

September 2019



# Wind in the Willows

## Message from the President

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**We had a great summer here in Willow Ridge. National Night Out was, as always, a GREAT HIT!!**

**Thank you once again John Miller for your outstanding work putting this event together!**

I want to thank the following for their participation in National Night Out: Amherst Police for showcasing some of their hardware and their generous donation! Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company for leading the Bicycle Parade through the streets of Willow Ridge! Andersons Frozen Custard Thank you for donating the delicious Ice Cream!! Target for donating 2 bicycles!! and all the “Swag” you gave away! Amherst Baptist Church Thank you for the yummy Hot Dogs and Popcorn; too bad the weather did not cooperate for the Bounce House.

Thank you Marijean and Jane for working the WRCA Table and our guessing jar!

**Most of all, I want to thank all the Willow Ridge Civic Association Members. Your membership is what makes this community GREAT!!**

Your dues are what helps to make events like this possible!!

The Town of Amherst Highway Department did a great job repaving South Ellicott Road and the adjoining streets!

UPDATE on the corner of Willow Ridge Drive and Niagara Falls Blvd: after the Town Code Enforcer issued a Final Letter to the property owner, they got a crew to take down the old dilapidated sign, clean up the grounds and building.

Erich Krueger



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on September 10th , at 7:30 p.m. at Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.

## 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

Kori Cahill 347-640-9999

### Membership/Circulation

Jane Sieman 870-3412

### Wind In The Willows

Kristin Puff 870-9431

### Advertising Sales - WITW

Andy Annesi 812-8851

### Directory

Jane Sieman 870-3412

### Children Events

Cassandra Schwab

children.events@wrca.us

### "Block Reps Lead Reporter

Kori Cahill

blockreps@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

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

Follow us on Facebook  
Willow Ridge Civic Association



## Little Free Library

Hope everyone is off to a great start to a new school year! Some exciting news on Willow Ridge! We have installed a Little Free Library in our front yard to share the love of reading with our Willow Ridge community!

It is located at

**195 Willow Ridge Drive.**

***Give a book, take a book!***

The primary focus will be to share the love for reading with children, teens, and adults! Feel free to take a selfie with the book you are reading and post it to the WRCA Facebook Page!

Use the hashtag: #WRLittlefreelibrary,  
We hope you enjoy this as much as we do!

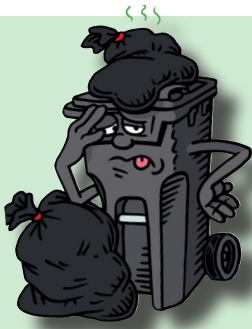
The Strible Family

## WRCA MEETING NOTICE!

Tuesday September 10th at 7:30 PM

Where: Ellicott Creek  
Volunteer Fire  
Company





Just a friendly reminder  
Please do not put out garbage totes  
until late Sunday afternoon  
(after 4 pm) and not Sunday morning.



## 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).



## Halloween Party

WRCA has a tentative date for the Halloween party on October 26th!



## MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHTS

The Willow Ridge Civic Association Board believes it is important for the candidates running for local office in Town of Amherst to come and speak at our meetings. We think it would be informative to hear their ideas and what their view of the future of the Town of Amherst is and what they will do with issues that affect Willow Ridge.

**The 2 nights planned are:  
September 10th 2019  
October 8th 2019**



## Willow Ridge Elementary PTO Basket Raffle & Silent Auction



October 18, 2019  
Doors at 6 pm  
Silent Auction Ends 7:30 pm  
Drawings Begin At 8:00 pm



Location: Willow Ridge Elementary  
480 Willow Ridge Dr  
Amherst, NY 14228



### This Event is Sponsored by



3034 Sweet Home Rd  
Amherst, NY 14228

- Free Admission
- Doors Open at 6pm; Winners will be called starting at 8:00pm
- Silent Auction ends at 7:30pm
- \$5 for a Sheet of 25 Tickets (Plus 1 Door Prize Ticket)
- \$20 for 5 Sheets of 25 Tickets (Plus 5 Door Prize Tickets)
- Basket Raffle winners do not need to be present to win
- Silent Auction and Door Prizes
- Silent Auction winners must be present and pay to win
- Favorites Pizza, desserts, and beverages for sale
- Tickets available at the door (cash and check only)

*For More Information visit us:*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/304914660461732/>



# Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



## Kayaking with Kelly Beaver Island State Park Saturdays Only! 11a.m. / 1 p.m. / 3 p.m.

A beginner's class on kayaking! Join Kelly and Tina, ACA certified kayak instructors for one-hour lessons. A kayak, paddle and life jacket will be provided for the class. Weather permitting. **Space is limited, sign up early. For information and registration call (716)282-5154.**



