

# Ransom Oaks News

A Neighborhood Publication Sponsored by Ransom Oaks Community Corporation & Our Advertisers

www.Ransom0aks.com

#### 2015 Thirty-Five Years of Ransom Oaks News

#### May 2015

Ransom Oaks Community Corporation  $\,\cdot\,$  101 Ransom Oaks Drive  $\,\cdot\,$  East Amherst, New York 14051

## Spring's in Full Bloom!

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.

### Ransom Oaks Annual Garage Sale

The Annual Ransom Oaks Garage Sale is Friday & Saturday, June 12 & 13, 9 am - 4 pm.

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



Many seasoned Garage Salers from across Western New York look

forward to our community-wide sale!

See our Summertime Seasonal Insert this month -Summer Activities/Tennis & Pool Rules

### Resident's Forum



### **Slow**... Children, Bikers & Walkers at Play!

It seems like we fall off a winter cliff into summer-like weather.

That doesn't give our new drivers... or old pros for that matter... much time to transition to our warmer weather driving tactics.

Remember to be on the lookout for children darting out into the street, bikers and walkers as you enter the streets of Ransom Oaks.



A great dinner-time conversation is that there can be a false sense of security especially for kids in their own neighborhood.

All of us... children, bikers, walkers and drivers need to be careful & safe

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 Hartman, 406.8557
- Ransom Oaks Facilities Manager (including Clubhouse Rentals) Tom and Kathy Halter, 691.7352
- **Comments** President of R.O.C.C., Mark Walsh, 406.7008
- Vandalism, Animal Control or Security Concerns Amherst Police, 689.1311
- Swormville Fire, 688.7055



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### Happy Birthday!

Our May Celebrations



Paul Mitri
May 1
Kate Liscavage
May 2
Rachel Mancini
May 4 Adriana Stumpff18
May 8 Lauren Sheppard17
May 9
Sonya Erman27
May 10
Molly Nass
May 10
Jason Lee
May 10
Leah Jones 17
May 11
Megan O'Malley 16
May 14
Hayely Toner
May 16 Bridget Frohnapple
May 18
Landen Tyska
May 18
Ashley Malinowski
May 19
Ryan Malinowski
May 19
Dolley Madison
May 20
Stacey Estabrooks 45
May 20
Carolyn Greiner
May 21 Alisia Dixon-McMillan23
May 24
Jessica Estabrooks
May 25
Meghan Hemmer 10
May 25
Amanda Kwandras17
May 25
Dean DiLuzio
May 26
Matthew Short 40
May 26
Rachel Eagan
May 28 Caitlin Frohnapple
May 29
Evan Gestwick
May 31
Owen Walker Witt
May 31

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.

Mark Walsh, President	406.7008	mwalsh@ransomoaks.com
Gene Zambarda, Vice President*	689.0924	gzambarda@ransomoaks.com
Jim Golding, Treasurer *	689.4919	jgolding@ransomoaks.com
Pete Calinski, Secretary *	616.0088	pcalinski@ransomoaks.com
Michael Deck, Landscaping*	689.0988	mdeck@ransomoaks.com
Mike Hartman, Architectural Matters*	406.8557	mhartman@ransomoaks.com
James Burke, P/R Communications*	913.8381	jburke@ransomoaks.com
Andrzej Ogiba, Facilities	688.8016	aogiba@ransomoaks.com
Forrest Benson, At Large * Member Architectural Committee	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**

Kathy & Tom Halter, Facilities Managers691.7352tkhalter@ransomoaks.comTerry Collins, News Editor/Designer980.5470newsletter@ransomoaks.com

### Ransom Oaks Baby-sitting Information Network

**Ransom Oaks residents** may participate in the ROBIN network. TEENS to be added to the list, email your name, age, street and phone number by the monthly deadline listed in the each newsletter to newsletter@ransomoaks.com. Please also indicate if you have completed the courses listed below.

