



# Ransom Oaks News

A Neighborhood Publication

Sponsored by Ransom Oaks Community Corporation & Our Advertisers

www.ransomoaks.com

2014 Thirty-Four Years of Ransom Oaks News

March 2014

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

## Welcome Spring!

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 the coming generations and invite you to attend any monthly meeting, as listed on the back cover of each newsletter. ■

**Ransom Oaks... a great place to live.**

## Resident's Forum



### Safety First

More requests for Winter Safety...

**Please keep your sidewalks free of snow and ice.**

When sidewalks are not clear, our many resident walkers and runners, including our children, are driven into the streets.

**Drivers, please slow down & drive with care**

Our posted speed limit is 30 mph. Snow piles can impair vision this time of year. We have many families in our community which means children playing.

Please help our newer drivers to understand why cautious driving is important, especially in the winter time when roads are slick.



*Please help to keep Ransom Oaks a safe place year round.* ■

## In This

## Issue

- 2 Ransom Oaks Board of Directors
- 3 Facilities Report: Tom & Kathy Halter
- 4 Ransom Oaks: Assessment
- A1 Ransom Oaks: Resident's Insert
- 5 Around Town: March Events
- 6 How to Advertise with Ransom Oaks
- 7 Car Corner

## Ransom Oaks

### Who-to-Call

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

- **Charlesgate or Glen Oak**  
Clover Management, 688.4503
- **Briarwoods, Forest Edge, or Woodgate**  
Andruschat Real Estate Service, 688.4757
- **Ransom Oaks Architectural Matters** (regarding Single-family homes ONLY!) Mike Deck, 406.8557
- **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 Annual Garage Sale

Does our snowy winter have you hibernating? Spring starts March 20. It's time to start thinking about warmer days and you know what that means... cleaning the basement and garage!

Please keep the June **Annual Ransom Oaks Garage Sale** in mind while doing your spring cleaning. Many seasoned Garage Sellers from across Western New York look forward to our community-wide sale!

Watch for details in upcoming issues of *Ransom Oaks News!* ■



## Happy Birthday!

### Our March Friends



<b>Dr. Seuss</b> .....	110
March 2	
<b>Gabrielle Rose</b> .....	20
March 4	
<b>Taylor Vogel</b> .....	13
March 7	
<b>Alex Perry Ciambella</b> .....	7
March 8	
<b>William Walkowski</b> .....	18
March 9	
<b>Zachary Toner</b> .....	14
March 9	
<b>Benedict Gregory IV</b> .....	12
March 11	
<b>Aurora Tyska</b> .....	8
March 13	
<b>Catherine Walkowski</b> .....	14
March 14	
<b>Bradley Toner</b> .....	19
March 15	
<b>Lauren Greiner</b> .....	15
March 18	
<b>Sydney McKinley</b> .....	15
March 20	
<b>Tyler Penberthy</b> .....	19
March 20	
<b>Andrew White</b> .....	20
March 22	
<b>Doug Newman</b> .....	38
March 23	
<b>Alexandra Tubbs</b> .....	23
March 23	
<b>Kaitlyn Vogel</b> .....	11
March 27	
<b>Isabella Fueter</b> .....	17
March 29	
<b>Todd Witt</b> .....	13
March 29	

**Join the list!** Send your name and birth date (and age if you prefer) to newsletter@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.

<b>Mark Walsh, President</b>	636.6242	mwalsh@ransomoaks.com
<b>Gene Zambarda, Vice President</b>	689.0924	gzambarda@ransomoaks.com
<b>Jim Golding, Treasurer</b>	689.4919	jgolding@ransomoaks.com
<b>Pete Calinski, Secretary</b>	688.1871	pcalinski@ransomoaks.com
<b>Michael Deck, Architectural</b>	689.0988	mdeck@ransomoaks.com
<b>Tom Meldrum, Landscaping</b>	639.7364	tmeldrum@ransomoaks.com
<b>James Burke, P/R Communications</b>	913.8381	jburke@ransomoaks.com
<b>Andrzej Ogiba, Facilities</b>	688.8016	aogiba@ransomoaks.com
<b>Forrest Benson, At Large</b>	688.4688	fbenson@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

<b>Kathy &amp; Tom Halter, Facilities Managers</b>	691.7352	thalter@ransomoaks.com
<b>Terry Collins, News Editor/Designer</b>	980.5470	newsletter@ransomoaks.com



## Ransom Oaks

# Facilities Report

The better part of winter is behind us, we hope, and warm weather plans are in the works.



