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

November 2012

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Signs are prohibited in Ransom Oaks except "House for Sale" signs. This is election season, please respect this restriction.

WANTED: The ROCC Board of Directors Seeks New Members

The annual election for Ransom Oaks Board of Directors will take place on Monday, January 14, 2013. To learn more about serving a three-year term

as a Director, please contact ROCC President Mark Walsh at 636.6242 or email mwalsh@ RansomOaks.com.



Please notify Mark

Walsh by November 10, 2012 in order to be reviewed by the Nominating Committee. Potential candidates should plan on submitting a biography (250 words or less) by November 18, 2012.

The election is open to Ransom Oaks Community Corporation property owners who have paid their assessments and have no outstanding liens against their property.



Board of Director's Meeting Highlights

October 9, 2012

No residents attended the meeting *Topics raised were:*

- The January election is coming up. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.
- A local company gave a presentation on their abilities to upgrade our website.
- Repairs to the Eveningwood pool and the Greenwoods pool should be finished in October.
- Someone cut a hole in the fence at the Eveningwood pool.
- Properties with liens will be listed elsewhere in this newsletter.
- The 2013 budget will be finalized at the November meeting
- We will install a shelter at the Glen Oaks playground. ■

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Happy Birthday!



| November 2 |
|---|
| Sarah Morison 20 November 2 |
| Mike Elkan |
| Melissa Bonvissuto28 |
| November 6 |
| Erin Haltan |
| Matthew Mancini |
| Margaret Mitchell |
| Max Cassaro |
| November 8 |
| Sarah Nowakowski |
| Kyle Lort |
| Joshua Moore22 November 12 |
| Kathyrn O'Malley18 November 14 |
| Laura Goodrich |
| Kathleen Goodrich |
| Megan Knowles |
| Lindsey Hawkins |
| Gabrielle Alexis Ciambella10 November 24 |
| Victoria Egleston |
| Richard Long |
| William Gregory 9 November 27 |
| Joey Maruca |
| Janet Woser |
| |

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

RANSOM OAKS COMMUNITY CORPORATION (R.O.C.C.) Board of Directors consists of volunteer residents who are elected to offi ce 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, *Facilities Managers* 691.7352 thalter@ransomoaks.com **Jennifer Kursten**, *News Editor/Designer* 434.0994 jkursten@ransomoaks.com



Ransom Oaks

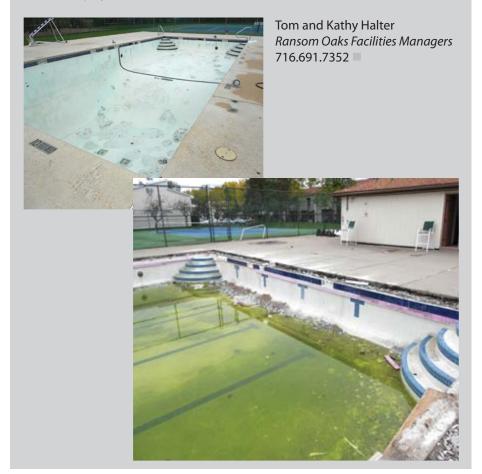
Facilities Report

The leaves are changing and the temperature is cooling off so why are the Eveningwood and Greenwood pools still uncovered?

The ROCC board of directors at the September meeting approved a contract to repair both pools. The Eveningwood pools are having the cracks repaired and the marcite replaced. The main pool at Greenwood is having the tiles replaced and a new concrete edge poured. We hope to start the 2013 season with a great new look at both facilities. And by the time this newsletter reach's you, we will also have a new picnic shelter at the Glen Oaks playground.

That will complete the projects for this year but, we are currently budgeting for 2013. The board is hoping to approve the 2013 budget at the November 12 board meeting. Feel free to attend the November meeting at the Greenwood recreation facility. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM and at the beginning of the meeting resident comments are welcome. Your thoughts and concerns are always welcome if not encouraged, so even if you cannot attend a meeting please drop us an email thalter@ransomoaks.com or give us a call 716-691-7352.