Names will remain on file and printed monthly unless you request to be removed. PARENTS be sure to personally interview prospective baby-sitters and check their references. *Neither the R.O.C.C. Board of Directors nor the Editor are responsible for the integrity, maturity, or abilities of those listed as qualified baby-sitters.* 



### Ransom Oaks Facilities Report



We are rapidly approaching another summer season. The tennis courts are all open, the playgrounds are ready to go,

and the pools will open Memorial Day weekend. We know that we have lots of work to get done before we can open the pools. Let's hope for some warm weather this month.

With the nice weather in sight, it is important for us to take time with our family and review the rules that must be followed at each of the sites. Rules are enclosed within this newsletter. Please note that again this year we will open the Greenwood Facility at 9 o'clock every day. This should accommodate the lap swimmers and early morning sunbathers. Please note—this is not an open swim--see the activities part of this newsletter for more information. It would also help the guards if an adult would accompany children the first few times to the pool. All children who have completed grades 1 through 3 will be required to pass a swimming test in order to be permitted in the pool area. Make sure you print your name and address legibly for safety concerns. You will be asked to show your tag each time you enter the facility the entire season.

Remember you will not be able to use any of the facilities until your assessment has been paid and you have received tags. The guards have been instructed that all people in the pool area must have pool tags. Please do not give the guards a tough time when they ask to see your tags. Please remember that food needs to be consumed outside the pool area. *All Ransom Oaks facilities are smoke free—this will be strictly enforced.* 

Let's hope for another summer of lots of beautiful weather!

Tom and Kathy Halter Ransom Oaks Facilities Managers tkhalter@ransomoaks.com 716.691.7352

## Ransom Oaks Scouting for Food Drive



The East Amherst Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of WNY, would like to say thanks to all who participated in our 7th Annual Spring Food Drive.

On the morning of April 25th 2015, we collected 135 bags of non-perishable items along Glen Oak Dr., Old Oak Post, and all courts in between. The Service Unit total was 380 bags, exceeding 2,000 lbs. of food items! Food collected will benefit the Food Bank of Western New York. Many thanks to our generous neighbors!

Girl Scout Troop #31039

#### **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.

Our monthly deadline is the 15th for delivery between the 1st-3rd. Include a picture or two.

It's easy... drop an email to

newsletter@ransomoaks.com. 🔳

#### **Ransom Oaks**

### Summer Job Openings

Summer Openings

Please check the website for current job openings.

To apply online, visit our online application form directly at http:// www.ransomoaks.com/openings. For your convenience, the form is broken into multiple pages. Complete the form and "Submit" to easily apply.

## Ransom Oaks Building Rental

Consider hosting your event at one or our Ransom Oaks facilities.

Begin by visiting http://www. RansomOaks.com to check the calendar for availability. Next print, complete and send the Building Request Form to Tom & Kathy Halter, 38 Maricrest Drive, Amherst, 14228. If you have questions, do not hesitate to call Tom & Kathy at (716)691-7352.

The Building Request form must be received two weeks prior to the requested date.

#### Help Wanted

Ransom Oaks is looking for a conscientious adult to perform cleaning at each of the Ransom Oaks facilities.

Apply online by visiting http:// www.ransomoaks.com and select Openings under the About tab.

Please contact Tom or Kathy Halter at 691-7352 if you have any questions.



*Thank You* for Supporting our Newsletter Advertisers.

