

WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS

News for and about Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

December 2015



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 doldrums 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 tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 12. Watch your inbox, our Facebook page, and the *Wind-in-the-Willows* for more information on the dance.

CANS FOR CUBS 2016

Cub Scout Pack 173 will be holding our annual pop can/bottle collection drive on Saturday, January 2, 2016 from 10am—1pm. Money earned from the returns will be donated to a charitable organization to be determined at a later date. On Saturday, January 2, please leave your NY stamped returnable cans & bottles in a plastic bag on your front porch or driveway. Our scouts and their parents will be coming around to pick them up between the hours of 10am and 1pm. 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 & bottles will be accepted (no recyclables or wine/liquor bottles). Thank you once again for your continued support.

CUB SCOUT PACK 173 HOLIDAY CARD DELIVERY

As a community service for Willow Ridge, Cub Scout Pack 173 will be delivering holiday cards throughout the community. Drop off your cards into the collection bin that will be located at **330 Willow Green Drive**. The bin will be available until 5pm Thursday, December 17th.

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Weather permitting, all cards will be delivered Saturday, December 19th. Please make sure your cards are clearly labeled with the recipients name and street address. For the safety of our scouts, we will only deliver to residential homes within Willow Ridge. We regret that we cannot deliver to apartments, condos, the elder care facility or Ellicott Creek Drive North.

Contact Us

President:

Jim Cwierley 525-1893

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

**WRCA
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
Tuesday,
December 8, 2015
7:30 p.m.
Ellicott Creek
Fire Hall
All Members
Welcome**

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

A Message from the President's Desk

Dear neighbors,

I wanted to let you know, that I take a shower before going to each and every Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting. I'm also quite proud of my streak of not biting a single resident in the five years that I've been on the WRCA board. It's a fair-to-even bet that the rest of the board can profess this too.

Normally, these marks of civility are nothing to boast about. I felt it was important to get this out in the open, however, due to the record low attendance we've seen at board meetings in the past year or so. Most nights, you can count on one hand the number of neighbors we see sitting out in the crowd.

We've tried spicing things up a bit, with visits from Sweet Home Superintendent Tony Day, or Amherst Town Supervisor Barry Weinstein. We've even had the police come in to hear concerns about loud parties in the neighborhood.

Those events will draw a crowd, but they also trigger a run for the door as soon as the guest speaker concludes. Surely, if you're interested in the schools or the town, you'd be interested in hearing about what's going on down the street, in an organization in which you pay to belong? It's been said that all politics are local, and it doesn't get any more local than events from your own neighborhood.

It could just mean that the WRCA is doing a great job, and everyone is perfectly happy with every decision we make. Of course, that's a fantasy land, and we do see our share of neighbors and friends looking for help with a specific problem. And we're happy to help. I personally am honored to assist you, and it is a privilege I don't take lightly. But there is very little we can do unless we hear from you, and it's most helpful for all of us to hear you at once. Like I said, we have a four-year no-bite streak going, and I intend to keep that going.

So, please, come out to our next meeting, on December 8. The meetings are held at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall, at 7:30 p.m. It's my birthday, and the greatest present I can get this year is for you to come see us there.

In closing, I wanted to recognize and express my deepest sympathies at the loss of my neighbor, Al Jones, who died this past month. A true gentleman and great neighbor, he and his wife Eileen welcomed us as we moved in seven years ago. He brought me a map of the neighborhood and an old directory, and set us down the path of working with the WRCA.

It's not going to feel like spring without seeing him lounging in the sunshine, Old Fashioned in hand. It's sad to know he won't be out there tending to his meticulous flower garden, or the tree he planted in honor of his wife. It was a privilege to know the man, an honor to call him my neighbor.

Jim Cwierley

WRCA needs your help... Please renew your membership TODAY!