The facilities are the center of this great community and even if you don't swim, play tennis or use the playgrounds there appearance enhances everyone's property values. The board of directors for several years has maintained a five year planning committee to ensure the facilities are well maintained. Think about what you might contribute to keeping Ransom Oaks a great place to live and play?



Ransom Oaks Resident's Forum

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The Resident's Forum provides an easy way for residents to express their interests, concerns, what pleases them or what bothers them about Ransom Oaks. To submit something for the forum any resident can call, send an email, or mail a letter to any board member or the Newsletter Editor. We will not accept anonymous items but you can specify if you want the item to be published anonymously, with a nickname, or with your name.



The ROCC Board and Staff wishes all the residents a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Ransom Oaks Advertising

Please take the time to review our advertisers. They help support the Ransom Oaks newsletter. If you know of a business who might benefit from advertising in the *Ransom Oaks News* please have them contact our *Newsletter Editor*, Jennifer Kursten, or provide her with their contact information. 716-434-0994 or jkursten@ransomoaks.com. Thank you for your consideration! ■

Emerald Ash Border Treatments for Ransom Oaks

Our community has hundreds of ash trees, some planted by us and quite a few planted as "street trees" by the Town of Amherst. They're hardy, fast-growing, stately when mature...and they're all at risk of being killed by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The trees have no defense against this pest, which eats the vital cambium layer in ash trees. The result is akin to blocking a person's blood vessels – no



nutrients can move through the trees and they gradually die. Once the trees show symptoms, it is unlikely that they will survive.

There are 2 proven methods to prevent the EAB from doing this to our trees:

- Inject the tree with a precise amount of pesticide; this pesticide stays inside the tree and the treatment lasts as long as 2 years. *
- An external application of pesticide. This type of treatment is less expensive but is degraded faster by environmental exposure, and it may affect other species besides the EAB.

For either method, it is best to apply it in the spring of 2013 (May-June).

I've talked to 2 of the tree services that can do the injection treatment. I asked if they would consider discounting the service if we have a number of Ransom Oaks owners interested – their answer is "maybe", depending on several factors.

Here is what you should do if you want to be part of a group that will get the best pricing for EAB treatment:

- 1. Count your ash trees and measure (or estimate) their diameter. This is called "caliper". If you're not sure which trees are ash trees, the tree service may be willing to help you with that.
- 2. Send me an e-mail at icosa@roadrunner.com with your tree count, address, and your phone # (and your name if you wish).
- 3. I'll collect this information until November 17 and then I'll give generic information (# of trees and e-mail address only) to the 3 tree services below. They will each let me know what kind of discount they can offer, and when they would do the treatment.
- 4. I'll advise everyone of who has the best deal, and then you are each free to sign up with that tree service. There's no obligation and no strings…but if you want to protect your trees you should do something soon.



Wright-Frontier, in Cheektowaga: Contact: Bill 634-3431, bschreiber@ wftree.com

Ken Seitz Landscaping, in Clarence: Contact: Ken 741-7483

Haskell Tree Service, 655-3359

*more details are available on the internet at www.arborjet.com

Lisa Miller, Ransom Oaks News ■



Ransom Oaks Properties with Liens

Property with liens will need to contact the ROCC attorney
Michael Ranzenhofer at 542-5444.

| Ransom Oaks Properties with Liens Year | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 38A Beehunter Court | 2009 | | |
| 40A Beehunter Court | 1999, 2000 | | |
| 40B Beehunter Court | 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 | | |
| 85 Bramhill Court | 2010 | | |
| 156 Charlesgate Circle | 2010, 2012 | | |
| 301 Charlesgate Circle | 2007 | | |
| 704 Charlesgate Circle | 2011, 2012 | | |
| 1006 Charlesgate Circle | 2012 | | |
| 1251 Charlesgate Circle | 2010, 2011, 2012 | | |
| 1252 Charlesgate Circle | 2012 | | |
| 1351 Charlesgate Circle | 2011 | | |
| 28D Coolbrook Court | 2010 | | |
| 61 Eveningwood Lane | 2011 | | |
| 1051 Flanders Court | 2012 | | |
| 302 Forest Edge Drive | 2010, 2011, 2012 | | |
| 751 Forest Edge Drive | 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 | | |
| 19 Moorgate Court | 2011, 2012 | | |
| 85 Moorgate Court | 2011, 2012 | | |
| 21 Oakcliff Court | 2012 | | |
| 257 Old Meadow | 2011, 2012 | | |
| 233 Old Oak Post Road | 2012 | | |
| 84 Periwinkle Court | 2011, 2012 | | |
| 25 Ruby Lane | 2012 | | |
| 3D Southcreek Court | 2008, 2009, 2010 | | |
| 25 Sweetwater Court | 2012 | | |