Join us, the ROCC Board of Directors, for our

### **Monthly Meeting**

Learn what's happening in our community

**Next meetings** June 8, July 13, August 10

### April Board Meeting Highlights April 13, 2015

- Four residents attended the meeting.
  - All were concerned that the Town of Amherst has banned parking on Greenwood Drive across form the pool. This will be a significant problem for users of the pool and tennis courts. In particular those residents that are less mobile and use the lap swim time for therapy. The Board does not have any solution for this problem. Residents should express their concerns to the Town of Amherst elected officials.
- At the March meeting, Town of Amherst Highway Superintendent Joseph Speth indicated the Town could **resume maintaining the court areas in Ransom Oaks.** The courts are Town property but in the past the Town did not maintain the courts in a suitable fashion so Ransom Oaks took over the maintenance. A board member will finalize these actions.
- There will be an **electronics recycling Saturday June 15, 2013 from 9 AM to 2 PM** at the Ransom Oaks meeting room. Residents can drop off all their electronic equipment for free except for CRTs (Cathode Ray Tubes). We have to pay \$10 for sizes up to 32 inches and \$20 for sizes 32 to 60 inches.
- We are about \$17k under budget.
- Residents that are selling their homes should review the information on our website about preparing for the closing http://ransomoaks.com/living-in/forms/ house-for-sale-letter/. The buyer's lawyer may not proceed with the closing if certain information is not provided.
- We will test an alternate method of collecting funds that residents owe us.
- The pool covers should be off soon and the tennis courts should be open.
- Most lifeguards are returning but there are a few openings.
- Staffing the lifeguards this year could be a problem at the end of the season.
   Labor Day is late. Most colleges begin two weeks before. High school begins one week before. We may have to restrict hours.
- All **pool tags** for those that have paid their assessments should be in resident's hands.
- A cluster box that was destroyed by a hit and run driver was replaced by the U.S. Postal Service after negotiations by a Board member.
- Spring is here after a rough winter. Residents are getting into the swing of spring as noted by **Eight Exterior Modifications** which were approved.

### Best Wishes for a Happy & Safe Memorial Day Weekend!



## Around Town May Events

#### Behind-the-Scenes Tour: Historic Woodworking

Sat, May 30 1-3pm Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village

Come learn about the nuts and bolts of building historic structures with the Village's own woodworker, Scott Schotz!

This tour will include a look inside our state-of-the-art collections storage building. Reservations are required in advance.

**Cost**: \$20. Members receive a discounted price of \$15

Details: http://www.bnhv.org



#### Pancake Breakfast

#### May 10, June 14 8am - 12:30pm

Jurek Post of the American Legion, 655 New Road at Smith Road

All breakfasts include "fresh off the grill" all you can eat buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link and patty sausages, juice, coffee, and tea.

**Cost**: Adults \$7.00/ Children ages 5-12, \$3.00. Children under 5, free. ■

#### Farmers' Market at the Mill

Saturdays, May 16th - October 31th, 8 am -1pm

Island Park, Williamsville, NY

Rain or Shine

Note our move to Island Park.

Local produce, crafts, flowers, baked goods and more for sale on the Island.

### **Mark Your Calendar**



### May Day May 1







Armed Forces Day May 16

Memorial Day May 25



### "OUR" **RANSOM OAKS** NEIGHBORS ARE RAVING FANS OF... *JULIE BROWN!*

"..operates with a **standard of** integrity that is unparalleled.."

-Karen and Cy Taylor, White Cedar Dr.

"..she delivered with multiple offers. Her marketing and **commitment** to our listing was second to none..."

-Kristy Hagadorn-Tralee Terrace

"..she knows how to fairly price your home with the goal of a **quick sale**." -Lauren Gardner, White Cedar Dr.

"She goes the **extra mile** for her clients.." -Sue Francis, Coriandor Ct.

"She was **available and resourceful** throughout our entire sale process." -Ben and Annessa Kujawinski, White Cedar Dr, "Not only did we buy a house from Julie, we also sold our house at the same time. **Both transactions were seamless**"

-Lindsay and Jeremy Mang, Whispering Ct.

"..my only regret is that I did not use her sooner."

-Robert Muzzio, Periwinkle Ct.