July: 6th  
August: 3rd and 24th  
September: 7th

## Kayaking with Tina

### Beaver Island State Park Thursdays Only!

### 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

A little more than a beginner's class on kayaking! Join Tina and Kelly, ACA certified kayak instructors, for more than just the basics. A kayak, paddle and life jacket will be provided for the class. Weather permitting. **Space is limited, sign up early. For information and registration call (716) 282-5154.**



July: 11th, 18th, and 25th  
August: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th  
September: 5th



# WITW Letters

Good Afternoon,

I am sure that you, along with the other Willow Ridge residents have seen an increase in Step2 KidAlert signs throughout our neighborhood as a way to alert drivers to the fact we are a residential area, with children, where the speed limit is 30 mph.

I believe these signs have been a huge help in reminding drivers to slow down when driving down long streets that lack stop signs. We installed one in front of our home on Willow Green about a month and a half ago, and noticed a definite difference in the speed at which many motorists pass our home. For those that do, we are so thankful.

This morning as I was backing out of the driveway, I noticed that our sign had been taken. Since there are so many Willow Ridge residents that have placed these signs on their property, I wanted to pass this along so they can take the steps to secure or bring them in if need be.

I have to say, it's extremely disheartening and disappointing to know that someone not only willfully came onto our property to take something not belonging to them; but did so to take something that was posted to increase safety in our neighborhood.

-Christine Battaglia



## WITW SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**Ashleigh Lucina-Poydock**  
*Thank You Note*

Thank you very much for selecting me to receive this scholarship. I am glad to inform you that I have already signed up for leadership opportunities at UB through clubs such as the circle. Since I will be local, I can even help by volunteering at events. Needless to say, I am glad to continue serving the community.  
Ashleigh Lucina-Poydock



Pictured is Andrew Thiele and Ashleigh Lucina-Poydock



**Bread is like the sun,  
it rises in the yeast and  
settles in the waist.**



## Neighborhood Meetings With

# Kulpa

Amherst Town Supervisor

*Come and talk about the future of your neighborhood!*

**EGGERTSVILLE - Monday, June 24, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ Windermere Elementary School auditorium (291 Windermere Blvd)

**SNYDER - Monday, July 8, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ The Park School dining hall (4625 Harlem Rd)

**WILLIAMSVILLE - Thursday, August 8, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ Hutchinson Hose Fire Dept banquet hall (5045 Sheridan Dr)

**MAIN-TRANSIT - Thursday, August 29, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ Main-Transit Fire Dept banquet hall (6777 Main St)

**GETZVILLE/AUDUBON - Thursday, September 12, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ Getzville Fire Dept banquet hall (630 Dodge Rd)

**NORTH AMHERST - Thursday, October 3, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ North Amherst Fire Dept banquet hall (2200 Tonawanda Creek Rd)

**ELLCOTT CREEK - Monday, November 4, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ Ellicott Creek Fire Dept banquet hall (45 S. Ellicott Creek Rd)

**NORTH BAILEY - Tuesday, December 10, 2019 - 6:30pm**  
@ Sweet Home Middle School cafeteria (4150 Maple Rd)

**EAST AMHERST/SWORMVILLE - Thursday, January 30, 2020 - 6:30pm**  
@ Transit Middle School cafeteria (8730 Transit Rd)



The Willow Ridge PTO invites you to our annual

# Welcome Back Picnic

Willow Ridge Elementary School

Friday September 13th 2019 (6:30 - 8:00 PM)

Following Open House

Join Willow Ridge students and families for fun, food, and friends, as we get geared up for the new school year.

- Bounce house
- Music by D.J. Erich
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Amherst Police and Ellicott Creek Fire Dept. presentations
- Pizza, snacks and drinks available for purchase
- Pre-sale tickets available for Basket Raffle



See you there-rain or shine!!!



# NY Dept of Motor Vehicles School Buses

When a stopped school bus flashes its red light(s), traffic that approaches from either direction, even in front of the school and in school parking lots, must stop before it reaches the bus. You should stop at least 20 feet (6 m) away from the bus. You can identify this bus by a “SCHOOL BUS” sign, the red lights on the top, and its unique yellow orange color.

Before a school bus stops to load or discharge passengers, the driver will usually flash yellow warning lights. When you see them, decrease speed and be prepared to stop.

