

# Wind-in-the-Willows

## Willow Ridge Civic Association

### Willow Ridge Civic Association

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Rick VonLangen 691-6420

#### Vice President

Jim Cwierley 525-1893

#### Secretary

Connie Holovics 553-7433

#### Treasurer

Tom Amodeo 691-5150

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### Wind-In-the-Willows

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

By the time you read this February will be gone. Two months of this year are already in the past. It seems like this would be an opportune time to ponder the past 50 years of the Civic Association here in Willow Ridge. Contained in this issue are several articles that mention successes of the WRCA that have occurred in the five decades of the Civic Association's existence. Please take a few moments to reflect on our neighborhood and the growth we have experienced. There will be posters at the Snowflake dinner dance that will recap many of these accomplishments.

As I mentioned last month, at the upcoming March meeting, Town Supervisor Barry A. Weinstein has agreed to give a brief presentation, followed by a question and answer period that will address the questions of our residents. To allow Dr. Weinstein to prepare, please e-mail your concerns (to the e-mail address below) and they will be forwarded to the supervisor prior to the meeting. Although I have already sent the e-mails I have received to date, no one but the author can express accurately these issues. Please plan on attending in person if at all possible.

And now on the light-hearted side, we are looking forward to the Snowflake Dinner Dance (March 15, 2014) which is just two weeks away! The event planning is being finalized; there will be surprises that only those in attendance will experience. And in looking ahead, I can see the Easter Bunny is planning to visit Willow Ridge on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This is a great opportunity for parents and grandparents to share a special time with your children.

Remember, WRCA info can be found on Facebook, E-Wind, *Wind-in-the Willows* or one can always call a board member. At the March meeting, those present will vote on the admittance of the new board members. For comments, please contact me at [WRCA.PRESIDENT@gmail.com](mailto:WRCA.PRESIDENT@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Our next meeting is March, 11 at 7:30pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rick VonLangen

**WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 7:30 p.m.  
Ellicott Creek Fire Hall  
All Members Welcome

DEADLINE for the April WITW is Mar. 14

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[www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info)



**Come to the Snowflake Dinner Dance**  
**on March 15 and**  
**Celebrate the WRCA 50 Anniversary!**

For tickets and info contact  
CAROL ZAFFRAM 716-913-4980

[inknmore06@gmail.com](mailto:inknmore06@gmail.com)

Details on Page 6

## WRCA Minutes February 11, 2014

President Rick VonLangen called the meeting to order at 7:32. Also present were Vice President Jim Cwierley, Treasurer Tom Amodeo, and Secretary Connie Holovics. Board Members present were Mark Hammer, Dawn Cwierley, Carol Zaffram and Marijean Nichols. Community attendees included John Radens, Peter Nichols, Ben Procopio, Timothy Ng, Derrick Ong & Debbie Goetz.

Secretary Minutes: A motion was made Tom Amodeo to approve the minutes from the January. Dawn Cwierley seconded and board approval followed.

Treasurer's report: Tom Amodeo reported that January account balance was \$10728. Marijean Nichols made a motion to approve, seconded by Carol Zaffram and board approval was granted.

Membership Report: It was reported our membership was 609 to date. It was suggested Lynn Getzin give Connie Holovics a list of unpaid residents. Connie will distribute to the block reps a list of unpaid residents on their street, so they can follow up with phone call reminders to join.

President's Report: Rick VonLangen reported he had received an email complimenting Benchmark on the clearing of the sidewalks on Willow Ridge and Chestnut Ridge. He also received an email regarding the fact that postmen do not deliver mail if sidewalks and porches don't meet the guidelines of the Postal Service which necessitates residents having to go to the Post Office to pick up their mail. The guidelines will be researched and the neighborhood residents will be informed of those guidelines.

Old Business: Mark Hammer researched having the Oktoberfest at the fire hall again. The projected date is 10/10/14. Mark will clarify some items and report back next month.

The Grapevine requested a free *WITW* ad for the year. Connie Holovics made a motion to give the Grapevine a free ad in the *WITW*, Marijean seconded and board approval followed.

Debbie Goetz reported the directory & *Wind-in-the-Willows* advertising was down this year. She made the recommendation that we offer a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary special to new advertisers. The offer would be 50% off the first two months of ads in the *WITW* and 10% off to new advertisers in the directory. Tom made a motion to offer the proposed discounts, Dawn seconded and board approval followed.

The budget was reviewed and the president voiced concern over the loss of the \$1800 income from the Wine Tasting Party. Board expressed the hope that the involvement of the block reps will increase the membership for 2014. Tom reported he thought he had sponsors for Movie Night, so the cost to the Civic Association will be minimal.

