



# 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

April 2014

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

## April Greetings

**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, Always a Priority



We continue to receive input from residents on safety, it's always a concern and a priority.

With some luck, the snow has made its last appearance for this year and it's time to emerge from our winter hibernation.

Small children and pets stretching their spring legs may dart out into the street.



Runners, walkers and bikers are taking to the streets and sidewalks.

It's time to be outside and to take care as we drive through our community.

Share with newer drivers that spring brings everyone out of hibernation, especially children at play.

*Please drive slow & with care, help keep Ransom Oaks a safe place to live & play.* ■

## Ransom Oaks Annual Garage Sale

The Annual Ransom Oaks Garage Sale is set for **Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14.**

To get started, contact Maureen Mirand (call, text or email Maureen at 716 866-9959 or mmirand@realtyusa.com) for your **Ransom Oaks Garage Sale Kit**. Each kit includes a sign, stickers, calculator, marker and garage sale tips.

Many seasoned Garage Sellers from across Western New York look forward to our community-wide sale!

Mark your calendar, get your kit and we'll see you June 13th & 14th! ■



## 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

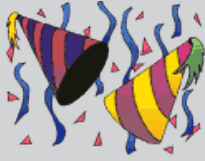
## In This

### Issue

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

# Happy Birthday!

Our  
April  
Friends



<b>Ann Merrill</b> .....	??
April 1	
<b>Juliette Bassanelli</b> .....	24
April 6	
<b>James Sawaya</b> .....	27
April 6	
<b>Danny Taylor</b> .....	21
April 7	
<b>Andrew Marsden</b> .....	16
April 7	
<b>Yosseline Eisenbaum</b> .....	16
April 9	
<b>Julia Tirone</b> .....	21
April 9	
<b>Allison Greiner</b> .....	9
April 9	
<b>John Killigrew</b> .....	19
April 11	
<b>Courtney Herlan</b> .....	12
April 12	
<b>Andrew Kissel</b> .....	12
April 14	
<b>Carl Copeland</b> .....	21
April 18	
<b>Chase Verrastro</b> .....	11
April 18	
<b>Sydney Deck</b> .....	15
April 21	
<b>Michael Goodrich</b> .....	26
April 22	
<b>Matthew O'Connor</b> .....	20
April 22	
<b>Jessica Long</b> .....	27
April 22	
<b>Matt Lester</b> .....	23
April 22	
<b>Erica Lyskawa</b> .....	21
April 23	
<b>William Shakespeare</b> .....	450
April 23	
<b>Paul Cook</b> .....	21
April 26	
<b>Meghan Taylor</b> .....	21
April 26	
<b>Chris Lester</b> .....	25
April 26	
<b>Michael Moeller</b> .....	20
April 29	
<b>Elanor Harris</b> .....	15
April 30	

**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

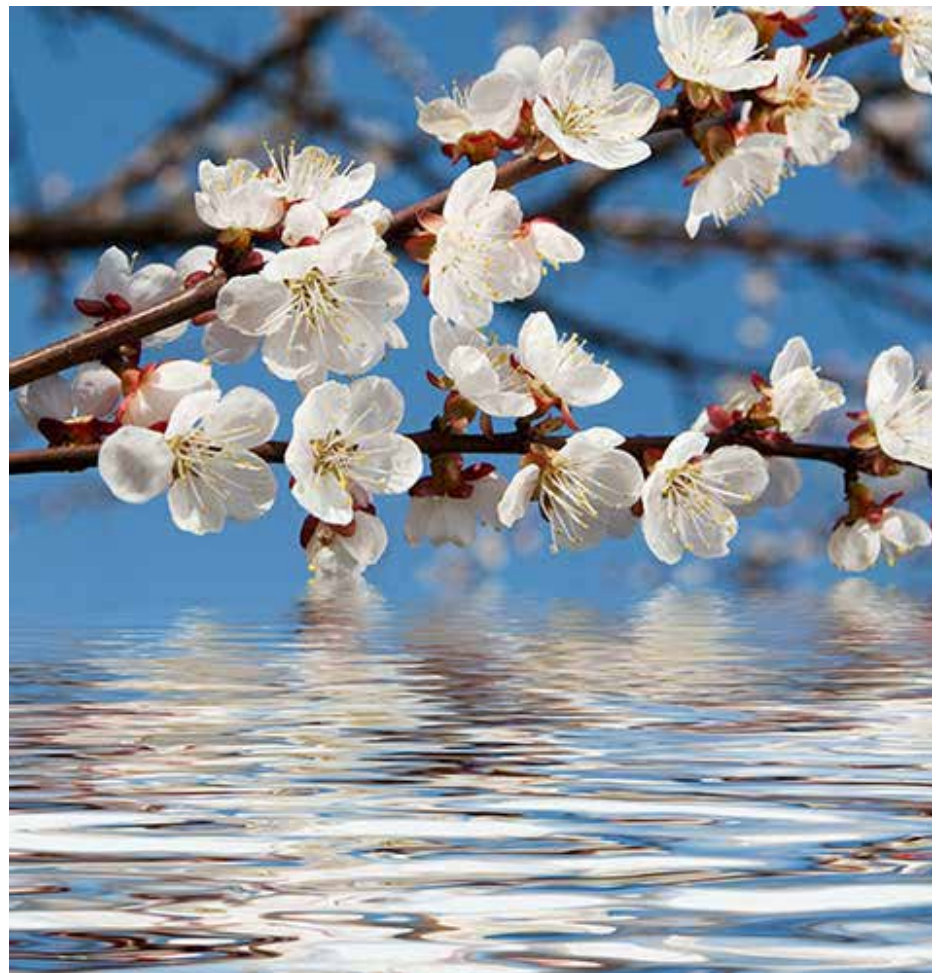
**RANSOM OAKS** is a planned community of 1,100 families. We value its location and believe it is a great place to live and raise a family.

