



December 2019

Wind in the Willows

Message from the President

Contents

- Message From the President 1
- News.....3//4/5
- Letters.....6
- Community News7/8/9
- Kids Page.....11/12
- Leaf Pick Up..... 13.
- Minutes..... 15
- Classified Ads..... 16



UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on November 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at Ellicott Creek Fire Hall.



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 our November Meeting I was once again honored to sign the Charter for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop 173. Please take a few minutes to look at the pictures taken at Scout Night!

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.

Some topics I'd like us to look at for the New Year is "Spring Clean Up" set a date and coordinate with the Highway Department. Guest Speakers, Who would you like to hear from? Events, give us your ideas!

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

H. 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

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 Rep Coordinator.

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 drop off articles/news/photos at Kristin Puff 55 Roundwood Court or email to kristinpuff3@gmail.

Follow us on Facebook
Willow Ridge Civic Association

The Presidents Message

It is WRCA Membership Drive Time! *So you ask yourself “Why Join the WRCA?”*

- Develop a cleaner, safer, healthier neighborhood and improve the quality of life for residents.
- Empower residents to have a voice and work toward, and achieve common neighborhood goals, a unified vision of who we are as a neighborhood.
- Promote friendship, and foster a sense of concern and caring among people in the neighborhood.
- Develop better awareness and access to the services and agencies of the school, city, and county governments.
- Solve problems which exist/arise within the neighborhood.
 - Protect youth, and support and strengthen neighborhood schools.
 - Children and Adult events.
 - Directory (of Residents, Baby sitters, Coupons from local vendors)
 - Monthly Newsletters (Wind In The Willows) Neighborhood News and Events

These are just some of the reasons to renew and join Willow Ridge Civic Association.

**Willow Ridge is a Great Place to live!
I look forward to welcoming back
the renewal members and the
Brand New Members!**

I want to send a huge “Pre Thank You!” to our Willow Ridge Civic Association Board, especially Cassandra Schwab who once again are planning a “spookatular” children’s event! Amherst Baptist Church, Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company and all the Helpers always come out to make The Children’s Halloween Party a huge success!!
Hope to see you there!!!

H. Erich Krueger

Wind-in-the Willows and WRCA Directory - What's in it for my family?

Wind-in-the-Willows - our monthly newsletter - provides many details about the latest happenings in Willow Ridge and the upcoming free events for the children. It also contains neighborhood news, our own free "classified" section and notices of special activities.

WRCA Directory - our community directory - includes a neighborhood listing, money saving coupons, services and businesses in our community. In addition, there are important phone numbers such as listings for area schools and the Town of Amherst. You will also find a babysitter listing, a detailed map of our community, a guide to our annual events, and more!!

E-wind - Via your email address you will receive a copy of Wind-in-the-Willows electronically.

All members are invited to monthly meetings September thru June, every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company.

Reminder to be sure to clear your sidewalks after it snows.

If you are unable to do it please feel free to send us a message.

When removing snow from your driveways do not put it in the street. If you have a plow service remind them NOT to block the sidewalks.

H. Erich Krueger WRCA President 716-949-2561

WRCA 2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The 2020 Membership Drive will again provide two methods for becoming a member of WRCA or for renewing your membership - an invoice system or on-line via PayPal.

This issue of the Wind-in-the-Willows contains your 2020 Membership Invoice along with an addressed return envelope.

The on-line alternative will be via PayPal, a secure method to make your payment via your computer. There will be a link via the WRCA website.

Membership dues are \$17.00 and are due by December 31, 2019.

Your timely membership payment ensures that you will receive the Wind-in-the-Willows monthly and that the 2020 WRCA Directory will be delivered to your house in April 2020.



Tree Lighting



*Saturday December 7th at 4:30 PM
Corner of Willow Ridge Dr & Sweetwood Dr*

Singing of Christmas Carols,
Hot Beverages and Snacks and so much more!
The tree lighting marks the official start of the
holiday season. This is an evening of fun for all
ages, not just those with little ones!
Please come out and join your neighbors for a
special way to start the holiday season.

SANTA RUN!!!



As always your Ellicott Creek Volunteer
Firefighters will be out on the town with Santa
and his elf on Saturday December 21st starting
at 4:00 PM. Like every year we will also be
collecting non perishable food items that will be
donated to St Christopher's food pantry. Flyers
will be going out on
Monday December 9th!

