

# Wind-in-the-Willows

## Willow Ridge Civic Association

### Willow Ridge Civic Association

#### President

Rick VonLangen 691-6420

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Mark Hammer 691-4042

Connie Holovics 553-7433

Bill VanSplunder 260-1011

Carol Zaffram 691-5504

#### Wind-In-the-Willows

##### Editor

Debby VonLangen 691-6420  
wiweditor@gmail.com

##### Advertising WITW/Directory

Karen Tyno 691-4461

##### Membership/Circulation

Lynn Getzin 691-0573  
wrcalg@gmail.com

##### Directory

Debbie & Ed Goetz 691-7079

#### Area Head Reporters

Lee Baker 691-5972

Patti Burns 691-6942

Debbie Feger 691-9585

Evelyn Gagnon 564-6320

Laura Hammer 691-4042

Connie Holovics 691-9569

Jeanne Humbert 691-5016

Karen Kazial 691-8275

Marj LaHood 691-4648

Doreen Notaro 691-3507

Jane Sieman 564-0913

Kathy Smead 691-6787

Jackie Sommer 691-5605

Charlene Vitale 691-3356

#### WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 2013 7:30 p.m.

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

All Members Welcome

- DEADLINE for the June WITW is May 10
- Swimkins Can & Bottle Drive: Pg. 2
- WRCA Minutes: Pg. 3
- Graduation Info: Pg. 4
- Bits & Bytes: Pg. 5
- Neighborhood News/Classified/Grads : Pg. 6
- Happy Mothers Day/Garden Club: Pg. 7

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As I sit at my desk composing this note to all Willow Ridge residents, I am reflecting on the last couple days of 70 degree weather and the realization that summer will soon be upon us, and the events that the association has planned. Firstly significant progress is being made by the sub-committee for "Movie Night". The date has been set as Friday July 19, 2013. Festivities will begin around 8:00 PM, with food, popcorn and pop available, and to add to the appeal of this first ever event, glow-in-the-dark gifts for the first 100 children in attendance. Secondly, the annual "Garage Sale weekend" to be held in June. Look for additional information via E-Wind, and signage around the neighborhood. Thirdly, the wildly popular "National Night Out". This event is one that is and has been enjoyed by so many! Please circle August 5 on your calendar.

One of our neighbors has proposed a new idea; to place a "Little Free Library" in the area near the Willow Ridge Christmas tree. The board will vote on this expenditure at the next meeting. Please come to the meeting to express your support for this endeavor, and certainly other new ideas are welcome.

At this time I would like to say a special thanks to the Ellicott Creek Fire department for their continued support of the Civic Association. Having a place to meet year after year is greatly appreciated. Please plan on attending their "Recruit NY" open house on April 27 from 1-4 PM. Even if you cannot attend the event, you can contact the fire department directly if this is something you are interested in doing.

**VOLUNTEERS:** There are many areas for you to help. Consider if you can to offer some of your time. Any amount of help, no matter how small is greatly appreciated. Contact [WRCA.PRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WRCA.PRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM)

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rick VonLangen

#### PLEASE SLOW DOWN

A reminder to watch for increased activity in and around the street as the weather improves.



## SWIMKINS CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE

Please leave your cans or bottles  
on your porch and we will collect them.  
Sat. June 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at 9am.

Your donations will help defray the cost  
of our synchronized swim team na-  
tional meet in California.

Thank you.



**ELLICOTT CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
TO PARTICIPATE IN 3RD ANNUAL STATEWIDE  
"RECRUITNY" WEEKEND TO HELP INCREASE NUM-  
BER OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

*Recruitment Open House to be Held at Ellicott Creek Volun-  
teer Fire Department On April 27, 2013 1-4PM*

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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](mailto:WRCA.PRESIDENT@gmail.com) or any board member. Why wait? The time is now.



# WRCA Minutes

April 9, 2013

President Rick VonLangen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Also present were Vice President Jim Cwierley, Treasurer Ed Goetz, and Board members Connie Holovics and Carol Zaffram. Board members Tom Amodeo, Mark Hammer and Bill VanSplunder were absent.

Community members in attendance were Lynn Mancuso, along with Sandy and John Radens.

**Secretary Minutes:** A motion was made by Ed Goetz, seconded by Carol Zaffram to approve the minutes from the March meeting. The resolution passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed Goetz went through the monthly expenditure report, saying there was \$10,846 in reserves at the end of March. Ed Goetz made the motion to approve, seconded by Carol Zaffram, and was approved by a 5-0 vote.

**President's Report:** Rick VonLangen read a letter from the Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Department, detailing a recruitment open house on April 27 from 1 to 4 pm at the Ellicott Creek Fire House.

