

December 2018



Wind in the Willows

Message from the President

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Next WRCA Board Meeting Dec 11th
 at 7:30pm to 9pm
 at Ellicott Creek
 Volunteer Fire Company
 45 S Ellicott Creek Rd,
 Amherst, NY 14228

**WRCA Holiday Home
 Decorating Contest.**
 Judging will be
 December 15, 16, & 17.

Please check out
 WRCA New
 Website WRCA.US

I hope everybody enjoyed their Thanksgiving Holiday! Now on to the Holidays of December: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice and topped off with New Years!

At the next WRCA Board Meeting I want to look at the future of Willow Ridge. What can we do for the upcoming year? What projects do we want to take on? These are things we should be thinking about as we approach the New Year.

At the next meeting on December 11th I want to talk about topics that residents have approached me about: Adult Shop on Niagara Falls Blvd. A number of residents would like it shut down. Single Family houses being rented out to college students or to multiple individuals who are not related, which causes street parking issues. Trash in wooded area on Willow Ridge Drive. Commercial property owners need to be held responsible for trash on their properties. At this point in time, I have already put the wheels in motion.

I'd like to petition the town to connect the Bike Path that runs along the little lakes behind new Kaymar to the main Amherst Bike Path. Perhaps see if the Town can widen South Ellicott Creek Road for a bike lane to Niagara Falls Blvd and from there, connect to the Amherst Bike Path. South Ellicott Creek Road is slated for repair work in the near future.

I am happy to see the Town of Amherst reduced the speed limit near Willow Ridge Elementary. My hope is to slow people down and to drive safer and smarter!

Please check out our New Website, WRCA.US, for info of upcoming events, meetings and much more!

Please remember to renew your WRCA Membership and spread the word to new neighbors about us!

Erich Krueger

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 868-3699

Kristin Puff 870-9431

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

Children Events

Cassandra Schwab

children.events@wrca.us

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 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



WRCA MEETING

December 11th!!
at 7:30 PM

Location: Ellicott Creek Vol. Fire Dept. Downstairs Meeting Room

Manor Oak Drive neighbors are heartbroken over the loss of our number one fan.

Sue Winkle of 43 Manor Oak. We lost Sue quickly and will miss her forever. Sue was the life of the party and certainly the life of our block. Not a day went by when Sue wasn't delivering a tasty dessert or a meal to one of us. She was our shoulder to cry on and our rock when we needed her. We all want Don, Kody and Teal to know that we are here for them!



Wanted news and photos:

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 more!

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

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



JOSEPH BATTAGLIA
Associate Real Estate Broker

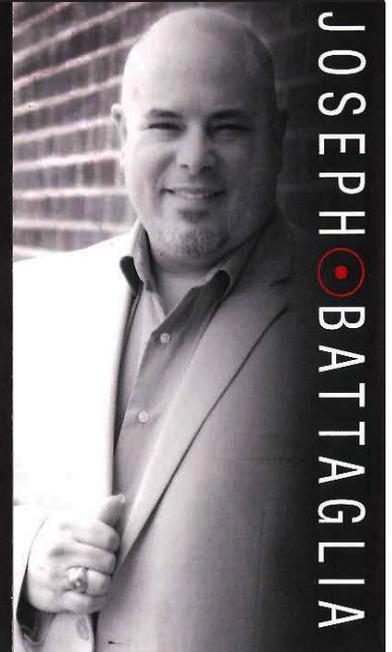
Cell: 716-863-4586

joeashome4u@aol.com

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



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WRCA MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

The November WRCA meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Erich Krueger.

In attendance were President Erich Krueger, Secretary Jane Sieman, Treasurer Donna Mosteller and Board Members John Radens, Marijean Nichols, Cassandra Schwab and Andy Annesi. Excused was Vice President Ann Nichols, and Board Member Kristin Puff. Also in attendance was Lisa & Doug Collins.