New Neighbor News

Please welcome, however delayed, Chris and Melissa Williams to our neighborhood. They were eager to find a home in Willow Ridge and very happy with their choice on Button Bush Court. They have 2 daughters Gianna and Brianna. Chris is a Realtor /Metro and CEO WNY Property Holdings and Melissa a paralegal at William Mattar. **Welcome Chris and Melissa!!**

Shoe Boxes of Hope - Dawn Marie

Contact Info - Dawn's Email: dawnrydzynski@yahoo.com - Contact Phone: 716-310-6899

This year we have decided to do 2 charities. The charities will help this year is Ronald McDonald House, and Haven house. If you are interested in helping us please contact me. I can come by to pick up donations if needed. We will also accept cash donations if you have not time to go out and get the wishes that are needed. You can put together your own shoe box full of items needed. You can donate items and we will put the boxes together. You can donate shoe boxes. Anything that you are able to do is greatly appreciated. Our goal is to get 50 shoe boxes to each organization. Thanks in advance for all your support.

All Donations need to be in by Dec. 21st 2019

2019 RMHC of WNY Wish List

Here is the list of current items we need (Items in bold are always needed)

The 2019 Wish List

Gift Cards
McDonalds
Wegmans
LaNova & Just Pizza
Target & Wal-Mart
Lexington Co-op
Home Depot

Snacks (Individually wrapped "Snack size")

Lay's Chips, Pretzels, Gold Fish
Snack mixes
Cookies
Candy "snack size"
Fruit snacks
Pop Tarts
Peanut Butter & Cheese
Crackers
Granola Bars
Applesauce & Fruit cups
Cereal individual size and boxes
Peanut butter & Jelly

Food Items

Microwavable Soups & Mac n' cheese
Vegetable & Olive oils, Pam Spray
Salt & Pepper
Broths (any flavor)
Pickles & Olives
Sugar & Flour
Mayonnaise & Miracle Whip

Drinks

Bottled water (16, 12 & 8oz)
Keurig coffee K-cups
To-go cups with lids
Juice boxes – 100% juice
Sugar packets, reg. & substitute
Single servings Non-dairy creamer
Teas
Hot Chocolate packets

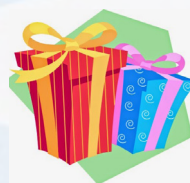
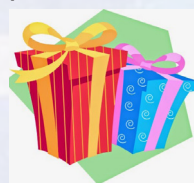
Laundry

Unscented dryer sheets
Clorox liquid bleach

Linens & Towels
Bath towels & Wash cloths (white)
Twin size sheet sets (white only)
Full size sheet sets (cream only)
Dish cloths, dish towels
Pot holders

Activities for Adults

Sudoku
Crossword & Word finds
Adult coloring books & colored pencils



Activities for Children

Coloring books with crayons
Activity books for children
Playing Card for all ages
Office Items
8 ½ x 11 copy paper
Office Max/ Depot gift cards

Household Items

Paper towels
Trash Bags Glad/Hefty 30gal black
Napkins
Ziplock/Glad storage containers all sizes
Plastic Spoons, Forks & Knives
Disposable containers (all sizes)
Freezer bags (gallon size)
Storage bags (gallon size)
Sandwich bags & snack bags
Foil & Saran wrap
Murphy's Oil Soap
Air fresheners
Swiffer Sweeper (wet) w/refills
Swiffer Duster w/refills

Perishables

Bread (white & Wheat) Bagels
Bacon precooked
Breakfast sausages, precooked
Fully cooked hams
Deli meats & sliced cheese

Haven House Needs: Items that are needed ASAP:

Microwave Ovens (New)
2T, 3T, 4T and 5T pull-ups
Umbrellas (New)
New, dark-colored twin bed sheets and comforters (the shelter uses twin size beds)
New infant car seats
Infant Strollers (New or gently used)
Large Strollers
New pillows and pillow cases
Hair product brands: Ampro Style Shine & Jam, Pink Oil Sheen, BB Super Grow,
Pink Lotion and Pantene Gold
Maxi Feminine pads

Items needed soon

Diapers: Size 5 & 6
Deodorant, Soap, and Body Wash
Baby Wipes
Thick, twin size blankets for winter

**Contact Info - Dawn's Email: dawnrydzynski@yahoo.com
- Contact Phone: 716-310-6899**



Cub Scout Pack 173

Cans for Cubs 2020

Cub Scout Pack 173 will be holding our annual pop can/bottle drive on Saturday, January 4, 2020 from 10am-12pm. On Saturday, January 4th, 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 Jason 716-777-2466 to arrange a pickup (leave message, be sure to include your address). Only NY stamped returnable pop/beer/water 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 22nd up until 5pm on Friday, December 13th. 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.



