

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

All Members Welcome

- DEADLINE for the Jan. WITW is Dec 6
- WRCA Minutes: Pg. 2
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www.wrca.info

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

By the time you read this issue most of you will be asking, are there 3 or 4 weeks left to finish your shopping for the holiday season. On behalf of the board, let me wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

At the last regular meeting, a nice turnout of concerned residents came to listen to Chief John C. Askey, Captain Stephen McGonagle and Willow Ridge resident Detective Sergeant Mike Torrillo. Various safety topics and several examples of websites and other tools used by the police department were discussed. Insight to the activities that have been in the news were addressed, and the residents present were able to express their concerns directly to the chief. We want to thank these officers for their time and dedication and appreciate the promises made to help keep Willow Ridge safe. One of the comments made was "If you see something unusual", call the police and they will investigate.

The Halloween party was well-attended with some 95 wide-eyed children plus parents. Connie and Dawn attributed some of the success to the 15 volunteers from UB. They came with enthusiasm and helped the children with art projects, games and other activities. Our thanks go out to all our volunteers.

And now for some fun future events. It is time to decorate your homes again. The holiday lighting committee will be out looking for that special home decoration. Make sure you are ready to turn your lights on by December 14th. Also, at the December meeting, all residents present will be able to cast their votes for the election the Civic Association Board. And finally, reserve the date, the Snowflake Dinner Dance is set for March 15, 2014.

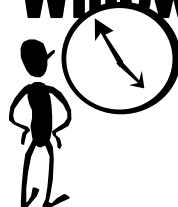
Remember, WRCA info can be found on Facebook, E-Wind, *Wind-in-the-Willows* or one can call a board member.

VOLUNTEERS: There are many areas for you to help. Consider if you can offer some of your time. Contact WRCA.PRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 10th at 7:30pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rick VonLangen

Willow Ridge Civic Association



It's time to renew your membership.

See details on page 3

WRCA Minutes

November 12, 2013

President Rick VonLangen called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Also present were Vice President James Cwierley, Treasurer Ed Goetz, and Secretary Dawn Cwierley. Board members present were Connie Holovics, Carol Zaffram, Thomas Amodeo, and Bill VanSplunder.

Community attendees included Marijean Nichols, Peter Nicols, Ralph Abate, Barbara Abate, Chief John C. Askey, Mike Torrillo, Stephen McGongal, AAS, Sharon Morgan, Richard Krollman, Terry MacDonell, Robert Legaun, Jeanne Legaun, Bob MacNonell, and Jack Baker. Others did not sign in or names were not legible.

Special presentation by Police Chief John C. Askey: The chief first off noted ways that the community can reach him and other members of the police force. While 911 is the number to call in case of an emergency, you may call the department with questions and concerns at 679-1311. Key emails addresses are able available on the Town of Amherst website at www.amherst.ny.us. He also showed how to use www.crimereports.com to look at recent activity in your neighborhood. The chief spoke for over thirty minutes addressing important neighborhood concerns, including a highly publicized break-in on Kaymar in November, parking issues, off campus housing, school safety, and accidents at the entrance to Willow Ridge Drive from Niagara Falls Boulevard. He urges neighbors to call when they see something happening so the police are able to address it quickly. Waiting to call only decreases their response time and ability to address the issue.

Secretary Minutes: A motion was made by Thomas Amodeo to approve the secretary minutes from the October meeting. Jim Cwierley seconded and board approval followed.

Treasurer Report: Ed Goetz reported that the October account balance was \$5,988. Connie Holovics made a motion to approve, seconded by Thomas Amodeo and board approval was granted.

Membership Report: Lynn Getzin was not present. Ed Goetz noted that we are currently at 329 renewals.

President's Report: Rick VonLangen's report was to address details highlighted by special guest Chief John Askey.

Old Business: Rick VonLangen reported that the electronic recycling event was a huge success. Dawn Cwierley reported that more than 95 children plus adults attended Halloween party. A special thank you to all of the volunteers, most especially Derrik Ong, a new resident on Kaymar, and

the 14 other University of Buffalo students representing The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, who helped to make the party a great success.

Carol Zaffram reported that it was decided to hold the Snow Flake Dinner Dance on March 15 at Classics V. The Board reviewed nominations for the new board. Ed Goetz will step down from the treasurer role. Dawn Cwierley will step down from the secretary role, but intends to stay on the board if her schedule allows. Connie Holovics volunteered to come in as secretary. Marijean Nicols will join the board. Jack Baker has purchased a new flag to fly over the entrance to the neighborhood. Jack also requested that we look into a new tree and getting the entrance sign replaced. The idea of an online directory for those with online access was also discussed and will be addressed at a future meeting.

Community Open Forum: Should neighbors have concerns about any of the rental properties, student housing, other locations in the neighborhood, contact Rick VonLangen with the address so we can address this with the proper individuals.

