



Ransom Oaks News

A Neighborhood Publication

Sponsored by Ransom Oaks Community Corporation & Our Advertisers

www.RansomOaks.com

2016 Thirty-Six Years of Ransom Oaks News

December 2016

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

Happy Holidays 2016!

Winter Solstice • Merry Christmas • Hanukkah • Kwanzaa • New Year's Eve

ROCC Board of Directors Annual General Meeting & Election

Monday, January 9

The Annual General Meeting & Board of Directors election will be held **Monday, January 9, 2017, 6:30pm** at the Greenwood Recreational Facility.

Incumbents *Gene Zambarda, and Jim Scott* are candidates for **three open board positions**. There is currently one open position.

Residents who vote, either by sending in their proxy or voting at the meeting, will be entered into a drawing to have their **2017 assessment waived**.

Ballots will be delivered to your home in December by mail.

Ransom Oaks property owners with paid assessments and no outstanding liens against their property are encouraged to vote. ■



To our Residents, Families, Friends & Advertisers

From All of Us at Ransom Oaks Community Corp

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Ransom Oaks

Who-to-Call

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

- **Charlesgate, Forest Edge or Glen Oak**
Clover Management, 204.2771
- **Briarwoods or Woodgate** Andruschat Real Estate Service, 688.4757
- **Ransom Oaks Architectural Matters** (regarding Single-family homes ONLY), 406.8557 (archcomm@ransom-oaks.com)
- **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

Join Us...

@ the ROCC Monthly Meeting

learn what's happening in Ransom Oaks

Mon, Dec 12
Monday, Jan 9

(details on the back cover)

Happy Birthday!

December Celebrations



Justice Wehrmeyer	14
December 5	
Matthew Wiefert	16
December 5	
Charley Kenyon	24
December 6	
Joseph I. Nowakowski	27
December 6	
Daniel O'Connor III	24
December 8	
Daniel O'Connor Jr.	
December 8	
Alex Agro	5
December 11	
Benjamin Hansen.....	10
December 12	
Sydney Beitel.....	79
December 12	
Michael Tubbs.....	22
December 14	
Susan Zurak.....	33
December 22	
Stephanie Sheppard.....	16
December 22	
Michelle Janczak	50
December 28	
Kaitley Woser.....	23
December 28	
Casey Rapp.....	4
December 29	
Tristan Casuccio	10
December 29	
Rachel Attea.....	24
December 30	
Christina Hill	20
December 30	
Rudyard Kipling	151
December 30	
Kelsey Roorand.....	19
December 30	
Patience Wehrmeyer.....	13
December 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.

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, *	689.0988	mdeck@ransomoaks.com
Mike Hartman, *	406.8557	mhartman@ransomoaks.com
James Burke, *	913.8381	jburke@ransomoaks.com
Forrest Benson	688.4688	fbenson@ransomoaks.com
James Scott	636.1959	jscott@ransomoaks.com

* Member Architectural Committee

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 Managers	691.7352	tkhalter@ransomoaks.com
Terry Collins, News Editor/Designer	980.5470	newsletter@ransomoaks.com



Ransom Oaks Facilities Report



It's that time of year again where we begin to plan for the New Year. You will receive a mailing in mid December with all the budget information and voting information.

Our annual meeting will be held on **Monday, January 9, 2017, 6:30 p.m. at the Greenwood Recreation Facility**. Elections will be held at that time. If you are unable to come to the meeting, please use your proxy or absentee ballot. This may be mailed or given to any board member.

This year the **2017 assessment fee for Ransom Oaks will remain the same as last year, \$350.00 and \$70.55 for Woodgate residents**. Billing for the 2017 assessment will be mailed in January and must be received by March 1, 2017.

Lastly, this is the time of year to **encourage your high school and college age son/daughter to get their certification to lifeguard** at the pools in the spring. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to get certified, but the jobs are worth it. You can apply at any time through the Ransom Oaks website at www.ransomoaks.com.

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

Ransom Oaks

Around Ransom Oaks

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

Can we help publicize an event or fund raiser?

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

It's easy... drop an email to

newsletter@ransomoaks.com. ■



Planning a Party or Event?



Let Ransom Oaks help with the location.

Host your event or party at one of our Ransom Oaks facilities.

Details at RansomOaks.com/Facilities



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Minutes from Ransom Oaks
Dine in or Take out

Ransom Oaks Resident Exclusives

Monday-Thursdays

Buy One Dinner, Get One 1/2 Price

Up to a \$10 Value

Tuesday "Kid's Night"

Children under 10 Eat Free

One item from the Kid's Menu



www.luigispizzaandcatering.com • Show this ad to redeem • RO Exclusives Dine-in Only • Valid thru 1/7/17

Around Town

Where to Park?