Willow Ridge PTO News and Events

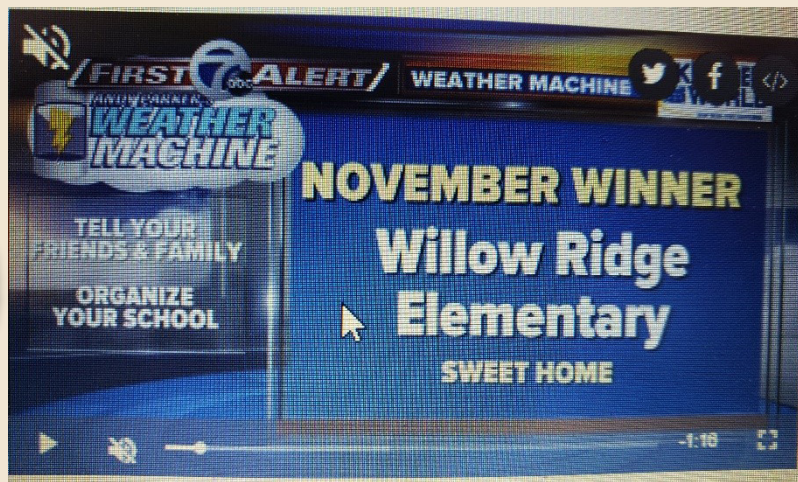
The PTO would love to encourage anyone that has interest to please consider coming to one of the meetings. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8 (childcare provided) in the Willow Ridge Elementary Cafeteria. You can just to commit to the time and events that you are able to – by 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 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)



Andy Parker Weather Machine:



The PTO wants to thank everyone that voted for Willow Ridge Elementary in November. There was over a million votes among the participating schools and we had about 323,000 of them! Willow Ridge won and the kids will be treated to the Andy Parker Weather Machine in the upcoming weeks. Take a look at the Willow Ridge PTO Facebook page to see the video of their reaction of Andy Parker coming to tell them the good news.

Upcoming Events

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

- December 3-5 – Winter Wonderland Holiday Shop
- December 3 – PTO Meeting 6:30-8 (childcare provided)
- December 6 – Dollars for Scholars Meat Raffle 6:00
- December 10- Cookie Dough pick up 4-6
- December 13 – No School (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
- December 23-January 1 - No School
- January 2 – Back to School
- January 7 - PTO Meeting 6:30-8 (childcare provided)
- January 20 -No School
- January 29 – Skating Party 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. Follow the PTO on Facebook at

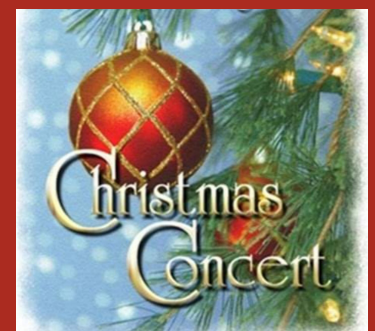
“Willow Ridge Elementary PTO” or on Twitter @PTOWillow

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

Sunday December 15th 4:00pm

The Sweet Home Community Chorus & Chamber Orchestra will perform for the public at our church! Come join the celebration as this group of about 50 students are volunteering their talents for this musical celebration of the season. Bring a friend, its FREE!





EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

NO MORE CLIPPING. ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR SMARTPHONE.

The NEW and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR THE NEW LABEL:

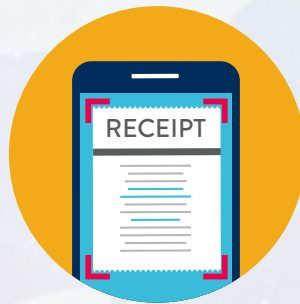


HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products throughout the store.



SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the app to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated at BTFE.com.

You do not need to clip or send Box Tops labels to school.



BOX TOPS CLIPS ON PACKAGES

Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out of production but may continue to be found on many products throughout the store as packages transition to the new Box Tops labels. **You can still clip these and send them to school.** Please make sure each clip has a valid expiration date.



BUY
BOX TOPS
PRODUCTS



CUT
OUT THE BOX TOP
FROM EACH PACKAGE



SEND
YOUR BOX TOPS
TO SCHOOL

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT BTFE.COM

THE ALL-NEW BOX TOPS IS HERE! DOWNLOAD THE APP:



WRCA MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

The November 2019 WRCA meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm by President Erich Krueger.