Adjournment: With no further items on the agenda, a motion was made by Dawn Cwierley and seconded Connie Holovics to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 10, at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m. All Willow Ridge residents are welcome.

Respectfully Submitted, Secretary Dawn M. Cwierley

FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS...

We would like to extend our warmest thoughts and best wishes to all our neighbors, for a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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WRCA 2014 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

***Many thanks to all who have submitted their membership for 2014!
Your promptness is appreciated!***

If you have not completed your renewal, please do so as soon as possible. Our goal is to complete the membership drive by December 31st.

Renewal information for you:

For your convenience, a copy of the invoice has been included in this copy of *Wind-in-the-Willows*.

Annual dues are \$15.00 and payment methods are:

Invoice – printed again in this *Wind-in-the-Willows*

PayPal payment – You can access PayPal, a secure on-line payment method, via the
WRCA website – www.wrca.info

Important note - The directory is only as good as the information you provide. To that end, we ask you to fill out the form completely. **The directory will contain only the information you provide on the form;** for example, if you do not provide both adult names, only the name provided will be in the directory. 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.

Membership includes:

Wind-in-the-Willows –provides information about happenings in Willow Ridge for adults and children as well as neighborhood news, and a free classified section and more. It is delivered to your home via mail and e-mail. Fore-mail only if you check “*Going Green*” on the form.

2014 WRCA Directory -delivered to your door in March. 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 notification of events happening in our community as well as the *Wind-in-the-Willows* via e-mail.

Please send in or go online to PayPal TODAY to help us complete this drive by

**See Membership
Form on page 6.**



CANS FOR CUBS 2014
Saturday, January 4
10am—1pm

Cub Scout Pack 173 will be holding our annual pop can/ bottle collection drive on Saturday, January 4, 2014 from 10am—1pm. Money earned from the returns will be donated to a charitable organization to be determined at a later date. On Saturday, January 4, please leave your NY stamped returnable cans & bottles in a plastic bag on your front porch or driveway. Our scouts and their parents will be coming around to pick them up between the hours of 10am and 1pm. You can also deliver them to 27 Jonathan Place, or call 691-8713 to arrange a pickup. Only NY stamped returnable pop/beer cans & bottles will be accepted (no recyclables or wine/liquor bottles). Last year's drive enabled us to make a donation to the Ronald McDonald House of Western New York.



**CUB SCOUT
 PACK 173
 HOLIDAY
 CARD
 DELIVERY**
 Drop off your
 cards Nov.
 29—Dec 14

As a community service for Willow Ridge, Cub Scout Pack 173 will be delivering holiday cards throughout the community. Drop off your cards into the collection bin that will be located at **330 Willow Green Drive**. The bin will be available from Friday, November 29 up until 5 pm Thursday, December 12th. Weather permitting, all cards will be delivered Saturday, December 14th. Please make sure your cards are clearly labeled with the recipients name and street address. For the safety of our scouts, we will only deliver to residential homes within Willow Ridge. We regret that we cannot deliver to apartments, condos, the elder care facility or Ellicott Creek Drive North.

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

email: wiweditor@gmail.com and be sure to put *witw* in the subject box; or place signed articles in porch box at 221 North Brier Road. The deadlines for each month are located in the left margin on the front page of the newsletter.

Who will win the Christmas Lighting Contest this year? Will it be you? Find out in January! Winners and Honorable Mentions will be listed in the January 2014 issue.

Don't get all tied up in holiday preparations and forget to renew your WRCA membership. Renew today and check it off your list! See page 3 for details!



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Neighborhood News



Congratulations

Congratulations to Legendary Radio DJ Jim Santella, the "father of progressive rock" in Buffalo, for his induction into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in October. This adds to his honor of being inducted in the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2005. Jim and his wife, Mary Lou Wiltberger live on Willow Green Dr.

Congratulations to Barbara and John Horvatis as they welcome their new 10 lb. 5 oz grandson, Harry.

New WRCA Flag


Erik Baker, son of Jack and Lee Baker of Willow Green Drive, is a career Navy pilot currently stationed at Hickam Field, Honolulu, Hawaii. During a recent visit, Erik arranged for a family tour of Pearl Harbor and the Arizona Memorial. This tour, aboard the Admiral's Barge, is offered to active military and their families. Erik also arranged to have a flag flown over the memorial; that flag is currently flying on the Willow Ridge Civic Association flag pole located on the corner of Willow Ridge and Sweetwood.



Editor's note: What an honor to have this flag waving over our neighborhood! Many thanks!

LOOK TWICE.

You could save a life.



44% of all motorcycle fatalities occur at intersections.* This is often because drivers don't see an oncoming motorcycle.