<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

Spring is just around the corner and with that comes all sorts of outside activities.

Tennis courts will be available at the first sign of nice weather. Buildings are available for your use by making reservations through Tom and Kathy Halter. The best way to plan a gathering at one of the buildings is to check the calendar on our website ([www.ransomoaks.com](http://www.ransomoaks.com)) for availability. The required form is also on our website for download. Once you have picked your date, give us a call. Please allow about two weeks for all reservations. Beginning in May we will start taking reservations for pool parties.



We are currently contacting our staff from last year to see who is returning. At this point we do not know if we will have any openings this season. If you would like to apply for any openings should they occur, please contact us (Tom or Kathy Halter).

The May newsletter will contain pool/tennis rules as well as activities for the summer. We will try to keep everyone busy again this summer! We are very excited that the Town of Amherst will be coming back this summer to the Eveningwood location. Everyone is welcome to visit Imagination Station.

If you have not paid your 2014 Ransom Oaks Assessment, it is now past due. Please contact Tom or Kathy Halter to arrange for payment. These fees cover the calendar year and are mandatory for all Ransom Oaks residents. Lien proceedings will begin in May.

Look to next month's newsletter for a listing of another year of fun and activities for all. Summer in Ransom Oaks is worth waiting for! Set some time aside to enjoy your facilities this coming season!

Tom and Kathy Halter  
*Ransom Oaks Facilities Managers*  
716.691.7352 ■

## Resident's Insert

We tried something new last month, the Resident's Insert and are happy it's receiving positive reviews.

We're glad you like it and you'll be seeing it regularly now.

Look for the Resident's Insert on the Ransom Oaks website after logging into the resident's area. The rest of our Ransom Oaks News will still be available at <http://ransomoaks.com/newsletter>. ■



## 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](mailto:newsletter@ransomoaks.com). ■

## Ransom Oaks Garage Sale Tips

Ten tips for a successful sale:

1. A group sale is better than selling alone. A larger sale, more homes, draws more traffic.
2. Advertise in local papers the week before your sale.
3. Be prepared. Be ready to go the night before so that you don't have to rush around in the morning and are ready for the early birds.
4. Plan your sale layout with customers in mind. Consider where you are placing items to draw people into the back and for easy sale & removal of large items.
5. Price things carefully, but remember why you're having a sale. Bundle smaller items.
6. Label things well. Make it easy to buy.
7. Be friendly. Greet people as they arrive — chat if they're chatty.
8. Do not bad-mouth your items.
9. Be willing to bargain, but be less flexible at the start. The bargaining is much of the fun for some customers.
10. Do not use a cash box unless there is someone to watch it. Keep your money on you at all times. ■

