

# WIND IN THE WILLOWS

News for Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

November 2016



## Meet Your New Board

A longtime music man is getting ready to take a new role out for a spin.

Erich Krueger, a DJ known for cranking tunes at events throughout the neighborhood, was elected Willow Ridge Civic Association president this month. He will serve a two-year term that expires in December 2018. He takes over for outgoing president Jim Cwierley in January.

'I'd like to congratulate the board members on their election, and wish them nothing but success in their terms, Cwierley said. 'Working on the WRCA board can be tremendously hard work, but I know this group is more than up to the task.'



*Erich Krueger*  
President



*Tom Amodeo*  
Vice President



*Jane Sieman*  
Secretary



*Donna Mosteller*  
Treasurer



*Andy Annesi*  
Board Member



*Connie Holovics*  
Board Member



*Marijean Nicols*  
Board Member



*John Radens*  
Board Member

Krueger leads a slate of three new executive officers on the board, including Vice President Tom Amodeo and Secretary Jane Sieman. Treasurer Donna Mosteller began a two-year term in January which runs through the end of 2017. Also elected to board positions this month were Andy Annesi, John Radens, Marijean Nichols, and Connie Holovics.

This crop of board members has been very active in the community. Marijean Nichols is the executive editor for the Wind-in-the-Willows, while Tom Amodeo handles electronic communications. Jane Sieman handles WRCA membership, while Connie Holovics coordinates the Block Rep program.

All positions were up for re-election except for the treasurer. This position is elected separately from the rest of the board, to assure continuity on the board. Donna Mosteller assumed the role in early 2016.

There is currently one open board position. For more information or to join the WRCA board, please join us for a meeting, or call a board member. **Contact information for the board is located on page 2.**

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## Contact Us

### President:

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### Vice President:

Erich Krueger 691-9952

### Secretary:

Marijean Nichols 691-4375

### Treasurer:

Donna Mosteller 691-4375

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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](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).

## Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of your Willow Ridge Civic Association, I want to wish you a happy and memorable Thanksgiving. I hope all of you get the chance to spend time with family and friends, and get the chance to take time out from the daily grind to relax with them.

I'm grateful for all of the new and returning members who have purchased memberships for the Association. Without you, we wouldn't have a reason to be here, and there would be no fun events to share with you. This coming month, we'll continue to revive the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. Warm up your beautiful singing voices, then join us at the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood Drive at 5 p.m. on December 3. We'll sing some classic carols, and shine a light on the Christmas season.

Later in the month, judges will be roaming the neighborhood in search of Willow Ridge's best decorations. We hope you will join us in recognizing our local Clark Griswolds, and would love for you to post pictures of your favorites on our Facebook page.

As clichéd as it sounds, the thing I am most thankful for this year are my children, Jessica and Matthew. I really appreciate the way they look at the world, seeing only the good in everyone and everything. Their sweetness and naiveté are sometimes humorous, but also a reminder of simpler times and the things that get forgotten on the way to growing up.

As their parents, we are charged with teaching them everything. In our house, we try to make sure they have an education in the classics (The Beatles, Three Stooges, and Looney Toons).

But at the same time, I appreciate the lessons they are teaching me. It's something I heard from a good friend said a long time ago: 'Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and take a look around every once in a while, you may miss it.'

We're on  
Facebook  
and Twitter!



## Board Member Spotlight—John Radens

Who are the people in your neighborhood? One of them is board member John Radens, a longtime resident of Kaymar Road.

Radens, past president of the association, was elected to fill a vacancy on the Board in March 2015.

As we honor Veterans Day in November, we thank all who serve our Country. After serving in the United States Navy as a fire control technician, Radens graduated from the University of Buffalo with a bachelor's of science degree in Education and Engineering.

He retired as facility engineer at a local pharmaceutical company in 2006 and remains active as a consultant in project management, pharmaceutical and regulatory industries.