When you stop for a school bus, you cannot drive again until the red lights stop flashing or when the bus driver or a traffic officer signals the you can proceed. This law applies on all roadways in New York State. You must stop for a school bus even if it is on the opposite side of a divided highway.

After you stop for a school bus, look for children along the side of the road. Drive slowly until you have passed them.

**Safety Tip: Most school bus-related deaths and injuries occur while children cross the street after being discharged from the bus, not in collisions that involve school buses.**

Remember that vehicles that transport people with disabilities can be equipped as school buses and you must stop for them as you would for other school buses.

**The fine when you pass a stopped school bus ranges from a minimum of \$250 for a first violation to a maximum of \$1,000 for three violations in three years. If you are convicted of three of these violations in three years, your driver license will be revoked for a minimum of six months.**



For more information visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/about-dmv/chapter-6-passing>

# KIDS PAGE

Coloring Peace in



## About Paraguay - Geography Hidden Word Game For Kids

Read the sentences below. Visit our Easy Geography for Kids page [Paraguay](#) to find the missing words.

Write them in the empty spaces and find these hidden words in the puzzle!

[Words might be hidden horizontally, vertically and perhaps even back to front and diagonally...!]

1. From 1865 to 1870, Paraguay fought a war against Argentina, \_\_\_\_\_ and Uruguay. The purpose of the war was to win \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Paraguay lost, and over 90 percent of the men in the country were \_\_\_\_\_. Because of this, the population grew slowly. Women were without husbands and children lost their \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In the \_\_\_\_\_ of South America, surrounded by land on all sides, sits Paraguay, a small and poor country.
4. Most of Paraguay is covered in dry flatlands, although the \_\_\_\_\_ part of the country is forested hills.
5. Like all South American countries, Paraguay \_\_\_\_\_ when the Spanish arrived in the 1500s. The Spanish brought \_\_\_\_\_ and a new religion.
6. People speak Spanish or Guarani, a native Indian \_\_\_\_\_.

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

[Learn about Paraguay](http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-paraguay/) and more here: <http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-paraguay/>

Fun Science Facts, Activities, Videos, Interactive Quizzes and more...

# 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 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 IS GOING DIGITAL** - the program that you know and love will be going digital! So now you don't have to worry about clipping the Box Tops anymore. Simply download the Box Tops app, input Willow Ridge Elementary as your school and scan your receipts using the camera on your smart phone. The name of the store and date has to be visible in the picture, but the program recognizes the Box Tops items and automatically credits our account. It will take awhile to get used to doing this, but once you do it once, it is EASY. Please reach out to Erin Kubiak with any questions (e: erinmurphy.remax@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Events:

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

- September 4 – First Day of School
- September 9-13: Scholastic Book Fair during school hours
- September 10 – First PTO Meeting of the year (6:30) Childcare is provided
- September 13 – Welcome Back Picnic and Open House (6:30-8)
- October 10 – Cookie Dough Sale
- October 18 – Basket Raffle and Silent Auction (at Willow Ridge Elementary)
- October 23 – Skate Night at Rainbow Rink

## 2019-2020 PTO Board Members are:

- Presidents: Dawn Rydzynski e: dawnrydzynski@yahoo.com
- Yovanna Vega e: yovannavega@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Jesica Kenney e: jkenney@bgcbuffalo.org
- Membership: Jessica Stephens e: jesslynnstephens@gmail.com
- Secretary: Kathy Arena e: Kathleen.arena@roswellpark.org
- Volunteer Coordinator: Diane Olewnik e: dmstuff5@gmail.com
- Hospitality: Erin Kubiak e: erinmurphy.remax@gmail.com

Stay tuned for a complete schedule of events that we are planning for the Fall. And as always, thank you for making this year great – we rely on the community for support and we truly are thankful that everyone is so generous with their time!

