

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, April 9, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

All Members Welcome

- DEADLINE for the May WITW is Apr 12
- Boy Scouts Chiavetta BBQ: Pg. 2
- WRCA Minutes: Pg. 3
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- Classified/Garden Club: Pg. 7
- Easter Party Memories: Pg. 8

www.wrca.info

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Wow, this has been a busy first quarter of the year for the folks who live in the Willow Ridge area. In March alone two well attended events were held on behalf of our residents. Special thanks go out to Carol Zaffram for planning and organizing the Snowflake Dinner Dance. The addition Jeff Rankin to create caricatures for this year's event left us all asking the question "Do I really look like that?" Then at the end of the month, the Children's Easter party was held at the Willow Ridge Elementary School. Special thanks also go out to Dawn Cwierley and Connie Holovics and a host of volunteers both young and ... for their tireless efforts to supply such great fun for the children.

At our March meeting, Amherst Town Councilman Steven Sanders addressed those in attendance with some of his views on what is going on in the town. We reminded him of our continued concerns for the vacant property on Edgewater and one of the businesses on Niagara Falls Boulevard. He said that concerned citizens could contact him at the town office.

I have asked the editor to publish the WRCA mission statement in this month's newsletter. It was one of the topics of discussion at the March board meeting and I invite every resident to read this statement. It is with this in mind that the board approved the continuation of scholarship support for our graduating students. All students, whose families are members of the civic association are encouraged to apply for these scholarships.

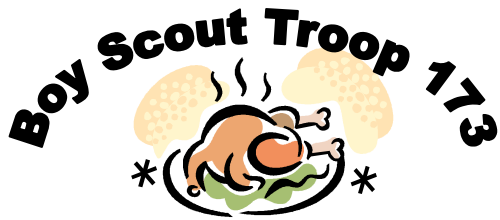
Secondly, based on a community survey, many of our residents seem to be in favor of a movie night to be hosted one night this summer. After researching many companies and options, the board has approved hosting one event with the option of others if the first is successful. To defray some of the costs, sponsors are being sought. A sub-committee is being formed to finalize all the details. This is a great place to volunteer if this is something in which you believe.

Looking ahead, graduation is coming up. I would encourage parents of graduates to take advantage of May and June issues of the *Wind-in-the-Willows* when graduates will be recognized and honored. Details are on page 4.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rick VonLangen



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Position Open

Do you have ideas on how to make a difference in Willow Ridge? Here is your opportunity! There is a Board Member position currently open. Please contact Rick VonLangen at 691-6420 or WRCA.PRESIDENT@gmail.com or any board member. Why wait? The time is now.



WRCA Minutes

March 12, 2013

President Rick VonLangen called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Also present were Vice President James Cwierley, and Secretary Dawn Cwierley. Board members present were Tom Amodeo, Bill VanSplunder and Carol Zaffram. Community attendees included Steve Sanders, Town of Amherst Councilmember.

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

Treasurer Report: In the absence of Ed Goetz, Treasurer, President Rick VonLangen reported that there is currently an account balance of \$14,921 in the bank. There was a \$25 variance in the budget for the Snowflake Dinner Dance, and \$500 variance for the director commissions. Bill VanSplunder made a motion to approve, seconded by Jim Cwierley and board approval was granted.

Membership Report: Lynn Getzin was not available to provide a membership report.

President's Report: Rick VonLangen provided details of a letter from a concerned neighborhood regarding a lack of barriers near Ellicott Creek. Jim Cwierley will share this with the Town of Amherst. Rick also noted that for future meetings we should have a parliamentarian; Dawn Cwierley volunteered for this meeting.

Old Business: Carol Zaffram reported that about 70 people attended the Snow Flake Dinner Dance. Tom Amodeo presented regarding plans for a family movie night this summer. The board decided to plan for one movie this summer. A motion was made by Carol Zaffram to form a

special committee to plan for event and was seconded by Dawn Cwierley. Please contact Tom to volunteer.