In addition to his volunteer work in Willow Ridge, he is active in St. Christopher Parish and several other organizations. John and wife, Sandy, raised their three daughters in Willow Ridge and enjoy having their grandchildren visit.

We thank the Radens for their many years of service in our community.



FROM OUR FAMILY  
TO YOURS...

We would like to extend our warmest thoughts and best wishes to all our neighbors, for a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

**CONNIE  
HOLOVICS**  
LICENSED ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

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# WRCA Board Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2016

The November 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 and Secretary Marijean Nichols. Also in attendance were board members Tom Amodeo, John Radens and Andy Annesi and membership chair Jane Sieman. Brian and Dawson Rieman also attended.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary Report was deferred due to the Secretary's absence at the October meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Income for the month of September was \$536. Expenditures for the month were \$1,385. The balance for September was \$309. Income for the month of October was \$0. Expenditures for the month were \$43. The balance for October was \$266. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report for September and October.

**President's Report:** The membership drive for 2017 is underway. Members who might request a hard copy of the all-digital WITW can call Jane to receive a copy. The Holiday Tree Lighting will be on Saturday, December 3 at 5 p.m. Jim will check on the public lighting around that corner. A date for annual Wine Tasting Event will be set after confirmation of venue. The cost will remain at \$25/person. WRCA will update their banking as soon as the previous president responds to set up a time to meet the current Treasurer at the bank to sign off. The advertising mock-ups are updated making it much easier to place ads in WRCA publications. With input from WRCA, Imagine Amherst has developed the prototype for future retail and provided drawings. The Amherst Highway Supervisor has asked to appear at our next monthly meeting to discuss any community issues.

**Old Business:** The annual Halloween party was a success and we thank Amherst Baptist Church for all the help they provided. Thank you also to WGRZ News for their coverage of Willow Ridge's scary decorated homes. Suggestions were discussed regarding making the Willow Ridge/Niagara Falls Boulevard traffic corridor safer. The

insurance for WRCA has been paid. Bringing back some of the previous WRCA holiday traditions was discussed. For our next Wine Tasting Event we would like to add more basket raffle type fundraising as proceeds from this event help to fund our annual scholarships. Jane has been updating the membership list and actively signing up neighbors, working on new members even before the membership's official drive in October.

**New Business:** The annual Snowflake Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Classics. The cost this year including dinner, open bar and music/dancing will be \$80/couple. All money and checks for this event are to be given to the treasurer before the event so that she can write checks for all expenses incurred for this event after receiving proper receipts for each expense. Judging for the annual holiday lighting contest will be done on the weekend of December 16-18 this year and winning homes will be in the January WITW.

**Elections** were held for the upcoming terms of office which start January 1, . Current President Jim Cwierley's term is up and he is not eligible to run for another term as WRCA's by-laws have term limits. A nomination was made by Jim, discussed and a vote was cast in favor of the following officers of the WRCA for the 2017-2019 term:

**President:** Erich Krueger

**Vice President:** Tom Amodeo

**Secretary:** Jane Sieman

**Board Member:** Andy Annesi

**Board Member:** John Radens

**Board Member:** Connie Holovics

**Board Member:** Marijean Nichols:

**Ex-Officio Board Member:** Jim Cwierley  
(as previous president)

Treasurer Donna Mosteller will remain in office as she was elected in the off-year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting of WRCA will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marijean Nichols

## Date Planned for Fire Department's Santa Run and Food Drive



On Saturday December 17 at 4:30 p.m., the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company will be starting its annual Santa Run and Food Drive to benefit St. Christopher's Church Food Pantry and the Buffalo City Mission.

They will bring around Santa to hand out candy to children and will collect non-perishable foods. Watch for flyers to be distributed in the area.

Be sure to either the fire fighters at the end of the driveway or leave a bag at the end of the driveway or on the porch. Area Boy Scouts will help to collect the food as they do every year.

## Cub Scouts Offer Holiday Card Delivery

As a community service to Willow Ridge neighborhood, the Cub Scout of Pack 173 is helping to deliver holiday cards to neighbors.