New Business: The *WITW* editor has requested additional informative articles to be submitted for publication. A recommendation was made to offer advertisers the opportunity to provide articles.

Committees were reviewed and corrections made. We still have a board position open. Rick has two nominations and will talk to each prior to next month's meeting. The board will vote to fill the position at the March meeting.

Amherst Superintendent Dr. Barry Weinstein will be our guest speaker at the March meeting.

### Committee Reports

Snow Flake Dance: Carol Zaffram requested reservations be made by March 1<sup>st</sup>. She needs the names of Past Presidents from earlier years. Each president has been asked for the accomplishments of their presidency.

Easter Party: Dawn reported that April 12<sup>th</sup> is the date the committee has chosen subject to the approval of using Willow Ridge Elementary for the party.

### Community Open Forum

John Radens expressed concern about the substation generator not running during the last power outage and causing sanitation backup. He asked that the subject be on the list of items to discuss with Supervisor Weinstein.

Derrick Ong suggested to the assembly that we look into creating a group that can respond or advise residents when power outages or emergencies occur. Jim Cwierley will talk with the CERT group to see if this is a function with which they can help. Derrick also noted that Facebook was very useful during the storm as neighbors did help advise him how to deal with his sump pump overflow online.

Motion to adjourn the meeting came from Dawn Cwierley and was seconded by Jim Cwierley. Board approval followed and adjournment took place at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 11 at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:30pm. All Willow Ridge residents welcome.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Holovics, secretary.

# Willow Ridge Civic Association 50th Anniversary

The WRCA was founded by Bill Weber, Pat DiNolfo and Jack Tapson and held its first meeting in 1964 at 45 Kaymar Drive. As a relatively new sub-division at that time, there were zoning issues which generated the initial interest in starting the civic association as well as a desire to enhance the neighborhood as a desirable place to live.

Probably one of the keys to the success of the WRCA over the past five decades has been the required turnover of the presidency as prescribed by the by-laws. Initially, the term of the president was one year, but in 1983, this was changed to a maximum of two one year terms. With over 30 different WRCA presidents, this has resulted in a continuing infusion of new leadership and ideas. However, the underlying strength of the WRCA has been the dedication of the volunteers who have served as WRCA officers, served on the WRCA Board, committed themselves as head reporters and block reps, given time and energy to various committees and organizations. Our volunteers have been essential for weaving and sustaining a viable civic and social fabric in the neighborhood. Also, the long standing editor of the *Wind-in-the-Willows* assures that WRCA members receive their monthly newsletter.

Since 1964 the WRCA Board has continued to meet ten times per year, excluding July and August, and never lacked for agenda items each month. As various concerns have risen in the neighborhood over the decades, the most frequent response has been to bring the issue before the WRCA Board to seek a possible course of action.

WRCA accomplishments and ongoing activities include the following:

## CIVIC

- Represent the WRCA at the Town of Amherst council meetings when necessary.
- Assisted in retaining Ellicott Creek Fire Dept. from merging with the North Bailey Fire District.
- Secured the assistance of the Town Highway Dept. to negotiate with NYS DOT to widen Willow Ridge Drive to two lanes going on to Niagara Falls Blvd. during DOT's widening of the boulevard in 1982.
- Maintains a non-partisan working relationship with the Town of Amherst Board.

- Supported Congressman Jack Kemp's effort to secure funds to build a diversionary channel on Ellicott Creek to prevent potential flooding.
- Benchmark Development Corp. - based on a referral from the Town of Amherst, Benchmark came to the WRCA to negotiate a re-use of vacant site for occupancy by Home Depot and WalMart. Also, included in the negotiation was an agreement for the construction of sidewalks, berms, landscaping on Chestnut Ridge Rd. and Willow Ridge Dr., low level lighting on the development site as well as a \$20,000 grant to the WRCA.
- Worked with the Town of Amherst to secure natural gas back up pumps for storm sewers in event of power failures.
- Secured and used skunk traps in the late 1970's when there was still significant open space in Willow Ridge.

*Continued on the next page.*

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price for your home.

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6000 Sheridan Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221



**WRCA 50th Anniversary continued from page 3**

- Opposed excessive student housing development.
- Assisted in securing a pedestrian bridge over the I -990.
- WRCA Board approved the Willow Ridge sign at the entrance of Willow Ridge Dr. and Sweetwood N.
- Installation of American flag pole next to Willow Ridge sign.
- Installation of WRCA bulletin board by Convenient Store.
- Worked with Town Highway Department to sponsor an “electronic recycle collection” weekend at the fire department.
- Sponsor, coordinate and publicize the annual neighborhood garage sale.
- Instituted a “Speaker Series” to the WRCA membership meetings hosting speaker/discussion sessions with the Amherst Town Supervisor and board members, Amherst Town Highway Department Superintendent, Town of Amherst Police Chief, Sweet Home School Superintendent, the Willow Ridge Principal.

