Zaffram. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 12. Watch your inbox, our Facebook page, and the *Wind-in-the-Willows* for more information on the dance.



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Visit us on the web at
www.wrca.info
Find us on Facebook

**WRCA Board changes will be reflected in the February issue.

**WRCA
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
Tuesday,
January 12, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Ellicott Creek
Fire Hall
All Members
Welcome**

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

A Message from the President's Desk

Is there trouble on the horizon for the WRCA?

Dear friends and neighbors:

Getting a door slammed in your face is never a fun thing. Rejection stings, especially when you are just being neighborly to the new family that just moved in down the street. It's not a lot of fun, getting eyed with suspicion when you're just coming to share smiles.

These temporary stings quickly fade. Ask anyone who has ever been shot down asking for a date. Unfortunately, the rejection I am talking about could have dire consequences for the Willow Ridge Civic Association, possibly spelling its doom.

And I would like to ask you, dear reader, for help in turning things around.

WRCA membership has been in decline for some years now. Most of those losses don't come from paying members who just 'quit' the organization. Rather, people move out of the neighborhood and the new homeowners don't join the organization.

Willow Ridge is a great place to live, so there is never much trouble getting someone to move into a vacant house. The problem we have is getting these new neighbors to see the value in joining the WRCA. Most new neighbors don't know it exists; others just flat out decline membership.

On Edgewater Drive, we have had several new neighbors move in during the past few years. I've paid visits to most of them, extolling the virtues of the civic association. I've been met with suspicion and indifference; most decline to join.

When I ask why, people say they just don't see the value in joining. "There's nothing in it for me," they say. I describe our excellent community events and useful publications, but these are of little interest to the couples I have met.

This is a real problem for us, WRCA members. I know we can count on you to help keep the WRCA going, but without new members, we're in real trouble. Our abilities to fund the events and services you love and expect could soon be in danger.

Will there even be a civic association in 15 years? Not if we can't find something of value to our new neighbors. So... can YOU help us out?

What do you think the value is for our newer, younger neighbors? What does the WRCA of the future need to do to attract members? I'd love to hear your thoughts. Give me a call at 525-1893, or drop me an email at wrca.president@gmail.com. I'd love to hear what you think.

Jim Cwierley

WRCA Membership...

THANK YOU for renewing your membership or joining WRCA for 2016!!

If you know someone who hasn't done so, please remind them to do it now!

Here are the details:

Payment Methods

Via Check – Payment via check for \$17.00 to WRCA, PO Box 86, Amherst, NY 14226

PayPal payment – You can access PayPal and pay \$17.00 via their secure on-line payment method. Just access the WRCA website – www.wrca.info

Joining or renewing provides

Wind-in-the-Willows – Our newsletter provides information about happenings in Willow Ridge for adults and children as well as neighborhood news, a free classified section and more. It is delivered to your home via mail and e-mail or e-mail only if you check “*Going Green*” on the membership form.

2015 WRCA Directory will be delivered to your door in early spring. Our community directory includes a neighborhood listing, coupons, listing of services and businesses, a listing of important phone numbers, a Babysitter Directory, and a detailed map of Willow Ridge.

E-Wind – All members who provide e-mail addresses receive e-mail notification of events happening in our community as well as the *Wind-in-the-Willows* via e-mail.

WRCA app - is now under construction...watch for more information.

Your privacy is always important to us. We **will not** publish e-mail addresses, and continue our policy of not sharing our membership information with anyone.

We are counting on you to help keep our association alive and vibrant...

Encourage your neighbors to complete their 2016 membership today!

Willow Ridge Civic Association Mission Statement

The Willow Ridge Civic Association is organized for the mutual civic benefit of all living in the Willow Ridge Subdivision. Through its membership and organization, the Association promotes neighborliness through group activities and social events designed to foster community spirit. In addition the Association is dedicated to the preservation of property values through awareness of the local environment and by working closely with various Town of Amherst agencies.

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.

What I've Noticed

Since becoming active with the WRCA a couple years ago, I have found myself paying more attention to what's going around Willowridge. It amazes me, all the many things I never noticed before or wasn't paying attention to. It bothers me now that I just took for granted how our neighborhood was, and is, such a good place to live in.

In the over three decades that I've lived here, previous to my recent involvement, I attended only one WRCA meeting. Many years ago there was a proposal to extend Dalewood Drive as a cut through to Chestnut Ridge Road. Assured at that time that Dalewood would not be extended, life happened – raising children, working, extended family commitments – the same as most people in our neighborhood did. Our block rep did a good job, she would stop by to collect our dues, send us holiday greetings and deliver our directories. While I always read the *WITW* each month and would read through the directory each year, there were no real problems in the neighborhood and I returned to my complacency.

Fast forward to fall of 2013 when a request appeared in *WITW* for several months asking for a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the WRCA board. While my family had enjoyed some of the activities sponsored by the association, it never occurred to me that the WRCA is just the name of a group of people who were volunteering their time, energy and resources to making these events so good. I called for information, attended a meeting, was voted to fill the board vacancy. After several meetings, I soon realized that there were very few volunteers left, the treasury that sponsors the neighborhood gatherings was going down, and those who were willing, a dedicated group for sure, had a tough road ahead. As the by-laws called for, a new president took over in January, we had the experience of outgoing officers who would remain on the board and some new people actually stepped up to help. It seems we are now heading in the right direction, a good group willing to work together with new ideas on how to make the WRCA work.

