

Wind-in-the-Willows

Willow Ridge Civic Association

Willow Ridge Civic Association

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope by now that all of the deep snow storms are behind us and soon we will be seeing the signs of spring. It was encouraging to see how many homes in Willow Ridge kept their driveways and sidewalks clear this winter. Thanks to the efforts of Jim Cwierley, the sidewalks along Chestnut Ridge and Willow Ridge are now also being maintained.

At our February meeting, Town Supervisor Barry A. Weinstein addressed a lively group of residents as all expressed their concerns for our neighborhood. A key point in the discussion was the vacant property at 763 Edgewater. The town meets to discuss properties like this on a by-monthly basis, and those in attendance were assured that this property is high on the town's list for action. Other topics discussed were Walmart, UB expansion and Trader Joe's. Please see the minutes of the meeting for more details..

It was reported that the current membership is now in excess of 600 members, and more renewals are coming in daily. Efforts are underway to contact the remainder of our residents and invite them to join our association. With this in mind, the Snowflake Dinner Dance coming up on March 2, is a great opportunity to sit and chat with your friends and neighbors.

Looking ahead to coming events, the children's Easter Party is scheduled for March 23. This event is always well attended and promises to be even better this year.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rick VonLangen

WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

All Members Welcome

- DEADLINE for the April WITW is Mar 15
- Health Tip of the Month: Pg. 2
- Easter Party Info: Pg. 3
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www.wrca.info

Have concerns or questions about our community?

Have a great idea?

Meet with us...

WRCA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 7:30pm

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

Community Open Forum

Healthy Life Tip of the Month:

Don't strike out; get the facts about stroke.

by Dawn Cwierley

Western New York has one of the highest incidences of stroke in our region. Take the time during National Stroke Awareness Month in May and throughout the year to learn about the warning signs and how to prevent a stroke.


In a recent American Heart Association study of stroke patients, 77% of them lacked the ability to recognize a stroke. Even if symptoms go away after a few hours or minutes, you must seek immediate medical help if you experience:

- Sudden confusion
- Slurred speech or difficulty understanding
- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arms or legs, especially on one side of the body
- Facial droop or uneven smile
- Trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness or loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden and severe headache without cause

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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 WRCA.PRESIDENT@gmail.com or any board member. Why wait? The time is now.



Willow Ridge Kids' Easter Party!!



crafts

food

games



FUN FUN FUN FUN



March 23
at Willow Ridge
Elementary School
10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.



Come on kids! Hop on over for some great
Eggstra-ordinary fun!

A special guest has agreed to take time out of his
busy schedule and come to the party!

You guessed it:
The Easter Bunny!!

Town Supervisor's Visit to the WRCA in February

Dear Neighbors,
Town Supervisor Barry Weinstein, MD was a guest speaker at the WRCA meeting on February 12, 2013, where many pertinent issues were discussed. Below is an excerpt from a letter from Dr. Weinstein received by Vice President Jim Cwierley dated February 13, regarding some of the questions raised at the meeting about changes at Boulevard Square.

"Construction at Boulevard Square—A new space for Famous Footwear is under construction at the west end of the building that accommodates Eastern Mountain Sports. Trader Joe's (Benderson) has not yet taken out a demolition permit. They will not until new space for Famous footwear has been constructed.

Parking for Trader Joe's—The footprint of Trader Joe's is considerably smaller than the existing Famous Footwear building. After Trader Joe's is constructed, the remaining space will be devoted to parking."
Debby VonLangen, editor

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

email:

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sure to put *witw* in the subject
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cated in the left margin on the
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WRCA Minutes February 13, 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 Mark Hammer, Connie Holovics, Thomas Amodeo, and Bill VanSplunder. Community attendees included Debby VonLangen, *Wind-in-the-Willows* editor, James Neubert, Bill & Patty Lisk, David Stewart, and Sandy & John Radens. The special guest this evening was Town of Amherst Supervisor Dr. Barry Weinstein.

Secretary Minutes: A motion was made by Mark Hammer to approve the secretary minutes from the January meeting. Bill VanSplunder seconded and board approval followed.

Report from Special Guest: Dr. Barry Weinstein, Town of Amherst Supervisor addressed submitted questions and others from the floor during a 50 minute report which included discussion about the distressed property task force, the vacant Wal-Mart, growth near the University of Buffalo North Campus, Trader Joe's, and road improvements.

