

WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS

News for and about Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

November 2015



Again? AGAIN?? Yes, another reminder to renew your membership in WRCA TODAY! Stop the madness (send your \$ and info)!!

We promise to stop all this madness as soon as you and your neighbors renew their membership and/or join WRCA. Hopefully, all will respond before 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.

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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.

Help erase this message from the *Wind-in-the-Willows* by completing your 2016 membership invoice today!

Contact Us

President:

Jim Cwierley 525-1893

Vice President:

Mark Hammer 691-4042

Secretary:

Marjean Nichols 691-4375

Treasurer:

Tom Amodeo 691-5150

Board of Directors:

Andy Annesi 510-0142

Connie Holovics 553-7433

Erich Krueger 691-9952

Donna Mosteller 635-7268

John Radens 691-7389

Rick VonLangen 691-6420

Wind in the Willows Editor

Debby VonLangen
wiweditor@gmail.com
691-6420

Membership/Circulation

Lynn Getzin
wrcalg@gmail.com
691-0573

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

**WRCA
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
Tuesday,
November 10, 2015
7:30 p.m.
Ellicott Creek
Fire Hall
All Members
Welcome**

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

Dear Neighbors,

This is normally a family newsletter, but I'm going to spice it up this month with a few choice words. S-words, even.

Snow. Shoveling. Scraping. Salting.

Yes, Old Man Winter will be on his way soon, and Willow Ridge won't be able to dodge his path. We can only hope he won't be as angry as he was last year, when he piled the snow, cold, and misery upon us like no winter in recent memory.

One thing we all learned from last year's severe weather was that the snow was no joke. There can be serious, even deadly, consequences if you make the wrong decisions during a storm. I urge all my friends and neighbors to make sure they're ready for an icy blast.

There is a great deal of advice out there to keep you safe. Much of it can be found at ready.gov, but your years of common sense and living through Buffalo winters probably has a great deal of it covered. As many of you know, we have a large amount of college students in our neighborhood. With so many foreign students, many of them haven't seen snow before, let alone the harshness of a Buffalo winter. So be patient with them, and if you get the chance to pass along a little winter knowledge, I am sure they'll appreciate it.

Out of all this bad, also comes some good. Winter brings out some of the things I love best about living here. It shows what a great community we have, and how much we can accomplish when we get together to help one another.

I've seen folks shovel driveways for their senior neighbors, push cars out of snow drifts, bail out basements after sump pumps failed. I've watched more than one Willow Ridge neighbor lend a line from a generator when storms knocked out the power. (In this month's edition of the *Wind in the Willows*, we also have tips on how to prepare for a power outage.)

On a personal level, I don't know what I would have done without my neighbor Gerry Poydock in March, when a quick thaw left our car stuck in the driveway. He helped provide that extra "oomph" we needed to get the car over a drift and into the street.

So I urge you to be a good neighbor this winter. Lend a hand if you can. While the cold stings, it also gives you a great feeling to help out others, especially when they're not looking for it.

Nobody wants another nasty winter, and early predictions indicate we'll be in for a mild one. But if the weather turns wild, I hope to see the same neighborly acts that make Willow Ridge the best place to live in Western New York.

Your neighbor, Jim Cwierley

Willow Ridge Garden Club

The Willow Ridge Garden Club will meet November 4th, at 7:00pm, at the Zion United Church of Christ, located at Koenig Circle and Parker Blvd., Tonawanda. Our guest speaker Robert Brackowski, representative of Opportunities Unlimited is conducting a make and take workshop on Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations. The Garden Club will supply the materials. All are Welcome.

Garden Tip for November:

To save Dahlia tubers, the best time to dig them up is after a frost, and then trim the plant down to the ground. Air dry the tubers for a few days and gently brush off excess soil. Wrap them in newspaper or brown paper bags and store in a cool, dry and dark place. Check them periodically to remove any signs of rot. Now you will be ready for spring planting.

Information and tip from a representative of the Willow Ridge Garden Club.



Neighborhood News

In Sympathy

Relatives and friends are sorry to hear that Alfred (Fred) Motyka passed away on October 9. He enjoyed his walks in the neighborhood, playing pinochle at the Senior Center, and auditing the treasurer's books for the Willow Ridge Garden Club. Fred and Helene were long time residents on Manor Oak and considered Willow Ridge a great place to raise their children, Maryann and Paul.

Denrose & Peppertree neighbors extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Sam Merow who lived at 294 Peppertree. He and his late wife, Ellen were one of the first home owners on those two streets. He will be missed very much by family and friends.

