

# Wind-in-the-Willows

## Willow Ridge Civic Association

### Willow Ridge Civic Association

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#### Vice President

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#### Secretary

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### Wind-In-the-Willows

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## A Message From the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I toured the neighborhood this week, I noticed many of our residents starting the process of converting a hard winter to the beauty of spring. Raking, lawn mowing, and general garden cleanup are all part of beautifying the neighborhood.

At our April meeting, one of the discussions revolved around "How do we contact new members." We do have a plan, and would like to include you. If you know of someone that would like to join the WRCA, please send a note to the e-mail address below and we will follow-up.

By this point all directories should have been delivered. Our thanks go out to the Boy Scouts who accomplished this task and they are appreciated. If someone was missed, we will make every effort to make it right. Again please send an e-mail to the address below.

And now for the fun events. 1) The WRCA will be awarding scholarships for our graduating students. 2) Our annual Garage Sale; 3) National Night Out; 4) Movie Night. There will be E-WINDS with the specifics details. Please be sure to sign up for E-WIND.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 13, at 7:30pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rick VonLangen

wrca.president@gmail.com

### WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING Tuesday, May 13, 2014 7:30 p.m. Ellicott Creek Fire Hall All Members Welcome

- DEADLINE for the June WITW is May 9
  - WRCA Minutes: Pg. 2
  - Graduation Announcements: Pg.3
  - Ride for Roswell & Bison A.S. Tribute Day : Pg. 4
  - Neighborhood News/ Letter to Editor: Pg. 5
  - Classified: Pg. 6
  - WITW Advertising & Expert Lawn Tips: Pg. 7
  - Easter Party Report: Pg. 8
- [www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info)

Do you have a graduating senior, college or high school, in the family this year ?

Let Willow Ridge celebrate with you.  
See page 3 for details!



# WRCA Minutes

April 8, 2014

Vice President Jim Cwierley called the meeting to order at 7:34. Also present were Secretary Connie Holovics & Treasurer Tom Amodeo. Board Members present were Dawn Cwierley, Carol Zaffram, Bill VanSplunder & new board member Derrick Ong. Community attendees included Debbie Goetz & John Radens.

Secretary Minutes: A motion was made Carol Zaffram to approve the minutes from the March minutes. Tom Amodeo seconded and board approval followed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Amodeo reported the income for the month was \$564 and expenses were \$1334. Ending balance \$13,649. Bill VanSplunder made a motion to approve. Dawn Cwierley seconded and board approval followed.

Membership Report: Memberships are still trickling in, but hoping follow up calls by the block reps will generate more members. There was a discussion on how to promote membership at various Willow Ridge events.

President's Report: No emails from residents this month.

New Business: The board unanimously approved Derrick Ong as new board member.

New budget vote was postponed till next month. There was a lengthy discussion on how to generate more money for the Association as well as ways to cut expenses. The question was raised if we should discontinue the July and August *Wind-in-the-Willows* at a \$1000 savings. The question was also raised if we should continue giving two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. John

Radens agreed to head a committee with the help of Derrick Ong to research the number of applicants we have had the last few years for the Willow Ridge scholarships.

## Committee Reports

Easter Party: Dawn reported that April 12<sup>th</sup> is the date for the party. We are still looking for a few more volunteers. Debbie Goetz reported we need additional advertisers for the *Wind-in-the-Willows*. We are offering a buy one monthly ad; get a monthly ad for free.

Carol Zaffram reported the Snowflake Dance was a big success and great fun was had by all.

There was a discussion about the lack of committee chairs at the meeting to give reports.

Carol Zaffram agreed to contact every committee chair to see if they are in fact willing to head their committee.

Adjournment: With no further items on the agenda, a motion was made by Tom Amodeo to adjourn the meeting and Dawn Cwierley seconded at 8:55pm. Board approval followed.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:30pm. All Willow Ridge residents welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Holovics, secretary.