In attendance was President - Erich Krueger, Vice President – Kristin Puff, Secretary - Jane Sieman and Board Members John Radens, Ann Nichols, Marijean Nichols and Kori Cahill. Excused were Treasurer – Donna Mosteller and Board Members Kori Cahill and Andy Annesi. Also in attendance were Steve Steinberg, Max Steinberg, Gerry Poydock, Jackson Braun, Scott Braun, Sam Napoli, Jason Weiser, Noah Weiser, Lisa Collins, Jane and Jim Steel.

Scouts from Willow Ridge Cub Scout Pack 173 and Boy Scout Troop 173 opened the meeting with a flag ceremony. Cubmaster Jason Weiser and Scoutmaster Gerry Poydock presented charters to WRCA President Erich Krueger for signature. When the charter is complete, it will be presented to WRCA at a future meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion was made to approve the September & October minutes as published in the November issue by Marijean Nichols and seconded by Ann Nichols.

TREASURER'S REPORT

President Erich Krueger submitted treasurer's report this month. Balance as of tonight's meeting is \$8,081.13. Checks totaling 1,906.39 for newsletter printing / postage, which includes November's Membership Drive issue, were sent out at the end of last week making the available balance \$6,174.74. Motion was made to approve by Marijean Nichols and seconded by John Radens.

DISCUSSION

Children's Halloween Party was a huge success! Great attendance and great weather. Great participation turnout for Trunk or Treat. Thanks to Cassandra Schwab for another great event and to Amherst Baptist Church for volunteering, their assistance and providing things such as the bounce house. Thank you to all volunteers!!!

Halloween House Decoration Contest – Prize will be distributed to winner next week. Details to follow.

Christmas Tree Lighting will take place Saturday, December 7th, 2019 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 and Jim Cwierley.

Christmas house lighting contest was discussed, and details will follow in this issue of the newsletter.

Membership Drive for 2020. Jane Sieman reported. The November Wind in the Willows was in the mail last week to all willow ridge residents. The issue contains an invoice and an envelope for 2020 membership. Over 90 memberships have been received in just a few short days.

ADJOURNMENT -

There being no further business at hand, the meeting ended at 8:25 pm. Motion was made by Marijean Nichols to adjourn and seconded by Kori Cahill.

Next Willow Ridge Civic Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10th, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

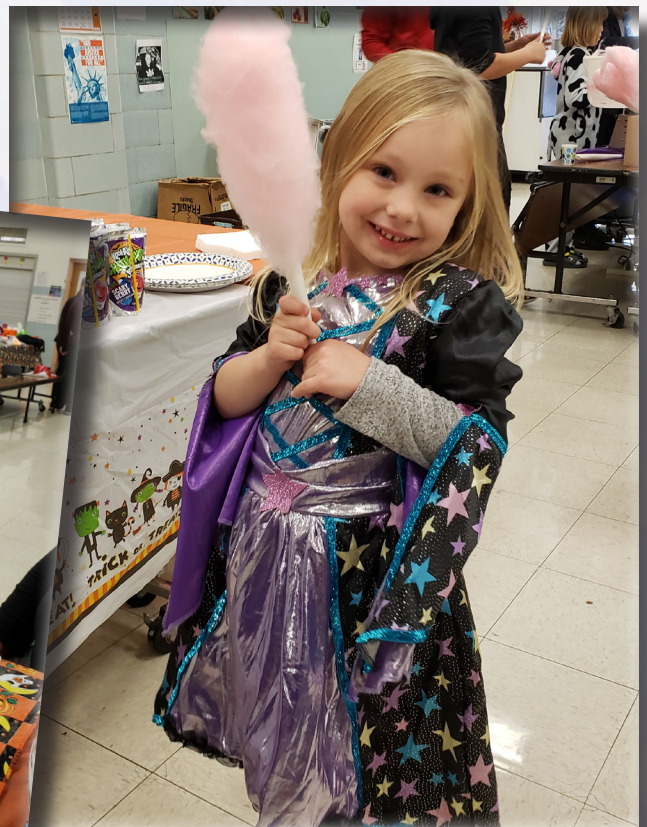
**Respectfully submitted,
Jane Sieman – WRCA
Secretary**





Scout Night - signing the Charter for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from Troop #173

Halloween Party - FUN ACTIVITIES



WILLOW RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2020 Membership Invoice

-DUES-

DUES FOR 2020 ARE \$17.00. Please renew/join by December 31, 2019.

