

Wind-in-the-Willows

Willow Ridge Civic Association

Willow Ridge Civic Association

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Wind-In-the-Willows

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WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 p.m. Ellicott Creek Fire Hall All Members Welcome

- DEADLINE for the February WITW is Jan 16
 - WRCA Minutes: Pg. 2
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- www.wrca.info

A Message From the President

A Message From the President

Dear Neighbors,

I'm honored to take on the role of president for the Willow Ridge Civic Association, and promise to be a responsible steward for our neighborhood. I look forward to celebrating all of our traditions, while working on new ideas to make this the best place to live in Western New York.

I'm committed to working for you, my neighbors and friends in the neighborhood. If you see any issues, have any questions, or even a great idea on making our neighborhood better, I want to work with you on getting an answer. Contact me any time by phone at 525-1893, or email me at WRCA.President@gmail.com. I also monitor our Facebook feed, so please feel free to leave comments there as well.

The WRCA has many great events and happenings in store for 2015, and I can't wait to share the details with you here in the upcoming months. Accomplishing this is a task that takes more than one person. Thankfully, we have talented and committed volunteers in Willow Ridge who lend their time to our many events and programs.

I'm excited to share with you the members of the WRCA Board of Directors for 2014-15. They are joined by past president **Rick VonLangen**, who will continue his leadership skills and financial expertise as a Board Member Emeritus.

Mark Hammer was just sworn in as our new Vice President. A longtime Red Maple Court resident, he helps keep us grounded in the traditions that make our neighborhood great while helping us build for the future.

Tom Amodeo has only been in the neighborhood a few years, but has dug in quickly to make it a better place. Since joining the board, Tom has done a fantastic job organizing the popular Movie Night in Bedford Park. He's also done a great job keeping our finances as WRCA treasurer, and has agreed to take on the role of webmaster.

Marijean Nichols was just sworn in as Secretary for the WRCA board. This important roll helps us keep records of our meetings. In her short time on the board, I have seen her enthusiasm to lend a hand to a variety of projects, including the Halloween Party and directory assembly.

Connie Holovics has long been involved in the community, organizing a bowling league in addition to helping run the children's' Halloween and Easter parties. Connie is also taking on one of the most important initiatives of the year for us – reorganizing and re-energizing the Block Representatives.

Continued on page 3.

WRCA Board & Members Meeting December 9, 2014

President Rick VonLangen appointed Andy Annesi & Erich Krueger as temporary board members and called the meeting to order at 7:35. Also present were Vice President Jim Cwierley, Secretary Connie Holovics and Treasurer Tom Amodeo. Board Members Marijean Nichols and Derrick Ong came later.

Community attendees included Erich Krueger, John Radens, Andy Annesi, Donna Mosteller, Debby VonLangen, Evelyn Hitchcock, and Thomas Amodeo.

Secretary Minutes: A motion was made by Tom Amodeo to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Jim Cwierley 2nd and board approval followed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Amodeo stated the income for the month was \$2085. Expenses were \$792. Ending balance \$5102. Jim Cwierley made a motion to approve, Connie Holovics 2nd and board approval followed.

Membership Report: An email will be sent as a reminder to pay the WRCA membership dues by December 31st. A postal mail reminder is cost prohibitive and doesn't generate many additional paid memberships. We plan to have block reps call and follow up with those not paid on their streets.

Old Business: There was a discussion on speakers for 2015. We would like speakers who would be of interest to the residents and generate more attendance at board meetings. Anthony Day, Sweet Home superintendent of schools, will speak at our January meeting. Due to his conflict with Tuesday night meetings, we will have our meeting WEDNESDAY, January 14th.

If anyone notices non-working street lights, please contact the board president at WRCA.president@gmail.com.

New Business: The SNOWFLAKE DANCE has been booked for March 7th and the WINE TASTING event January 23rd. Both will be at Classic V.

Neil Cuomo and committee will judge the Holiday Lighting. There will be gifts of \$10. You must be a Willow Ridge member to win. Neil informed us he will be retiring after this year. Thanks for your many years of judging.

Nominations for the board positions were as follows: President - Jim Cwierley, Vice President - Mark Hammer, Secretary - Marijean Nichols. Board Members: Andy Annesi, John Ball, and Erich Krueger for 2 year terms. Rick VonLangen 1 year term.

Connie Holovics cast one ballot to accept all those nominated for their positions. Marijean 2nd. Board approval followed.

Tom Amodeo, treasurer, plus Connie Holovics and Derrick Ong, board members will all continue their position through 2015.

Committee Report:

Scholarship committee: There was a discussion regarding the criteria for the Willow Ridge scholarships.

Derrick Ong reported the Willow Ridge mobile app development is progressing and hopes to have it ready for testing soon. There was a discussion on scheduling times for community demonstration.

Connie Holovics reported she has set the date for the Block Rep event in January and will run the article a second time in the January *Wind-in-the-Willows*.

Community Open Form:

Evelyn Hitchcock thought the following items needed to be addressed in the community:

1. Fall leaves being raked to the street and blocking the storm sewers.
2. Garbage totes not being positioned properly for pick up.
3. Garage sale signs not being removed after the sales.

Tom Amodeo thanked Rick for his hard work as president for the last 2 years and all board members applauded in agreement.

Adjournment: With no further items on the agenda, a motion was made by Rick VonLangen to adjourn the meeting and Tom Amodeo 2nd. Board approval followed.

Next Meeting is Wednesday, January 14th at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:00 pm. All Willow Ridge residents welcome. PLEASE NOTE EARIER TIME for guest speaker.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Holovics, secretary

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President's Message continued from page 1

Derrick Ong is a recent University at Buffalo graduate. A Singapore native, he has quickly made Willow Ridge his home and has lent his energy and skill to the community. He has organized UB students to help at Halloween parties, helped make Movie Night a success, and is working to deliver Willow Ridge smartphone apps in the upcoming year.