Must detail was given to his report regarding 763 Edgewater Drive which was on the distressed property task force's list for discussion in February. He noted that there are many distressed properties in the area with many different situations. If you have a concern about a property, please call the Town of Amherst Building Department. You may also contact the assessor's office to see if taxes are up to date on that property.

Dr. Weinstein noted that as of this time, the vacant Walmart store on Niagara Falls Boulevard had no plans to rent or lease space. The town does not foresee any impact on the neighborhood on the UB campus' expansion. Much discussion was had regarding the amount of student housing being constructed. Dr. Weinstein reported that they have the right to build as they file the correct paperwork and pay their taxes.

With the addition of Trader Joe's on the boulevard, the Town does not believe it will affect flow of traffic. Upcoming roadway plans near our neighborhood are on North French and East Robinson.

Treasurer Report: Ed Goetz reported that there is currently an account balance of \$12,763 in the bank. Jim Cwierley made a motion to approve, seconded by Bill VanSplunder and board approval was granted.

Membership Report: Ed Goetz reported for Lynn Getzin that we currently have 600 paid members.

President's Report: Rick VonLangen reminded the board that there is a list of volunteers and we should engage them by inviting them to a board meeting.

Old Business: Jim Cwierley reported that he has closed out the event survey and will draw a name of the gift card winner from the participants. Tom Amodeo continues to work on plans for a family movie night. Ed Goetz reported that we have received 45 ads for the directory, which is an increase from the last year. Jim Cwierley reported that after several phone calls, he made contact with the town and was able to get the sidewalks along Chestnut Ridge and Willow Ridge plowed.

New Business:

Rick VonLangen reminded attendees that there is still an open board position. Before the March meeting we hope to speak with Bob Foadare regarding Dollars for Scholars. It was proposed and accepted unanimously to change the requirements of this scholarship. Moving forward, to be eligible for Dollars for Scholars, a student's parent(s) must be paid members of the Willow Ridge Civic Association.

Discussion was also had regarding how to proceed with listing all neighbors names in the directory. Individuals who are not members do not update their information, so there remains question whether to include them or not. A motion was made by Connie Holovics to keep the directory as is for 2013, listing all neighbors, but to set a future agenda item to discuss how block reps can be utilized to update the neighbor list. This was seconded by Tom Amodeo and board approval was granted.

Committee Reports: The Annual Wine Tasting event was held on January 26 and enjoyed by many. The Snowflake Dinner Dance is on March 2. Dawn Cwierley reported for the Jr. Recreation committee that plans are for the Easter Party to be held on March 23. The time will be moved up to 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. to accommodate younger children.

Open Forum: Rick VonLangen addressed the need for more content in the *Wind-in-the-Willows* and requested that each board member be responsible for at least one article throughout the year.

Adjournment: With no further items on the agenda, a motion was made by Jim Cwierley and seconded by Ed Goetz to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 12, at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m. All Willow Ridge residents are welcome.

Respectfully Submitted, Secretary Dawn M. Cwierley.

Neighborhood News



Get Well

Friends and neighbors are hopeful that a long series of illnesses and hospital stays are over for Dianna Lang of 375 Willow Green Drive. Bob is also pleased that she is home and recuperating although many of us may not recognize her due to a 60+ pound loss. Certainly not the most desirable way to lose weight but we all send many good wishes to Dianna that she is on a positive road to full recovery.

Congratulations

Jack and Lee Baker of 359 Willow Green Drive received the news while in Sarasota, that their son Erik and wife Amy are the very pleased parents of their 4th child and 2nd son, Martin Thomas Baker, born January 23rd in Honolulu where Erik pilots the G-5 for the Navy. He joins a busy household including Lena, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$, Ingrid 4 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Henry 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Amy's parents are there getting the first cuddles, but Jack and Lee are hoping this summer to be sharing the love with their 7th grandchild and family! Best wishes to the growing Baker family from their Willow Ridge friends and neighbors!

Neighbors on the watch. . .

It has been six months since our celebrated and very popular National Night Out was held at Willow Ridge Elementary. It was a gala, enjoyed by so many families from all over the neighborhood! As pleasant an evening as it was, it carried a message. For me, that message was "Awareness," with a capital "A." First, if we are unlucky enough to be victims of a crime, we, well, have now become aware of said crime. Next step—is to help those around us to be *Aware* of the crime. How easy is it to be lulled into a false sense of security, living in a peaceful quiet community, where (lately) the biggest complaints are mostly that it is too quiet, ie: an abandoned home or two.