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

“Willow Ridge Elementary PTO” or on Twitter @PTOWillow

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



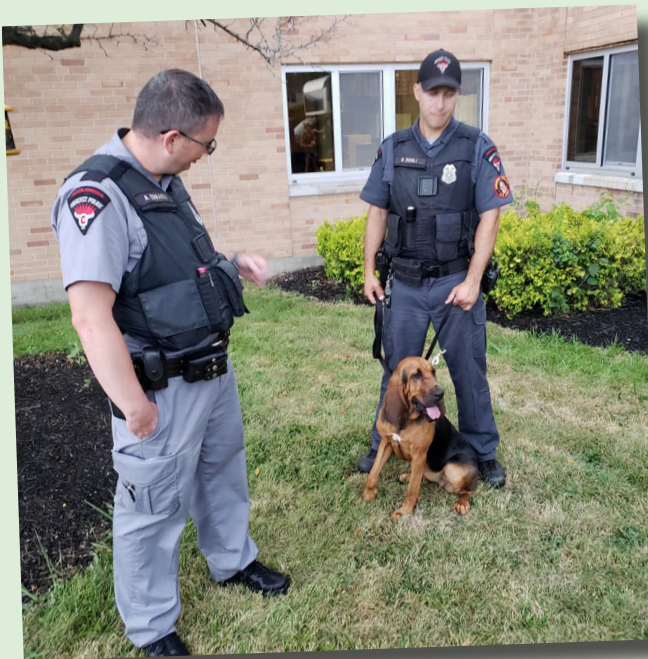
# Community News



Big Thank You to John Miller of the Amherst Police for once again putting **National Night Out 2019** together!"



# National Night Out 2019







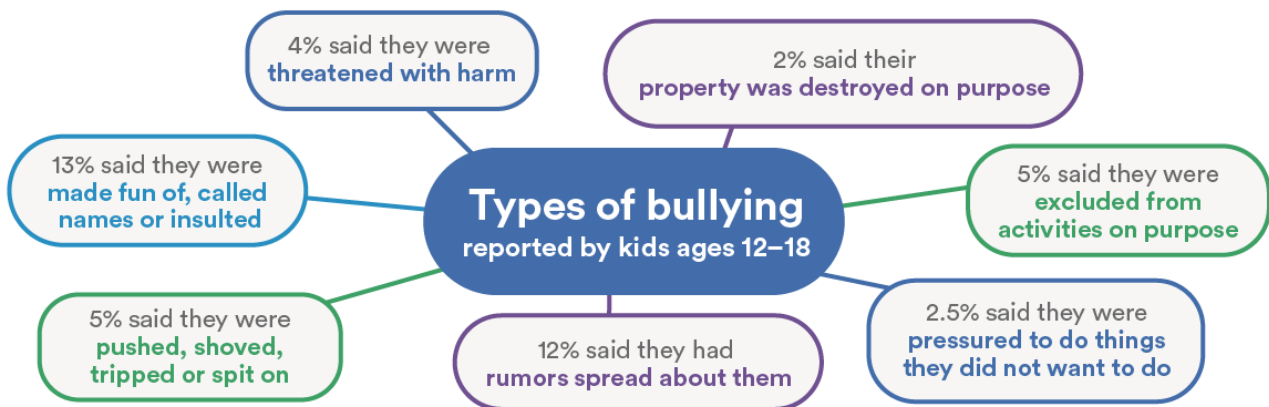
# Bullying Fact Sheet

## Bullying is...

- ✓ **Any unwanted aggressive behavior** involving an observed or perceived power imbalance. Bullying can happen in person or online.
- ✓ **Widespread.** In a nationwide survey, 1 in 5 middle schools, 1 in 7 high schools and 1 in 12 grade schools said they dealt with bullying at least once a week.
- ✓ **More common among kids with IEPs.** For example, middle- and high-schoolers with learning issues like dyslexia were 31% more likely to experience high levels of victimization than kids in general education.

## Bullying is not...

- ✗ **Something to brush aside.** Bullying can have long-term effects on physical and mental health as well as academic achievement.
- ✗ **Always a clear-cut problem.** Many victims of bullying also bully others. Kids with learning and attention issues may be more likely to respond aggressively to being bullied and to be identified as bullies. Bystanders can be helpful or can add to the victimization.
- ✗ **Solved by “zero tolerance” or “three strikes, you’re out.”** Suspending or expelling kids who bully does not reduce bullying behavior.



## Ways to prevent bullying



**Multi-tiered systems of supports (MTSS)** identify struggling students early and provide supports that can be intensified if needed.



**Positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS)** teaches all kids about behavioral expectations and helps kids meet those expectations. [PBIS.org](http://PBIS.org) has free tools to help schools prevent bullying.



**Social-emotional learning** programs can help students identify bullying, stand up to it safely and know how to report it.

## Laws that can help

- All states have enacted **anti-bullying laws**. These laws vary from state to state.

- There are **federal laws** that protect kids with disabilities if bullying is affecting their right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). If a child with a disability is being bullied or is bullying others, one of the first steps should be to have an IEP or 504 team meeting.





**The June 11, 2019  
WRCA meeting was  
called to order at 7:38  
pm by President  
Erich Krueger.**

In attendance were  
President Erich  
Krueger, Treasurer  
Donna Mosteller,  
Secretary Jane Sieman  
and Board Members  
John Radens, Marijean  
Nichols, Ann Nichols,  
Cassandra Schwab  
and Kori Cahill.