If already renewed or joined WRCA for 2016, please turn the page and THANK YOU!! If you haven't done so, please do it now and help us meet our deadline of December 31st. Here's what you need to do:

Payment Methods

Invoice – enclosed in your October *Wind-in-the-Willows* along with a return envelope
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

Important note - The directory is only as good as the information you provide. **To that end, we have included a check box for those who have no change in 2015 information (just need to write names and address).** With over 1300 homes in Willow Ridge, we rely on each WRCA member to provide us with current information each year. It only takes a minute or two to make the directory a valuable resource for everyone.

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...
Complete your 2016 membership invoice today!**

NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH A number of Christmas-themed events are being offered to the Willow Ridge Community during the month of December at Amherst Baptist Church, on the corner of Willow Ridge & Peppertree. Mark your calendars now! *All men are invited to a Men's Breakfast on Sat., Dec. 12th, beginning at 8:30 am. This is a great "guy" time to hang out & eat well. This year's Children's Christmas Program will be presented Sunday night, Dec. 13th at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to come see "Star Trip, Our Faith Awakens". Willow Ridge Christmas Caroling will be a fun night on Friday, Dec, 18th, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Dress in warm clothes & wear your mittens! Expert voices not required. The Amherst Festival Chorus & Orchestra will present "An Evening of Christmas Music" at 7:30 pm on Mon., Dec. 21st at the church. This group of about 50 students are volunteering their talents for this musical celebration of the season. A Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be held Thursday, Dec. 24th at 6:00 PM. Share this special evening with your family & friends A Christmas Day Worship Service is offered Christmas morning, from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Come dressed casually, and enjoy worshipping our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. If you want more information on any of these holiday events, call 691-9456 or check out <http://www.amherstbaptist.com/calendar.html> for details.*

Looking for a great stocking stuffer? Teacher or Bus driver gift? Maybe a unique tip for your favorite waiter or waitress, hair stylist or barber? Or just a great deal on Delta Sonic Car Washes? \$5.00 gift cards will be available starting December 1 for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Contact Grace House @ 691-5727 or any of the neighborhood scouts!! Thank you for supporting Boy Scout Troop 173.



Happy

Holidays from

**The
WRCA!**



Neighborhood News

In Sympathy

Neighbors on Dalewood Drive express our sympathy to the Hargrove Family on the loss of their husband and father, Samuel Hargrove Jr. on October 26, 2015. Retired from a long career in the auto industry, he was a veteran of the Viet Nam war. Samuel served our country as a Green Beret, Special Forces with the U.S. Army and we are grateful for his courage in serving our country. We are keeping Ellen and their children and family, in our thoughts during this difficult time.

Farewell

A fond farewell to all our wonderful neighbors on Manor Oak Drive. We had 21 fantastic years raising our three kids at that home. We were lucky enough to have found a ranch in the neighborhood on Grasspointe to downsize to. We love it but we will miss the friendships on the block. Please remember we are still close enough to keep in touch. Pam, Scott and Justin McNess

Carol and Paul Schmit of 11 Button Bush Ct are excited about sharing the news of their building a new house in North Tonawanda . After over 20 years on Button Bush Ct, they are moving this month to 3619 Brandywine Road. They will be sorely missed in the neighborhood; yet, the friendships built will not disappear. We all wish you continued blessings and laughter!!

Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to Apple Ridge's newest neighbors, Meng Meng Zhang and Zhen Jia Lin who moved to 63 Jonathan Place in July. Both are students at UB with Meng Meng studying to teaching English as a second language and Zhen Jia as an economics major. Prior to their present home, they lived nearby on Sweet Home Road.

Continued on page 5.

Your ad could be here!

**For advertisement rates
visit wrca.info**

WILLOW RIDGE LANDSCAPING & SNOWPLOWING, INC.
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Servicing Willow Ridge and surrounding areas Residential and Commercial
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Cleanups
Gutter Cleaning
Snow Plowing**



Welcome continued.

We recently welcomed the Nixons to Kaymar only to have to bid them farewell a few months later when James was relocated to Texas. Fortunately, another young couple, Lindsey and Michael Cattieu, have moved into 8 Kaymar Drive. He works for the Postal Service and she is an x-ray technician. The greatest news is they are expecting the arrival of their first child on Christmas Eve. We hope you will enjoy raising your young family in our wonderful neighborhood. Congratulations on your new home. Watch this column for the birth announcement!