I have recently received news of a crime; a car, parked in the driveway of a home in our neighborhood, was robbed. This news serves as a friendly, yet sober reminder to all to secure your cars, close your garage doors, and lock your house. Crime is everywhere, even here in our peaceful neighborhood. And thank you to our Willow Ridge neighbor, who in the spirit of National Night Out's message, took the extra step to send a warning. Let's take it to heart.

Debby VonLangen, editor

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: Leggett & Platt Power Foundations Bed, Pro-motion Model. This is a hospital type bed, made in USA, with a remote control to raise the head section, feet section, or both at once. It comes with all new accessories: 2 white mattress pads, 2 light green blankets, 3 sets of white sheets and a light green spread. It has only been used 2 months. Asking price \$1,000. Call Sandy at 691-7389.

Moving sale: folding chairs, microwave cart, bookshelf, sofa, love seat, recliner, swivel chair, dinette set, TV trays, newer gas stove, refrigerator, and other odds 'n ends. All prices negotiable. Call to see if I have what you need, Sandy at 691-7389.

Wanted: I am looking to set up a playdate for mothers of toddlers. My daughter is 18 months old and looking for other moms to get together with. I have a daughter in 2nd grade and have not found anyone for my little one to play with. I live at 114 N. Brier and you can contact me at [310-6899](tel:310-6899) if interested in getting together and meeting new people. Thanks so much, Dawn

Wanted: Retired Willow Ridge couple desires house-cleaning help two mornings a month (upstairs/one morning & downstairs/second morning) - 9:30 to 12:00. \$12.00/hour. 691-7206

For Rent: Marriott's Crystal Shores, Marco Island, FL. Week of Saturday, October 19, 2013. Spend one week relaxing on one of the premier beaches on the gulf of Mexico in Florida. Enjoy an awesome ocean-view 2 bedroom, 2 bath, family and ecologically friendly resort. It has a full kitchen, laundry, pool, beach, bar and restaurant. This property is one of the Marriott's premier timeshare resorts in North America, as it is just steps down the pristine beach from the Marco Island Marriott Resort and Spa. All for only \$1400, that's only \$200/day. You can't sleep up to 8 more affordably and luxuriously on the white sandy beach of Marco Island, Florida! For more details, call us @ 716/691-9212.



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.

Ever consider running for school board?

I am writing this article in the hope that I can motivate fellow Willow Ridge residents to think about making a run for the Sweet Home School Board. I am especially writing to those residents who have a child in any of our fine schools. On May 21, we have the privilege of electing the candidate we think best reflects our values, and what course they want for our district. This course determines how well our children are prepared to preserve our nation.

Being a school board member is an amazing way to give back to the community, while having the chance to have a real impact on children, and thus our nation's, future. Do you think the budget should drive the programs, or should the programs drive the budget? Do you think we are taxed too much, or, not enough? You decide by collaborating with other committed board members. This is the one time per year you have the opportunity to step up and have that impact.

As I reflect upon the experiences and the volunteer opportunities I have had, one of the best was ten years I served on this school board. I was fortunate to partner with a collegial board that shared the value of helping students as our #1 priority. I was blessed with the chance to work with two outstanding and visionary superintendents who shared this value. I had numerous opportunities to learn from them while having a major influence on the direction of the district. Those opportunities will always be appreciated, and thought of fondly.

You too can have the same soothing memories when you reflect upon your good deeds. But to have that privilege, you first have to file a petition to the school district by Monday, April 22nd at 5pm, and you must have 25 signatures on petition. Please contact Judy Russell at 250-1400 for more information or candidate packet.

If you hesitate because you think running for the board is "political", do not. Never was I called a derogatory name nor personally attacked. But you should be prepared to defend what kind of school district you want and why.

John Radens

Welcome March



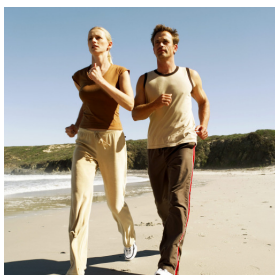
Healthy Life Tip of the Month:

Don't strike out; get the facts about stroke.

Continued from page 2

There are a number of risk factors that can put someone at a higher risk of having a stroke. These include, but are not limited to, high blood pressure; a medical history that includes heart disease, diabetes, or stroke; and high cholesterol.

When stroke strikes and you don't go to the closest ER, you're gambling with your future. Acting quickly can often mean the difference between full recovery, long-term disability and even death.



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March 2013

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Check us out and join our growing list of fans to keep up on news and with your neighbors!

**WRCA
WEB PAGE**

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

Thanks to our contributors this month:

Dawn Cwierley & John Radens