Lisa & Doug Collins presented the charter to WRCA President Erich Krueger for signature for Willow Ridge Boy Scout Troop 173. When the charter is complete, Boy Scout Troop 173 will have some scouts at an upcoming meeting to present the charter to WRCA. The upkeep of the Willow Ridge Community kiosks, which was a past Eagle Scout project, located near Convenient and Willow Ridge School was also discussed. Supplies will be donated to the troop by the Sieman family and the troop will add it to their spring community project to upkeep and repaint.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion was made to approve the October meeting minutes as published in the November issue by Marijean Nichols and seconded by John Radens.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Donna Mosteller submitted a treasurer's report. Income for the month of October was \$17.00. Expenses for the month of October was \$1,211.17. Expenses to date for November is 1,851.34 Insurance was included in October's expenses and newsletter printing for the membership mailing was included in November's expenses. The balance as of today's date, 11/13/2018, is \$4,076.20. Motion made to accept treasurer's report by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Cassandra Schwab. Discussion on Tax Exempt Status continued.

DISCUSSION

Children's games. Discussed having games made for WRCA children events such as bean bag toss, bowling, cornhole, etc. Treasurer, Donna Mosteller, proposed a \$400 budget. Options and plans within the proposed budget amount will be presented at the December meeting.

Children's Halloween Party - was a huge success. Even with the rainy weather, trunk & treat was set up in the school. Thanks to Cassandra Schwab and to Amherst Baptist Church for volunteering and assisting us and providing things such as the bounce house etc.

Membership Drive for 2019. Jane Sieman reported. The November Wind in the Willows is in the mail this week to all Willow Ridge residents. The issue includes an invoice and envelope for 2019

membership. There is also a paypal option for residents to join as well.

Discussed re-doing the website Join/Renew Member form for the new website. Pricing research is underway to make sure it ties into our paypal account. Plans to do re-do the membership paypal form will take place in the spring. Website is due to renew in December.

We are still looking for guest speakers for WRCA meetings. If anyone would like to speak or has a suggestion for a speaker/topic, please contact a board member.

Christmas Tree Lighting - WRCA Christmas Tree Lighting will take place Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 4:30 pm on the corner of Sweetwood North and Willow Ridge. There will be snacks, hot chocolate and singing of Christmas carols. Contact for this event is Dawn & Jim Cwierley.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at hand, the meeting came to a close at 8:57 pm. Motion was made by Andy Annesi to adjourn and seconded by John Radens. Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11th, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

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

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Show your holiday spirit and deck the halls and your homes for our annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Judging will be December 15, 16, & 17.



PTO Help Wanted!

Willow Ridge Elementary Needs volunteers and we need some for our first big event, the Scholastic Book Fair! If anyone can help, they can email Jessica Stephens at jesslynnstephens@gmail.com



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Support Meals on Wheels - olear.com/donate



Tree Lighting 2018

Saturday Evening Willow Ridge had their Annual Christmas Tree Lighting! Many Holiday Songs were sang lead by Pastor Scott from Amherst Baptist Church and everyone enjoyed cookies and snacks donated by Trader Joe's <https://www.facebook.com/Trader-Joes-BuffaloNY-62175939786.../>

We would like to thank:

Jim and Dawn Cwierley for coordinating this event for the 3rd year in row!
Ray Fliss, Chuck Malarkey and Barry Moir for putting the lights up!
Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company for The Fire Truck and for Throwing The Switch to turn on the lights! (They had the best boots for standing in the muck that Mother Nature served us.)

The Residents of Willow Ridge who came out to partake of this Tradition!
A Special Acknowledgement to Jack Baker (RIP), who started the Willow Ridge Civic Association and this will always be part of his legacy!

A reminder that the Willow Ridge Civic Association is into our Membership Drive
If you already are a WRCA Member and have not renewed your membership or if you are new to Willow Ridge please click on the following link to Join or Renew, Membership Dues are only \$17 per year and the money helps us fund Scholarships, Children Events, National Night Out, Adult Events, and much more.
<https://wrca.us/membership%3A-join%2F renew>



Go Fund Me honoring Karen Richardson

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

Karen Richardson GoFundMe Page

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



WRCA BOARD MEETING



December 11, 2018

7:30 PM

Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company
45 S Ellicott Creek Rd, Amherst, New York 14228

**WRCA Monthly Board Meeting:
Topics from Willow Ridge Residents**

Adult Shop on Niagara Falls Blvd. A number of residents would like it shut down.