Errich Krueger has long been a part of serving the neighborhood, cranking out tunes at events like National Night Out. We're happy he's taking that service to another level in joining the board (while continuing to crank out the beats).

John Ball is a passionate problem-solver who's not afraid to speak up when he sees an issue that needs addressing. We look forward to hearing his point of view at meetings to come.

Andy Annesi is relatively new to the neighborhood, moving in this summer on Hubbardston Place. His point of view as a new resident will help the board find ways to recruit new members into the association.

We also want to give a word of thanks to our outgoing board members, **Bill Van Splunder** and **Carol Zaffram**. Bill didn't speak often, but when he did his opinion was heard loud and clear and helped steer the board. Carol has long been an institution in organizing Willow Ridge events, including her trademark Snowflake Dinner Dance.

Important meeting reminder: Sweet Home Superintendent Anthony Day will be joining us for a special meeting on WEDNESDAY, January 14 at 7 pm. If you have any questions you'd like to ask Mr. Day, please send them to WRCA.President@gmail.com.

Jim Cuierley
WRCA President

WRCA Speaker Series
Sweet Home School Superintendent Anthony Day
WEDNESDAY, January 14 at 7 pm.
Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

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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.

Moving Sale: Troy-Built 10HP Briggs & Stratton 5550 watt generator, \$325.00; Toro 6.5HP lawn mower w/bag, \$20.00; ECHO gas weed trimmer, \$40.00; king bed w/head & foot boards, 2 dressers, 1 with mirror; mattress & box spring, \$125.00. 818-2803

Scouts In The News—Jose' Olivera honored as Eagle Scout

Jose' Olivera attained the Boy Scouts' highest ranking this winter, receiving the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor in November. A longtime member of Troop 173 and Cub Scout Pack 173, he achieved Eagle Scout status by earning 21 Merit Badges. For his Eagle Project, he designed and constructed a new Pinewood Derby track to be used by the Sweet Home High School Technology Department as well as the Cub Scouts of Pack 173. He also performed several hours of community service in earning the honor. In addition to recognizing Olivera, Troop 173 also awarded 64 Merit Badges to 21 Boy Scouts, and 10 Scouts were awarded rank advancements at the Court of Honor, held at the Amherst Baptist Church.

Neighborhood



News

Welcome

Welcome Maria Teruel to their new home at 9 Black Spruce Court. Armando is the store manager for the JC Penney Store at the Boulevard Mall and Maria is a homemaker. Their son, Armando, and his wife, Tonisia, live with them along with their two granddaughters, Kayla, 4 and Riely, 3. We wish them all much happiness in their new home.

Friends and neighbors of Willow Ridge would like to extend a warm welcome to Karen and John Maurer of 20 Red Maple Court. They have most recently relocated here from Florida but have first hand experience living in Western New York, as they are originally from Williamsville and Niagara Falls. John is employed at UB North campus and Karen is at TenEleven Group. We wish you many years of happiness in your new home!

Welcome to the Annesi family of 39 Hubbardston. Andy and Christina, along with their children, Natalie, 4, and Amelia, 2 moved here from Kenmore. They are excited to be in the Willow Ridge neighborhood, and we are pleased to welcome Andy to the Willow Ridge Civic Association Board, who wasted no time in volunteering.

There has been lots of activity at 8 Kaymar Drive. The new owners, James and his fiancée, Belinda, are renovating the house to suit their style. An Australian, Belinda met James while she was here on a work visa. He secretly worked out a plan with her parents to come to Australia, where he surprised Bel with his marriage proposal at her place of employment. They will be married here in January. He works for NAPA in management and she will be working in real estate. We wish them many happy years in their first home.

The neighbors sadly bid goodbye to Christopher and Kara McGinley, when they left 19 Kaymar Drive for a larger home. As their family is growing, they just needed more room. We hear they are settled into their new house in Getzville and getting ready for Ava's little brother or sister!

On the other hand, Jim and Sheila Hickey made the short move from Peppertree Drive to 19 Kaymar Drive. After many years in their family home, they were looking for a place minus all those stairs! We extend a warm Willow Ridge welcome to all.

Congratulations

Please join us in congratulating Maureen and Mike Barth of Westcliffe Drive on the birth of their first granddaughter, Ivy Elizabeth Jakubowski, born to son and daughter-in-law, Rob and Ashley, from Parker, Colorado on November 21, 2014 at 5:30 pm. She weighed in at 7 lbs 14 oz and is 22 inches long. We hear they are doing great! What a wonderful way to bring in the holiday season and New Year! It wasn't long ago that we welcomed their first grandson, "Bert", and we are so happy again to share in their happiness as we watch their family grow! Best wishes, Maureen and Mike, and blessings to your entire family from your neighbors on Westcliffe and the Willow Ridge community, we are so happy for you!

Neighbors on Willow Green Drive would like to congratulate Cassie and Peter Schwab of 53 Willow Green, on the birth of their first child Emma Leann. Emma was born at 3:34 am on November 12, 2014. She weighed in at 6 lbs 11oz and was 20 in. long. Parents and baby are all doing well. Enjoy this very special time!

**Willow Ridge
Christmas
Lighting
Contest**



- 123 Dalewood * 73 Jeanmoor
- 25 Kaymar * 669 Kaymar *
- 43 Manor Oak * 55 Maricrest
- 145 S. Ellicott Creek * 102 Willow Lane
- 218 Willow Ridge * 395 Willow Ridge

WINNERS

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all who got into the spirit of the season. Willow Ridge looked absolutely beautiful!!!



Joseph Battaglia

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

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January 2015

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Willow Ridge Civic Association