Drop your cards into the collection bin that will be located at 330 Willow Green Drive and they will take care of the rest. The bin will be available from Friday, November 25 up until 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 15.

Weather permitting, all cards will be delivered that weekend. Please make sure your cards are clearly labeled with the recipients name and street address.

For the safety the scouts, deliveries can only be made to residential homes within Willow Ridge. This does not include apartments, condos, the elder care facility or Ellicott Creek Drive North.



## Christmas Tree Lighting

Join your neighbors on December 3 to usher in the holiday season with the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas Tree and caroling at the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweethome.

Festivities are scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

## Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Show your holiday spirit and deck the halls and your homes for our annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest.

Judging will be December 16, 17 & 18

## Upcoming Events

### Living Nativity & Caroling Fun

Take a stroll through Living Nativity scenes on Wednesday, evening, December 7 at the corner of Willowridge & Peppertree. Beginning at 6 p.m., Amherst Baptist Church will present "Emmanuel...God With Us" for the community to walk through & experience the gift of Christmas. Cookies, hot chocolate and coffee will be provided. A concert of Christmas carols will be sung from 7 – 7:30 p.m.

### 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 NY 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).

## Block Reps Geared Up for New Year



Volunteers are key to the success to any organization. At the root of the Willow Ridge Civic Association are our amazing block reps who recently met this weekend.

Are you interested in being a block rep and meeting our new neighbors? Contact Connie Holovics (553-7433) or Jane Sieman (564-0913).

## Your ad could be here

Contact our new  
advertising manager  
**Andy Annesi**  
at 812-8851  
to discuss how the  
Wind In the Willows  
can help spread your  
message to the  
our neighbors.



### Joseph Bataglia

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

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# Lead Testing Mandated at Schools

In October, parents of current Willow Ridge students were notified of the results of New York State mandated lead testing of all cold water outlets in elementary schools.

Fifteen outlets exceeded the NYS threshold of fifteen parts per billion. The water supply to these outlets has been shut off until remediation and retesting meets the threshold. Testing in middle and high schools must be completed by October 31, 2016.

Willow Ridge Elementary opened in 1966. Building materials used before 1986 may contain significant amounts of lead. Schools have intermittent water use patterns. This usage is more likely to cause elevated levels of lead due to prolonged contact with plumbing materials. Lead is a natural occurring element with many industrial uses. While exposure to high levels of lead have adverse health effects on everyone, children are at higher risk.

Growing bodies absorb lead more easily than adults, their brain and nervous system are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. Parents concerned about a child's exposure to lead should contact their health care provider. A simple blood test can check your child for lead exposure.

Everyone can lower their exposure to lead at home. Use only cold water to prepare food and drinks, keep the home clean and dust-free, maintain painted surfaces to prevent deterioration and teach children to wash their hands after playing outdoors. Make sure your family eats well-balanced meals, children with healthy diets absorb less lead.

Additional information is available from the Erie County Health Department's LEADSAFE Program at 961-6800. The US Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) provides additional tips on lowering exposure to lead.



**Save the Date**

**Wine Tasting**  
Saturday, January 21, 2017  
from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Classics Five Banquet Center

## Halloween Party a Spooktacular Success

While many families have moved onto the next holiday, Halloween remains a special day for the neighborhood children who attended the Annual Children's Party.

Superheroes, princesses, and puppies alike had a great day jumping in the bounce house, dancing, doing crafts and so much more!

Thank you to all of the members who came out and our wonderful volunteers.

We are also very grateful to the Amherst Baptist Church for their donations of food, the bounce house, and the facepainter.



## WRCA Membership Meeting

Make an investment in your neighborhood.  
Complete your membership form today.

Our next WRCA membership meeting is on  
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

WRCA meets monthly at the  
Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Remember, the deadline to submit materials  
for the next newsletter is December 1.



**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.**