Welcome Spring!

## Willow Ridge Garden Club

There will be a meeting of the Willow Ridge Garden Club on May 7, with an Annual Friendship Tea, at 7:00 PM at Zion UCC Tonawanda, NY.

A representative from the Buffalo Bonsai Society will speak on the choosing the correct plants for growing, cultivating and trimming.

Guests are welcomed. Contact Maryann 435-3412 for information.



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## Graduation approaches...

Celebrate your grad with an announcement,  
Willow Ridge style!

With the coming of spring there is no denying it. Listening to T.V. morning talk shows, the conversation revolves around prom dress fashion. Girls are planning for prom; schools are preparing their final concert of the year. And yes, the specter of graduation is peering around the corner.

Here in this newsletter, as we have done every year, we would like to honor the graduates in Willow Ridge. Moms and dads, let us all celebrate your grad with you via an announcement in the *Wind-in-the-Willows!* Submit your graduate's name, address, and graduating school (college or high school). Include any accomplishments and/or goals he/she might have. To make the announcement extra special, be sure to include a signed "one-liner;" a personal message to your graduate. To insure the June edition, please submit graduation announcement by May 16. Submissions that do not make it into the June issue will appear in the July edition. Printed/typed announcements, on a full size sheet of paper, may be placed in the box on the porch at 221 North Brier, or better yet, email me at [wiweditor@gmail.com](mailto:wiweditor@gmail.com). Please keep in mind that although there are no restrictions on announcement length, editing may become necessary.



Yes, the long cold winter is coming to an end, and from some, so is school. Celebrate Willow Ridge!  
Debby VonLangen, Editor

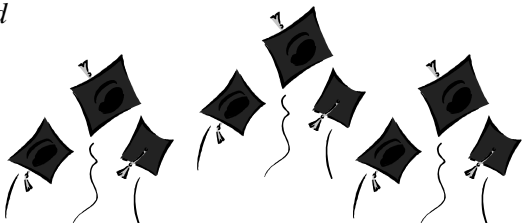
### *Willow Ridge Salutes the Graduation Seniors of 2014*

#### *Niagara University Graduate*

Corinne Rabold of 147 Dalewood is graduating from Niagara University College with a major in Bio-Chemistry and two minors in Psychology & French. *We are so proud of you Corinne!! All our love, Mom & Dad*

#### *Sweet Home High School Graduate*

Mitchell Rabold of 147 Dalewood is graduating from Sweet Home High School, was publicly honored for State Qualifier in Boys Indoor Track/Section VI Champion, and has been accepted to attend Buffalo State College. *Congratulations Mitch!! We love you, Mom & Dad*



Submit signed letters to the editor, ads, neighborhood news to [wiweditor@gmail.com](mailto:wiweditor@gmail.com) or place in porch box at 221 North Brier Road. Deadline dates are given on the bottom left corner of the first page in each edition.

Who do you know that would like  
to live in  
*OUR neighborhood?*



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## Ride For Roswell Goes Through Willow Ridge Saturday, June 28

The Ride For Roswell is a year-round fundraising program for Roswell Park Cancer Institute that culminates in a celebratory cycling event every June. This year, The Ride will again travel through Willow Ridge on Saturday, June 28, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Bicyclists will travel on South Ellicott Creek Road, Denrose Drive and Willow Ridge Drive to the Amherst Bike Path bridge over Interstate 990 as they make their way to the UB North Campus. Come out and cheer on the riders as they make their way to the finish line!

Drivers and residents on these roads should take extra precautions and expect delays due to heavy bicycle traffic. The Ride For Roswell is working closely with the Amherst Police Department to conduct The Ride safely through all intersections, and to keep disruptions to a minimum.

If you'd like to sign up as a volunteer and guide riders through Willow Ridge, visit [RideForRoswell.org](http://RideForRoswell.org) or call 716-THE-RIDE to sign up today!



