

# Wind-in-the-Willows

## Willow Ridge Civic Association

### Willow Ridge Civic Association

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### Bulletin Board

#### WRCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 9, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Ellicott Creek Fire Hall

All Members Welcome

- **DEADLINE for the July WITW is June 12**
- **Classified (page 2)**
- **Graduates (pages 4 & 8)**
- **Minutes (page 5)**

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

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I have been asked by my fellow board members to discuss a few topics this month and I will try to be brief. Topic 1: When walking your dogs, please clean up after them. It is the law not to mention plain good manners. Topic 2: We are a volunteer organization, and as such need help in a number of areas, especially block reps. Please contact Kerri Jasen if you can help. Topic 3: Explain why one should get involved with the civic association. The purpose of our association is not to enforce any rules or harass property owners. It is to make sure that our neighborhood stay the charming place that we all love. We do this by fighting overdevelopment, providing activities for our children, providing a monthly newsletter and yearly neighborhood phone book (both of which contain valuable coupons) and social functions for the adults. Our association has fought against the student housing and overdevelopment of Chestnut Ridge, kept Willow Ridge Rd. from becoming 4 lanes and a thoroughfare to Sweet Home, and had the pedestrian bridge built over the I-990. Not bad for \$12-\$15 a year. So please get involved! You may be surprised; it is actually more enjoyable than you think!

Warm Wishes,

Bob Foladare

### GRADUATION ARRIVES

It is hard to believe it, but another school year inches closer to the end, and we want to be one of the first to congratulate our 2009 graduates by listing them all in the next issues of the *Wind-in-the-Willows*. After all, they are our own Willow Ridgers and we are duly proud of them. In order to accomplish this we are again asking that you submit your graduate's name, address, and graduating school (college or high school) Include any accomplishments and/or goals for the future you wish. Then, to make the announcement extra special, be sure to include a signed "one-liner;" a message to your graduate. Please type or print on a full sheet of paper and have it in to me by June 12 to insure the July edition. If you are a bit late, submit it anyway and I will do my best to add it to the July issue. If not, it will appear in the August issue. Drop off your announcement in the box on my 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 length of announcement, some editing may become necessary. Some of you have sent notices of your children moving up to the Middle School. Although these are also turning points in life and we are happy for them, **we cannot post "moving up" to the middle/high school announcements. There simply isn't room!** Come on, proud moms and dads! Here's your chance to show off your high school or college graduate! Debby VonLangen, Editor

## Classified Advertisements

*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). Thank you.

### For Sale:

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**Furniture:** Two matching Drexel Heritage barrel back chairs; pink \$99.00 691-9338

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### To Submit Articles

for the *Wind-in-the-Willows*, submit to [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.

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### Our Willow Ridge Neighborhood Offers:

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**June 2009**

- 1 Boys Spring Sports Banquet, 6pm, HS
- 2 PTO Meeting, 7pm, WR; Gr.8 NYS Social Studies Assessment, 6/2-6/3
- 3 GAA Banquet, 6:30pm @ Samuel's Grande Manor, HS; Grade 7 Awards, 3:30pm; Grades 7-8 Boys Chorus & Grade 8 Girls Chorus Concert, 7pm, MS
- 4 PTSA Meeting, 7pm @ HS AAC
- 5 Art Show, 4-7pm, MS
- 6 SAT I & II, 7:45am, HS
- 8 PTA Meeting, 7pm MS
- 9 BOE Study Session, 7pm @ NVCC
- 10 Health & Wellness Committee Meeting, 3:30pm @ NVCC; Grade 8 Awards, 3:30pm; Bike Rodeo, 8:45am, WR
- 12 Grade 8 Party, 7-10pm; Flag Day, 9am, WR; Senior Prom, 6-11pm @ Hyatt Regency Buffalo; Senior Activities, 9am, HS
- 13 ACT, 7:45am, HS
- 15 Senior Scholars Breakfast, 7:45am, HS; Graduation Rehearsal, HS
- 16 BOE Meeting, 7pm @ NVCC; Regent Exams, 6/16-6/24
- 17 BOE Meeting, 7pm @ NVCC; District Health & Safety Committee Meeting, 4:30pm @ DO
- 19 Field Day, WR
- 23 5th Grade Moving Up Day, 9am; Final Attendance Day Grades K-5
- 25 End of Year Luncheon, MS; Senior Awards Night 7pm, HS; Superintendent Conference Day/Staff Development Day
- 26 Commencement Ceremonies, 6pm @ UB Center for the Arts; Superintendent Conference Day/Staff Development Day.