Single Family houses being rented out to college students or to multiple individuals that are not related, which in result cause street parking issues.

Trash in wooded area on Willow Ridge Drive. Commercial Property Owners need to be held responsible for trash on their properties.

Stranger Danger: Has been numerous reports of cars parking in suspicious manners around the neighborhood and in one reported instance watching children playing.

Changing The Meeting Night ?



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Halloween House Decoration Contest Winner

Halloween is always a spirited night, but for one family on Dalewood, it's one of the best nights of the year. According to neighbors, the Szafarskis of 70 Dalewood outdo themselves each year, which made them an obvious nomination for our inaugural Halloween Home Decorating contest, and ultimately this year's winner.

Not only did the family put out "spooktacular" display, they took care to have crossing guards to ensure the safety of their fellow neighbors on what is a very active night.

Thanks to everyone who submitted nominations and our neighbors who help to make Willow Ridge a great place to live. Nominations included 104 Sweetwood Drive, 104 Sweetwood Drive, 19 Sweetwood Drive, 254 Peppertree Drive, 393 Denrose Drive, 60 N. Brier Road, 90 N. Brier Road, and 113 Rockdale Drive.



Willow Ridge PTO News and Events

November has come and gone and there has been a bunch of PTO events! On November 8, Author Jim Averbeck came to the school and had 3 separate presentations for the kids based on his books. Each session was specifically geared for that age group and it was a great experience seeing the kids engaged and eager to ask questions! This is just one of the events that was made possible through the proceeds from our October Basket Raffle.

On November 16, we held our annual Harvest Dance. This year was one of our biggest dances yet and the kids were able to dance with their friends, enjoy taking pictures in the photo booth and have snacks, all while bringing in non-perishable items to be donated to local food banks. Check out our Facebook page for pictures of this fun event!

November 27-29 is the Winter Wonderland, where students can buy holiday items for their friends/families or do art projects instead. Parents and volunteers help the kids shop for items priced between \$1-\$5, wrap up any items and label them.

The PTO would love to encourage anyone that has interest to please consider coming to one of the meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8 (childcare provided) in the Willow Ridge Elementary Cafeteria. You can just to commit to the time and events that you are able to – by joining you are not committing to participate in every event throughout the school year – just a few hours here and there whenever you can. It is all greatly appreciated and new ideas are always welcome! If you would like to get more information please reach out to us through the Willow Ridge PTO Facebook page or contact the Co-President Dawn Ryzdzynski at dawnrydzynski@yahoo.com.

On-Going School Programs:

• **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** – 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.

• **SCHOOL SPIRIT** – Please make sure that your child wears Blue and Gold on Fridays for chances to win prizes with their classroom throughout the year

Upcoming Events:

Check out our Facebook page for more information. As always, volunteers are always welcomed!

- December 4- 6:30-8:00 PTO Meeting at the school cafeteria (childcare provided)
- December 4 – 3:00-6:00 Cookie Dough order pickup
- December 6 and 7 – No school (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- December 14 – Annual Giving Tree Ceremony
- December 24-January 1 – Winter Recess No School
- January 2 – School resumes
- January 8 - 6:30-8:00 PTO Meeting at the school cafeteria (childcare provided)
- January 23 – 5:00 PTO Sponsored Roller Skating Party at Rainbow Rink

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

News Articles From Amherst Baptist Church

A free Sweet Home Christmas concert will be held at Amherst Baptist Church on Sunday December 16th at 4:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to this combined Chamber Orchestra and Chorale holiday concert put on by the talented Sweet Home students.

The church is located at 100 Willow Ridge at the corner of Peppertree. What a great way to enjoy the Christmas season & visit with your neighbors!

Jeri Bowden
Amherst Baptist Church



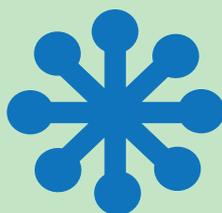
The youth from Amherst Baptist Church are on Mission: Possible!

They have set a goal of collecting 1000 canned goods (and/or other non-perishable foods) for distribution to those in need locally... both through the Buffalo City Mission's Mission "Possible" and the New Beginnings Food pantry right here in Willow Ridge.