## Around the World

# 11 Earth Day Facts

1. The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970.
2. Earth Day originated in the US but became recognized worldwide by 1990.
3. On Earth Day 2009, Disney released a documentary film called Earth that followed the migration paths of four animal families.
4. On the very first Earth Day, 20 million people gathered in the streets of America to protest the industrial revolution. An environmental movement was born as a result.
5. Every year on April 22, men, women, and children collect garbage, plant trees, clean up coral reefs, show movies, sign petitions, and plan for a better future for our planet.
6. Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day while he was working as a US senator.
7. Earth Day was renamed officially by the UN in 2009 as International Mother Earth Day.
8. Some schools and communities celebrate Earth Day for a whole week to expand the time frame that people focus on the earth and how they can preserve it.
9. On Earth Day 2012, more than 100,000 people rode bikes in China to reduce CO2 emissions and save fuel.
10. In an Earth Day celebration in 2011, 28 million trees were planted in Afghanistan by the Earth Day Network.
11. In Panama, 100 endangered species of orchids were planted and maintained to prevent their extinction in honor of Earth Day.



## Arbor Day

Arbor Day was started to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1874 by J. Sterling Morton. It continues as the last Friday in April as a day to plant trees.

On **Friday, April 25th** consider getting involved in a tree planting activity to mark Arbor Day.

More information available at <http://www.arborday.org>.

## Getting into the Garden

Although the last frost is still about a month away, it's time to get a start on your garden for this year.

Can't wait to get your hands dirty? It's time to start cleaning out the beds from winter, adding compost to the soil, and planning your garden for this year.

If you're a container gardener, it's time to get your pots cleaned and dirt prepared.

Most years, Mother's Day is a safe target for planting outdoors. ■



## Six things you should know when planting a tree.



**1. Call Before You Dig** - Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.

**2. Handle with Care** - Always lift tree by the root ball. Keep roots moist until planting.

**3. Digging a Proper Hole** - Dig 2 to 5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides to allow for proper root growth.

**4. Planting Depth** - The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level and the top-most roots should be buried 1 to 2 inches.

**5. Filling the Hole** - Backfill with native soil unless it's all clay. Tamp in soil gently to fill large air spaces.

**6. Mulch** - Allow 1 to 2 inch clearance between the trunk and the mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.

For more tree-planting tips and information, visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

Source:  **Arbor Day Foundation**  
90075201

<https://www.dosomething.org/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-earth-day> ■

Around Town

# April Events

## Restaurant Week

Monday, March 31 - Sunday, April 6

Celebrate the vibrant local independent restaurant scene here in WNY during Local Restaurant Week March 31-April 6th, 2014! Check website for full listing of participating restaurants.

Cost: varies. Details: <http://www.localrestaurantweek.com/>.

## Amherst Spring Craft Show

Saturday, April 5, 10am-2pm

Amherst High School, Main Street, Amherst

Amherst Middle School/High School PTSA is sponsoring a Spring Craft Show and Sale. Support local artisans and crafters while you shop for the perfect Mother's Day gift. Items available for men, women and children. ■

## Pancake Breakfast

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 April 6th, May 11th and June 8th, 2014. ■

## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 11am

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, 2655 South Park Avenue, Buffalo

You must preregister. This event sells out every year, so register early. Kids ages 7 and under are encouraged to participate. If they collect two eggs they can exchange them for a great prize. The hunt is outside so dress accordingly and bring a bag or basket to collect eggs.

Cost: The cost for children or grandchildren of Botanical Gardens members is \$8, children or grandchildren of non-members is \$10. Details: <http://www.buffalogardens.com/>.



## Earth Day Clean-Up

April 26, 9am-12pm

Tift Nature Preserve

Join us for a spring clean-up of the preserve in conjunction with the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Spring Shoreline Sweep. Refreshments will be served. Register your group with Riverkeeper at [bnriverkeeper.org/get-involved/cleanups](http://bnriverkeeper.org/get-involved/cleanups). Bring your own work gloves and help out!!

Cost: Free. Details: Call 825-6397 for more information. ■

# Mark Your Calendar

## World Health Day

April 7



## Palm Sunday

April 13

## Passover Starts

April 15



## Tax Day

April 15

## Easter Sunday

April 20



## Earth Day

April 22

## Administrative Professionals Day

April 23



## Arbor Day

April 25

### 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.



### AMHERST HANDYMAN

House service & repairs. No job too small. 25 years experience, FREE estimate. Available nights & weekends. Reliable fixing at your convenience.

Call ANDRE 688-8016 or 597-7655.

Ransom Oaks Resident

Call Maureen Mirand  
Your Ransom Oaks Realtor®  
716-866-9959 | [mmirand@realtyusa.com](mailto:mmirand@realtyusa.com)

RealtyUSA.com  
914 Maple Rd.  
Williamsville, NY 14221

Maureen Mirand  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
DIRECT : 716-866-9959  
[www.topbuffalorealtor.com](http://www.topbuffalorealtor.com)

SOLD

## 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@ransomoaks.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:** ■ \$8/mo.

