

FEB/MARCH 2019



# Wind in the Willows

## Message from the President

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Next WRCA Board Meeting**  
**March 12 at 7:30pm to 9pm**  
**at Ellicott Creek Volunteer**  
**Fire Company 45 S Ellicott**  
**Creek Rd, Amherst, NY**  
**14228**  
**Main Topic Scout Night**



*I hope everyone is enjoying this winter! And those who are tired of it, I'm with you!*

**CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY!** April 6th 10 AM to Noon. Once again WRCA Children's Event Coordinator, Cassandra Schwab, is planning 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's Email: [children.events@wrca.us](mailto:children.events@wrca.us)

We would like to congratulate Ann Nichols to her new position on the Town of Amherst Zoning Board of Appeals! WRCA now has 2 Board Members on the ZBA! I know Ann and John Radens will do good work representing the residents of Amherst!

I would like to congratulate Kristin Puff to the position of Vice President of the WRCA Board!

I have asked Kristin to be our Newsletter "Czar". Her tasks will to keep us (me) on task with deadlines and communicating with our editor to get the Wind In The Willows out on time.

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!!

**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 2019-Why Should I Join?" article, which I wanted to reissue, since we still are in the midst of our Membership Drive! It is a good read from a WRCA Member's point of view.

Erich Krueger

## Contact Us

### President

Erich Krueger 691-9952 or  
949-2561

### Vice President

Kristin Puff 870-9431

### 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

Ann Nichols 830-6359

### 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](http://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](mailto:WITW@WRCA.US).

Follow us on Facebook Willow Ridge Civic Association



**WRCA MEETING NOTICE!**  
**MARCH 12th at 7:30 PM**  
Location: Ellicott Creek Vol. Fire Dept.  
45 S. Ellicott Creek Rd. Amherst, NY  
14228 Downstairs Training Room

## Main Topic Scout Night!

Boy Scouts, Troop 173 and Cub Scouts, Pack 173 from Willow Ridge.

The scouts have recently reviewed the completed Charter documents from BSA/GNFC.

**WRCA will be honoring the Scouts this evening! I ask for the families of the Scouts to join 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

## **WRCA MINUTES FOR JANUARY 8 ,2019**

The January 8, 2019 WRCA meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by President Erich Krueger.

In attendance were President Erich Krueger, Vice President Ann Nichols, Treasurer, Donna Mosteller, Secretary Jane Sieman and Board Members John Radens, Marijean Nichols, and Kristin Puff. Excused were Board Members Cassandra Schwab and Andy Annesi.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Motion was made to approve the December meeting minutes as it will be published in the January issue by Marijean Nichols and seconded by John Radens.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Erich Krueger submitted a treasurer's report for Treasurer Donna Mosteller. Income for the month of December was \$4,278.00 and expenses for the month of December was \$758.42. Expenses to date for January is 21.33. The balance as of today's date, 1/8/19, is \$8,0845.45. Motion made

to accept treasurer's report by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Kristin Puff.

### **DISCUSSION**

Discussion was held again about the Adult Shop on Niagara Falls Blvd., zoning ordinances and rental houses in Willow Ridge. Joe Frese, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Amherst will be the guest speaker at our next meeting, Feb 12, 2019 to discuss these issues and other concerns that Willow Ridge members may have. All are encouraged to attend.

### **Membership & Directory**

- Jane Sieman reported. Over 350 memberships have been received. Reminder postcards will be going out to all those who haven't responded to date within the next two weeks. This Advertiser letters for the directory will be going out on January 15, 2019. The directories will be delivered to all members the week of April 13, 2019 by Willow Ridge Boyscout Troop 173.

**Nominations & Elections** were held for WRCA board positions for 2019. John Radens presented the candidates.

President, Erich Krueger, Vice President Kristin Puff, Secretary Jane Sieman, Treasurer Donna Mosteller. WRCA Secretary casted a vote for all positions. Board Members for 2019 are Marijean Nichols, John Radens, Cassandra Schwab, Ann Nichols, Andy Annesi.

Erich Krueger and Don Feldman from Sweethome Schools have been discussing the WRCA scholarships available to Willow Ridge High School Senior Members. Discussion to update the criteria will be discussed by the board and submitted to Don Feldman after our next meeting.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting came to a close at 8:52 pm. Motion was made by Marijean Nichols to adjourn and seconded by Kristin Puff. Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. at Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Sieman-WRCA  
Secretary.