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 2020 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-



Halloween Decorating Contest

WINNER!!

Robert and Michelle DiNunzio and their sons Jonathan & Nicholas

113 Rockdale Drive

I want to thank our Judges Dawn Cwierley, Matt Clemens, Marijean Nichols and our Junior Judges Matthew and Jessica Cwierley



Congratulations



11th ANNUAL: Moore Ave Shines
 (Friends of Stony Brook Shines for others SBSFO)
 December 1st Through January 1st



As you know, the charities we choose are “child centered” and the organization we have chosen is this year will be given to Devin’s Message. A local foundation that focuses on building self esteem, creating awareness of bullying and protecting children.

We really need everyone’s SUPPORT!

I'd like to help... is there anything I can do?

Decorate your trees that line the street with WHITE LIGHTS!

Try to turn the lights on each night beginning **December 1st Through January 1st**
 Help send out donation requests to fellow neighbors and businesses!

Who do I make a check payable to & Where do I send my Donation !?

Please make all checks payable to: **Devin’s Message Foundation**

Mail your donations to 29 Moore Ave, Tonawanda NY 14223 or feel free to drop them off at the Moore Ave neighborhood gathering on **December 16th at 7:00 pm .
Please bring a dish or dessert to pass!

The Stony Brook Shines for Others

Check Presentation will be **at 7:00 pm on December 19th** at the Stony Brook Shines neighborhood gathering. 54 Stony Brook Drive Lancaster NY, 14086

For questions or additional information, contact Patty 716-308-9625.

Please tear off and return this section with your donation

Family Name: / Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Amount enclosed: \$5___ \$10___ \$15___ \$20___ Other \$___

___ Our family plans on attending the Moore Ave gathering on December 16th at 7pm.



Christmas Decorating Contest

Will you have a “Griswold” house in the Willow Ridge neighborhood this Christmas?

Willow Ridge Civic Association members, nominate your house or your neighbor’s house by December 18th for a chance to win. Entrants will be judged on the Weekend of December 21st on the following criteria: originality, classic, theme and /or “Las Vegas is jealous of your light show!”

How to Enter: Entrants can submit the form below via mail to: WRCA Christmas Decorating Contest, 86 Sweetwood Drive North, Amherst, NY 14228 or email to holidayhousecontest@wrca.us. For more information, call Erich at 716-949-2561.

Christmas Decorating Contest Entry (Circle One): My House My Neighbor’s House

Home Owner Information:

Name: _____

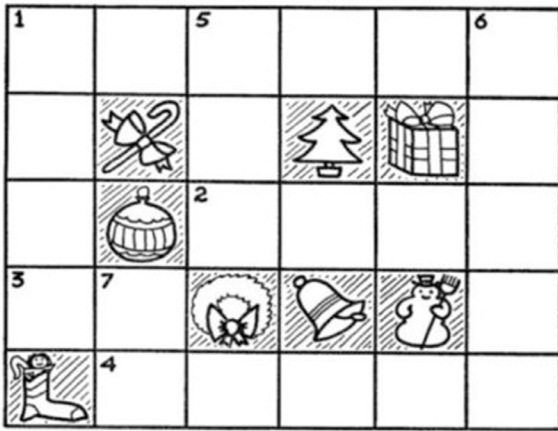
Address: _____ Amherst, NY 14228

Home Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Judging: Judging will take place from the street on on the Weekend of December 21st. Entrant’s homes will be photographed. The winners (5 Houses) will receive a Valu Home Centers gift card . Entrants are also encouraged to share photos of their decorated homes on our Facebook page prior to December 21st.

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



- ACROSS** **DOWN**
- 1- A holly----- 1-Make a ----
- 2- ----the stockings 5- Santa's helper
- 3-Santa's laugh,ho,-- 6-Boughs of-----
- 4- ----New Year 7- -- Goody!

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

Word List

- Christmas
- December
- Eggnog
- Elf
- Frosty
- Gift
- Holiday
- Jolly
- Mistletoe
- Presents
- Reindeer
- Rudolph
- Santa
- Sleigh
- Snowflake
- Snowman
- Tree
- Workshop

Instructions:
 Find the Christmas
 words in the
 mixed-up letters.

Connect the Dots

to see who is watching
 Santa prepare for his
 Christmas Eve deliveries!