At Home in Ransom Oaks

Neighbors often ask questions about homes, real estate and in particular, market values in Ransom Oaks. The following information shows what has been happening in Ransom Oaks from January 1 through October 11, 2012. With interest rates at an all time historic low and lack of homes for sale, homes that are listed and priced properly are selling fairly quickly.

| Address | List Price | Sale Price | Sq. Ft. | %list vs. sold | BR/Bath |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Coriander Ct. | 319,900 | 280,000 | 2820.88 | .88 | 4/2.5 |
| Doral Ct. | 214,900 | 199,900 | 2022 | .93 | 4/2.5 |
| Honeysuckle Way | 240,000 | 222,500 | 2567 | .93 | 4/2.5 |
| Kinderhook Ct. | 189,900 | 178,000 | 2187 | .94 | 4/2.5 |
| Oakcliff Ct. | 219,900 | 203,000 | 2172 | .92 | 4/2.5 |
| Odessa Dr. | 215,000 | 206,000 | 2106 | .96 | 4/2.5 |
| Opal Ct. | 234,900 | 237,900 | 2554 | 1.01 | 4/2/2 |
| Ransom Oaks Dr. | 219,900 | 215,000 | 2294 | .98 | 4/2.5 |
| Sweetwater Ct. | 80,000 | 55,000 | 2091 | .69 | 4/2.5 |
| Topaz Ct. | 219,900 | 199,900 | 2302 | .91 | 4/2.5 |
| White Cedar Dr. | 214,900 | 207,000 | 2038 | .97 | 4/2.5 |



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Do You Know Where Your Totes Are As Of 10/22/12?

As many have noticed, and **reported to us**, the number of residents that are not properly storing their totes is increasing. As a community that collectively cares about the appearance and values of our homes we had hoped that residents would follow the Covenants and Restrictions which require that garbage (and by implication recycling) containers should not be visible except on the day that pickup is made.

We decided to tabulate just how many residents conformed to the C&R. To do this we divided the single family homes of Ransom Oaks into 16 Zones and counted totes that are visible from the street in each Zone. Note, we did not attempt to find totes that were visible from other vantage points.

The totes were counted on September 5, 2012 and again October 22, 2012. The results are shown in Table 1.

Note:

- (1) 27 more homes put away their totes
- (2) **Zones 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 all have over 70** % compliance. That is **3 more** than last time.
- (3) The Zone with the poorest compliance, **Zone 16**, **improved from 36% to 44%**.
- (4) **Zone 14 improved to nearly 70%** compliance.

If you have internet access you can get the full spreadsheet showing the actual addresses that are in each Zone and the status of each on the day we made the count. Follow this link: http://snipr. com/zoneoverview

If you prefer to examine a hard copy of the file, contact the secretary of the Ransom Oaks Community Corporation.

Residents should feel free to comment on this information in the Resident's Forum, or on the RansomOaks online Forum at: http://RansomOaks.freeforums.org/

Sincerely,

The Ransom Oaks Board of Directors.

