

RANSOM OAKS NEWS

A Neighborhood Publication

Sponsored by Ransom Oaks Community Corporation and Our Advertisers

www.RansomOaks.com

2012 Thirty-Two Years of Ransom Oaks News

September 2012

Ransom Oaks Community Corporation • 101 Ransom Oaks Drive • East Amherst, New York 14051

Back to School!

The Ransom Oaks Board of Directors consists of volunteers



- residents who are elected to office by a vote of the ROCC membership. They strive to keep Ransom Oaks strong and vital for generations to come and invite you to attend any monthly meeting, as listed in each newsletter. ■

Ransom Oaks ... a great place a live.



Ransom Oaks

Who-to-Call

INFORMATION If you have questions, problems, comments, or concerns:

- **Charlesgate, Forest Edge or Glen Oak**
Clover Management, 688.4503
- **Briarwoods or Woodgate Andruschat**
Real Estate Service, 688.4757
- **Ransom Oaks Architectural Matters**
(regarding Single-family homes ONLY!)
Mike Deck, 689.0988
- **Ransom Oaks Facilities Manager**
(including Clubhouse Rentals) Tom and
Kathy Halter, 691.7352
- **Comments** President of R.O.C.C.,
Mark Walsh, 636.6242
- **Vandalism, Animal Control or Security**
Concerns Amherst Police, 689.1311
- **Swormville Fire**, 688.7055

Ransom Oaks Renaissance

(more next issue)



August, Board Meeting

Highlights: August 13, 2012, Board of Director's Meeting.

Four residents attended the meeting.

Topics raised were:

- A resident did not receive pool passes and had great difficulty getting them.
- The Newsletter should contain more details about what is happening in Ransom Oaks and at the board meetings.
- The Greenwoods Pool could be cleaner and some tiles are loose
- We should spend more money maintaining and updating our facilities.
- Maybe we need a "pool person" that circulates through all the pools to help clean them, (Note, one day, Greenwood Pool had over 400 swimmer visits.)
- The spouse if the first resident did not like comments made by the board.
- We are making some progress toward upgrading our website. Comments and suggestions are needed and welcome.
- We are evaluating alternatives to resolve the Bike Path issue.
- Again, a resident has suggested that we need some way to recognize residents that devote energy toward

beautifying their property. If residents want to form a committee, the board will support you. Contact any board member.

- The board will take the annual walk around of our facilities to identify and prioritize areas requiring expenditures for next year and years beyond.
- The camera security system was installed at a second facility.
- Twenty one liens will be filed against residences that have not paid their assessment for 2012.
- Eveningwood pool repairs are in the \$20,000 range. ■

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Happy Birthday!

September Friends



Antonio Marong	13
September 2	
Melissa Moeller	17
September 2	
Divya Ramalingam	17
September 3	
Ryan Seipp	20
September 4	
Alex Jones	13
September 6	
Emily Mirand	18
September 12	
Agatha Christie	122
September 15	
Maddie Robinson	19
September 17	
Kaitlin Walsh	18
September 17	
Katelyn Howard	18
September 21	
Zhengyi Yan	11
September 22	
Sebastian Marong	11
September 26	
Matthew Vitello	12
September 27	
Matthew Mirand	15
September 29	
Alison Harris	12
September 29	
Jenna Mirand	15
September 29	
Alison Mirand	15
September 29	
Emma Liss	18
September 30	

Join the list! Send your name and birth date (and age if you prefer) to jkursten@ransomoaks.com. The list will remain on file and printed annually unless you request to be removed. Please let us know if someone has moved. ■

Ransom Oaks Board of Directors

RANSOM OAKS is a planned community of 1,100 families. We value its location and believe it is a great place to live and raise a family.

Mark Walsh , <i>President</i>	636.6242	mwalsh@ransomoaks.com
Gene Zambarda , <i>Vice President</i>	689.0924	gzambarda@ransomoaks.com
Jim Golding , <i>Treasurer</i>	689.4919	jgolding@ransomoaks.com
Pete Calinski , <i>Secretary</i>	688.1871	pcalinski@ransomoaks.com
Michael Deck , <i>Architectural</i>	689.0988	mdeck@ransomoaks.com
Tom Meldrum , <i>Landscaping</i>	639.7364	tmeldrum@ransomoaks.com
James Burke , <i>P/R Communications</i>	913.8381	jburke@ransomoaks.com
Forrest Benson , <i>At Large</i>	688.4688	fbenson@ransomoaks.com
Dennis Thompson , <i>Facilities</i>	636.7437	dthompson@ransomoaks.com

RANSOM OAKS COMMUNITY CORPORATION (R.O.C.C.) Board of Directors consists of volunteer residents who are elected to office by a vote of the ROCC membership. The Board meets monthly at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Area, see calendar. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. ■

Ransom Oaks Staff

Kathy & Tom Halter , <i>Facilities Managers</i>	691.7352	thalter@ransomoaks.com
Jennifer Kursten , <i>News Editor/Designer</i>	434.0994	jkursten@ransomoaks.com



Ransom Oaks

Facilities Report

As September quickly arrives, we hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. Pools will close Labor Day for the season. I hope everyone had a chance to use the facilities this season—July seemed to disappear quickly with August right behind.