Marjean Nichols

WRCA elects new treasurer to two-year term.

The Willow Ridge Civic Association has a new person holding the checkbook.

In a unanimous vote last month, the WRCA elected a new treasurer at its December meeting. Donna Mosteller, who joined the board in 2015, will assume her two-year term in January. She takes over for Tom Amodeo, who will remain on the WRCA board and continue duties as WRCA webmaster.

An important position within the organization, the treasurer handles all financial matters. The treasurer processes membership and advertising funds, and dispenses checks to vendors for WRCA events. The treasurer's report issued at each meeting is the best snapshot possible of the WRCA's financial health and activity.

Mosteller has a long career in the financial industry, working primarily in credit and collections for the past 30 years. She moved to Willow Ridge in July 2015 from Williamsville, and lives on Jeanmoor Drive.

She said she is eager to work with Amodeo, getting up to speed with the WRCA's current accounts. "I like working with numbers, and helping to maintain a balance," she said.

Amodeo is working on a transition plan for the role, and is eager to bring Mosteller up to speed.

"Her value and knowledge will make for an easy and seamless transition," Amodeo said.

Thanks to this month's article contributor,

Marjean Nichols

WILLOW RIDGE LANDSCAPING & SNOWPLOWING, INC.
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Snow Plowing



Town Of Amherst Board Meetings

January, 2016

Jan 4, Town Board, Work Session, 3pm
Jan 4, Organizational Meeting, 7pm
Jan 5, Glen Park Joint Board, 7pm
Jan 6, Amherst Conservation Advisory Council, 6:30
Jan 11, Town Board, Work Session, 3pm
Jan 19, Town Board, 7pm
Jan 26, Zoning Board, 7pm
Jan 26, Zoning Board of Appeals
Jan 26, Information Technology Advisory Committee, 6pm

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



Christmas Tree Pick Up



The Town of Amherst Highway Department will begin picking up Christmas trees starting on January 4, 2016 and will conclude pickup on January 15, 2016. From January 18, 2016 on trees

should be put out with your weekly garbage. Residents are reminded that trees must be free of tinsel, garland or any other materials. For more information, please contact the Amherst Highway Department at 631-7117.



Town of Amherst Winterfest

Join us for a winter wonderland of fun on Saturday, January 23 from Noon-3pm at the Harlem Road Community Center! Winterfest will feature outdoor and indoor activities -- horse drawn wagon rides, games plus a Despicable Me movie showing at 3pm! Gym activities, cookie decorating, crafts and more! Hot refreshments and complimentary snacks available. Mark your calendars for this not-to-be missed FREE event! Call 631-7132 for



From Our Home to Yours...

We would like to extend our warmest thoughts and best wishes to all our neighbors,

A Happy and Healthy New Year!



CONNIE HOLOVICS

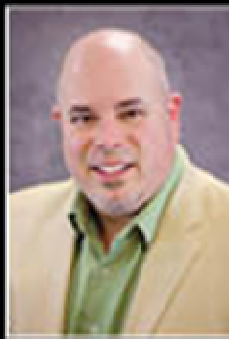
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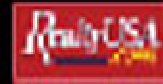
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914 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

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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.

For Sale

Crib Set—3-piece natural wood crib set in excellent condition: crib made in Italy has storage drawer and changes to toddler daybed; changing table; dresser. Best Offer for entire set. 691-3541

Piano—Kimball Artist Console Piano 1970's with bench seat. Good Condition, needs tuning. FREE – must be able to move and pick-up, no delivery

Christmas Tree Lighting Brings Neighbors Together in 2015

Willow Ridge neighbors, young and old, joined together in song on December 5, as we lit the Christmas Tree located at the corner of Sweetwood and Willow Ridge.

Event organizers, Roseanne Grasha and Dawn M. Cwierley, were pleased with the newly revived event. "What better way is there to usher in the holiday season than with friends and neighbors," said Cwierley.

About forty people joined in the fun, which included a visit from Santa Claus, the Ellicott Creek Fire Department, and Christmas carols led by the Amherst Baptist Church.

We are also grateful to Barry Moir, Ray Fliss and Chuck Malarkey, who continued the tradition of decorating the Christmas Tree as they had always done with their friend, the late Jack Baker.

May this tradition continue for years to come.

A special thank you to Starbucks for their coffee donation and Walmart for contributing glow sticks for the event.



Save The Date!!!



WILLOW RIDGE ANNUAL

***SNOWFLAKE DINNER
DANCE***

MARCH 12th 7pm– Midnight

You don't want to miss this one!

CLASSICS V

ONLY \$75 COUPLE FOR DINNER AND OPEN BAR

SERVING WELL DRINKS

FOR TICKET INFO CALL

CAROL ZAFFRAM 716-913-4980

inknmore06@gmail.com

Wind-in-the-Willows
Willow Ridge Civic Association

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**January
2016**

Wine Tasting Event

See Page 1 for details.

January 30

7 p.m.

Classics V Terrace Room

2425 Niagara Falls Blvd.

*Proceeds going to fund the WRCA
Scholarship Fund and other
neighborhood events.*

Thank you for supporting your WRCA