**NON-RESIDENTS:** ■ \$11/mo.

### DISPLAY AD RATES

- 2 Col. (4.75" x 1.5" high) Ad: \$37/mo.
- 2 Col. (4.75" x 3" high) Ad: \$65/mo.
- 1/3 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 3" \$85/mo.
- 1/2 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 4.5" \$125/mo.
- 2/3 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 6" \$155/mo.
- Full Page Ad: 3 Col. x 9.5" \$235/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. ■



## Lois Robinson-Fullam

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker



30 Year Resident of Ransom Oaks

Serving the Needs of  
Ransom Oaks Buyers & Sellers  
for Over 20 Years.

Direct: 445-2563

Lois.Robinson@huntrealestate.com  
8780 Sheridan Drive  
Williamsville, NY 14221



Ofc. 633-5350



## BOB STEPHENS HUCK Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Complete Plumbing Service for Western New York  
Repairs & Remodeling 632.1149

Sewer & Drain Cleaning • Water Tanks • Sewer & Water Lines • Hot Water Heaters • Sump Pumps  
High Pressure Sewer Jetting • Gas Lines Installed & Repaired • Trenching • Wet Basements/Yards

Commercial • Residential • 7 Days a Week • Licensed & Insured • Member BBB since 1967



Mention this ad &  
**SAVE \$15.00**  
on any service

## HEIM ELECTRIC, INC.

THE Original Electrician for Ransom Oaks



Changing your lighting can be life changing.  
Update and add value to your home.



574.8542

Join us at Mill Middle!

### Just for Kids Summer Club

A new generation of summer programming

Camp starts June 30th!

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



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

## LOEWER PAVING



**Kenneth Loewer**  
9700 County Rd, Clarence Ctr, NY 14032

resurfacing - patching - new installations  
golf course paths - blacktop maintenance

Residential Driveways, Commercial Parking Lots

www.loewerpaving.com OFFICE 741-2913 MOBILE 570-0792

# Affordable Advertising



## JULIE BROWN

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

*Bringing You Home*



**Leveraging today's technology to help clients buy & sell homes.**

- Ransom Oaks resident for 20+ years
- Member of RealtyUSA's President's Club
- Recognized for Sales & Service Excellence

Cell: (716) **830-8787**  
 JulieBrown@me.com  
 www.JulieBrownWNY.com







914 Maple Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221



*Ransom Oaks News Printer for over 28 Years*

**Full Service Printing Services**  
with Individual Attention

Brochures • Letterhead  
Labels  
Business Cards  
Postcards & more!

5635 Harris Hill Rd. • Williamsville, NY

**716.741.3300**

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

## Car Corner

### Did you know? ...



April is National Care Care Month.

Kick off the month with Spring Cleaning for your car. Time to wash your windows, wipe down the dash board, vacuum the carpets and seats and polish the dash and any leather.

Don't forget to clean the winter out of your trunk and glove box too. ■

## This ad spot could be yours!

Reach over 1100 Ransom Oaks homes each month.  
It take seven "touches" to close a sale.

Ransom Oaks News, a cost-effective "touch."



## 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)

**FREE**  
Estimates  
INSURED



**GERRY'S SERVICE**  
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

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

**688-0402**

9200 Transit Rd \* E. Amherst  
(behind Carubba Collision)

- Family Owned Since 1989
- Dealer Alternative
- Fixed Right the First Time
- Friendly, Knowledgeable Staff
- Full Automobile Service



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

Bruce Weiss-Owner



**Keeping your Car Safe, Reliable & Economical**

**\$20.00 OFF**  
Any purchase over \$75.00

Not applicable with other specials or discounts, see store for details.  
Expires 4/30/14

# April

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

**Next ROCC Meeting:  
Monday • April 14, 2014  
6:30pm @ Greenwood Facility.**

MEETINGS begin at 6:30pm at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center the 2nd Monday of each month except 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**

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

**Charlesgate Meeting:**

second Wednesday of each month.

**Forest Edge Meeting:**

fourth Tuesday of each month.

---

**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

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



**Ransom Oaks**

Community Corporation  
101 Ransom Oaks Drive  
East Amherst, NY 14051

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GETZVILLE, NY  
PERMIT NO. 9

**ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER**