

February 2018



Wind in the Willows



**LAST ISSUE TO 2017 MEMBERS!
PLEASE RENEW OR JOIN!**

Message from the President

Even though we are in the “Dead Of Winter”, WRCA has awesome events coming up!

SNOWFLAKE DANCE March 3rd -This is an annual event of Food, Drinks, and Dancing! It is a time for the community to get out and see those neighbors you last saw in person back in September or the occasional time you are clearing your driveway and shout across the street “HEY!” This year’s Snowflake Dance is \$35/person or \$70/couple, covering well drinks, bottle beer and great food!

Dress code: There isn’t one.

Dress up-dress down, all up to you. No pajamas please!

Email: snowflakedance@wrca.us

Call or text Carol 716-913-4980 to reserve your spot!

CHILDREN’S EASTER PARTY! March 24th Once again WRCA and Amherst Baptist Church team up for a Fun-Filled Morning for the kids! Egg Hunting, Bounce House, Games, Snacks and of course, a visit from The Easter Bunny!

If you wish to help out, contact Cassandra Email: children.events@wrca.us

I would like to congratulate Ann Nichols for assuming the position of Vice President of the WRCA Board!

I want to thank Tom Amodeo for all his years of work and support with the WRCA as Vice President. Tom will continue his work with the board and our association as The Webmaster in helping us with Email Blasts, so important information and WITW are sent to WRCA Membership!

MOVIE NIGHT July 27th Jim Cwierley has informed me that Amherst Movie Night will be on July 27th. The movie to be played is still: To Be Announced. Location more than likely: Willow Ridge Elementary School or Bedford Park...
So save the date!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Next WRCA Board Meeting Feb 13th
at 7:30pm to 9pm
at Ellicott Creek
Volunteer Fire Company
45 S Ellicott Creek Rd,
Amherst, NY 14228

Snowflake Dinner Dance
Saturday,
March 3, 2018

Easter Party
Saturday,
March 24, 2018

Please check out
WRCA New
Website WRCA.US

Cont'd on page 2

Contact Us

President

Erich Krueger 691-9952 or
949-2561

Vice President

Ann Nichols 830-6359

Secretary

Jane Sieman 870-3412

Treasurer

Donna Mosteller 465-8436

Board of Directors

Andy Annesi 812-8851

Cassandra Schwab 982-3984

Marijean Nichols 691-4375

John Radens 691-7389

Tom Amadao 250-9928

Membership/Circulation

Jane Sieman 870-3412

Wind In The Willows

Marijean Nichols 691-4375

Advertising Sales - WITW

Andy Annesi 812-8851

Directory

Jane Sieman 870-3412

Visit us on the web at

WRCA.US

Share your stories!

Do you know of a new neighbor or maybe a long time friend leaving Willow Ridge? Have you or your child made a significant achievement lately?

We want to know about letters of intent, National Honor Society honorees, special certifications, Girl Scout Gold Awards, Boy Scout Eagle Scouts, and much more!

Send your news and photos to 136 Dalewood Drive or email it to WITW@WRCA.US.

Follow us on Facebook
Willow Ridge Civic Association



Message from the President Cont'd from Page 1

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!! It is not too late to Join or Renew your WRCA Membership. Only \$17 per year! Your Dues support Children's Activities, Scholarships, Adult Activities, Monthly Newsletter and our voice in Local Government.

Please read Marijean's "Membership Drive 2018-Why Should I Join?" article. I wanted to reissue it, since we are still in the midst of our Membership drive! It is a good read from a WRCA Member's point of view.

H. Erich Krueger

EASTER PARTY PLANNING meeting is Thursday March 1st at 7:30 pm at Amherst Baptist Church. If you can make it you are all welcome to join! Children.events@wrca.us

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We value your community participation that is key to our community Willow Ridge Civic Association. We enjoy bringing people together, including neighbors, to capture the values and interests of our community.

JOIN TODAY

I have buyers for Willow Ridge, call me to find out what your home is worth!



JOSEPH BATTAGLIA
Associate Real Estate Broker

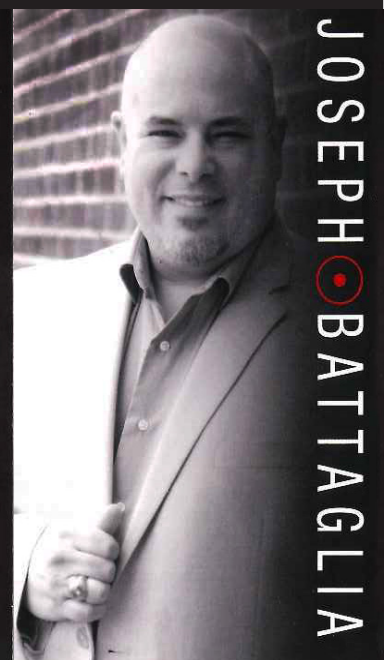
Cell: 716-863-4586

joeashome4u@aol.com

5500 Main St, Ste 108
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-832-3300



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JOSEPH BATTAGLIA

WRCA Minutes

WRCA MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

The November WRCA meeting was called to order at 7:47 pm by President Erich Krueger.

In attendance were President Erich Krueger, Secretary Jane Sieman, and Board Members Cassandra Schwab, John Radens, Marijean Nichols and Ann Nichols. Excused was Vice President Tom Amodeo, Treasurer Donna Mosteller and Board Member Andrew Annesi.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion was made to approve the December meeting minutes by John Radens and seconded by Cassandra Schwab.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Donna Mosteller submitted a treasurer's report via Secretary Jane Sieman. Income for the month of December was \$5,039.50. Expenses for the month of December was \$763.82. The balance for the end of December was \$7,503.67. A motion made to accept treasurer's report by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Cassandra Schwab.

DISCUSSION

Board Elections-Vice President Tom Amodeo stepped down from his position due to family obligations. Position is open. John Radens nominated Ann Nichols for the position of Vice President. Nomination was accepted. Secretary cast a vote for the appointment of Ann Nichols for Vice President.

WRCA is need of 2 more board members. Any interested Willow Ridge member can contact a WRCA officer or board member for more information. Contacts and phone numbers are listed in this issue of the WITW.

Membership Drive- Jane Sieman reported. We have received approximately 400 memberships to date. Postcards will be sent out only to those who have not joined or renewed their membership by the end of January. Working on update reports for the block reps to follow up with also. Memberships that are received up to February 28, 2018 will be included in the updates for the 2018 directory.

Sidewalks - Benchmark spoke with Home Depot about shoveling sidewalks on Chestnut Ridge. The town has also been notified and been involved as well.

Snowflake Dinner Dance
- Saturday, March 3, 2018.
Cost of \$70.00 per couple.
Dinner stations and open bar. Carol Zaffram is contact for this event.
More details in this issue.

Easter Party - Saturday, March 24, 2018 10:00 a.m. - Noon at Willow Ridge Elementary School. Cassandra Schwab is contact for this event. Set up at the school the night before. More details in this issue.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting came to a close at 8:21 p.m. Motion was made by John Radens to adjourn and seconded by Marijean Nichols.

Next Willow Ridge Civic Assoc. meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13th at 7:30 p.m. in Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Sieman - WRCA
Secretary**



Membership Drive 2018-Why Should I Join?

When we moved here 35 years ago, almost every household belonged. Sadly, this is no longer true. Through the years, perhaps all the new residents in Willow Ridge do not know the importance of a continuing homeowner's association. Hopefully this update will explain how a strong membership benefits your family.

A civic association is a type of organization whose official goal is to improve neighborhoods through the dues and volunteer work of its members. Dues go back into the community to provide the many recreational activities for our children such as the Halloween party, Easter party, and all the fun for the younger members during National Night Out in the summer. We coordinate the outdoor family movie night with the Town held in Bedford Park in August. There are several annual events for adults also, the Snowflake Dinner Dance and Wine Tasting Event. Although dues money is not used for these events, a share of the tickets is used to fund the yearly scholarships given to two Willow Ridge high school seniors each year. We also promote the springtime neighborhood garage sale and provide refreshments for organized groups of neighbors to clean up our green spaces during the warm weather and for those who join us for our holiday tree lighting at the corner of Willow Ridge Drive and Sweetwood. While these social events give us the opportunity to share the happy times with our neighbors, not everyone has children, time to socialize, or is even interested in attending these things. However, there is so much more to being a Willow Ridge Civic Association member than our social events.

The most important service that WRCA provides our neighborhood affects every single homeowner who lives in Willow Ridge. For most of us, one of the biggest investments we make is purchasing our home. Maintaining and improving the value invested in a home purchase is very important for all of us. When a neighborhood starts experiencing problems that impact our bottom financial line, we all face losing some of the equity we have built up through home ownership. Working on keeping Willow Ridge the sought after and desirable neighborhood it is known as has always been the most important service the Willow Ridge Civic Association has provided.

During the past ten months, we have been actively facing many issues that have the potential to negatively affect our property values. The installation of cell towers in our backyards, the development of new apartment complexes in the backyards of homeowners, the "zombie" houses left by the banks that are not maintained, the traffic issues resulting in pedestrian deaths on Niagara Falls Boulevard, these are the bigger problems we have been addressing. The potholes, falling trees and rowdy renters are ongoing issues we address. While WRCA is not a politically partisan organization, nonetheless, we need to work with town government on resolving issues in the best interests for Willow Ridge. Member or not, everyone who lives benefits from the hard work put in by the WRCA to achieve the best results of all of us.

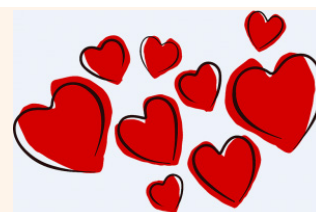
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Membership Drive Cont'd from Page 4

Yes, we need also need more members who attend the monthly meetings, show interest in becoming a board member, or volunteer to work on helping at community events. The board members are all volunteers who want to keep Willow Ridge a place to call home. But for this issue, the one thing we really ask is for you to support our efforts by becoming a member.

The \$17/year brings so many benefits, seen and unseen, in return.

Marijean Nichols



THE BUFFALO NEWS

Town Board member Lavin to meet with constituents Shawn Lavin, one of the new members of the Amherst Town Board, wants to hear from his constituents. Lavin, a Democrat who won election in November and took his seat on the board this month, plans to meet with the public every Wednesday in February at the Audubon Public Library, 350 John James Audubon Parkway. Lavin has reserved a study room for the sessions, which will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Lavin said he encourages Amherst residents to stop by to discuss any issues they have with the town. No per-registration is necessary. – Stephen T. Watson

This news brief was published in The Buffalo News on January 25, 2018

WRCA Easter Party!

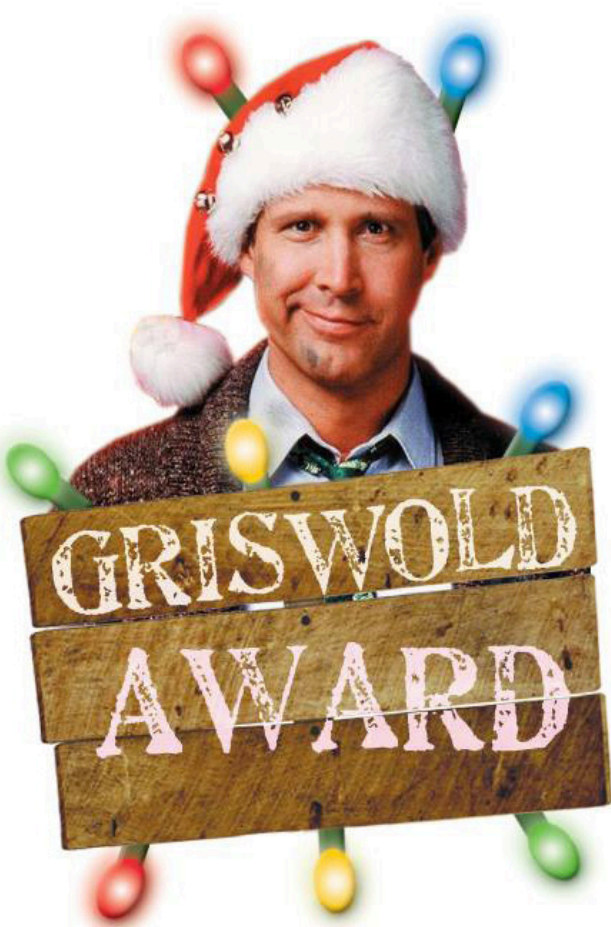
The Easter Bunny is coming to Willow Ridge!

Willow Ridge Civic Association & Amherst Baptist Church will be hosting our Annual Easter Party on Saturday March 24th at 10am at Willowridge Elementary!

To volunteer for this event please contact
Cassandra Schwab at (716) 982-3984



These are the winners of the Christmas House Decoration Contest.



1. 7 Maricrest Dr. - **Griswold Award**
2. 43 Manor Oak Dr.
3. 47 Parkhaven Dr.
4. 145 South Ellicott Creek Dr.
5. 248 Denrose Dr.
6. 18 Black Spruce Ct.
7. 493 Kaymar Dr.
8. 73 Jeanmoor Rd.
9. 102 Willow Lane.
10. 123 Dalewood Dr.

Prizes will be distributed this month.

As always making the selection of winners is a very tough decision!

I would like to thank Tom Amodeo and Jim Cwierley for being this year's judges.

H. Erich Krueger



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Sidewalk Snow Clearing Contractor List

For Residents

The Town of Amherst currently provides a Sidewalk Snow Relief Program which assists residents who are located in two special districts that have exceptional hardships in clearing their sidewalks during winter months by providing snow relief services. This helps ensure that sidewalks are clear and safe for use by pedestrians in accordance with Town Code 83-9-5. The Town's Sidewalk Snow Relief Committee continues to receive requests from residents and neighborhoods for sidewalk snow clearing services, but it is not possible for the Town to include all requests in its current program.

Therefore, the Town has created a list of sidewalk snow clearing contractors who are willing and able to contract with property owners to clear snow on private sidewalks during winter months. The list can be accessed by using the link below. This list is continuously updated as contractor requests are received.

The Town does not recommend contractors. The list of contractors is simply made available to residents who may then contact individual companies to contract for sidewalk snow clearing services. The Town is not involved and does not have any responsibility beyond forming, maintaining, and making the list available to residents. Any agreements or contracts regarding pricing, hours, etc. would be between the resident and the contractor, and would not involve the Town. It is recommended that residents get more than one quote from various contractors and inquire about contractors having up-to-date insurance.

~Please view the Sidewalk Snow Clearing Contractor List within this newsletter ~



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Michael Olear, MSW
Lic. Assoc. R.E. Broker
Long-time Willow Ridge resident

716.880.4442(o)
olear.com

Support Meals on Wheels - olear.com/donate



Sidewalk Snow Clearing Contractor List

Kramer the Snowman
Darrell Kramer
716-346-5862
Snowman.sr.15@gmail.com

TCB Lawn & Snow
Shevonne Brown
716-400-8305
tcblawncare@yahoo.com
*Servicing the Amherst/Snyder area near Main Street.

Lupke Landscaping
Chuck Lupke
716-832-4157
rlkcid@yahoo.com

Willow Ridge Landscaping, Inc.
Tony Cangialosi
716-531-3442
tonyswillowridge@yahoo.com
*24 hour notice will be required. We can provide seasonal quotes or per diem.

Milherst Construction, Inc.
James Collins, Jr.
716-688-9098
jimjr@milherst.com

WNY Seasonal Services
Michael Holmberg
716-908-8985
wnyseasonalservices@gmail.com
*Servicing Amherst near Transit Road & Clarence.

Razors Edge Lawn Cutting and Snowplowing
Anthony Dagostino
716-812-3034
razorsedgelawnsnow@gmail.com

Reinhart Enterprises Landscaping and Lawn Care, LLC
Nick Reinhart
716-207-2352
nick@reinhartlandscaping.com
*24 hour notice will be required. Main service area includes Amherst and
Williamsville (14221/14226 zip codes).