Table 1

| Zone | Description | Homes Per Zone | Hidden 9/15/12 % | Hidden 10/22/12 % |
|------|--|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Bramhill & Part of Old Oak Post (OOP) | 31 | 67.7 | 61.3 |
| 2 | Glen Abby & Coriander | 34 | 67.6 | 76.5 |
| 3 | Part of OOP, Moorgate, Kinderhook | 43 | 76.7 | 79.1 |
| 4 | Doral, Part of OOP, Old Hempstead, Kingsbrook, Woodmoor | 32 | 75.0 | 71.9 |
| 5 | Fiddlers, Inverness, Part of Ransom Oaks, (RO), Oakhill | 32 | 71.9 | 81.3 |
| 6 | Part of RO, Pinehurst, Sweetwater, Part of Glen Oak (GO) | 32 | 87.5 | 75.0 |
| 7 | Part of RO, White Pine, Oakmont, Shady Oaks | 33 | 63.6 | 60.06 |
| 8 | Part of GO, Oakcliff, Redbud | 42 | 76.2 | 78.6 |
| 9 | Primrose, Skylark | 43 | 72.1 | 76.7 |
| 10 | Eveningwood, Part of GO, Periwinkle | 37 | 56.8 | 64.9 |
| 11 | Smith, Part of White Cedar | 37 | 51.4 | 62.2 |
| 12 | Part of White Cedar, Whispering, Odessa Ct. | 37 | 59.5 | 70.3 |
| 13 | Odessa Dr., Honeysuckle | 30 | 46.7 | 60. |
| 14 | Ginger, Lilybrooke | 32 | 53.1 | 68.8 |
| 15 | Part of GO, Opal, Topaz | 38 | 42.1 | 50.0 |
| 16 | Part of GO, Ruby | 25 | 36.0 | 44.0 |
| | Total Hidden | | | 381 |
| | % Hidden | | | 68.3 |
| | Total Visible from the Street | | | 177 |
| | Total | | | 558 |

Around Town

November Events

Saturday Art Classes for Kids November 11, 2012 - January 19, 2013 Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardans 2655 South Park Avenue Ruffalo

dens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14218. These multi-medium art classes are for kids ages 5-15. taught by Joan Saba, a product will be complete in each class. Supplies are included. For more information call 716.827.1584 ext. 291, www.buffalogardens.com.

Kids' Art Classes November 3 - Dec 15, 2012.

Carnegie Art Center, 240 Goundry Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120. Nancy Koch, certified teacher in Art Education. A different completed project at each Saturday morning class. For more information call 716.694.440 or email office@carnegieartcenter.org.

Lancaster Opera House Annual Craftshow November 17, 2012 - 9:00am-3:00pm

Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral 6298 Broadway, Lancaster 14086 Our annual craft show returns for the 26th year! Get an early start on your holiday shopping. \$1 donation at the door. www.lancopera.org

The Polar Express Train Ride November 2012, Sat. and Sun, 4:40 and 5:50 pm.

Medina Railroad Museum 530 West Ave., Medina 14103
Train ride and story as the train makes its magical round-trip to the North Pole. Enjoy hot cocoa, a special treat, a special gift, meet Santa and tour the largest RR and Toy Train museum in NY State. www.railroadmuseum.net 585-798-6106.

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 ikursten@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 eff ort 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.

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Car Corner

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for winter. We do things around our

house to be prepared and we have to do the same with our automobiles.

Changing oil, a good check up, making sure there is enough Anti-freeze, a good set of wipers, tires are in good

condition, fluids checked and filled

should minimally be done. Some of

these can be done by you or best by

- Oil change 5 qts 5w30 semi-synthetic blend, with premium filter
- Check for leaks and top off fluids
- Check tires and rotate if needed
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- Test Battery
- Test and fill anti-freeze
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- Road Test
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November 15th, 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 <u>NEVER</u> 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

November

Please visit our web site at www.RansomOaks.com

Next ROCC Meeting: Monday, November 12, 2012 6:30pm

MEETINGS are at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Monday of the month except for Columbus day. RESIDENTS are welcome and encouraged to attend. **See you there!**

2012 Meetings

December 10

R.O.C.C. Convenants & Deadline for Ransom Oaks News are available free of charge to residents who attend their community meeting, otherwise there is a \$20.00 fee. Monthly meeting 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.



Ransom Oaks Community Corporation 101 Ransom Oaks Drive East Amerst, NY 14051

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