

WIND-IN-THE-WILLOWS

News for and about Willow Ridge Civic Association Members

September 2015



Congratulations!



WRCA College 2015 Scholarship Recipients

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The Willow Ridge Civic Association would like to congratulate Joshua Hammer and Brianna Spence, who each received a \$500 college scholarship. The awards were given out at the Dollars for Scholars ceremony at Sweet Home High School on June 22.

Brianna Spence will be attending the University of Alabama this semester, where she will be double majoring in International Studies and Spanish. Joshua Hammer will be attending D'Youville College this fall, where he will be in the Physician's Assistant program, and also will be on the school's baseball and soccer teams.

Contact Us

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

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

***The Deadline for the
October issue is
September 15.***

Dear neighbors,

It's hard to believe another summer is starting to wind down. Sunsets are coming sooner, and you can't get through most stores without running into a back-to-school sale. Soon, we'll all be into new school routines, favorite shows will be back on the air, and we'll start watching exciting new chapters for the Bills and Sabres.

It was a great summer of events here in Willow Ridge. On August 4, the neighborhood waited out a monsoon and made it to National Night Out. The Ellicott Creek Fire Department played the amicable hosts, allowing all of the displays to be set up inside and out of the rain. Neighbors got together for fun and games, while getting important safety tips from the police and fire departments.

We send our thanks out to the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Department for hosting, and John Miller for organizing the event.

A few days later, we had a great night in Bedford Park, where we had a movie night on the lawn. About 80 Willow Ridgers came out to watch *Despicable Me*. It was a great way to unwind and enjoy a cool August night. This is the third year we've had the honor of putting the event on for you. Our thanks to Deputy Supervisor Guy Marlette for sponsoring the event, and Tom Amodeo for coordinating the movie for the WRCA.

On being a good neighbor

Robert Frost coined a famous phrase in 'Mending Wall': "Good fences make good neighbors".

The poem itself describes the mending of stone walls after a long, snowy winter. It's about much more than that, and while the lessons taught come from the New England backwoods, they are very applicable in Willow Ridge today. Two neighbors work together toward a common goal; they learn about each other's differences and come to a common solution that works for both of them.

It doesn't come without hard work; fingers get scraped and bloodied along the way.

Friends, we all can encounter things near our homes that we don't like from time to time. A light in a neighbor's yard that stays on too late at night, keeping you up. A barking dog left out a little too long, or a teenager's car blaring music in a driveway at 3 a.m. They all can be aggravating, and the resentment it breeds can fester over time.

Sometimes, it's more comforting to take the anonymous route, grumbling to another neighbor, or sending a note in hopes that takes care of it. It certainly takes the pressure off of you from having an uncomfortable conversation.

I invite you to take the road less travelled, and knock on the door of the neighbor you're having an issue with. They might not even know you have an issue with something, and would be glad to accommodate you. You'll be relieved to get the issue off your chest, and they will (more than likely) be glad to maintain a good relationship with their neighbors.

Jim Cwierley, WRCA President

Willow Ridge Garden Club

The Willow Ridge Garden Club will meet at The Zion United Church of Christ on September 2, 2015 at 7:00pm with two exciting programs. Dr. Knut Mehler will make a presentation about the ongoing studies at the Great Lakes Center, at the Science and Mathematics complex on the environment. Our members will display their beautiful garden flowers to be critiqued by a Horticulture Judge who will explain the plus and minus' of their arrangements. This is a great opportunity for new and experienced gardeners to learn about the environment and gardening. New members are always welcome.

As Flowering perennials fade, you can prune off the seed heads or leave them up for the birds this winter. They also give the garden some winter interest. I love to see the coneflower and astible blossoms stalks peeking thru the snow.

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

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.

Neighborhood News

Welcome

Neighbors on Kaymar would like to welcome Colleen and Patrick Madden to 149 Kaymar. They have moved here from Williamsville. Colleen is an accountant and Patrick is a manufacturing supervisor. We wish you much happiness in your new home here in the Willow Ridge Community.

A big Willow Ridge welcome to Jeff & Erin Schwegler, their 9month old daughter, Lilly and dog Paisley to their new home at 155 Kaymar. They moved from the Town of Tonawanda the end of May. Erin, who is from Ireland, is Commerce Manager for Gordon Companies and Jeff works for M & T Bank. They are really enjoying their in- ground pool and discovering the neighborhood playgrounds with their very active daughter.

Wind-in-the-Willows and the WRCA Directory— Member Perks

Dear Neighbor,

Once again, we must admit, the summer is waning. Soon, if we haven't already, we will begin the process of preparing for the inevitable. Hopefully we will not have to experience another "Snow-ember." But as we stare at the logs we have brought in for those chilly nights, and our thoughts go to changing our fire detector and carbon monoxide batteries, why not grab a pen or go to the computer and renew our WRCA membership?