Spectrum Landscape Services, LLC
Paul Reamsnyder
716-580-3431
paul@spectrumservice.net



For any complaints about individual contractors on this list, please call Sarah Griebner at the Town of Amherst Engineering Department 716-631-7154

Go Fund Me honoring Karen Richardson

Wife, Mother, Daughter, Neighbor, Friend, and Teacher

Karen Richardson GoFundMe Page

<https://www.gofundme.com/4tp0hts>





Snowflake Dinner Dance

March 3, 2018

7:00 PM to ?

It's that time to start thinking about warming up with some friends and neighbors. This year will be a little different, well drinks, bottle beer and great food, all for just \$70/couple. It will not be a sit down dinner or a buffet, but there will be lots of food, drinks and dancing. Call or text Carol to learn more and get your tickets 716-913-4980.

LOCATION:

**Classics Five Banquet and Conference Center
2425 Niagara Falls Blvd,
Amherst, New York 14228**

Music by DJ Erich

(Rock & Roll, Top 40, Retro 70s, 80's, 90's,
2000's and Country Hits!)

Call or text Carol for details (716)913-4980

Facebook Events:

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/2064195623816576/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2064195623816576/)

Willow Ridge PTO News and Events

Candy Sale:

The annual Candy Sale is going on now and running until February 7. Booklets were sent home with the kids, but orders can be taken through the PTO as well. Orders are to be picked up Wednesday, March 14 between 3:00-6:00 in the Willow Ridge Cafeteria. Any questions, please call Maureen Mellerski at 491-0992.

February Frolics:

This fun event is open to all of the students to come play games, get prizes, eat snacks, bounce in the bounce house and socialize. It is a yearly tradition and an event that the kids really look forward to. The Frolics take place on February 9 from 6:00-8:30. Volunteers are needed to help make this night a success – so if you are interested, please contact the PTO by calling the school or checking out our Facebook page.

On-Going School Programs:

- **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** – the holidays are here, so please be on the lookout for any box tops labels when cooking or baking. Non-expired box-tops help us get free money for items we can use in various school activities. These can be dropped off at the school or contact the PTO thru the school or our Facebook Page and we can arrange a pickup.



Upcoming Events

For more information visit the [sweethomeschools.org](http://www.sweethomeschools.org)

- Feb 6 thru 8– Dollars for Scholars Phone A Thon
- Feb 6 - PTO Meeting in the school Cafeteria (childcare provided) 6:30-8pm
- Feb 7 – Candy Sale Ends
- Feb 9 – February Frolics 6:00 at the school Cafeteria
- Feb 19-23 – Winter Recess – No school
- March 5 – Kindergarten Registration starts
- March 6 - PTO Meeting in the school Cafeteria (childcare provided) 6:30-8pm
- March 16 – Staff Development Day (no classes)
- March 20 – Board of Education Meeting
- March 22 – Kindergarten and Grade 1 Chorus Concert and Art Show
- March 30-April 6 – Spring Break – No School

More Information on any of these events is also listed on the district calendar at www.sweethomeschools.org

We are always looking for more members and volunteers

If you would like more information on how to get involved, please stop into one of the meetings or reach out to us on our Facebook page Willow Ridge Elementary School PTO.

–Erin Murphy-Kubiak, PTO Member

PRESIDENTS' DAY!



S
P
U B F
E V L
C H A
F V C G V
E Z O G G
B S U A T
K R T N V T K
V U A T I Q K
O A T R I P Z



Fun Facts about Presidents

- ~ George Washington was the only president unanimously elected.
- ~ John Adams died on the same day as Thomas Jefferson, July 4th, 1826.
- ~ James Madison and George Washington are the only presidents who signed the Constitution.
- ~ James Madison was the shortest president at 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighed 100 pounds.
- ~ Abraham Lincoln was the tallest president at 6 feet 4 inches tall (Lyndon B. Johnson was also 6' 4").
- ~ George W. Bush is the only president to have a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree.
- ~ Barack Obama worked at a Basin-Robbins as a teen
- ~ John F. Kennedy was the first president who was a Boy Scout.

**WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2018 Membership Invoice**

-DUES-

"If you recently received a postcard reminding you to renew your membership it is not too late to renew. "

DUES FOR 2018 ARE \$17.00. Please renew/join by December 31, 2017.