You can help! Between now & Dec.4th, you can drop off donations at church @ 100 Willow Ridge Drive (generally, M-Th between 9 and 5; you may want to call before you come! 691-9456). Suggestions for desired food items are: canned corn, peas, beans, potatoes, tomatoes/sauce, instant potatoes, boxes of stuffing, corn bread, cake or brownie mixes, frosting, canned tuna, soups, canned fruit, broth, peanut butter/jelly, pork and beans.

Thank you for whatever you can do to help!

Together, Willow Ridge people can make a difference for our community. Looking forward to working with you all as we encourage our community to be a community! - Pastor Scott Gillette



Amherst Youth & Recreation

2019 PHOTO ID CARDS - available beginning DECEMBER 17

Cards may only be purchased at the Youth & Recreation Department office at the Northtown Center. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Proof of residency and a new photo (taken at time of ID card registration) is required for new and renewal cards.

Proof of residency for Adults: Driver's license or a valid non-driver ID.
Proof of residency for Children: Child's birth certificate or 2018 ID card.

QUESTIONS? Call 631-7132

Cub Scout Pack 173

Cans for Cubs 2019

Cub Scout Pack 173 will be holding our annual pop can/bottle drive on Saturday, January 5, 2018 from 10am-12pm. Money earned from the returns will be donated to a charitable organization. On Saturday, January 5th, please leave your NY stamped returnable cans & bottles in a plastic bag on your front porch or driveway. Our scouts and their parents will be coming around to pick them up between the hours of 10 and 12. You can also call 716-777-2466 to arrange a pickup (leave message, be sure to include your address). Only NY stamped returnable pop/beer cans & bottles will be accepted at our redemption center (no recyclables or wine/liquor bottles). Thank you once again for your continued support.

Holiday Card Delivery

As a community service for Willow Ridge, the Cub Scouts of Pack 173 will be happy to help deliver your holiday cards to your neighbors. Drop your cards into the collection bin that will be located at 69 Rumson Road and we will take care of the rest! The bin will be available from Friday, November 23th up until 5pm on Friday, December 14th. Weather permitting, all cards will be delivered that weekend. Please make sure your cards are clearly labeled with the recipients name and street address. For the safety of our scouts, we can only deliver to residential homes within Willow Ridge. We regret that we cannot deliver to apartments, condos, the elder care facility or Ellicott Creek Drive North.



Disco Party info for WITW

\$40/person that includes entrance to the Disco plus Food & Call Drinks & Bottle Beers. GROOVY Contests throughout the night.

The Boogie starts at 7 PM
Feb 2nd at Classic V.
and goes to midnight.

Heres the skinny, don't be a spaz!



Willow Ridge Elementary

2018-2019 Calendar of Events

September

- 9/5 - First day of school
- 9/10-9/14 - Book Fair
- 9/11 - PTO Meeting
- 9/14 - Open House and Welcome Back Picnic
- 9/18 - Board of Education Meeting
- 9/21 - Community Day/Homecoming



November

- 11/6 - Staff Development Day
- 11/12 - No School
- 11/13 - PTO Meeting
- 11/16 - Harvest Dance
- 11/19 - Elementary Gold Band
- 11/20 - Board of Education Meeting
- 11/21-11/23 - No School
- 11/27-11/29 - Winter Wonderland



January

- 1/2 - School Resumes
- 1/8 - PTO Meeting
- 1/12 - All County Auditions
- 1/21 - No School
- 1/23 - Skating Party



March

- 3/2 & 3/6 - Elementary All-County Rehearsals
- 3/4-3/5 & 3/11-3/12 & 3/18-3/19 - Kindergarten Registration
- 3/5 - PTO Meeting
- 3/11 - Grade 4 Band Recital
- 3/15 - Staff Development Day & Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 3/15 - Second Trimester Ends
- 3/18 - Grade 4 Orchestra Recital
- 3/19 - Board of Education Voting Meeting
- 3/21 - Parent University
- 3/28 - Grade 5 Parent Orientation