A warm Willow Ridge welcome goes out to Steve and Linda Kho who have recently moved to 12 Red Maple Court. Linda is in the marketing department of Rich Products and Steve is at Praxair. We are so happy to have them and their sweet baby Chelsie on the court and wish them many years of happiness here.

We have new neighbors at 62 Manor Oak Drive! Erin Blass and Eric Cichowski have

recently moved into their new home in Willow Ridge after living in North Buffalo. Both Erin and Eric are engineers. A warm Manor Oak and Willow Ridge welcome to Erin, Eric and their 2 cats!

A hearty welcome to Jordan and Kim Zackey, Ryder, age 1, and their puppies Penny and Piper, who all moved to 7 Maricrest Drive from Jamestown, NY on October 21. Jordan works as a mason, and Kim, as a school counselor. We know you will love family life here in Willow Ridge and hope you enjoy your new home!

Neighbors on North Brier Road would like to welcome Katie and Jason Clark to their new home at 168 North Brier Road. They have two children- a son, Liam, and a new baby girl, Charlotte. They relocated from the Town of Tonawanda in July. We wish them a long and happy life in their new home.

Angel Care



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Home for the Holidays
Who do you know that would like to live in *OUR* neighborhood?



294 Peppertree Drive



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CHolovics@RealtyUSA.com

6000 Sheridan Dr.,
Williamsville, NY 14221



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

Email:
wieditor@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.**

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

Super Chexx NHL Bubble Hockey – NEW

- 12 hand-painted players w/team jerseys
- Live action sounds with legendary **Sabres announcer Rick Jeaneret on play-by-play**
- Electronics record Goals, Shots, Period, Running Time & Boo button
- External volume control & on/off switch
- Automatic puck return and eject system with overhead bubble dome lighting
- Size 60"d x 36"w x 54"h -Weight 130 lbs
- Fully assembled in 2 halves for easy set-up



Paid : \$2995, Will Sell for \$1500 or Best Offer. Call 716-868-9015

Black Steel Porch Furniture, 4 piece w/8 cushions. Used 1 year, \$200. Call 691-9338

Oak desk, 7 drawer, 29 x 54 with removable back shelf, \$125. Call 691-9338

Wanted

Driver wanted- Driver (non-smoking) with clean police and driving record to drive college student from Willow Ridge area to NCCC (3181 Saunders Settlement Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132) and pickup to return home. Transportation will be needed 5 days a week but if you can drive on certain days (i.e. Mon., Wed, and Fri.), that could work too. This will probably be starting in January and will last less than 1 month. Payment will be **\$25.** for each trip of 10 miles. Please call 691-7084.

WRCA MINUTES November 10, 2015

The meeting was opened at 7:32 p.m. by President Jim Cwierley. Also in attendance were Treasurer Tom Amodeo, Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Members Erich Krueger, Donna Mosteller, Andy Annesi, Connie Holovics and John Radens. Membership Chair Lynn Getzin and David Askey also attended.. The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the month of October was \$3,537. Expenses for the month were \$993. The balance for October was \$3,116. The report for October was approved.

Membership Chair's Report: To date, 155 families have mailed in their dues. 26 families sent duplicate payments from last year which will extend their membership for 2016. Seventeen families have paid their dues through pay pal, costing the WRCA 79 cents out of each dues transaction. This totals 181 families signed-up for 2016 from our early membership drive. Residents who wish to update their family directory information need to make any updates on the membership renewal form and return the form/dues payment by the end of December. Connie needs the updated paid membership list to give to the block reps as soon as possible. This would give the block reps an opportunity to contact their neighbors who have not joined. Many new residents over the past several years did not receive information about the WRCA when they moved in. An updated list throughout the membership drive would give the block reps more time to contact new neighbors and also to remind previous members who may have just forgotten their membership dues. We should update block reps with current information well before the end of the membership drive.