Congratulations

Blessings of joy, love, and happiness were brought to Westcliffe Drive, when the Stork recently visited our neighborhood. Please join us in congratulating Keri and Jason Ortiz of Westcliffe Drive on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Gabrielle Viola Jehle Ortiz, born on September 22, 2015 at Sisters Hospital at 5: 50 AM. Her birth weight is 8 lbs 2 oz , and she is 21 inches long. Perfect and amazing in every way, sugar and spice and everything nice, describes this lovely baby girl who has already captured our hearts. Best wishes from your neighbors, friends, and family in the Willow Ridge community. We are so happy for you, Keri and Jason, and we wish your family a lifetime of health and happiness!

Welcome

Denrose neighbors would like to welcome Jeff and Joellen and their four daughters, Alexis, Lacey, Stephanie and Katie. They moved from Kenmore to 230 Denrose. Jeff is a software developer and Joellen is a nurse at WNY Immediate Care. We hope you enjoy your new neighborhood.

Continued on page 4.



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

Happy Thanksgiving!



From the WRCA!

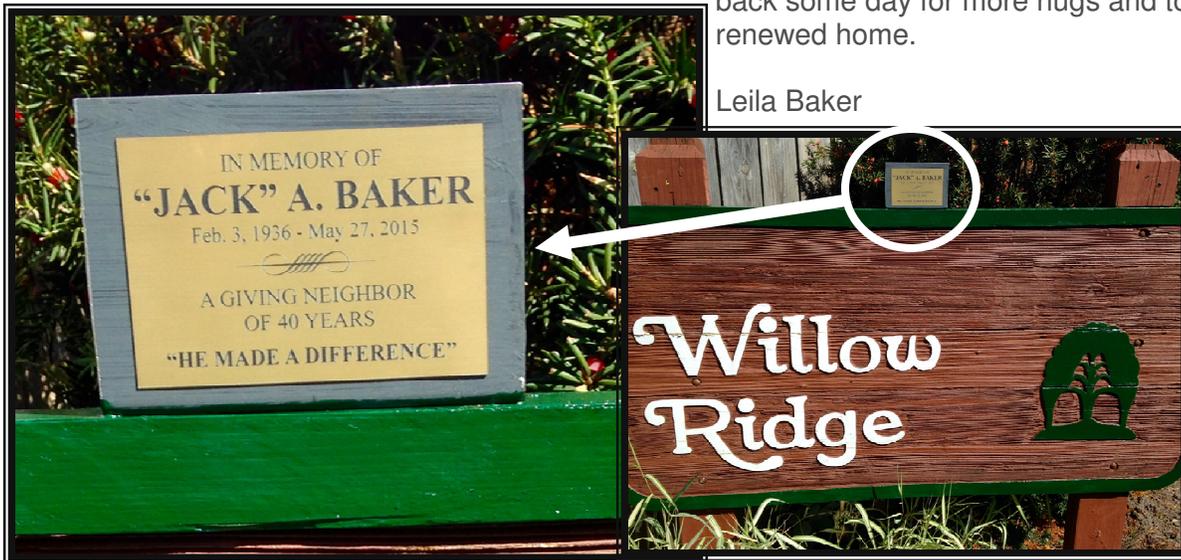
Continued from page 3.

The following is a message from our long-time Willow Ridge neighbor, Civic Association volunteer and friend, Lee Baker... For 3 months I was in Amherst taking care of business for our damaged home on Willow Green Drive and having a Memorial Mass for Jack at St. Christopher Church on August 8. It was very sad for me to be there without Jack; someone from our church said, "Seeing Lee without Jack does not seem normal." It truly was not; but the love and support I was given, first here in Sarasota and then back "home," from friends and neighbors we had lived and played with for 40+ years, was an absolute blessing. From unpacking and storing 38 large boxes delivered July 2 by Servepro, weekly laundry service, sorting and itemizing the countless boxes of goods for donations, homemade meals and invites out, priceless advice and help given for my moving sale the end of August, loading Jack's Honda in early July to be driven back by my friend who drove up with me, and loading my van before I left on August 24, I was overwhelmed with gratitude and love for the very special community of Willow Ridge friends.

Minutes before I drove off Barry Moir asked if I had 10 minutes to take a ride; he drove me to the corner where our Willow Ridge sign stands. When I saw what he had made and attached to the top of the sign, my tears flowed with gratitude and love for this lasting Willow Ridge tribute to my wonderful husband by his best friend, Barry Moir.