**Ransom Oaks** 

### Annual Garage Sale Fri & Sat, June 12 & 13 9am to 4pm



#### **Garage Sale Preparation**

Having a garage sale can be fun and can put some money in your pocket, but to ensure success it takes proper planning. Here are some tips for making your sale more successful:

**Be clear on the purpose of your sale.** Are you selling things to make money or to get rid of them? This question affects everything you do, from how you price things to how willing you are to negotiate. Surprisingly, you can often make more money (and get rid of more junk) by pricing things low. As a general rule of thumb, price items about a quarter or third of what they would cost new. There are exceptions - clothes are generally poor sellers, unless it's baby/kids clothes.

**Get Cash.** Get a roll of quarters, a stack of twenty-five \$1 bills, and a few \$5 bills before the day of the sale. Also, wear an apron or fanny pack to keep your money safe and your hands free.

**Get Bagging Supplies.** Have plastic grocery bags available to put solid items in. If selling breakables, have newspaper available to wrap fragile items.

**Have a calculator handy.** This is helpful in totaling up purchases. Make it easy for yourself to total items - price things evenly: .25, .50, and \$1, NOT .40, .75, \$1.20.

**Prepare your staging area.** People will be more inclined to stop if you set up shop in your yard or driveway. Some people are reluctant to enter a dark and dreary garage. Make your sale inviting and easy to browse. You can lure customers by placing highly-desirable items near the road. Ever notice how hard a woman has to work to convince a man to stop at a yard sale? To solve this, set out an old lawn mower or power tools out front in plain view of the road, and you'll get more business. It's also smart to set up a small table with nothing but "man-things" (jars full of screws and nails, electronic parts, tools and parts of tools, etc.) This gives the men something to immerse themselves in while the women find all the real treasures.

### **Amherst Highway Department** Spring Brush Cleanup May 18 - 29

Amherst's annual spring brush pickup will begin on May 18th and will run thru May 29th. Please have brush, logs and stumps out for pickup by the start date.

The Town will collect large unmanageable piles of logs, brush, and tree stumps only.

All material must be placed out the start of that week. We are going thru all areas of the Town one time only. No mixed piles containing lumber, concrete, railroad ties or non-organic materials will be collected. Leaves, small trimmings and other yard waste should be put in containers, paper yard waste bags or bundled for collection by Modern Corporation on a weekly basis. The Highway Department will not pick up these materials during this spring brush pickup.

Questions? Contact Joseph Speth 631-7264

Have an electrical outlet handy (or a long extension cord). This will help sell your electrical appliances. Also, keep batteries on hand if necessary to test any items.

**Consider a "fill a bag for a set price" kind of deal.** If you have a ton of kid's clothes or small toys you are dieing to get rid of, consider this. Buyers love getting a good deal. If you do something like this, just make sure you have enough bags available.

Have a pitcher of ice-water with paper cups (and trash). On a hot day, having this available for free is a nice touch. The longer people stay at your yard sale, the more likely they will buy something.

Have some background music on. It can be a little uncomfortable to visit a garage sale (or to host one) when there's complete silence in the yard or driveway. Have easy-listening

middle-of-the-road type music on. That allows customers to discuss potential purchases privately with their shopping partners, without feeling like they have to whisper.

**Be prepared as some buyers will expect you to bargain with them.** If it's early in the morning and you don't want to bargain, just say "I think it's worth that price. I may lower the price later in the day if it doesn't sell.

For your free Ransom Oaks Garage Sale Kit contact Maureen Mirand (call, text (716) 866-9959 or email maureen@maureenmirandhomes.com) leave your name and address. Each kit includes a sign, stickers, calculator, marker and garage sale tips.

Don't forget to **send a list of any items you are selling** to me so that we can include them in the June issue of the Ransom Oaks News. Please provide your address and the type of items you are selling.

We are advertising our sale and putting up lots of signage, so this should be a great year for us!

Pray for sun, have fun and best wishes for a great sale.

Maureen Mirand Ransom Oaks News



Here's just a few of the homes in Ransom Oaks Maureen has sold, will yours be next?