The board also discussed the Dollars for Scholars program. Historically \$2,000 is set aside for two scholarships, \$1,000 each. A discussion was had regarding how the funds would be divided. A motion was made by Carol Zaffram to use the full \$2,000 toward the scholarships and was seconded Tom Amodeo. After two votes, it was unanimously decided that four \$500 scholarships would be divided among the winners. Jim Cwierley moved to accept this vote and it was seconded by Carol Zaffram.

New Business:

Town of Amherst Councilmember Steve Sanders joined us for fifteen minute discussion. He has worked with the Egbertsville Community Association on building related issues and wanted to extend the same resources to our civic association. Steve discussed the growth of the university, recourse on the adult video store, and distressed property.

Rick VonLangen reported that there is still an open board position available. Residents are encouraged to reach out to him to discuss their interest. There will also be an open sales coordinator position in the next year.

Committee Reports: Dawn Cwierley reported that the Annual Easter Party is planned for March 23. The time was changed to earlier in the day to accommodate younger children.

Adjournment: With no further items on the agenda, a motion was made Dawn Cwierley and seconded Tom Amodeo to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 9 12, at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m. All Willow Ridge residents are welcome. Respectfully Submitted, Secretary, Dawn M. Cwierley.

Mission Statement

Willow Ridge Civic Association

The Willow Ridge Civic Association is organized for the mutual civic benefit of all living in the Willow Ridge Subdivision. Through its membership and organization, the Association promotes neighborliness through group activities and social events designed to foster community spirit. In addition the Association is dedicated to the preservation of property values through awareness of the local environment and by working closely with various Town of Amherst agencies.

GRADUATION APPROACHES

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. Graduation information can be sent starting now for publication in the May issue, but to insure the June edition, please submit by May 17. 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. Please keep in mind that although there are no restrictions on announcement length editing may become necessary.

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



welcome spring!



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I would like to thank everybody who helped me achieve this award. I owe a huge part of my business to repeat clients, referrals, friends and their families. I truly do appreciate when you call.

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Bits & Bytes

Volume 1 Article 1

by: Tom Amodeo

Welcome to what I hope will be a helpful resource for you in connecting with technology. A little about myself, my name is Tom Amodeo. I live at 217 Rockdale Drive (Beep your horn, my kids love it) and I am currently employed by the NYS Unified Court System. I am tasked with maintaining the network, servers and security of the 8th Judicial District, which is made up of the 8 counties in WNY.

Getting the awkward self-proclamation out of the way, we can move on. This idea began with a discussion from the Willow Ridge Civic Association Board. We felt, as a board, that there was not enough content in this newsletter. My goal is to make this useful to you. The topics that can be covered are all technical. This can range from social media to tech tips to where and how to buy technology. Anything goes, technically speaking! (Pun intended.) So here we go...

From generation to generation, there will always be a disconnect, whether it is music or the belief system. Each generation seems to get more impatient as time progresses. In my opinion, that rings so true in today's hyper speed, always connected world. Staying true to a single topic regarding this would be difficult. So, I want to touch the surface about this generation's relationship with phones, social media and how, as parents, we can protect them. Now it's easy to break this topic down even further, but again, I guess that is for future articles.

I was born in 1981. This means I always had a computer in my school (However it was an Apple IIe) and a cell phone around the turn of the millennia. No texting, just calling. Eventually, texting took over as the preferred means of communication. With unlimited texting, why

not? This helped to quickly evolve into a lack of social skills (another topic for later) and the birth of a new frontier of communication. This generation, following me, has never really known anything analog. Ask them what "don't change that dial" means? Information has always been at their fingertips. "What are the lyrics in Aretha Franklin's RESPECT? R-E-S-P-E-C-T find out what it means to me, R-E-S-P-E-C-T ..." Well I don't know it now, but I can tell you in 3-5 seconds.