We have experienced WRCA sponsored quality activities/entertainment in the summer season, haven't we? The Willow Ridge Garage Sale, National Night Out (although Mother Nature intervened), and Movie Night (with Mother Nature's cooperation); these are the kind of events your membership dollar helps foster. These are the enhancements that makes a community more than a bunch of houses strung together. They make it a neighborhood, the same way a family makes a house a home.

With your membership, there are even more perks. Our monthly newsletter, *Wind-in-the-Willows*, which you are now holding, provides details about the latest happenings in Willow Ridge and more upcoming free events for our children. In next month's issue, for example, there will be details about the children's Halloween Party. We all like to be "in the loop," don't we? In *Neighborhood News* this month you learned about our newest neighbors. Maybe next month, you will find out to whom we must bid farewell, or for whom congratulations is in order. You also will want to take advantage of scanning the "Classified" section, and perhaps field the calls and emails in response to your own *free ad*.

Need to talk to a neighbor? Want to find information about a business in the area? Need a coupon? How about a babysitter? Your *WRCA Directory* includes a neighborhood listing, money saving coupons, services and businesses in our community, in addition to important phone numbers, such as listings for area schools and the Town of Amherst. You will also find a babysitter listing, a detailed map of our community, a guide to our annual events, and more!

Continued on page 5.

September 19th, 2015

Chiari is a serious neurological condition, affecting over 300,000 people in the US, in which the brain herniates out of the skull pushing on the nerves and spinal cord causing debilitating pain and life threatening symptoms. In comparison, Cystic Fibrosis affects 30,000 in the US, yet there has been so little awareness and research into Chiari.

In 4 years the Buffalo Walk alone has brought in over \$98,000 towards research. We are on our way to see the Buffalo Site to break the \$100,000 mark.

Last year and this, Mayor Byron Brown, Senator Ranzenhofer, and Governor Cuomo accepted my proposals and signed proclamations recognizing September as Chiari Awareness month in their districts. The Peace Bridge and Niagara Falls also accepted my requests to illuminate purple the evening of the event. The even will also be promoted on AM Buffalo in July and 97 Rock in September.



Chiari Malformation is a serious neurological disorder affecting more than 300,000 people in the US.

The **Conquer Chiari Walk Across America** is a series of local awareness and fundraising walks held on the same day, uniting patients and their families across the country. Join us on this special day to help support the thousands of people struggling with this life changing diagnosis. Proceeds will be used to fund Chiari research, education and awareness programs.

Participation is free. T-shirt and a food ticket will be provided for pre-registered walkers with a donation of \$25 (**deadline is 8/16**).



BUFFALO, NY

Ellicott Creek Park
Niagara Falls Blvd @ N. Ellicott Creek Rd
Tonawanda, NY 14150

REGISTRATION: 12:00 PM
WALK/5K RUN: 1:30 PM

Walk options: 1 mi. walk and 5k Run, participate at your fitness level.

CONTACT:

Agnes Starr
(716) 691-7717
buffalonyconquerchiari@gmail.com



Elmo | SpongeBob | Spiderman
provided by: Showbiz Entertainment

Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Co



Featuring: **"Ice Queen"** by Royal Receptions

Bands: Dan Laboski | Vision Reset DJ: Mike Setlock from Mix 96

Face Painting: Amherst YES Group | **Kenpo Demos:** Kenpo Self-Defense Studio

Nail Painting & Tattoos: Girl Scout Troop #30204

Conquer Chiari, known formally as the C&S Patient Education Foundation is a Pennsylvania 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to improving the experiences and outcomes of Chiari patients through education, awareness, and research.

pre-register: www.conquerchiari.org



Joseph Battaglia
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

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Office: 716.689.8100
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Town Of Amherst Board Meetings

September, 2015

Sep 3, Energy Conservation Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
Sep 8, Town Board - Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM
Sep 15, Zoning Board of Appeals, 7:00 PM
Sep 17, Planning Board, 6:30 PM
Sep 21, Town Board - Work Session, 3:00 PM
Sep 21, Town Board - Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

October, 2015

Oct 1, Energy Conservation Citizens Advisory Committee, 7:00 PM
Oct 13, Town Board - Budget Meeting, 3:00 PM
Oct 15, Planning Board, 6:30 PM
Oct 19, Town Board - Work Session, 3:00 PM

Meeting Location:

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

Sweet Home School District Board Meetings

The Board of Education of the Sweet Home Central School District meets for a study session on the second Tuesday of every month (except July and August) and meets for a voting meeting on the third Tuesday of every month. All regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Norman C. Vergils Community Center, 1901 Sweet Home Road, Amherst.

All voting meetings also air on Time Warner Public Access Channel 22. The voting meetings air on Mondays from 8-10pm and on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:30pm.

Sweet Home Board of Education Members

Scott M. Johnson, President
Douglas J. Galli, Vice President
Joseph Miranda, Member
Carol A. Nowak, Member
Marianne Jasen, Member
Michael F. Morrow, Member
Dirk D. Rabenold, Member
Conor Jackson, Ex-Officio Student Member

Continued from page 3.