President's Report: The annual donation the WRCA endows to the Scouts was given through the purchase of all the hot dogs, rolls, condiments, etc that the Scouts sold during National Night Out. All profits made went directly to the Scout's fundraising benefit. The Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 5 at dusk. This past Willow Ridge tradition is being revived at the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood. The community church has offered the use of their parking lot following the lighting for holiday activities and singing and will put the date on their marquee. Tables and garbage cans are needed. We are also bringing back the annual wine tasting event to be held on January 30, 2016 at Classics. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members. Appetizers will be served and distributors will be pouring the wines for tasting. Proceeds from this event will be used to fund the WRCA annual scholarships. Jim was notified of a potential hazard from the gas meter being removed from the long vacant house at 70 Rockdale. Jim was also asked about leaf-dumping in the lake.

Continued on page 7.

WRCA Minutes continued from page 6.

New Business: David Askey, the owner of DB Liquors on Niagara Falls Blvd. and a property owner on Denrose Drive alerted the WRCA that the NYS Liquor Authority will soon be holding a hearing to approve plans to open a new liquor store on Willow Ridge Drive. This proposal is to locate the liquor store in the Convenient Plaza where the women's fitness center was, right next to the convenience grocery store which already sells beer and wine coolers. This intersection is already a traffic hazard, the additional traffic that would be pulling in to the plaza would make it even more dangerous. Also, it should be noted that Willow Ridge Drive was not designed to be a commercial thoroughfare, it is a primarily residential area. The convenience type store, by its nature, draws neighborhood children who are able to walk, ride bicycles or skateboard there and often come in to buy soft drinks and candy. The additional traffic, including more trucks delivering stock for a new sales-orientated business, would further congest an already overburdened intersection, adding more frustration to those drivers in our neighborhood who just want to get back to their homes. The NYS Liquor Authority requires a notice to be posted informing the neighborhood of an intent to open a new liquor store before they vote on said licensure, the owner of the Convenient Store located at 15 Willow Ridge Drive has posted this notice on the storefront right next to his current business. He already owns the entire building and small parking area. Any residents of our Willow Ridge neighborhood who have concerns about locating a new liquor store at our main corner of entering or leaving our homes should express their concerns to the NYS Liquor Authority or our elected officials before the license hearing is to be held.

Old Business: The WRCA is still looking for an Advertising Director. Students who need an internship or anyone who is interested in coordinating advertisers for both the *Wind-in-the-Willows* and the Community Directory can find the information on this position and advertising rates on our website. A big thank you to Christina Annesi for volunteering to take over this year's Halloween Party (and to Dawn Cwierley for having done such a good job with the initial preparations). It was another great time for the children to enjoy all the activities our WRCA dues can provide.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. The next meeting of the WRCA will be held on Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marijean Nichols, Secretary



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

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WRCA Mourns Loss Of First President

Al Jones, a founding member and first president of the Willow Ridge Civic Association, died on November 18. He was 91. Mr. Jones and his wife, the late Eileen (Goodwin) Jones moved to their house on Edgewater Drive in 1963. One year later, they helped found the WRCA, with his election as president and her election as the first secretary. Mr. Jones served in the United States Air Force, retiring with a final rank of Major. He went on to work for the Dunlop Tire Company. He also was a retired member of the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company. He is survived by his three daughters, Deborah LaMountain, Rebecca Hilbert, a son, Gregory Jones, 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he is predeceased by three brothers and two sisters. A memorial for Mr. Jones was held on Nov. 23, and he was laid to rest in Acacia Park Cemetery.

Wind-in-the-Willows
Willow Ridge Civic Association

PRESORT STD
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**December
2015**

A Long Ago Willow Ridge Tradition Revisited!

Christmas Tree Lighting
Christmas Tree Lighting

Holiday Singing and Activities

Saturday December 5 at dusk

Corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood

And in January...

Wine Tasting Event



January 30 at 7 p.m. at the Classics V Terrace Room, 2425 Niagara Falls Boulevard.

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

Thank you for supporting your WRCA