**Events Subject to Change/Check with School**



*Something New is in the Wind!*

**E-Wind**

**Attention Willow Ridge!**

**E-Wind** is an email supplement to the **Wind-in-the-Willows** that will be used as needed to convey information to the members of the **Willow Ridge Civic Association**. If you wish to be included on the **E-Wind** distribution list, please register on [www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info)

**WRCA WEB PAGE [www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info)**

Did you know that Willow Ridge has its own web page? Go to [www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info) to discover the Willow Ridge Civic Association web page. Explore the interesting components of **Events, Wind-in-the-Willows, Photo Gallery, and Consumer Discounts**. Check on **Links** to discover associated organizations. Upload, for posting your photograph of neighborhood events. Click on the **Registration** link to submit your e-mail address to register for E-Wind and to receive advanced copies of the **Wind-in-the-Willows** and notices of special events and important meetings affecting our neighborhood. Get involved with your Civic Association through the WRCA Web Page. [www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info)

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## *Willow Ridge Salutes the Graduates of 2009*

Congratulations to Maureen Forrester Finney of 154 Rockdale Dr. who received her Doctorate in Health Policy and Health Education in June. Maureen is a physician assistant and chairs the P.A. program at D'Youville College.

### ***Fredonia State Graduate***

The Halter family is proud to announce the graduation of Tim from Fredonia State U. Tim earned his degree in Chemistry and Biology, and plans to continue his education in the fall. *Tim— we know how hard you have worked over the past four years—you have grown to be great young man. Love, Mom, Dad, Kris, Mike and Grandma.*

### ***Niagara University Graduate***

Congratulations to Andrew Goetz, son of Ed and Debbie Goetz of 87 Grasspointe Dr., who graduated with a B.A. in Communications from Niagara U. A 2005 graduate of Sweet Home High, Andrew is currently working in sales and marketing for the Philpac Corporation.

### ***University at Buffalo Graduates***

Dale and Judy Ehman of Willow Lane are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter Jennifer from the joint JD/MBA program at UB. *We love you, honey!*

Scott Ptak, son of Liz Ptak, 579 South Ellicott Creek Rd., graduated with advanced honors in three from the University at Buffalo last May and is graduating in 2009 with his Masters in Geography from UB. At 2005 graduate of Sweet Home High School, Scott will be attending UB Law School in September. *Congratulations Scott!*

### ***Sweet Home High School Graduates***

The Halter family is proud to announce the graduation of Mike Halter from Sweet Home High School. Mike—We are very proud of you and all your accomplishments. Best of luck to you as you enter the college years. We love you! Mom, Dad, Tim, Kris, and Grandma.

Adrianna Ammerman is graduating from Sweet Home. She has been a very active participant in school events through student council, and the music program. Also for many years she has actively served the community in Girl Scouts, and volunteering at Buffalo General Hospital. In the fall, she will attend SUNY Brockport majoring in early childhood education/special education. *We are so proud of the exquisite young woman you have become. Our love to you always as you begin your life dreams.*

Congratulations to Jamie Levin, who is graduating from the Sweet Home Class of 2009! *Jamie, I have to tell you how proud I am of you. You have had your share of heartaches throughout the years, yet you have developed into a caring, smart, loving individual. I could never ask for or want more from you. You are a great girl, Jamie. Thank you for making it easy to parent you throughout the years. Good luck at Niagara U. and congratulations on your graduation from Sweet Home. We love you. Mom, Stephanie and Grandma.*

Brittany May will be graduating from Sweet Home High School and plans to attend NCCC in the fall. *Congratulations to you Brittany, we are very proud of you and all that you have done through the years. Love you very much, Dad, Mom, Crystal, Dean, Mary, your grandparents, all of your aunts and uncles, and of course, Bear.*

***Graduates continued on page 8***

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## WRCA MINUTES

May 12, 2009

President Bob Folandare called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were President Bob Folandare, Vice President Ed Goetz, Secretary Pat Land, Treasurer Jack Baker; Board Members Karen Tyno, John Cowden, John Radens, Jim Prentice, and Clayton Cobb. In the gallery were Cam Hill, Kerri Jasen, Lee Baker, and Neil Cuomo.

The secretary's minutes from April were reviewed and a motion was made by John Radens and seconded by Ed Goetz to accept said minutes. A board approval followed.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jack Baker reported that all expenses were met from April. April expenses were \$1183.00, April income was 1545.00, with an account balance of \$7697.00. A motion was made by Jim Prentice and seconded by Karen Tyno to approve the treasurer's report, and the board unanimously approved. Jack also reported that we have received an approval and the WRCA is now a federally approved 501c4 organization. Jack Baker and Ed Goetz will meet with Terry Elberson CPA to discuss our tax and financial status requirements within this new designation.

### President's Report

Bob Folandare received a letter from a concerned citizen about the debris littering the sidewalk and grass on Willow Ridge and Chestnut Ridge Road. Bob will speak to Home Depot and Wal Mart to address their responsibilities on this issue.

### Membership Report

Membership Director Kerri Jasen stated that 805 paid renewals have been received. This number represents 95% of her goal of 850 members for 2009. Kerri is in need of 11 block reps and 3 head reporters. Hopefully she will get some volunteers to help out and contribute their talents to our community. Anyone interested should contact her.

### Committee Reports

**Garage Sale Chairman (John Cowden)** John reported that the annual garage sale is set for the weekend of June 19, 20, and 21. This year's sale should be even bigger than last year's.

**National Night Out** Jim Prentice will contact John Miller about National Night Out to be held in August.

### Old Business

Pat Land reporting on Willow Ridge diamonds: The WRCA board of directors started work at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 25. The diamonds were weeded, base paths were re-cut, and lined, leaves and debris raked, benches sanded and stained, and litter from around the diamond area and neighboring fences was picked up. The diamonds are now ready for all of the youth of Willow Ridge to use and enjoy. Pat would like to thank Boy Scout Troop 173 for their tireless efforts in helping to rake leaves and pick up trash. Also thank you to Ron Coniglio for working hand in hand with us on this project. Pat stated he was disappointed that with all of the use these diamonds get from local teams practicing on them all summer that we only had one volunteer from the community show up to help out.

### New Business

Neil Cuomo is busy working on organizing the summer picnic, which will take place some time in August. More details to follow in the coming month.

Pat Land will contact all of the area Scout troops to have them attend the June meeting and explain their plans for service to our community.

The WRCA scholarship winners are in the process of being selected by the Sweet Home Dollars for Scholars Committee; and they will advise us of their choices shortly.

Willow Ridger, Terry Elberson of the accounting firm Schunke Wilson and Company has graciously offered his time to prepare WRCA tax documents t no charge to our association.

### Community Open Forum

Web Master Jack Baker has received great response to E-Wind. About 120 suggestions from the community as to how we can better our neighborhood and association have been received. The WRCA board has already acted on and implemented many of these suggestions. Some of the other notable suggestions were, to sponsor teen events and senior events. The board would like to act on these two worthwhile ideas and requests that anyone who is willing to volunteer to help organize and/or chair such an event to please contact any board member or come to a future WRCA meeting to get involved. Jack welcomes any and all suggestions.