We are currently in the process of contacting our life guarding staff from last year to see who will be interested in returning to work for the community. This is the time to send your resume and copies of your Life Guard certificates if you are interested in a lifeguard position. At this point we are not sure if we will have any openings, but we will keep all resumes on file. Please send all information to: Kathy Halter, 38 Maricrest Drive, Amherst, NY 14228. Please remember that at this point, we do not know how many openings we will have.

Assessment notices were sent out in the beginning of January and were due by February 28th. You can expect a late notice in early March if you have not paid this year's assessment. Please remember this assessment is for the calendar year of 2014 and mandatory for all ROCC residents. All assessments must be paid by mail. Please note that we will not send pool passes to residents with unpaid service charges or liens on their property.

All building rentals are now handled by contacting us at 691-7352. Please do not call after 9 p.m.

Tom and Kathy Halter  
Ransom Oaks Facilities Managers  
716.691.7352 ■

## Ransom Oaks

# Around Ransom Oaks

Girl Scout? Boy Scout? School Group? Church Group? Volunteer?

Let us know what's going on with your group and we can feature you in the newsletter.

Have an event coming up you'd like to publicize? Let us know and we can include your event in an upcoming Ransom Oaks News issue.

It's easy... drop an email to newsletter@ransomoaks.com. ■



## St. Pat's Fun Facts

- The actual color of St. Patrick is blue. Green became associated with St. Patrick's Day during the 19th century.
- Green, in Irish legends, was worn by fairies and immortals, and also by people to encourage their crops to grow.
- St. Patrick did not actually drive snakes out of Ireland; the snakes represent the pagans that he converted to Christianity.
- The very first St. Patrick's Day parade was not in Ireland. It was in Boston in 1737. ■

## Early Spring Tips

Once the snow melts, take a walk around the outside of your house...

Remove any lingering holiday lights before your trees or bushes bud.

Check that the critters haven't made your home their home,

that your siding or roofing are not damaged and

that your furnace vent is clear of any debris which may have blown beside your house. ■

## Ransom Oaks

# Ad Rates Change

Effective April 1, 2014 our newsletter advertising rates will increase. We were glad to hold any increase for three years.

Advertising in the Ransom Oaks Newsletter provides direct mail access to over 1100 homes in Ransom Oaks. Our newsletter is also available in pdf format at ransomoaks.com.

All current advertisers have been notified and provided an opportunity to purchase any amount of ads at the current rate until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The increase will impact all levels of advertising and are included below:

Ad Type	Current/New Rate
Classified - Resident	\$7/\$8
Classified -Non-resident	\$10/\$11
2 Column, 1.5" High	\$35/\$37
2 Column, 3" High	\$60/\$65
1/3 Page	\$80/\$85
1/2 Page	\$120/\$125
2/3 Page	\$150/\$155
Full Page	\$225/\$235

Now is a great time to consider purchasing one of our Bakers Dozen. Pay for 12 months of advertising and receive 1 month free. Advertising does not have to run contiguous. ■

## Around Home

# 10 tips to beat clutter in less than five minutes

Having a clutter-filled house can make you feel overwhelmed and exhausted. Everywhere you look, you see little chores that should be done. No single task is particularly difficult, but together, they add up to a big headache and a big mess. Pretty quickly, it's easier just to add to the piles than to try to attack the problem.

# 10

Here are ten easy, quick tips that, if followed regularly, will help keep your clutter under control. And none of them takes more than five minutes – if that.