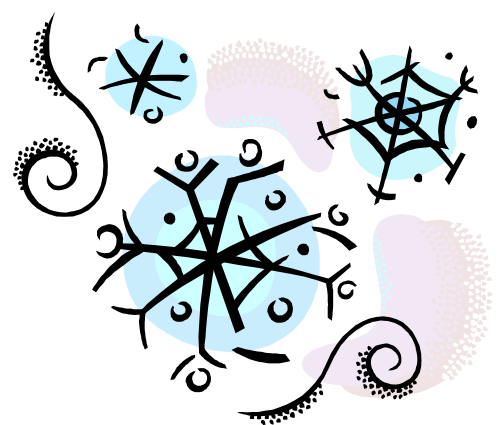
Before the smart phone, it was debated for hours or even days until we just agreed to disagree. (Or buy the album with the insert) However, being so connected at a young age can be detrimental to any child. How does watching Disney movies transition into seeing a cursing comics on YouTube affect a learning child who hasn't wrapped their head around this world? That remains to be seen, but on paper that doesn't seem like the natural progression.

Anything can be found with an accidental click of the mouse (or finger). Between Facebook, Twitter, Four-square, SnapChat, MySpace, InstaGram and many others, how does one even know where to begin on how to govern these? It's Simple. Take control of your kid's phones and computer. You need to educate yourself with the technologies. Google will find anything. Honestly, try it and you will be amazed. You say, "I can barely turn one on. How am I supposed to know where to look?" Talk to them. They will be excited to tell you what each app does or what a certain web site contains. If they're not willing to show you, I guess they have already answered your concerns. But if they do, you will be able to put your common sense hat on to see the capabilities and drawbacks of these programs.

A Snowflake Thank You

Outside, snowflakes were not lacking on March 2, the day of the Snowflake Dinner Dance. Inside Classics V, however the cozy terrace room held about 70 attendees. The food and service were outstanding as predicted, enjoyed while new neighbors got to know each other, and old friends caught up. The room swayed with strains of melody throughout the evening.

An artist contributed to the jolly atmosphere as he created very good caricatures of couples, who found it impossible to keep a straight face. Our thanks to Carol Zaffram, all who helped and those who participated to make the evening a memorable one! Great job Carol!



Neighborhood News



Sympathy

Friends and neighbors on Sweetwood Drive wish to extend their sympathy to the Raymond family on the loss of Richard. Dick passed away in February and is greatly missed by wife Peg and family. Longtime and active member of the Willow Ridge community, Dick and Peg moved into Willow Ridge in the 1960's and Dick was a member of the Ellicott Creek Fire Department for 30+years. Peg, our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your loved ones.

Congratulations

Congratulations to first time grandparents Lesley and Glen Longley of 99 Rockdale Drive. Their daughter, Michele and her husband Tom Helles of Kenmore, NY became proud parents of Joshua Glenn on February 9th. Hayley, Robert and Michael were thrilled to welcome their healthy nephew who arrived a month early weighing 5 lb. 3 oz. and was 18 in. long. We wish the entire family much happiness with their new "bundle of joy".

Tom Brylinski and Janice Stevens of 165 Dalewood Drive are the overjoyed, first-time grandparents of Addison Kate Haberek born November 28 in St. Joe's Hospital in Syracuse. The parents of Addison are their daughter Kate and husband Andrew Haberek. Friends and neighbors of Tom and Janice are thrilled for their joy and also hope their Westie terrier, McKenzie, does not mind sharing "most adorable" with baby Addison. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Rick and Debby VonLangen lovingly welcome their 6th grandchild to the family! Daughter, Kelly and her husband Chad Schiltz, became first time parents when their 8lb, 13oz son, Blake Marshall arrived on February 25, 2013 at 12:15 p.m. measuring 21.5 inches. Chad, who is an amateur hockey player, and Kelly are avid Sabres fans and Blake already owns Sabres gear and his own hockey stick. The family will soon cheer the Sabres on in their new Williamsville home.

A Welcome Spring Fling!



How often do you see a family stroll down the block? Pretty often around here. Well let me ask you, how often do you see a family stroll down the block collecting garbage???