As many of you know, Jack had found a wonderful community in Sarasota for us with many friends and activities where we've been coming for 8 years; I am continuing to find my peace and happiness here but without Jack. But it will be a long time before deep friendships like we knew in Willow Ridge will be made in the Isles of Palmer Ranch. You will always be #1 in my heart and God willing I can get back some day for more hugs and to see our renewed home.

Leila Baker



Your ad could be here!

**For advertisement rates
visit wrca.info**

WILLOW RIDGE LANDSCAPING & SNOWPLOWING, INC.
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716.799.0835

Tony Cangialosi, Owner and Willow Ridge Resident

Servicing Willow Ridge and surrounding areas Residential and Commercial
Property Maintenance

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Snow Plowing



Town Of Amherst Board Meetings

November, 2015
Nov 2, Town Board
Nov 4, Conservation Advisory Council
Traffic Safety Board
Nov 5, Energy Conservation Citizens Advisory Committee
Nov 9, Amherst Veterans Committee
Government Study Committee
Nov 10, Recreation Commission
Glen Park Joint Board
Nov 11, Youth Board
Nov 12, Citizens' Financial Advisory Committee
Minority/Women Owned Business in Amherst
Nov 16, Town Board
Nov 17, Zoning Board of Appeals
Historic Preservation Commission
Nov 18, Recycling and Waste Committee
Nov 19, Planning Board
Nov 24, Amherst Committee on Disabilities

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

Another Satisfied Customer...



Deciding on a home requires a Realtor with experience but, more so, one who is kind and patient. Connie is the epitome of these qualities. After looking at what seemed like an endless amount of homes, Connie located our beautiful new home in the Willow Ridge Community. It was love at first sight! We ended up with the home of our dreams in the lovely neighborhood we desired to be a part of. We cannot thank Connie enough!!!

Mike & Danielle Zanghi



**CONNIE
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www.ConnieHolovics.com

Office: 634-4200 Cell: 553-7433

CHolovics@RealtyUSA.com



6000 Sheridan Dr.,
Williamsville, NY 14221



Ward off winter's chill with two new Willow Ridge events

The snow will soon be flying in Willow Ridge, but that's no reason to fret. Rising up behind the shovels and snowplows, the Willow Ridge Civic Association is planning two exciting winter events for its members and friends.

The first event will be a **Christmas tree lighting**, which will be held in December. We'll all gather at the Willow Ridge Christmas tree, at the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood Drives, to welcome in the holiday season. Many activities are planned, including caroling. A longtime tradition in Willow Ridge, the event had been phased out over the past several years. Roseanne Grasja is graciously volunteering to work on getting the event up and running. Dawn M. Cwierley, who helps to coordinate children's events in Willow Ridge, will be working with her on the project. For more information, continue to look to the *Wind-in-the-Willows*, in addition to our Facebook page and *E-Winds*. If you would like to help us out with this exciting event, please contact Dawn Cwierley at 525-1893.

A popular event that went on hiatus last year will also be making a return in January. The **Willow Ridge Wine Tasting**, an important fundraiser for the WRCA, is tentatively scheduled for the night of January 30. The event was started 4 years ago by Jim Prentice, and was an immediate hit in the neighborhood. It drew large crowds of Willow Ridgers, all while raising funds for future WRCA events and scholarships. Last year, a lack of sponsor availability, coupled with low ticket sales, conspired to cancel the event. The WRCA voted to bring the event back this year. "After recovering from the holiday season, we're all a little restless and looking to get out," said WRCA President Jim Cwierley. "What better way than to celebrate with your friends and neighbors in Willow Ridge?" Details on location, ticket costs, and schedules, are still being worked out by the Wine Tasting Committee. Keep your eyes peeled on the *Wind-in-the-Willows* and our Facebook page for more information. And as always, we're looking for a few good men and women to help with the event. Contact Jim at 525-1893 for more information.

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

Computer Desk, maple, on wheels, 32H x 35W x 27D, \$50. 691-9338

Toy Box, Fisher Price large plastic toy box with front compartment: On Amazon for \$70.00. Asking \$20.00, great to keep the grandchildren's toys organized! 691-8981, 870-8693 (cell, text)



Water Cooler, GE Water Cooler, hot and cold water option. Good Condition. Shelf with door on bottom. Great for home or office. Just add water! \$ 60.00 Will deliver to Willow Ridge neighborhood. Text 716- 445 -5459

Winter Tires, 4 Goodyear Ultra Grip Winter Tires (Size - 205/65R16). Almost brand new tires. Used for one winter, less than 3,000 miles on a lease that is no longer owned. Paid \$627 (taxes and install). Asking \$200 for the set of 4 tires. Call Josh at 716-870-7662 or Email: joshandmere@yahoo.com

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

Email:
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.