## 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](mailto:WITW@WRCA.US).

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## ADVERTISING REQUEST FOR WILLOW RIDGE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY YEAR 2019

Name of Company \_\_\_\_\_

Point Of Contact  
& Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### We would like to purchase the following:

Full Page (V-7.5" X H-4.5") \$150.00 \_\_\_\_\_

1/2 Page (V-3.7" X H-4.5") \$ 85.00 \_\_\_\_\_

1/4 Page (V-3.7" X H-1.5") or (V-1.75" X H-4.5") \$ 55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Discount:  
Pay by February 15, 2019 - 10% \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**(Deadline March 15, 2019. Money and Ad due by March 15, 2019)**

Make checks payable to Willow Ridge Civic Association and mail to:  
WRCA Jane Sieman Directory Editor - P.O. Box 86 Amherst, NY 14226

Coupon (write text below)

Please note: coupons are free with 1/2 or full page ad; \$4.00 with 1/4 ad.

# Membership Drive 2019-

## 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.

**T**he 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.

**D**uring 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.

**Y**es, 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.

- Mariiean Nichols

## Another Chance to Save Money (and maybe your life!)

The NYS Defensive Driving Course, Accident Prevention Course, or Points Reduction Class is a comprehensive driver safety course which provides knowledge and techniques for safe and lawful driving. And we all want safer drivers on the road!

When you complete an approved defensive driving class, you receive a 10% reduction of the base rate of your auto and motorcycle insurance premiums each year for three years. That savings can amount to hundreds of dollars over 3 years for just one member of your family! You can also refresh your driving knowledge and reduce up to 4 points from your NYS DMV driving record if necessary.

The 6-hour class covers essential information about traffic safety issues such as driver attitude and behavior, defensive driving techniques, and the Vehicle & Traffic Law. No formal testing is required to complete the course.

A class is being offered Sat., March 16th, from 9am to 3:45pm at Amherst Baptist Church at Willowridge & Peppertree. The cost is \$30 and includes a ½ hour lunch. Contact Church Office : 691-9456 or Email [ABC@AmherstBaptist.com](mailto:ABC@AmherstBaptist.com) for information or to register by March 9th. Spaces are limited to 40 people. Each driver on your insurance policy should take the class.



# Willow Ridge PTO News and Events

**T**he 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 Rydzynski 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!

- March 5 - 6:30-8:00 PTO Meeting at the school cafeteria (childcare provided)
- March 15 – Staff Development Day – No School/Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 21 – Parent University
- April 2 - 6:30-8:00 PTO Meeting at the school cafeteria (childcare provided)
- April 8 – 12 – Scholastic Book Fair
- April 12 – Science Night
- April 16 – Board of Education Voting Meeting
- April 18-26 – Spring Recess

More Information on any of these events is also listed on the district calendar at [www.sweethomeschools.org](http://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

# CHILDREN EASTER PARTY FOR WILLOW RIDGE



**WRCA CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY**  
Willow Ridge Elementary School 10 AM to Noon  
Saturday April 6th, 10 AM to Noon  
Egg Hunt, Bounce House, Games, Snacks, Music,  
**AND SO MUCH MORE!!**





**All** ladies and teen girls are invited to a gathering of women here in WNY to learn what it means to rely on the wisdom of God and not rely on our own understanding. IF:Amherst will be held on Saturday, April 13th 2019 from 9am to 5pm. The \$20 registration includes a full day of teaching, light breakfast, and catered lunch. It will be held at Amherst Baptist Church –100 Willow Ridge Drive, Amherst NY 14228. Last year, more than 2,600 IF Gatherings resulted in an estimated 850,000 participants, representing 104 different countries! Wow!

**Don't miss your chance to gather with other Christian women for the chance to answer the question, "What IF?"**

The hope is to see women better know the God of the Bible and to have deep, honest conversations about faith that help them on their journeys.