May

- 5/1-5/3 - NYS Math Assessments Grades 3-8
- 5/6-5/7 & 5/8-5/9 & 5/13-5/14 & 5/20-5/21 - UPK Registration
- 5/7 - PTO Meeting
- 5/7 - Annual District Budget Meeting & "Meet the Candidates Night"
- 5/8 - Willow Ridge Chorus Concert
- 5/13 - Elementary Gold Orchestra
- 5/14 - Board of Education Voting Meeting
- 5/15 - Elementary Blue Band and Blue Orchestra Concert
- 5/21 - Annual District Budget Vote
- 5/21 - Elementary Gold Band
- 5/22 - Grade 5 Middle School Visit
- 5/24-5/27 - No School
- 5/29 - Grade 4 & 8 NYS Science Performance Assessments
- 5/31 - Bike Rodeo



October

- 10/1 - District PTO/PTA/PTSA Meeting & Volunteer Celebration
- 10/2 - PTO Meeting
- 10/3 - Picture Day
- 10/3 - Skating Party
- 10/5 - Early Dismissal/Emergency Evacuation Drill
- 10/5 - Influenza Shot Clinic
- 10/8 - No School
- 10/9 - Cookie Dough Fundraiser Begins
- 10/19 - Basket Raffle
- 10/22 - Picture Retake Day
- 10/23 - Cookie Dough Fundraiser Ends



December

- 12/3 - Chorus Concert
- 12/4 - PTO Meeting
- 12/6 - No School
- 12/6 - End of 1st Trimester
- 12/6 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 12/7 - No School & Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 12/10 - Elementary Gold Orchestra
- 12/18 - Board of Education Voting Meeting
- 12/24-1/1 - Winter Recess/No School



February

- 2/1 - Staff Development Day
- 2/4 - Candy Sale Fundraiser Starts
- 2/5 - PTO Meeting
- 2/8 - February Frolics
- 2/12 - Board of Education Voting Meeting
- 2/14 - Leadership Day
- 2/18-2/22 - Winter Recess
- 2/27 - Candy Sale Fundraiser Ends



April

- 4/2-4/4 - ELA Assessments Grades 3-8
- 4/2 - PTO Meeting
- 4/8-4/12 - Book Fair
- 4/12 - Science Night
- 4/16 - Board of Education Voting Meeting
- 4/18-4/26 - Spring Recess



June

- 6/3 - Grade 4 & 8 Science Written Assessments
- 6/4 - PTO Meeting
- 6/7 - Bike Rodeo Rain Day
- 6/14 - Flag and Field Day
- 6/18 - Board of Education Voting Meeting
- 6/24 - Early Dismissal
- 6/25 - 5th Grade Moving Up
- 6/25 - Last Day of School/Early Dismissal



Santa Run and Food Drive

Ellicott Creek Vol. Fire Co., Inc.
Serving The Community with Pride-Honor-Integrity Since 1945



ANNUAL SANTA RUN AND FOOD DRIVE

It is time once again for our community Santa Run and Food Drive. Santa Claus will be coming to our Fire District on Saturday December 15th, beginning at 4PM.

Firefighters and Boy Scouts will be collecting non-perishable foods for the local food pantry. We ask that you place your contributions in a well lit area, and in a recognizable container so we don't miss anyone's donation. If you are not going to be home, you can drop off your donation to Fire Station No. 1 at 45 South Ellicott Creek Road (behind the Grapevine Restaurant) beginning at 4PM.

As always, we thank you for your kind and generous donations



PLEASE HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY AND MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2019 Membership Invoice

-DUES-

DUES FOR 2019 ARE \$17.00. Please renew/join by December 31, 2018.

PAYMENT METHODS:

- Mail your check payable to: WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 86
Amherst, NY 14226
- Via PayPal at wrca.info (directory information gathered via PayPal)

***PLEASE FILL OUT FORM BELOW WITH ALL CURRENT INFORMATION
FOR THE 2019 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) _____

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.

- USE REVERSE SIDE FOR COMMENTS-

Christmas Jokes!

Decode each one for the answers to the jokes.

CODE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

What kind of ball doesn't bounce?

1

19 14 15 23 2 1 12 12

What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?

1

3 15 15 11 9 5

19 8 5 5 20

Where does Christmas come before Halloween?

9 14 20 8 5

4 9 3 20 9 15 14 1 18 25

What falls but never gets hurt?

19 14 15 23