## Bisons Celebrate Armed Forces Tribute Day Saturday, May 17

Finally we have warmer temps and greener grass! It makes us think of all the outdoor activities we love to do with our families.



On Saturday, May 17, you can take the family to the Ballpark to see our Buffalo Bisons take on the Lehigh Valley IronPigs. It is designated Armed Forces Tribute Day. There will be Pre-game ceremonies recognizing the Armed Forces and in-game Armed Forces themed promotions and raffles to benefit the Naval & Military Park. Pre-game start time is 3:45 and game time is 4:05. The tickets are priced at \$10, with \$5 going to benefit the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park.

For questions or more information please contact Beth Potozniak at [716-846-2040](tel:716-846-2040) or [bpo-tozniak@bisons.com](mailto:bpo-tozniak@bisons.com).  
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## Snowflake Dinner Dance Thank You's Continue to Pile Up

Last month's issue carried a report on the Dance and a blizzard of appreciation to the many who helped create such a memorable occasion. Carol Zaffram, our Dinner Dance Coordinator, wishes to add more thanks to the pile. Thank you to D.J. Eric and those who ran the photo booth.

Also thanks to all the people who loaned pictures and articles. Please contact Carol @ [inknmore06@gmail.com](mailto:inknmore06@gmail.com) so she can return them.

The snowflakes will be back and so will the Snowflake Dinner Dance. Can't wait till next year!





## Neighborhood News



### Congratulations

John and Sandy Radens at 25 Kaymar Drive proudly accepted membership in the Grandparents' Club with the birth on March 10 of Gryffin William Poiley to their daughter, Lesley, and her husband, Seth. The Radens were fortunate to arrive to Manhattan in time for their grandson's birth and stay for the next three weeks. Gryffin was 7 pounds, 1 ounce at birth and 19 inches long. His parents brought their son back to Willow Ridge for Easter and his Baptism at St. Christopher's Church.

Congratulations to Willow Green's Ben Constantino, who was recently featured in the Buffalo News for his amazing prowess in the sport of racquetball. After a lifetime of playing sports, he is still going strong at the age of 88, and is known to still be a fierce competitor in a game that requires agility and quick reflexes. What a tremendous feat! Ben, you are an inspiration!!

### Letter to the Editor



#### SAVE OUR CREEK!

One of the most important things that drew me to the Willow Ridge area was the beauty of Ellicott Creek. The chance to see blue herons striding through the water, ducks and geese swimming, turtles sunning themselves and muskrats diving for cover was a wonderful enticement. Watching kayakers, deer, turkeys, and foxes share the waterway is endlessly fascinating.

However, when summer arrives, everything changes. The once – moving creek, slowly becomes stagnant. The color changes to neon greens and thick dark green mats coat the surface. Dead fish begin to be seen in the rotting algae. People keep their dogs out of the water to prevent illness. Our once beautiful creek looks terrible.

What causes this massive change? Well, the lack of rain and heat don't help the situation but WE cause most of the damage. Our lawn and garden fertilizers enrich the algae, causing excessive growth. This depletes the oxygen, so fish die.

This destruction is everyone's responsibility. Those of us that live along the creek banks must never fertilize the areas along the river. Encouraging our dogs to defecate away from the water's edge prevents additional unwanted growth. Leaving a riparian buffer (allowing plants and



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grass to grow along the edge) helps to absorb pollutants and fertilizer, preventing runoff and degradation.

Commercial fertilizers have *chemical* fertilizers that contain mineral salts that easily bind to the roots. Slowly, the buildup of salts, drives away earthworms, and creates more acidic soil. Degrading the micro – organisms in the soil causes a vicious cycle that requires more commercial fertilizers to do the same job.

Neighbors that live in our Willow Ridge side-streets are equally responsible. When there is rain or lawns are watered, the fertilizer – enhanced run-off goes from the lawns, to the storm drains, and directly into our Creek. That is why the Creek areas adjacent to the Willow Ridge neighborhood looks so awful and other, less fertilized areas remain less polluted.