Contact Maureen to find out what your home is worth, what features sell a home and what you can do to prepare to sell!





"I was very happy with Maureen when she sold my house and helped me purchase a smaller one. I have already referred Maureen! She is a great realtor. Knowledgeable, good communicator, involved in all aspects, prompt, articulate."

Julie Seller of Single Family Home in Ransom Oaks Purchaser of Forest Edge Townhouse

"Maureen went above and beyond for my family. She was always one step alread during the entire process. I was extremely impressed with her ability to fine tune the little details. I also respected her knowledge of the market and her ability to be honest; yet not pushy or overbearing. This was a relocation move for us so there were a lot of other details to handle and she did it all so effortless! Would highly recommend!"

Melissa and Tom Sellers of Single Family Home in Ransom Oaks



#### **Town of Amherst**

### **Recycling Update**

Modern had issued a letter stating that it was no longer accepting plastic bags or colored glass. The Supervisor had discussions with Modern regarding our contract. As a result, Amherst residents may continue to recycle plastic bags, colored glass and items with a #6 triangle.









### Buffalo-Niagara Heritage Village 3755 Tonawanda Creek Rd.



Amherst, NY



*12 hour continuous relay* 

Small and Large Team divisions

for ages 12







Presented by the Amherst Youth Foundation in partnership with Amherst Youth & Recreation For further info. call Amherst Youth & Recreation, 716-631-7132 www.amherstyouthandrec.org

## 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 or pay via PayPal to payments@ransomoaks.com. 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.



### Affordable Advertising

### **Lois Robinson-Fullam** Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker 30 Year Resident of Ransom Oaks NYS Certified Real Estate Instructor 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

PIANO INSTRUCTION DONATE your gently used furniture, tools, appliances, housewares, bldg

materials, fixtures to HABITAT for HUMANITY. Call for a pickup at 852-6607 x203 or visit our ReStore at 501 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY,

#### Ransom Oaks Resident! Certified experienced teacher, references available. Lessons taught in you 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

#### Get the Word Out in **Ransom Oaks News!**

Now is the time to place your warmer weather service ad. newsletter@ransomoaks.com





May is a good month to focus on the exterior of your vehicle.

Pick a warm day for an exterior detail job or make an appointment. Detailing usually includes washing, cleaning lights, windows and mirrors, buffing the chrome, scrubbing the tires and finishing with a little polish.

If you don't have a routine for new wipers or blades, now is a perfect time.



**GERRY'S SERVICE** COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR www.GerrysService.com 688-0402 **OIL CHANGE & MORE** 9200 Transit Rd \* E. Amherst \*Oil Change & New Oil Filter \*Top Off Under Hood Fluids (behind Carubba Collision) \*Check Tire Pressure & Rotate Family Owned Since 1989 \*Visually Check Brakes \*36 Point Check-up Dealer Alternative \$29.88 + tax • \*Plus More Friendly, Knowledgeable Staff Majority of vehicles, include 5qts 5w30 or 5w20 synthetic blend motor oil, not applicable with other discounts or specials, regularly \$54.88 + tax, \$25 Savings, call for appointment, see store for details, exp 4 /30/2015 Bruce Weiss-Owner

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New York State Inspection **Check Engine Light Brakes** Exhaust Wheel Alignments **Timing Belts Electrical & Diagnostics** Maintenance Tune-ups And Much More

# May

Please visit our web site at www.ransomoaks.com

#### Next ROCC Meeting: Monday • May 11, 2015 6:30pm @ Greenwood Facility.

MEETINGS begin at 6:30pm at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center the 2nd Monday of each month except for Oct 2015 when it's the 2nd Tuesday.

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 meeting are held at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center, unless noted otherwise.

#### 2015 Meetings

May 11 June 8 July 13 August 10 September 14 October 13 November 9 December 14

### **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



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ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