**SOCIAL**

- Children’s and family activities: Easter Party, Halloween Party, Christmas Party, National Night Out and Bike Parade, the newest addition, Family Movie Night at Bedford Park.
- Sponsors of Boy Scouts and Girl Scout troops.
- Sweet Home School Scholarships and Dollars for Scholars.
- Adult Recreation: Snow Flake Dinner Dance, Oktoberfest, etc.
- Monthly newsletter, *Wind-in-the-Willows*, mailed monthly and now available on the internet.
- Annual membership directory is published and available to members.
- Holiday Lighting Contest.

An outreach effort was made to seek input regarding WRCA accomplishments. If any have been omitted, please let us know and we will include it in the next *Wind-in-the-Willows*.

Ben Procopio  
50th Anniversary Chair

## In Appreciation

Thank you Ben Procopio, along with the 50th Anniversary Committee, for this month’s submission and for all the time and efforts in preparation for a exciting and terrific 50th celebration!

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**Willow Ridge Garden Club** \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The Willow Ridge Garden Club will meet at the Zion Church on Parker Boulevard and Koenig on March 5 at 7 p.m.. At this meeting, the new club officers will confirm committee chairpersons. Vice President will introduce the theme for the next year and preliminary plans for guest speakers, workshops and field trips. Doris Mohr and Adele Fletcher will present TV Table arrangements with a St. Patrick's Day theme. Congratulations to MaryAnn Jumper as W.W.G.C.'s new president! New members and visitors welcome.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Respectfully submitted, Carol Verdi \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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**Dr. David P. Bartels**

## Neighborhood News



Dear Willow Ridge Neighbors,

I really enjoyed reading the article by Debby VonLangen in the February issue. It brought back so many memories that some of you may find interesting.

My husband, Jim was transferred to Buffalo in January of 1965, lived in a motel while he settled into his new job and started the search for our new home. I stayed in Binghamton with our four little boys – an infant up to seven years old – to get our house sold and prepare to move. He found several developments but settled on M.J. Peterson's Willow Ridge Estates. I never saw our new home until we moved in – every weekend Jim would drive home with plans and questions and that's how we built our house.

We moved in here in July 1965. I remember pulling into the driveway at 11:00 at night and discovering that our beautiful new house didn't contain one light bulb!! Luckily our furniture had already been moved in so we took the bulb from the fridge and went with it from room to room putting four sleepy little boys to bed.

How glad we were that we chose this neighborhood. We just loved it. So many changes in 49 years – there was no "Willows" or "Lakeside Estates" – nothing north of Willow Ridge Drive. It was all vacant land filled with the sweetest wild strawberries you can imagine and lots of scrub trees that many of us dug up to landscape our bare yards.

No Willow Ridge Elementary that first year – the kids were bussed to Sweet Home Elementary (which is no more). When our school was built the next year, the children walked – no busses stopping at each house. Sweet Home Road was a meandering two lane country road – nothing but vacant land on each side. A common sight during nice weather was a driveway with 5 or 6 mothers with their lawn chairs sipping coffee together while their little ones played. "Stay at home Mom" was the norm back then.

The Snowflake Dinner Dance which we enjoy now was two dinner dances back then – one at Christmas and one in the Spring. They were always held at a different place. The Cavalier, the Hearthstone, etc. I remember a great time at the Peter Stuyvesant Room and there were also many cocktail parties to start off the evening.

There was a Friday Night Golf League for the guys and they always would golf until the wee hours (golf?). In the winter we had the Couples Friday Night Ski Club. We'd sign up for ten weeks and we would ski every week at Kissing Bridge. No matter what the weather! We skied in snow,

## 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) 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

**Furniture:** sewing machine cabinet—wood finish, base 34"W x 19"D x 29"H, with 2 folding lids & front doors. Many interior drawers & shelves. Like new. \$75.00 or offers. 691-8564.

**Household:** "Waverly" queen comforter, dust ruffle, 2 pillow shams, 3 decorator pillows, 4 window valences, burgundy background with floral print. Excellent condition. \$85.00. 691-5620

### Wanted

**Cleaning Help:** Retired couple desire a qualified individual for house cleaning (dusting, vacuuming, bathrooms and floors - supplies provided) two mornings per month (approx 5 hours total @ \$15/hour). If interested, please call 691-7206.

ice, rain, mud and grass – you name it. The best part of those nights was après ski in the lodge. Wednesday mornings was the Ladies Bowling at the old Boulevard Lanes – free coffee and babysitting – again "stay at home mom" Couples Bowling was on a Sunday night once a month – again great memories.