Tennis courts will remain open through October provided we do not have problems with people rollerblading, using skateboards or playing baseball on the courts. Please remember that Bramhill Court now is the only multi-surface court for skating. Fall is a great time to enjoy the playgrounds, tennis courts and multi-surface court.

Buildings are clean and ready to be rented for group meetings and “get-togethers”. Please call Tom or Kathy Halter for Dennis Thompson to make reservations. There is a deposit and building use form that must be signed before you will be permitted to use the buildings. The deposit will be returned to you upon inspection of cleanliness. Please follow all rules for building use posted at each facility. It is very important that everyone who has weekly rentals clean up and take their garbage with them. The buildings are used almost every day.

Fall also brings political campaigning. Please remember that it is against your covenants and restrictions to have signs on your lawn or common grounds in the Ransom Oaks community. This will be strictly enforced.

Lastly, fall is also the time when we experience vandalism, and break-ins at the facilities. Please call the police if you see anything suspicious going on in the community.

We would like to thank all the guards for a great season and wish you all a successful year at school! You are a major part of what makes Ransom Oaks a great place to live!

Tom and Kathy Halter
Ransom Oaks Facilities Managers
716.691.7352 ■



Ransom Oaks Resident's Forum



We are introducing a new feature to our newsletter, called the “Resident’s Forum”. It is intended to provide an easy way for residents to express their interests, concerns, what pleases them or what bothers them about Ransom Oaks.

- Please take notice someone has been cutting flowers from Ransom Oaks residents’ flower gardens.
- A reminder to be courteous and pick up after your dog. Let’s keep the neighborhood clean and free of pests the waste attracts.
- Squirrels are pretty hardy and manage very well to feed themselves. Providing nuts and other seed for them attracts unwanted wildlife and damage to neighborhood gardens.
- Let’s all try to remember the overall goal . . .to make Ransom Oaks a great place to live!

Thank you . . . from your neighbors! ■



Street, Buffalo 14203, www.buffalosaturdayartmarket.com, (716)597-5759.

Tai Chi Classes for Beginners Wed. Sep 5 to Wed. Nov 28

Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. The Taoist Tai Chi Society will offer classes for beginners starting Wednesday, September 5th, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Amherst at the Amherst Youth Foundation building, 5005 Sheridan Drive,

September Events

cont'd on page 4

Around Town

September Events

Marble Orchard Ghost Walks

Sat. Sep 1 to Sat. Oct 27 2012

Saturdays: 7pm

Take a walk on the dark side to explore the grim and ghastly deeds of Lewiston’s best... and worst. Whether you’re out to have some fun, or to learn some history, Lewiston’s Marble Orchard Ghost Walks show off the unique personality of Lewiston’s rough-and-tumble frontier past as well as it’s

glorious present. Rain or shine! Oh, and bring a flashlight. It gets dark early in the cemetery! Adults \$12 / Under 12 \$6. Gather in the Courtyard, 476 Center St, Lewiston 14092, www.artcouncil.org 716-754-0166.

The Saturday Artisan Market at the Central Wharf

Sept 8 & 22, 10 am to 5 pm

A truly artisan market where the maker is the seller. Live music and entertainment, including yoga for kids! Rain or shine. Central Wharf at Canalside, across from the Naval Museum Prime

6th Annual Primrose Lane/Skylark Court Block Party



The Block Club Party includes children from age 5 months up to 15 years old, all enjoyed a fantastic time!

The 6th Annual Primrose Lane/Skylark Court Block Party was held on July 28 in Skylark Court. Spearheaded by Susan McKinley of Primrose Lane, the block party is an eagerly anticipated event filled with fun, laughter and good 'ol fashioned neighborhood bonding. Despite ominous weather reports, July 28th was a beautiful day, perfect for the 25 families in attendance. The party began at 3:00 pm and the fire truck arrived promptly at 4:00 pm. Firefighters from the Swormville Fire & Rescue Company tested out the fire hydrant and blasted the kids with water for over an hour. The children were also able to hold the fire hose themselves, try on firefighter gear and sit in the fire truck. After all

that good, clean fun, everyone was ready for a delicious potluck dinner. After dinner, the adults relaxed while the children waited anxiously for the neighborhood-wide scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt, created by Michelle Weber, featured five different routes with over 30 boxes hidden throughout the Ransom Oaks neighborhood. The children used pictures and written clues to find the boxes, which were filled with small gifts and prizes. As usual, the block party continued late into the night, and a great time was had by all. The friends and neighbors of Primrose and Skylark Court are



Sue Goeckel (Skylark Court resident) with some of her former North High School students.

neighborhood celebrations in the years to come. The Primrose/Skylark block party is just another example of why Ransom Oaks is a great place to live!