### Adjournment

With no further items on the agenda, a motion was made by Ed Goetz and seconded by Jim Prentice to adjourn at 8:55 pm. The next meeting will be June 9 at the Ellicott Creek Fire Hall. Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Land, Secretary

**TIME TO GET READY FOR:**

**WRCA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE**

**JUNE 19, 20, 21**

### Free Health Seminar

**For:** Any interested person(s) and/or caregiver(s)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
**Time:** 6:00 – 9:00 PM  
**Location:** Buffalo Rehab Group Physical Therapy, PC  
350 Greenhaven Terrace  
..... Tonawanda, NY 14150  
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**WRCA ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEE PERSONS**

**Boy Scouts**  
**Cub Scouts**  
**Directory**  
**Garage Sale**  
**Garden Club**  
**Girl Scouts**  
**Historian**  
**Holiday Lighting Contest**  
**Junior Recreation**

**Bob Sieman**  
**Brian Rieman**  
**Jane Sieman**  
**John Cowden**  
**Virginia Winter**  
**Karen Lambe**  
**Cam Hill**  
**Neil Cuomo**  
**John Cowden**

**Membership**  
**National Night Out**  
**Octoberfest**  
**Project Leader**  
**Publicity**  
**Scholarships**  
**Sunshine**  
**Webmaster**

**Kerri Jasen**  
**Gary Roussie**  
**Clayton Cobb**  
**Neil Cuomo**  
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**Bob Folandare**  
**Lee Baker**  
**Jack Baker**

**Amherst Museum**  
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**689-1440 www.amherstmuseum.org**

**June 6– Story of Amherst, an American Suburb Exhibit Opening** learn how Amherst evolved from the early 1800’s into the diverse and vibrant community it is today. Explore visions of Amherst’s future.

**June 17— Quilt Consortium Meeting, 10am**—open to members of any quilt guild; registration \$8. includes breakfast and lunch . Call museum for more information.

**June 20-21—Civil War Weekend, Saturday, 10am—5pm; Sunday, 11am-4pm; \$6/adults, \$3/children, members \$1 off.**

Visit camps, talk to soldiers, tour historic Buildings, watch artillery demos, watch a battle, listen to music of the era, join in camp dancing, and shop with battlefield vendors or “sutlers.”

**July 11– Don Davis Car Show. Free admission.** Hot rods, antiques, muscle cars and trucks will fill the grounds.

**July 18– 19; 25-26 & Aug. 1; Blacksmith School,** Learn building and managing coal-fired and gas forges, tool making, forge welding, etc. Intended for absolute beginners, must be over 18, maximum 8 students, pre-registration required. Call Jean @ ext. 7711.

**July 20-24 Discovery School Day Camp,** Children 8-12 will delve into the fascinating world of history. Call for brochure.

**ATTENTION WILLOW RIDGE!**

Families on Sweetwood Dr. N. will be participating in the **WRCA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON JUNE 20.** All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Zaplowski family in memory of

John Zaplowski.

If you are not participating in the garage sale this year but have an item that you would like to donate to our sale, please call 525-1087 or email:

[jmb88brooks@yahoo.com](mailto:jmb88brooks@yahoo.com).

Joanne Brooks, Lisa Raimondi, or Terry Gaulin will gladly pick up any item you wish to donate! Thank you!

**Joseph R. Battaglia**

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### WRCA MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

Many of our Willow Ridge neighbors took the opportunity to respond to the **Program Suggestions** section of our 2009 Membership Renewal Invoice. In addition, over 200 of you included your email address with your membership renewal. We will use these addresses to keep you informed of news and events as they arise between the publication dates of the *Wind-in-the-Willows*. Look for your **E-Wind** email publication in the future.

It has taken time to read through over 600 renewal forms, many of which contained suggestions and comments. I will share some of these ideas with you.

A number of you were very kind with your comments of support for the work of your WRCA Board of Directors and even more were pleased with the new invoice method of membership renewal. We thank you for this support of our efforts on your behalf.