Register Now at <https://amherst.iflocal.com/>

### **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](mailto:jesslynnstephens@gmail.com)



**Classifies are FREE for WRCA Members**



# 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



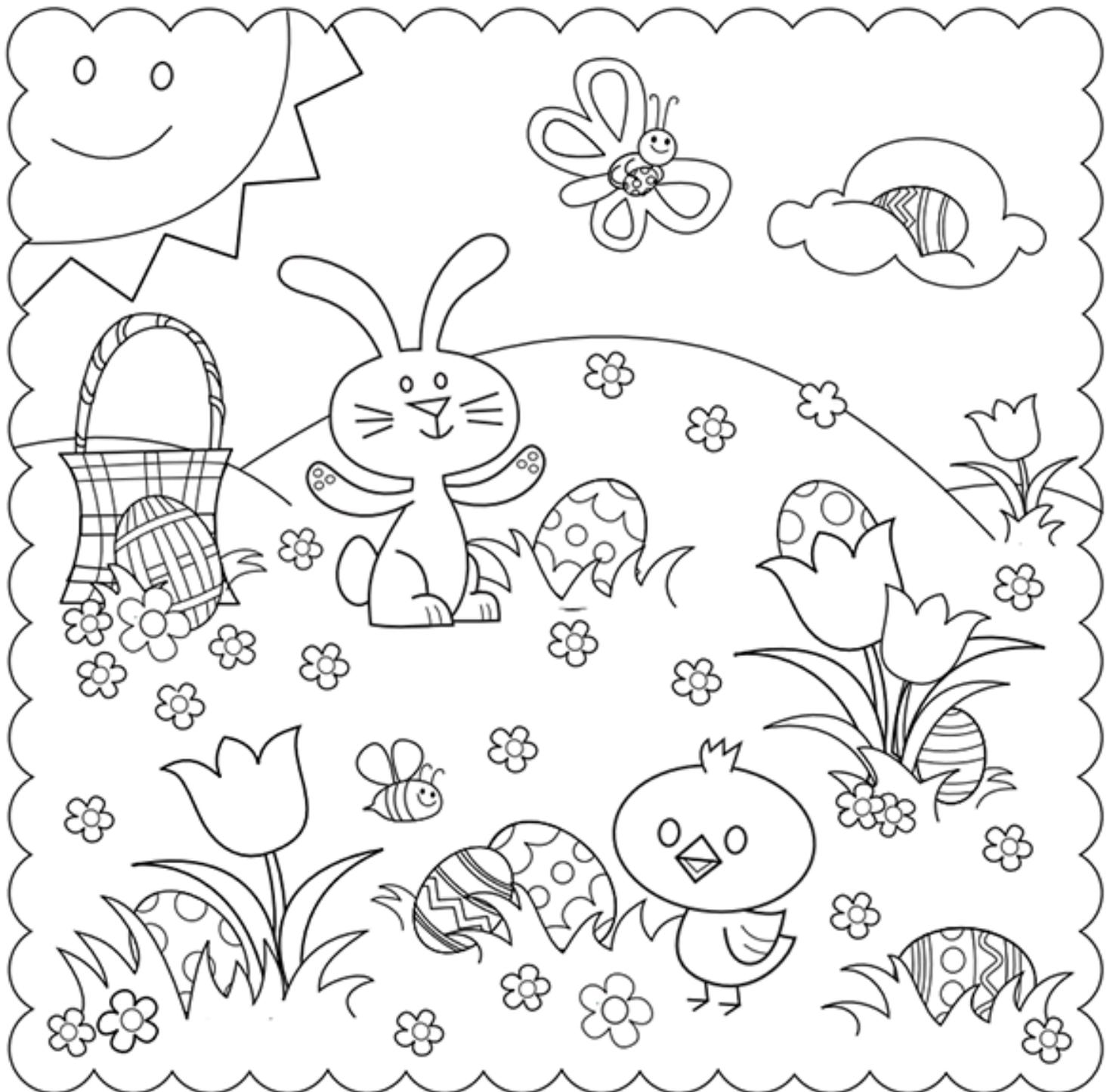
### June

- 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



# Easter Egg Hunt

How many Easter eggs can you find?



# 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-

**PLACE  
YOUR  
AD HERE**  
Contact  
**Advertising Sales**  
**Andy Annesi**  
**812 - 8851**



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## Go Fund Me honoring Karen Richardson

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**[Karen Richardson GoFundMe Page](https://www.gofundme.com/4tp0hts)**

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