1. Make your bed each morning.
2. Throw away the newspaper each night, even if you haven't read it yet.
3. Follow the "one-minute rule" – push yourself to do any chore that takes less than one minute. Throw away the junk mail, close the cabinet door, put your dirty socks in the hamper, hang up your wet towel.
4. Identify an organization or person to whom you can give things you no longer need – it's much easier to get rid of unneeded stuff if you can envision someone else getting good use from them. Also, figure out a place to store those things until you hand them over. We have a special shelf for books that we're taking to the Housing Works thrift store. When the shelf is full, we drop off the books.
5. Pause for a moment before you "store" something. Storing something means you don't intend to use it much. Other than holiday decorations and seasonal clothes, you should strive to "store" as little as possible.
6. Beware of freebies. Never accept anything free, unless you're thrilled with it. A mug, a tote bag, a hand-me-down toy, the lamp from your mother-in-law—if you don't need it, don't take it.
7. Get rid of things if they break. When I went through our apartment, I was astonished by how many things I'd kept even though they didn't work.
8. Don't keep any piece of paper unless you know that you actually need it. I have a friend who, for years, carefully filed away the stubs when she paid her gas bill. "Why?" I asked, mystified. "I have no idea," she said. Along the same lines, don't keep anything that would quickly become dated—like travel information. Remember the internet! If you can easily find information online, you don't need to keep a hard copy.
9. Hang up your coat.
10. Before you go to bed, take five minutes to do an "evening tidy-up." Don't tackle anything ambitious, but just stack up the magazines, put your shoes away, shove the chairs into place, etc. Just a few minutes of tidying can make your house look a lot better, and it's a calming thing to do before going to sleep. Plus it makes the morning nicer.



from Gretchen Rubin @ unclutterer.com ■



Two states—Arizona and Hawaii—and four U.S. territories—American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—don't observe daylight saving time. Indiana adopted DST in 2006.

## Annual Assessment NOTICE

**Amount Due:** \$311.64

**Due Date:** by February 28, 2014\*

**Check Payable to:**

Ransom Oaks Community Corporation

**Return to:** Tom and Kathy Halter,  
38 Maricrest Dr., Amherst, NY 14228

Name

Ransom Oaks Address

Other Address for Mailing

Phone

E-mail

Print Names of Permanent Residents at Address :

**NEW!** No envelopes necessary.

- Without tags, you may not use the facilities.
- Tags & guest pass will be mailed in May.

\*A 1.5% Monthly Service Charge will apply after February 28, 2014

## Thank you to our Advertiser Columnists!

Change is good or at least constant...

We're trying some new things with the newsletter and our advertiser columnists will be taking a deserved break.

**Thank you!** ■

Around Town

# March Events

### Mama Songs - Young Audiences Family Program

Sunday, March 9, 1-2pm  
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

All-ages family Young Audiences program with Annette Daniels-Taylor to celebrate Women's History Month

Cost: free. Details: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org), 858-8900. ■

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sunday, March 16, 2pm  
Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

The Parade is Sunday, March 16th at 2PM on Delaware Avenue. The Parade route is north on Delaware Avenue from the McKinley Monument to North Street. ■

### Pancake Breakfast

Mar 16, Apr 6, May 11, Jun 8  
Jurek Post of the American Legion

A.J. Jurek American Legion Post 1672, 655 New Road at Smith Road in East Amherst, will host pancake breakfasts on March 16th, April 6th, May 11th and June 8th, 2014. ■

### Volunteer Open House

Saturday, March 8, 1-3pm  
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village

Learn about the different opportunities and benefits of volunteering, internships and more here at BNHV! Free admission and tours of the Shaw exhibit building and Collections Storage building. Appetizers and refreshments will be provided. Cost: free. Details: <http://www.bnhv.org>. ■



### CSz Improvathon

Mar 21, 6pm - Mar 23, 7:30pm  
comedysportz Buffalo

ComedySportz is fast-paced, family-friendly improvisational comedy, played as a sport. It's our 6th Annual ComedySportz Improvathon! Featuring guest players from other ComedySportz cities, theme basket raffles, a live auction at every show, and improv out the wazoo!

Cost: Visit website for ticket details. Details: <http://buffalocsz.com>. ■

# Mark Your Calendar

Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) March 4



Daylight Savings Time March 9

St. Patrick's Day March 17



Spring Begins March 20

April Fools Day April 1



## Please Support Our Advertisers

They help us bring you the Ransom Oaks Newsletter.