You know that day when winter takes a break, a shy sun peers out and the snow begins to melt? *Things* that were under the snow are exposed! Ekk. Yeack! *Things* that are damp and slimy: petrified news inserts, holey plastic bags, scrunched Tim Horton coffee cups, and oh yes, the stuff that you thought was snow but turned out to be Styrofoam packing wedges. All are coated with a generous coat of wet gunk. On one such day I was moving melting snow off the driveway when this scene unfolded before my wondering eyes: a family with small children advanced down the sidewalk. The children were darting here and there. I paused to watch a bundled up child gleefully fling a cold, gooey "treasure" in his bag. A cheery voice explained to me, "Oh they're just picking up garbage," as if that were a trip to Chuck E Cheese. What a great neighborhood we have! Whoever you are, thanks for making my day, and this spot in the newsletter! Debby VonLangen, Editor



New York State Outdoorsman Hall of Fame Inductee from Willow Ridge

There is a Willow Ridge resident in the news, having been included in the New York State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame*. Chuck Booker of Willow Green Drive will be honored at the annual banquet on April 27 in Canastota, NY.

"Chuck spent eight years raising awareness and over \$100,000 to the Town of Andover Wetlands Restoration Project. He has helped organize countless youth fishing contests and conducted fundraisers to make these projects successful. His success at fundraising and quiet volunteer work also extends to Women Outdoors Worldwide and the Breast Cancer Network of WNY."
- NYSOHOF Press Release, February 22, 2013

Other works include Pen Rearing Project for salmon at Olcott and Western Region Director of LOTAC (Lake Ontario Tributaries Anglers Council). This organization is active in protecting the tributaries fishing and cleaning up streams as well as offering fishing trips for many fund raising activities. Chuck also conducts seminars teachings others to fish, or takes them fishing with him.

Congratulations, Chuck! You are an inspiration! Keep fishing and sharing your gifts!

* NYSOHOF an organization honoring sportsmen who have made significant achievements in outdoors-related fields. Their service includes preserving our outdoor heritage and helping others experience it. Programs include kids fishing clinics, youth hunts, seminars and similar activities.



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.

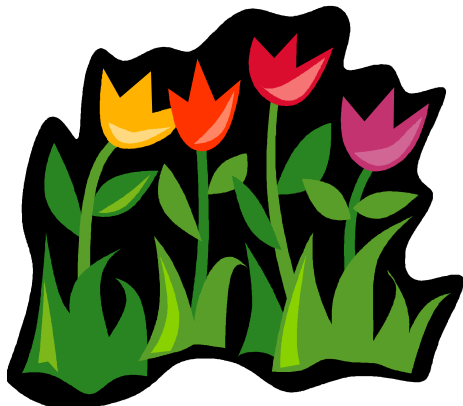
WRCA WEB PAGE

Check us out on the
Web at www.wrca.info

Thanks to our contributor this month:
Tom Amodeo

Willow Ridge Garden Club

Willow Ridge Garden Club will hold a Spring Fling Event which will include refreshments and desserts, basket auction, Split Club and flower raffle. Designs by Johnny will be featured. It will be held on May 1st at 6:30 p.m. at St. Edmund's Campus, 530 Ellicott Creek Road, Tonawanda. Donation is \$7.00 pre-sale/ \$10.00 at the door. Ticket information 694-2013. All welcome!



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.

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Tutor: Special Education teacher with 15 years' experience available for summer tutoring of students grades K-3 at her home (Kaymar Drive). Flexible times, \$25/hr. Call or email Amy @ 691-0635, amy-cfeldmann@gmail.com.



Why not take advantage of our *free* Classified section. WRCA members can advertise items in the *Wind-in-the-Willows* for free! See above for details.

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Willow Ridge Easter Party Memories

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Easter Party organizers, Dawn Cwierley and Connie Holovics. The WRCA is also grateful to all the volunteers who helped make the party happen: Christina Harziaczyi, John & Sandy Radens, Kevin Torrillo, Emma Hubert, Justin & Joshua Willson, Kelly Sieman, Kyle Murphy, Amanda & McKayla McRae, Kristen & Lisa Wawrszyniak, Allie Boyle, Carolyn Frawley, Erin Hayes, Regan Clayton, Jim Cwierley, Julia Stoll, and Lori Waite. WRCA's Junior Recreation Committee hosts several events throughout the year. To get involved, call Dawn Cwierley at 525-1893 or email her at dmcwierley@hotmail.com.