**Old Business:** Ed Goetz reported that directory sales were done for the year, and that we may still get some calls for ads in the *Wind-in-the-Willows*. A discussion was held about the sales coordinator and directory assembly position, and how to go about filling them.

Rick VonLangen made a suggestion to possibly combine the positions, and there was general discussion about where to find candidates.

Rick VonLangen also gave an update from Tom Amodeo about the proposed movie night. The proposed vendor agreed to lower the rate for one trial movie to \$900, with an option to host more if it is successful. Discussion also was had about recruiting volunteers, and a meeting of the movie subcommittee was discussed. Jim Cwierley reported having little success in getting the town recreation department to return calls.

**New Business:** Discussions were held about filling a vacant board seat. Current board members will continue to look for volunteers to fill the roll.

Connie Holovics reported on the success of the Easter party in March, citing the earlier start time and the helpfulness of new volunteers. A good time was had by all.

**Open Forum: Community concern:** Resident Lynn Mancuso approached the board about starting a small community lending library. It would consist of a small shed, where books could be borrowed. Shed designs and costs were discussed, as well as possible locations for the shed. Ms. Mancuso also volunteered to help on the project. Further discussion was tabled until the May meeting.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ed Goetz, seconded by Carol Zaffram, to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 14, at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vice President Jim 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. 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](mailto: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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 to live in  
 OUR neighborhood?



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**Dr. David P. Bartels**



# Bits & Bytes

by: Tom Amodeo



Every so often I get the call from a family member, friend, friend of a family member, etc... and hear the same thing, "I hate to bother you, but my...insert title here...got a virus and was wondering what he should do about it." My response is always the same. "Get to the hospital or call a doctor!" After they awkwardly laugh at my awful joke, I then actually ask how they got it and what makes you think they have a virus? This tends to be the same answer over and over again. I clicked on a website, attachment and so on.

However, getting a virus has become much easier to get in recent years. From malware to spyware and now ransomware, it is increasingly difficult to track and protect against these exploits. So, I will ask the "tech"-age old question: How do I protect myself against these viruses?

In many ways, computers are like life. If you take care of yourself, then you tend to get less sickness in your life. However, just as in life, that doesn't mean you don't get sick or diseases. Prevention is the key in all of this. The information on how to prevent these has been done a million times before, but just in case you are new to the computer world here they are:

1. Don't open attachments or links from anyone unless you are expecting it.
2. Stop using file sharing programs. They contain more viruses than music or video. Where you save in purchasing music, you will pay with your identity or personal information stolen. Use Pandora or Spotify, they are great music sources.

**To Submit Articles for the *Wind-in-the-Willows*, email: [wiweditor@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

3. Stay away from unsavory or unknown sites. It is as simple as that. Keep to known path or websites.

4. My Golden Rule: Unless you are technical, pay for a widely known anti-virus software program like Norton Anti-Virus that updates itself. This will help you in preventing any exploits in software already on your pc.

5. Keep your computer up to date with the manufacturer's operating system updates.

If you do get a virus, my favorite tool is Malware Bytes. It is Free! Simply download (if you can) and install the software. Boot into Safe Mode (Google Search "How to boot into safe mode") and run the software. I have found this fixes 60%-70% of all viruses. If you still have a virus, get it to a trusted source for removal. Best Buy, a nephew or a local PC shop are all examples.

It is so very easy to pass off. Much like getting an oil change or a physical. Owning a computer is a necessary evil. Protect your investment. You will get what you pay for.

**If you have any questions, comments or would like a topic written about, please e-mail me at: [witwbitsandbytes@gmail.com](mailto:witwbitsandbytes@gmail.com)**

**May's Tech Tip – Having trouble with ATM or credit card swiping? Cover the strip with a piece of receipt or thin paper, swipe the card normally. That being said, I can't do anything if you've reached your limit on the card.**



**Willow Ridge Civic Association on Facebook**

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



Looking for information on this year's Willow Ridge Garage Sale? Watch for this and other updates from E-Wind.

## Neighborhood News



### Sympathy

Friends and neighbors on Kaymar and throughout the neighborhood extend deepest sympathies to the Radens family. Sandy's father, Bill Bauer passed away on March 25. We wish them much strength in the comforting memories that they surely treasure.

It was with deep sadness that friends and neighbors of Bob Lang of 375 Willow Green Drive learned of the untimely passing of Bob's wife, Dianna. The Langs have been a Willow Green family for over 40 years and Dianna's friendliness endeared her to many. There was a rare event at St. Christopher Church when Diana would not be seen tirelessly volunteering her time and energies, beginning with all the years when their daughter Krista attended the Parish School. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob, Krista and grandson, Joshua, and we hope the many good memories that they will share with family and friends will comfort them during their sudden loss.