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Ransom Oaks Resident

## Ransom Oaks

# How to Advertise With Us . . .

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

### 1. Call or email:

Terry Collins, Editor, 980.5470,  
newsletter@ransomnews.com

**2. Write check to:** Ransom Oaks Community Corporation. Indicate which month(s) to apply your payment.

**3. Mail payment to:** Terry Collins, P.O. Box 1356, Grand Island NY 14072

**4. Deadline:** All ad payments, graphics and ad verbiage must be received by the **15th of month prior** to publication. Without receipt of payment by the 15th of month 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(until 4/1/14)

- 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.

**Bakers Dozen** - Buy any 12 months of single-size ad & receive 1 month free

### 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. ■





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Associate Broker, Ransom Oaks Resident

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*Associate Broker,  
Ransom Oaks Resident  
Lois Robinson*



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Changing your lighting can be life changing.  
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**Just for Kids**



Kids ages 5-12  
Join us for a fun-filled break!

April 14th-18th  
7:30 am- 5:30 pm

www.justforkidsonline.org (716)639-8500 info@justforkidsonline.org

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## Car Corner



### Did you know? ...

As temperatures go up and down be sure to check your tire pressure.

Did you know tire pressure changes by 1 pound of pressure with every 10 degrees of temperature change?

An underinflated tire doesn't grab the road as well as a properly inflated tire.

Especially when our thermometer is jumping around on cold days, make a pit stop at the gas station air pump when you fill up and check your tire pressure ■

*Join us at Mill Middle!*

### Just for Kids Summer Club

A new generation of summer programming

*Swimming, Field Trips, Hobbies, Sports, fine arts, great staff, fun challenges, Leadership program, and more! Enrollment is limited; reserve your spaces today!*

*Camp starts June 30th!*

Call **639-8500** or visit [justforkidsonline.org](http://justforkidsonline.org) to register!





## Adore Your Home

• Handyman •

Interior/Exterior Painting • Deck & Fence Restoration  
 Seasonal Yard Cleanup • Topsoil & Mulch  
 Shrub Trimming • Gutter Cleaning • Any Small, Odd Job

**716.400.8581**  
 Ransom Oaks Resident, Tim Maher • [adoreyourhome@hotmail.com](mailto:adoreyourhome@hotmail.com)

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Expires 4/30/14

# March

Please visit our web site at [www.ransomoaks.com](http://www.ransomoaks.com)

**Next ROCC Meeting:  
Monday • March 10, 2014  
6:30pm @ Greenwood Facility.**

MEETINGS begin at 6:30pm at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center the 2nd Monday of each month except for Oct 2014.

RESIDENTS are welcome and encouraged to attend.

*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. ■*

**2014 Meetings**

March 10	August 11
April 14	September 8
May 12	October 14 (Tuesday)
June 9	November 10
July 14	December 8

**Charlesgate Meeting:**

second Wednesday of each month.

**Forest Edge Meeting:**

fourth Tuesday of each month.

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

• **Charlesgate or Glen Oak**

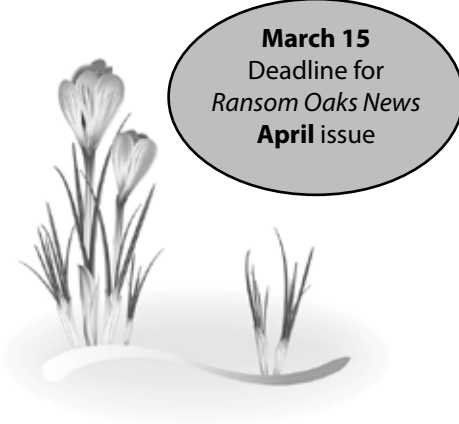
Clover Management, 688.4503

• **Briarwoods, Forest Edge, or Woodgate**

Andruschat Real Estate Service,  
688.4757

• **Vandalism, Animal Control or Security Concerns** Amherst Police, 689.1311

• **Swormville Fire**, 688.7055



**March 15**  
Deadline for  
*Ransom Oaks News*  
**April** issue



**Ransom Oaks**

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