Michelle Weber,
Ransom Oaks News ■

September Events cont'd from page 3

Williamsville. Ample parking is available in the rear of the building. Classes have been taught at this Amherst location since 2010, helping many people improve their health. Taoist Tai Chi incorporates stretching and turning in a sequence of movements that improve the health of body, mind, and spirit. It reduces tension, improves circulation



and balance, and increases strength and flexibility. Classes for beginners are twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. The charge for four months of classes is \$125. Seniors can attend at a discounted rate of \$85. Call 876-7218 for further details. Amherst

Youth Foundation Building, 500 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville 14221, www.buffalo.taoist.org, 716-876-7218.

Mom's Day Out Program Wed. Sep 12 to Wed. Oct 24

Wednesdays 10:00-11:11:30am. Mom's Day out Program offers a nurturing program which focuses on socialize with other children their age and develop language skills, sing, play, stories, crafts, and more. Classes start Weds, Sept.12 at 10:00 am -11:30 am for ages 2- 4 years. Tuition: \$72 per month for 6 weeks. Children must be potty-trained and 2 years old by Sept. 31st. Call 982-9183 or 608-8358, Next Level Church, 751 French Rd, Cheektowaga 14227 716-608-8358. ■

Organize your closet and feel in control!

Want a great pick me up? Looking for something that will make a great difference in your day-to-day life? Clean out your bedroom closet! Yes, the relief and pride you will feel when this is done will make your hard work worth it! It will be so much easier to decide what to wear and you will start the day feeling in control. Simply follow the steps below that explain how to organize your wardrobe thoroughly.

- 1. Take out all of your clothes.**
- 2. Put everything into three piles:** Donate to charity, keep or throw away. Follow the golden rule of closet organizing: If you haven't worn it in a year, toss it. Also, if it doesn't fit you well, it is time to get rid of it. If you are on the fence about an item, "flag" the hanger. As you wear each item, remove the flag. At the end of each season, items that are still marked with a flag should be donated. If the item is in good condition and/or if you paid a lot for it think about selling it at a local consignment store or online at a site such as eBay.
- 3. Check the layout of your closet:** Once you have whittled down your wardrobe, you need to assess the layout of your closet. Measure the space you have, making sure to utilize backs of doors, floor space, and all interior walls. When you go to shop for boxes, bins, and other necessary space-savers, make sure you have your closet measurements in hand. Hang shoe racks on the back of your closet door. Classic belt hangers with multiple hooks are also a good solution for hanging camisoles, bras, or scarves.
- 4. Get hung up:** Invest in the right kind of hanger for the type of clothing you are hanging. Use padded hangers for items made from delicate fabrics, plastic hangers for button-down shirts, and sturdy wood hangers for suit jackets as they help retain the shape of the items. Remove all wire hangers (they don't properly support your clothes) and plastic dry-cleaner bags (they don't allow fabrics to breathe, keeping the chemicals used in dry cleaning in your clothes). Save time in the morning by coordinating your wardrobe. Sort by color, and hang like-types of clothing together (i.e. skirts, pants, blouses, etc.).
- 5. Continue to Sort:** Sort sweaters, T-shirts, and other folded clothing by color as well. Always remove sweaters from hangers and fold them. Hangers will ruin the shape of sweaters over time. Store sweaters on shelves in manageable-sized stacks using sweater dividers to keep them from turning. Even better, store them in sweater boxes with well marked labels.
- 6. Move onto shoes and accessories:** Most accessories like belts/scarves will hang up on hangers with other clothing items. Shoes can be put into sections



of the wardrobe or on the floor of the wardrobe, or you could put them into a shoe holder if you have one. If you are keeping your shoe boxes, label what is inside. Post-it Durable Tabs offer a writable surface and are quick and easy to apply. Alternatively, invest in clear shoe boxes with drawer-front pulls; they allow you to see what's inside so you can easily access your shoes. Move any snow boots, rain boots, or other "outdoor" gear to your front hall closet (or mudroom if you are lucky enough to have one); restrict what goes in your clothes closet to dress shoes only.

- 7. Seasonal change:** It's possible that no matter how much you try to edit and organize, you just have too much stuff to fit in your closet. If that's the case, then you need to resort to a seasonal system by rotating your fall/winter clothes with your spring/summer clothes. Covered clothing racks can be filled with out-of-season clothes and kept in your attic or basement or under your bed. Flat storage boxes can serve a similar purpose.