We received comments on the Home Depot discount situation. The termination of this arrangement was made by Home Depot. We attempted to negotiate with them to no avail. These decisions come from corporate headquarters, not from the individual store managers. We also met with the Lowe's management, again with no positive result. May I remind you that there are a number of discount coupons in our **Willow Ridge Directory** and in the *Wind-in-the-Willows*. We encourage you to support the merchants that support Willow Ridge.

There were some suggestions on how we might improve the *Wind-in-the-Willows*—these have been passed on to the WITW Editor for review.

Actual program suggestions were many and varied. Moving the Children's Halloween Party to Halloween night; neighborhood cleanup; clothing drive to support St. Christopher's Outreach; programs for teenagers; programs for seniors; programs for singles; programs for women; garden club show; dog walk fundraiser for charity; talent show at National Night Out; and a garage band contest were mentioned. These are all excellent ideas that were discussed by the Board of Directors at the May meeting.

In that the Willow Ridge Civic Association is an all volunteer organization, additional programs require additional volunteers. If any of these ideas motivate any of you to become involved, you will be welcomed with open arms. Please come to the June Association meeting and get involved.

You are invited to make comments and suggestions through our website at [www.wrca.info](http://www.wrca.info).

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**Dr. David P. Bartels**

# June 2009

## **Sweet Home High Graduates Continued from page 4**

Congratulations to Frank Cuomo who is graduating from Sweet Home High. He will be attending FIT in New York City this fall pursuing a degree in merchandising & management. *We are very proud of you and know you have an exciting and wonderful road ahead of you!! Much Love, Mom, Dad, Sara, & Nick*

Congratulations to Dan Kozlowski from 4 Elderwood Ct. who will graduate from Sweet Home and attend UB. *Dan we know you will do well and we are very proud of you. Love Mom, Dad, and Matt.*

Congratulations to John Valkwitch of North Brier Rd., who is a 2009 Sweet Home High graduate. John graduated as a National Honor Society Member and won the prestigious Provost Scholarship from the University of Buffalo, where he will attend in the fall as an Economics Major. *John, we are so proud of the young man you have become. May God continue to bless you, as you journey into the next season in your life. Love forever, Mom and Dad.*

Congratulations to Amanda Skinner, daughter of Debbi Coniglio and step daughter of Ronald Coniglio, of Dalewood Dr. She will graduate in June from Sweet Home High School. Amanda has been very active in the music department at Sweet Home. She has been the lead Alto Saxophone player in the Jazz Ensemble, has been a member of the Concert Chorale and has been a lead in the musicals over the past 4 years. She will be attending SUNY Geneseo in January. *Amanda, we are so proud of everything you have done. You will always be our shining star. Love Mom, Ron and Zachary.*

## **Neighborhood News**

### **Sympathy**

Friends and neighbors on Sweetwood North would like to extend their deepest sympathy to Pam, Eric and Sara on the passing of their husband and father, John Zapalowski. He will be sadly missed and we are so sorry for your loss.

Friends and neighbors of Maricrest Drive would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Schnirel family. On April 28, their son, Matthew was killed in a plane crash just outside of Cleveland. Matt grew up in the neighborhood and will be remembered by all of us as that great kid who grew up to be a promising attorney—with a life cut short at the age of 26. A memorial is currently being set up in his honor. If you would like to help get the fund started, donations can be mailed to the following address: Matthew J. Schnirel Memorial Fund, UB Foundation, P.O. Box 1232, Buffalo, NY 14240-1232.

### **Farewell**

The Finney's: Tim, Maureen and children Maeve and Meghan, are moving to their newly built home in Wheatfield. We wish them much happiness in their new home.

### **Welcome**

Sweetwood North would like to welcome Jim Marshall and Bethany Rubin and their baby girl, Kelsey to the Willow Ridge community. We wish them well in their new home!

### **Congratulations**

Friends and neighbors of Maricrest Drive would like to announce the birth of Jordan Thomas Yencer. Jordan was born on April 29 weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 ozs. We are looking forward to seeing Jeff, Sue and Tiana walking that beautiful baby boy!