Drivers can help make the roads safer for everyone by always taking left, right and then left again before pulling into an intersection. Looking twice could prevent a crash and even save a life.

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From the
WRCA
Board

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Ask for Willowridge coupon

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.

For Sale

Antiques & Collectibles: variety of 60s, 70s, 80s record albums; pop, rock, classical. Best Offer * vintage 1950s doll buggy - very good condition. \$30. 691-4342

Bicycles: Giant Cypruss Bicycle(large).Well taken care of.Paid \$550.00 selling for \$125.00. * Schwinn Sprint bike. Great condition. New tires and just tuned up.\$100.00 or B.O. 564-2773

Electronics: 1989 Apple IIGS computer with all components and manuals; excellent condition. Best Offer. * Compact stereo system: am/fm receiver w/turndtable, cassette deck, 8-track deck & 2 speakers, \$20. 691-4342

Exercise/Hobby: Karate Equipment. Helmet W/shield, Chest protector, Sparring gloves, Chin protectors, Baton and Large bag.All for \$75.00 . * Floor stand kick bags. Large Wavemaster, paid \$450.00, Want \$75.00. Small paid \$100 want \$50.00.Both in great shape. Must see. 564-2773

Household: Bedroom suite -Full bed, dresser, mirror and night stand. \$150. 691 -8049

Instrument: Upright piano \$150. 691 -8049

Lawn & Garden: black and Decker 22 inch hedge trimmer. \$25. 691 -8049

Sports & Leisure: Three wheel scooter \$150. 691 -8049

Tires: 4 Goodyear Eagle snow tires on 2001 Camaro Z28 OEM alum. Alloy rims P235/55R16. Excellent Condition, \$300. 691-8809

Wanted

Beads for jewelry-making: I am running a jewelry club for Riverside High School students and we are in desperate need of jewelry-making materials. If you have any beads or old necklaces that can be re-strung, please consider donating to us. I have a bead/jewelry donation box in front of my house at 240 N. Brier Road or call 691-6561 and I will pick up. Thanks!!

Old magazines: If you have any old magazines please consider donating them to my classroom. They will be used for student projects. 691-6561



Hurry! Renew your WRCA membership today!

Support Boy Scout Troop 173



Looking for a great stocking stuffer, teacher or bus driver gift? Or just a deal on Delta Sonic Car Washes? \$5.00 gift cards will be available starting December 4th for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Contact Grace House @ 691-5727 or any of the neighborhood Scouts.

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Willow Ridge Civic Association

2014 Membership Invoice

DUES

DUES FOR 2014 ARE \$15.00 AND INCLUDE:

- *Wind-in-the-Willows* newsletter for 2014—by U.S. Mail and/or email
- E-Wind—email notification of events in our community
- 2014 WRCA Directory—to be delivered to your door in March 2014

PAYMENT:

Mail your check payable to:
WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 86, Amherst, NY 14226

Note: You can also pay via PayPal at wrca.info
Please submit your membership for 2014 by December 31, 2013

Thank you

Please provide the following information to update WRCA membership file. Please PRINT clearly

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE(S) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Used for E-Wind only. Not published in WRCA Directory

_____ GOING GREEN—I wish to receive the *Wind-in the-Willows* via email only.

Children's Names _____

_____ Please contact me. I wish to volunteer to assist with WRCA activities such as Junior Recreation, Snowflake Dinner Dance, National Night Out.

Comments:

December 2013



Annual Santa Run and Food Drive Saturday, December 21, 2013 beginning at 4pm

It is time once again for our annual Santa run and food drive. Each year your kind and generous donations allow us to provide needed food supplies for our local food pantries. Last year you out did yourselves in giving over 2000 lbs. of food.

Starting at 4pm firefighters with Santa Claus will be coming around the community to greet the children and collect your donations. If you are not going to be home, please leave your donation in a well lighted location so firefighters can see it. As always of you wish you can drop off your donation to the fire station at 45 South Ellicott Creek Rd. beginning at 4:30pm.

Thank you again for your support with this important project and from all the members of the Ellicott Creek volunteer fire company, we wish you a happy, safe and healthy holiday season.

- *Sponsored by the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Co.*

Willow Ridge Christmas Lighting Contest



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! And a few of "Santa's elves" will be cruising through the neighborhood on Saturday, December 14 through Sunday, December 15 writing names down on his "nice" list, thereby choosing the winners of this year's lighting contest!

Ten \$25.00 gift cards remain up for grabs as we begin this year's challenge. Deck your house with holiday trimmings and dazzle the judges. Get creative in the holiday spirit with your neighbors and we will all watch as Willow Ridge becomes a fantasy land of lights and decoration. Who will win? Ho-ho-ho-who knows? Maybe it will be you!

Save the Date:

Willow Ridge Evenings to Remember

*Snowflake Dinner Dance
March 15, 2014.*