The enjoyable events around Willow Ridge, the publications and our appreciation for helping us continue to make this neighborhood THE place to raise a family are what you get in return from your membership in the WRCA. It just so happens, it is almost time to renew! Check out page 8 for a short message from our Membership Chairperson, Lynn Getzin. So why not make October your renewal month? Then you can relax that much more as you enjoy your cozy fire pit under a crisp, dark October sky, and contemplate your Christmas list instead! Thank you for your support!
Debbly VonLangen, Editor

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Another Satisfied Customer...



Welcome our new neighbors, Jeff, Erin, Lily & Paisley Schwegler, to our Willow Ridge community.

"Connie has sold homes to my family for years so when we were ready to buy our first home I knew who to call. After finding us our first home we again called Connie almost 3 years later to find our forever home. She is great at what she does and we are falling in love with our new neighborhood."



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Classifieds

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

Piano with original bench: Baldwin Acrosonic built 1960-61, 58" length x 25" width, honey walnut colored wood, excellent condition. Free to a good music loving home, preferably in Willow Ridge. Our musical daughter moved out of town and was unable to take the piano with her. Original owner lived in Willow Ridge and gifted us similarly 10 years ago. Call Doreen @ 691-3507.

Thanks to this month's contributor,
Dawn Cwierley.

If you have an thought to share, we invite you to send your original article to wiweditor@gmail.com for consideration. Please be advised there is no guarantee the article will be printed, and will be subject to editing and space available. Unsigned articles can not be published.
Thank you.

Correction

Our apologies to our friends at Just Pizza. In the new directory on page 13, their name was accidentally left out of the list of advertisers who were offering coupons. You will find their ad and coupons can be found on page 93 of the directory.

Just Pizza is located at 2319 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY.



MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS INVITED TO MEET

Local Mops Chapter Resumes Sept. 9th

The local MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) chapter invites all interested moms to come to the first meeting of the year on Wed., Sept. 9th at 9:15 am. The group meets at Amherst Baptist Church, 100 Willow Ridge.

Join them the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays from 9:15 - 11:30 am for coffee, breakfast, speakers and crafts and conversation with other moms. The group is open to any mom with children Birth through Kindergarten. What a great opportunity for moms to hang out together, all while your children are lovingly cared for just down the hall!

MOPS is an international support network of over 92,000 women,, who share the common bond of preschool age children. There are more than 3900 MOPS groups meeting across the United States and in 35 countries around the world. MOPS groups meet regularly to celebrate the joys of motherhood and to encourage each other through the challenges. Check out the website at www.mops.org. For local information and to sign up, contact Amherst Baptist Church today at 691-9456 or www.amherstbaptist.com.





Back-To-School Tips Keep Kids Healthy, Safe

With the final days of summer upon us, back-to-school items are already popping up on store shelves. Its important for families to put a back to school physical for their child on their checklist too.

The annual physical allows the pediatrician to monitor your child's height, weight, hearing, and vision, as well address any emotional, developmental, or social concerns. These exams also address preventative issues and help regulate pre-

existing conditions like asthma and allergies.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends school age children should get a physical at least once every two years.

Pediatricians recommend that parents create a list of items to discuss. A few questions include:

- Are there any vaccines my child may need for this visit or in the future?
- When should my child complete the recommended immunizations?
- Are there any physical or emotional signs I should monitor?
- Is my child meeting developmental milestones?
- Are my child's body mass index and weight appropriate for their age?
- Could my family's medical history potentially impact my child's future?

In addition, if your child is a student athlete, he or she should have an up-to-date physical examination at least six weeks in advance of the sports season. If there are any new health concerns, they could be addressed before the start of the season.

Ease the back-to-school transition by keeping bedtime and meals scheduled during the summer and adjusting timing as school approaches. If your child has been going to bed later than usual, begin adjusting his or her bedtime earlier toward the end of summer.

Depending on age, children and teens need between 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep nightly.

For young children, arranging to see their new classroom and meet their new teacher before school starts can calm first day jitters. Go over the school schedule with your child, including how she will get to school and what the plans are for after school time.

Thinking about back-to-school now can help parents keep kids on track for a healthy summer and start to school.

Dawn Cwierley



Wind-in-the-Willows

Willow Ridge Civic Association

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
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BUFFALO NY

September 2015

WRCA 2016 Membership Drive Begins in October

The October *Wind-in-the-Willows* will include your membership invoice for 2016. Your dues entitle your household to:

Wind-in-the-Willows sent to your home via mail or e-mail – your preference that will give you up-to-date information on happenings in the neighborhood, event news, and articles of interest to all as well as free classified ads

E-wind to update you on neighborhood news and activities.

WRCA Directory distributed in spring including listing of households in the neighborhood and advertisements for neighborhood businesses.

Please respond as soon as you receive your invoice so we can serve you in a timely fashion.