### Farewell

Neighbors on Beaumont Dr. would like to bid farewell to The Ratels. The Ratels were one of the original families on Beaumont, where they raised their 4 children.

We will sadly miss seeing them sitting on their porch this summer with the family dog by their side. We wish them well and hope they come back to visit.



## Willow Ridge Salutes the Class of 2013

### Sweet Home High Graduate

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Flanders are proud to announce the graduation of their son, Dillon from Sweet Home High School. Dillon is a proud member of the EMC Club of Roswell Park Cancer Institute and is also a First Degree Black Belt in Bushido Kia Karate. He is an avid bike rider, riding hundreds of miles per week. He will be attending NCC in the fall. *We want to wish you good luck in college, and maybe someday you'll be seen TV racing your bike!!! "Whatever" Love, Mom, Dad, and your entire family!!!*

**Please submit your graduation article by May 17 for the June edition. Details on Page 4.**

### 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

**Free:** Advertise your items for sale in this spot for free! See above.

#### For Hire

**Dog Care:** Dog walking/sitting. Will watch or walk your dog. Call Sharon 564-2773

House Cleaning: One time or weekly. Give me a call. Sharon 564-2773

**Lawn Cutting:** I will cut and edge your lawn. Reliable! Call Sharon 564-2773

**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.

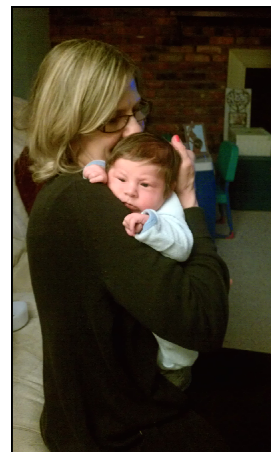
**Tutor:** Special Education teacher with 15 years' experience available for summer tutoring of students grades K-3 at her home (Kaymar Drive). Flexible times, \$25/hr. Call or email Amy @ 691-0635, [amy-cfeldmann@gmail.com](mailto:amy-cfeldmann@gmail.com).

# Happy (Grand)Mother's Day !!

Somebody must have thought this holiday covered grandmothers, too, as I am unaware of a specific day to honor grandmothers. Watching my daughters mother their own children is like a dream, where I am still sleeping and haven't woken up yet. It is surreal. I have been feeling particularly nostalgic lately with my newest grandchild living in our house with my daughter and son-in-law, the baby's arrival preceding the completion of the major remodeling of their home in Williamsville. It is like I am seeing a movie of my own life, watching her, and also my other two grown daughters in their various stages of motherhood, their children ranging in age from 6 years to 6 weeks. . .totaling 6 grandchildren. Hmmm . . . no wonder I chose this moment to pause, here on the brink of another Mother's Day!

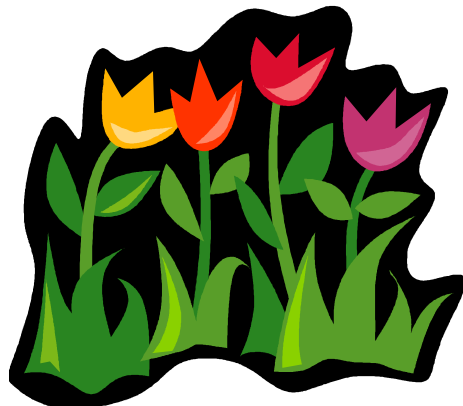
As I catch snatches of my daughters' experiences, here I am, reliving my own life as a young mother, worrying that the mistake with the school bus might happen again. My eyes again are darting around the room like a hockey puck, trying to get an answer out of a child who holds conversations while dashing around the room. I am again, holding a child really too big to be held, while the younger one gleefully teeters toward imminent danger. I am lovingly, once more putting out of my mind back and arm pain while holding an infant who loves to observe the floor and lean over the bicep rather than stay upright and peer over the shoulder. "Hey Mom, are you tired?" "No," I reply. "Not yet." Not ever, is what I think. "Mom, is this . . .normal?" my daughter, who is experiencing her first few weeks as a mother asks. Hadn't I uttered those same words myself, just yesterday to my own mother? "Yes, it's normal." I answer back, echoing the words from my mother. I just substitute the name. "It's just Blake. That's just Blake being himself." Apparently, only the names change, not the experiences. My live-in family tells me the day they will be moving into their home. The work is done. "No, not yet!" I answer. That's when this swell of nostalgia soaked me like an errant wave. Oh, I loved being a mother then, and I would do it all over again. Hey, I am! I'm a grandma! Happy Mother's and , uh, Grandmother's Day!

Debby VonLangen  
Editor & Grandmother



## 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!



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**May  
2013**

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Coming up this summer in Willow Ridge!

Willow Ridge Garage Sale: TBA

Family Movie Night: July 19

National Night Out: August 6