WRCA MINUTES OCTOBER 13, 2015

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by President Jim Cwierley. In attendance were Vice President Mark Hammer, Treasurer Tom Amodeo, Secretary Marijean Nichols and Board Members Erich Krueger, Andy Annesi and John Radens. The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Income for the months of July, August and September was \$562. Expenses for these three months totaled \$3316. The balance for September was \$572. The reports for July, August and September were approved.

President's Report: The WRCA no longer receives the \$2000/year annuity from Home Depot. We have also lost significant membership during the past several years, further eroding our funds. We have been able to continue to sponsor the events which the residents enjoy, but now these events must be solely supported with our yearly membership dues and advertising revenue. We need to enlist more advertisers and we need to increase our membership if we are to continue having a neighborhood association. Also, new ideas for revenues were discussed, and we may need to reform our budget even further. We are reviewing our current situation to develop a new plan to help the WRCA continue to benefit our neighborhood.

New Business: The Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony was discussed, a suggestion was made to involve the community with holiday singing. The Holiday Decorating contest will be judged by Jim and Tom this year.

Old Business: The Halloween Party will be held on October 24th at the Willow Ridge Elementary School at 10:30 am. Many thanks to Dawn Cwierley for all the work she has put into making this party a success, and thank you to the Annesi family for taking responsibility this year. The possibility of bringing back the annual wine-tasting party is under consideration. The membership drive is now underway and all residents have received the *WITW* this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting of the WRCA will be held on Tuesday, November 10th, 2015 at 7:30 pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Marijean Nichols, Secretary

Defensive Driving Class Saves You Money (and maybe your life!)

The NYS Point & Insurance Reduction Program (PIRP) is also known as the Defensive Driving Course or Motor Vehicle Accident Prevention Course. It is a comprehensive driver safety course which provides knowledge and techniques for safe and lawful driving.

When you complete an approved defensive driving class, you will receive a 10% reduction of the base rate of your auto and motorcycle insurance premiums each year for three years. That savings can amount to hundreds of dollars over 3 years for just one member of your family! You can also refresh your driving knowledge and reduce up to 4 points from your NYS DMV driving record if necessary. The 6-hour class covers essential information about traffic safety issues such as driver attitude and behavior, defensive driving techniques, and the Vehicle & Traffic Law. No formal testing is required to complete the course.

A class is being offered Sat., Nov. 14th from 9am to 3:45pm at Amherst Baptist Church at Willow Ridge & Peppertree. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch. Contact Church Office : 691-9456 or Email ABC@amherstbaptist.com for information or to register by Nov.10th. Spaces are limited to 40 people. Each driver on your insurance policy should take the class.

Don't get left in the dark by a power outage

A power outage can be a minor inconvenience that can turn into a major hassle if you don't take the time to prepare your house for them. In Willow Ridge, we have had several power outages in the past few years, mostly after a heavy rainstorm.

Since power outages can last for several hours or several days, it's important to plan ahead. Will your house be ready for the next power outage? The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides the following checklist to make sure you're safe when the lights go out:

BEFORE a power outage:

- Charge devices that use battery power and ensure you have extra batteries
- Identify local sources where dry or block ice can be purchased;
- Keep your car tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity
- Create a disaster supply kit that includes alternative cell phone chargers, a flashlight, water & non-perishable food, a non-electric can opener, cash, and a battery or hand-crank radio;
- If you require power for medical or assistive devices, get battery back-up for the devices; know how long the batteries will last; plan a location you can move to that has power; ask local Emergency Management for information about registering to be identified as someone that has power dependent medical devices; and learn what services may be available to you.

DURING a power outage:

- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed. For most standard size refrigerators and freezers, a cool temperature can be maintained for several hours. For food you need to use, plan on having a cooler with conventional or dry ice available
- Use flashlights for emergency lighting. Never use candles due to extreme risk of fire
- Only use a generator outside of your home and keep it away from windows and doors
- For drugs that require refrigeration, check the manufacturer's label or contact your doctor for guidance. Most drugs can be stored on ice for several hours so keep refrigerated medications in a closed cooler until the power comes back on

Learn the importance of being prepared for power outages and get more survival tips in FEMA's "Going off Grid" resource guide. It is available at FEMA.gov

Source: fema.gov

Wind-in-the-Willows
Willow Ridge Civic Association

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November 2015



**Many thanks to those who participated in the WRCA
Halloween Party at Willow Ridge on Oct. 24th!**