Excused was Vice  
President, Kristin Puff,  
and Board Member  
Andy Annesi. Also in  
attendance were Town  
of Amherst Town Clerk  
Jeffery Zepowitz, Jim &  
Jane Steel, Earl Kunz,  
and Alan Zak.

WRCA welcomed  
Town of Amherst Town  
Clerk Jeffery Zepowitz.  
Discussion was held  
regarding the services  
available from the Town  
Clerk's office such as  
dog licenses (which  
will be available on-  
line to renew), hunting  
and fishing licenses,  
permits for block  
parties, snowplowing  
and landscaping  
permits, marriage, birth  
and death certificates,  
solicitors permits.

EZ passes to be sold  
as a service in the near  
future. Mr. Zepowitz  
also discussed FOIL,  
Freedom of Information  
Law and shared some  
other information  
about functions of  
his office and also  
had a supply of fliers,  
brochures etc on hand  
at the meeting.

**SECRETARY'S  
REPORT**

May minutes were not  
available to approve.

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

Donna Mosteller,  
Treasurer, submitted  
a treasurer's report.  
Income for the month  
of May was \$17.00 and  
expenses were \$414.92.  
June income to date  
is \$0 and expenses  
is .79. The balance  
as of today's date  
6/11/19 is \$10,009.16.  
Motion made to accept  
treasurer's report  
by John Radens and  
seconded by  
Marijean Nichols.

Budget was discussed.  
Lines added were WRCA  
Cleanup - \$150 and  
Boyscouts/Cubscouts  
- \$200. Children's  
Easter and Halloween  
parties were increased  
due to rapid growth in  
attendance each year  
and National Night Out  
was decreased. An  
increase in membership  
dues by \$3.00 from  
\$17.00 to \$20.00 for  
2020 was discussed  
as well as a additional  
proposed increase to  
those members who  
receive hard copies  
due to the expense of  
printing, labeling and  
postage. Motion made  
to accept by Marijean  
Nichols and seconded  
by John Radens.  
Vote was unanimous.

**DISCUSSION**

Membership & Directory  
- Jane Sieman reported  
and submitted reports.  
Membership is at 472  
and we received 31  
advertisers for the 2019  
Directory.

Wine Tasting Event - We  
are looking to revisit  
this event for the fall  
and will discuss at our  
September 10, 2019  
meeting.

We are looking to  
hold a member's  
meeting sometime in  
July with the NFTA  
regarding the Metro Rail  
Extension Project with  
presentations, displays  
and Q & A time. The  
meeting will be held at  
the fire hall. As soon  
as a date and time is  
confirmed, we will notify  
membership by email  
and in an upcoming  
WITW.

There being no further  
business at hand, the  
meeting came to a close  
at 9:46 pm. Motion was  
made by Cassandra  
Schwab to adjourn  
and seconded by John  
Radens. Next Willow  
Ridge Civic Association  
meeting will be held on  
September 10th , at 7:30  
p.m. at Ellicott Creek  
Fire Hall.

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

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

Hi- I live on Amberwood Dr. I have an older dog, I am looking for a reliable teen to let him out in the back yard daily Monday-Friday. I would prefer mid afternoon. I would pay a daily fee as well.

-Natalie  
Email: Naprn99@hotmail.com

## Nobody Sells Willow Ridge Homes Better Than Joe!!!

If you need to sell, maximize your gain by getting advice from someone who has an active interest in our neighborhood's home values, 26 years experience, and hundreds of satisfied customers...  
Call your neighbor at 390 Willow Ridge Dr.

**Joseph Battaglia**  
Associate Real Estate Broker

**c: 863-4586**

Free email service for buyers: JoeHasHomes4u@gmail.com

**kw**  
KELLERWILLIAMS.  
REALTY BUFFALO NORTHTOWNS



*Your Local Expert*

# DJ Erich

[www.beatboxsound.com](http://www.beatboxsound.com)

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ALL OCCASIONS**



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PH 716-949-2561

E-Mail: [dj\\_erich@beatboxsound.com](mailto:dj_erich@beatboxsound.com)  
[www.facebook.com/djekrueger](http://www.facebook.com/djekrueger)



**Classifies are FREE  
for WRCA Members**

## For Sale Small Puppy Crate:

Thinking of getting a little puppy? Here's a deal for you.  
I have a small dog crate, puppy pads and 2 frames.  
All this can be yours for a very reasonable price.  
Call 868-2865 for dimensions. Thank you, Sandy