I guarantee if you wake up and look into an organized closet, you will feel energized and all of your effort will be worth it. It will incent you to move on to other areas of your home!

Maureen Mirand,
Ransom Oaks News ■

Call Maureen Mirand
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Safety Tips for the Grill

According to the United States Fire Administration, more than 5,000 Americans each year are burned by charcoal or propane fueled grills.

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the vent tubes – where the air and gas mix- are not blocked.
- Do not over fill the propane tank.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because the flame can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Dispose of hot coals properly- douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place used coals in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- Never grill/barbecue in enclosed areas- carbon monoxide could be produced.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately.
- Make sure everyone knows to STOP, DROP, and ROLL in case a piece of clothing does catch fire.

Bill Barber,
Ransom Oaks News ■

How to Advertise With Us . . .

If you would take advantage of the opportunity to affordably reach over 1,100 residents, please follow the instructions below to start advertising your business or service in the Ransom Oaks News:

1. Call or email:

Jennifer Kursten, Editor, 716-434-0994
 jkursten@ransomoaks.com

2. Write check to:

Ransom Oaks Community Corporation
 Indicate which month(s) to apply your payment.

3. Mail payment to: Jennifer Kursten
 PO Box 777, Lockport, NY 14095-0777

4. Deadline: All ad payments and ad verbage must be received by the **18th two months prior** to publication. Without receipt of payment for the 18th of two months prior, the ad will not run.

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Promote your service or sell an item. Thirty word maximum per ad.

RESIDENTS: ■ \$7/mo.

NON-RESIDENTS: ■ \$10/mo.

DISPLAY AD RATES

- 2 Col. (4.75" x 1.5" high) Ad: \$35/mo.
- 2 Col. (4.75" x 3" high) Ad: \$60/mo.
- 1/3 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 3" \$80/mo.
- 1/2 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 4.5" \$120/mo.
- 2/3 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 6" \$150/mo.
- Full Page Ad: 3 Col. x 9.5" \$225/mo.

Advertising Notes

Residents who place an ad in the Ransom Oaks News will no longer receive a duplicate copy mailed to their home. This is in an effort to be more green by not generating extra paper to be recycled and to reduce costs associated with printing. ■

Note: The R.O.C.C. Board of Directors and Staff do not necessarily have personal knowledge, nor are they able to recommend the advertisers who choose to advertise in this newsletter. ■

PIANO INSTRUCTION
 Ransom Oaks Resident!
 Certified experienced teacher, references available. Lessons taught in your home or mine: East Amherst, Clarence, Williamsville, Getzville, Lockport or the Tonawandas. Call 630.5998 or 598.3722.



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Car Corner
Did you know? ...

Motor oil itself never wears out. The additives put in the oil to help it fully protect your engine are what wears out, some over time, some from use. The high humidity and temperature changes of our climate puts additional stress on these additives. That's why it's still best to change your oil every 3 months or 3,000 miles. Oil changes will cost about \$100 to \$200 a year, engine repairs or replacements can cost between \$1,000 to \$5,000 - that's pretty cheap insurance!

Bruce Weiss,
Ransom Oaks News ■

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YOU choose your price!! (for a regular 2 car driveway)

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September 15th, 2012 your price is = \$235.00 + tax (\$255.56)

November 1st, 2012 your price is = \$250.00+ tax (\$271.88)

Here's what you get:

- Service from November 1st until March 31st (plowing thereafter will be \$30/per request)
- Snow removal at **3.0 inches** of snowfall (**3" must fall before first OR second plow**)
- Plowed by **7:00am** (when 3" falls between 5pm-3am)
- Plowed by **5:00pm** (when 3" falls between 7am-1pm)
- Re-seeding of any damaged grass (in spring)

NOTE: if snow begins to fall at 5:00am all driveways will not be done by 7:00am. Please allow a reasonable amount of time for your driveway to be cleared. We NEVER stop working for you!

Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ Signature: _____

Your signature means that you agree to the above terms and will not hold Jay's Landscaping responsible for any slipping or falling due to conditions created by the weather or the removal of snow.



Make check payable to: JAY'S Landscaping
297 MacArthur Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

September

Please visit our web site at www.RansomOaks.com

**Next ROCC Meeting:
Monday, September 10, 2012
6:30pm**

MEETINGS are at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month. RESIDENTS are welcome and encouraged to attend.

See you there!

2012 Meetings

September 10
October 9
November 12
December 10

September 12
Deadline for
Ransom Oaks News
Oct issue!

R.O.C.C. Covenants & Restrictions documents are available free of charge to residents who attend their community meeting, otherwise there is a \$20.00 fee. Monthly meetings are held at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center, unless noted otherwise.

Charlesgate Meeting:

second Wednesday of each month.

Forest Edge Meeting:

fourth Tuesday of each month.



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