For some reason and I never understood why, we had a yearly Horse Show. Lots of fun, beer and food and a reason to get together. It was held at the end of Willow Ridge Drive where Kaymar is now.

We have grown so much bigger and so much has changed. Neighbors were closer years ago – everyone knew everyone – remember "Welcome Wagon?"

One of my neighbors was one of the first Buffalo Bills cheerleaders. That was when they only accepted married women and their uniforms covered the neck to the knees!

Another neighbor now is a leading orthopedic surgeon in the area. His wife was in our bridge club.

*Continued on page 7*

# WILLOW RIDGE ANNUAL *SNOWFLAKE DINNER DANCE*



MARCH 15th 7pm– Midnight



Come celebrate the  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WRCA**  
You don't want to miss this one!

**ONLY \$75 COUPLE FOR DINNER AND OPEN BAR SERVING WELL DRINKS**

**TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY March 1st**



## Menu choices

### PRIME RIB OF BEEF

*Slow Roasted with its own juices.*

### CHICKEN COQ AU VIN ROUGE

*Twin chicken breast sautéed and baked with chopped bacon, onion, mushrooms,  
finished with a red wine demi glaze.*

### STUFFED SHRIMP

*Large prawns stuffed w/ lump crab and topped with a mornay sauce  
drizzled with light garlic sauce.*

## FOR TICKET INFO CALL

CAROL ZAFFRAM 716-913-4980

[inknmore06@gmail.com](mailto:inknmore06@gmail.com)



**ARE YOU A WILLOW RIDGE RESIDENT  
WITH A BUSINESS THAT CAN SERVE YOUR  
NEIGHBORS AND YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A GREAT,  
INEXPENSIVE WAY TO ADVERTISE?**



In celebration of the Willow Ridge Civic Association's

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

We are offering 50% off the monthly rate to advertise in the *Wind-In-The-Willows*.

Requirements are as follows:

1. You must be a first time advertiser in the *Wind-In-The-Willows*.
2. We require you purchase two months of advertising in the remaining 2014 calendar.
3. Ad copy to be provided by advertiser.
4. One time only offer.

RATES MAY BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE [www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info)

PLEASE CONTACT: Debbie Goetz @ 903-1926 OR [dmom87@yahoo.com](mailto:dmom87@yahoo.com)

***Neighborhood News Continued from page 5***

(One couple) had their wedding planned for the weekend that the Blizzard of '77 hit. Much had to be changed but they pulled it off and today are still part of our community.

Those four little boys of mine are now grown men with families of their own and I'm lucky they have all settled locally. They have been a life-saver for me since I lost Jim.

I don't plan on leaving 121 Jeanmoor – I would hate living year-round in Florida, I don't want to hear other people on the opposite of my condo wall and I would be very unhappy living in a senior complex with only old people to see. This is my home and all of you who have settled here have made a terrific choice in which to live and raise a family.

Barbara Joslin

**Editor's Note:** What a perfect time Barbara Joslin chose to take us all for that heartwarming stroll down memory lane when we are preparing to celebrate our 50th Anniversary at the Snowflake Dinner Dance this month. Thank you Barbara, on behalf of those that enjoyed reliving those early days again with you, and others that could see Willow Ridge in the picture you painted with words. I hope that more will be inspired to use this newsletter for similar memories. Yes, Willow Ridge is growing; building new experiences with new families, children, and grandchildren. Much has changed, but the constant is that Willow Ridge is still a great place to raise a family! That remains the noble goal of the WRCA. Neighbor by neighbor, let's do whatever we can for each other, for the WRCA, for Willow Ridge to keep it that way for years to come! Debby VonLangen, Editor



If anyone has pictures of young Willow Ridge, please contact Carol Zaffram at 716-913-4980  
[inknmore06@gmail.com](mailto:inknmore06@gmail.com)

# March 2014



**Guest speaker series**

**Amherst Town Supervisor**

**Barry A. Weinstein**

**WRCA Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2014 7:30pm**

**Ellicott Creek Fire Hall**

**All Members Welcome**

**Please email questions/concerns prior to  
the meeting to:**

**[WRCA.PRESIDENT@gmail.com](mailto:WRCA.PRESIDENT@gmail.com)**

**and they will be forwarded to Dr.  
Weinstein's office.**



**WRCA Easter Party Ahead**

**April 12**

**at Willow Ridge**

**Elementary School**

**10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.**

**Kids come for crafts, games, candy  
and fun! You will be so egg-cited to  
see none other than the**

**Easter Bunny!**

**Gotta get to the  
party !!!!**