PAYMENT METHODS:

-- Mail your check payable to: WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

PLEASE FILL OUT FORM BELOW WITH ALL CURRENT INFORMATION FOR THE 2018 WILLOW RIDGE DIRECTORY. THANK YOU.

Adult Last Name _____ First Name _____

Adult Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____

Phone Number _____

Children's Names _____

Babysitter Directory Listing:

Name: _____ Age: _____ Telephone: _____

**Please provide email address used for E-Wind and Newsletter only.
Email address will NOT be published in WRCA Directory.**

E-mail Address(es) _____

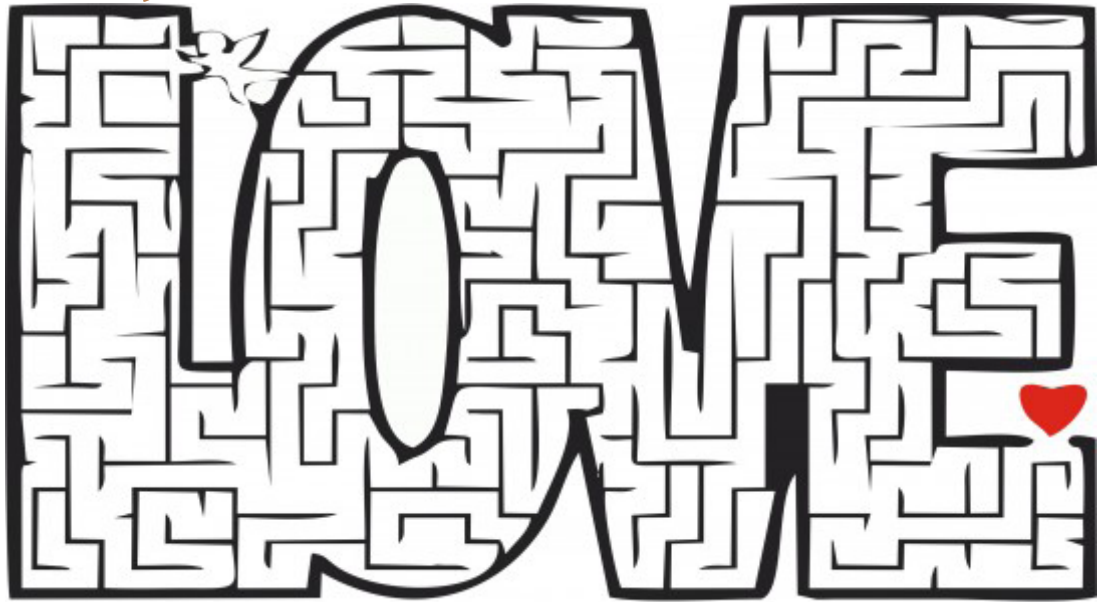
The following information is for the WRCA app:

Occupation: _____

Interest/talents you wish to share _____

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

- COMMENTS -



POPCORN TREAT IDEAS



- **Nutritional yeast:** These yellow flakes are a vegan favorite for good reason—they add a cheesy, super savory flavor to anything they're sprinkled on.
- **Soy sauce butter:** Rather than pouring soy sauce directly on your popcorn mix one tablespoon of the stuff with two tablespoons of melted butter, then drizzle on.
- **Cacio e pepe:** Top your bowl of popped maize with a mountain of finely grated Parmesan—like, way more than you think is proper—then grind fresh black pepper on top.
- **Cinnamon sugar:** Make this when you need a break from savory—just make sure to use lots of butter

One doesn't normally think of March as a holiday month—but take a look at all of these reasons to celebrate: National Celery Month. National Flour Month. National Frozen Food Month. National Nutrition Month. National Noodle Month. National Peanut Month. National Sauce Month. National Caffeine Awareness Month. Chocolate Chip Cookie Week is the second week of the month, American Chocolate Week is the third week. Each day of the month has something to celebrate too. Pick your day, plan a party, invite your neighbors, friends and family to celebrate.



**Don't forget March 14: Pi Day in Math Circles (Pi is (3.14159);
Bake A Pie In Solidarity**



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