What else can we do to save our Creek? We can use natural fertilizers (which are less potent and encourage slower growth), and watering a few days later (and more sparingly) so that the fertilizers are not flushed down the storm sewers. Organic fertilizers, which are made of seaweed, cow or chicken manure, or other natural substances, need only be applied once or twice a year. Checking the weather forecast (in the hopes of a few days of dry weather) will make a significant difference in preventing run-off. Not using any applied fertilizers is an option, too.

Articles on the internet promote mowing your grass on the highest (tallest) setting so it can grow thicker and healthier. (Just another thing I'll try this year). Leaving the lawn to grow longer promotes strong root growth, needs less watering, and has fewer weeds.

Putting pesticides or insecticides on the lawn kills many things besides the targeted insects. It also kills the birds that eat them and wreaks havoc on our local ecology. The same goes for fungicides- it kills earthworms and good bacteria essential for healthy living soil.

There is a lot we all can do to improve the health of Ellicott Creek. Author Dr. Maya Angelou says, "*Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.*" I know that I can do more to save our creek. Will you help too?

4/2/14

Lynn Mancuso, 121 S. Ellicott Creek Rd, Amherst, NY 14228

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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) and include your address and phone number. **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](mailto:wiweditor@gmail.com).

### **For Sale**

Instrument: Gulbranse console piano, walnut with bench, \$300. or b/o, very good condition. 691-7318

### **For Hire**

Lawn Service: college student looking to earn extra money will cut your lawn, trim and clean up the grass clippings. Call 691-3006 if you are interested. Just ask for Scott.

Lawn Service: neighborhood teen available for lawn mowing. Experienced, reasonable rates and a hard worker. Josh @ 691-0635

Nanny: for 2 children, ages 4(boy) and 3 months(girl) in my home, 709 Kaymar Drive, approximately 2-3 days per week, possible 10-12 hour days, rates negotiable. Please call **Mimi** at 863-1169 to discuss further.

Tutor: Reading Specialist available for Summer Tutoring in Reading and Writing for Kindergarten thru 4th grade. Call Susan at 691-5546.



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***Some Lawn Preparation Tips* after our Never Ending Winter  
by Tony Cangialosi, Owner of Willow Ridge Landscaping**

I would have to say, this winter was one of the harshest ones I have ever experienced. Here are some helpful tips at preparing and maintaining your lawn for the upcoming spring:

Start by giving your lawn a deep raking to remove dead grass and leaves. If needed, aerate to get the compacted ground ready for spring showers. Then, before fertilizing, fill in bare grass spots with seed. To sow the seeds, loosen the surface soil, adding extra soil if necessary and scatter the seeds according to the recommended application rate. Gently water the area and keep it moist until you have strong growth. As the temperatures increases, your grass will begin to grow more rapidly. Be gentle when you start mowing in spring by setting the mower blades to a higher height so

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they trim off only the top third of growth. This will produce a healthier lawn because taller grass promotes longer roots. After the first few cuts you can then reset the blades to a lower setting. Don't mow your lawn if it is wet or there has been snow recently, as this will only cause more damage. Try to have your lawn cut each week as long as the weather permits. The height of the grass should always remain between 2 and 4 inches.



**May  
2014**

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### **Willow Ridge Easter Party Egg-cells!**

Things were, well, hopping at the Willow Ridge Easter Party on April 12 when 73 visitors of varying ages and sizes were guests of the Easter Bunny at Willow Ridge Elementary School.



Kids enjoyed a morning of fun and games, became crafty artists, and rendered some nice detective work in locating eggs which were eggs-pertly hidden by one wily ol' rabbit, who's done this a time or two before. A special whisker wiggle to the Girl Scouts and UB students who were happy to lend a hand!