Not in the streets of Amherst from November to April.

The standing or parking of vehicles is hereby prohibited on all streets and highways within the Town of Amherst between the hours of **1:00 AM to 7:00 AM**, beginning **November 1** of each year and ending **April 1** of the succeeding year.



For more information http://www.amherst.ny.us/govt/govt_dept.asp?dept_id=dept_16&div_id=div_23&menu_id=menu_63#q10

Sabres Tickets for Sale

2 Aisle Seats • 6 Rows from Ice • Section 107

Mon., Jan. 16 @ 1pm- Dallas

Tues., Feb. 7 @ 7pm- Sharks

Thurs., Feb 16 @ 7:30pm- Avalanche

Monday, March 27 @ 7pm- Panthers

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Ransom Oaks Resident

Around Home

Healthy New Year's Resolutions

New Year's resolutions are fun to make but extremely difficult to maintain. Each January, roughly one in three Americans resolve to better themselves in some way. A much smaller percentage of people actually make good on those resolutions. While about 75% of people stick to their goals for at least a week, less than half (46%) are still on target six months later, a 2002 study found.

It's hard to keep up the enthusiasm months after you've swept up the confetti, but it's not impossible. This year, pick one of the following worthy resolutions, and stick with it. Here's to your health!

Stay in touch

Feel like old friends (or family) have fallen by the wayside? It's good for your health to reconnect with them. Research suggests people with strong social ties live longer than those who don't.

In fact, a lack of social bonds can damage your health as much as alcohol abuse and smoking, and even more than obesity and lack of exercise, a 2010 study in the journal *PLoS Medicine* suggests.

In a technology-fixated era, it's never been easier to stay in touch—or rejuvenate your relationship—with friends and family, so fire up Facebook

and follow up with in-person visits.

Get more sleep

You probably already know that a good night's rest can do wonders for your mood—and appearance. But sleep is more beneficial to your health than you might realize.

A lack of sleep has been linked to a greater risk of obesity and type 2 diabetes. And sleep is crucial for strengthening memories (a process called consolidation).

So take a nap—and don't feel guilty about it.

Travel

The joys and rewards of vacations can last long after the suitcase is put away. "We can often get stuck in a rut, and we can't get out of our own way," Kanaris says. "Everything becomes familiar and too routine."

But traveling allows us to tap into life as an adventure, and we can make changes in our lives without having to do anything too bold or dramatic.

"It makes you feel rejuvenated and replenished," he adds. "It gets you out of your typical scenery, and the effects are revitalizing. It's another form of new discovery and learning, and great for the body and the soul."

Source: Health.com

Around New York

New York State Sheriffs Association Yellow Dot Program

Yellow Dot is a free program designed to help first responders provide life-saving medical attention during that first "golden hour" after a crash or other emergency. A Yellow Dot in the driver's-side rear window of your vehicle will alert first responders that vital medical information is stored in the glove compartment.

Request a Yellow Dot Kit

Go to www.nysheriffs.org/yellowdot



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How Yellow Dot Works

The Yellow Dot kit contains a personal information card and a Yellow Dot decal.

1. Complete both sides of the personal information card as fully as possible, in pencil. Attach a recent photo of yourself and place it in a visible location in your car's glove compartment.

2. Complete one card for each person who regularly occupies the vehicle. See below to request additional medical information forms.

3. Place the Yellow Dot decal on the rear driver's side window to alert first responders to look in the glove compartment for your medical information.

4. Update the card annually yourself or bring it to your annual medical check-up. If you sell your car, remove the Yellow Dot sticker.

Use Yellow Dot at Home

A Yellow Dot kit can also be used to alert those who respond to an emergency in your home. Simply place a Yellow Dot decal on or beside your front door and place a completed card for each occupant in a clear plastic freezer bag and place in a visible location in the freezer compartment of your refrigerator.

Around Town

For Homeowners

The Town of Amherst Building Department would like to remind all residents to *be aware of unscrupulous contractors* that approach homeowners with propositions to perform repair work that is not necessary.

The Town of Amherst Building Department has a Home Improvement Contractor Registration Program to insure the legitimacy of a contractor who performs home improvement construction (such as porches, decks, additions, plumbing and electrical work), repairs (such as roofing and siding), as well as other construction related activities. This program serves to verify that the registered contractor is properly insured. It further identifies the responsible person or people who operate the specific contracting business. A list of the registered Home Improvement Contractors can be viewed on the Town of Amherst website, www.amherst.ny.us.

Around Town

Protecting From the "Grandparent Scam"

You get a call or an email unexpectedly from someone who claims to be a friend or relative. ***This often happens to grandparents with the caller claiming to be their grandson or granddaughter.*** The caller says there's an emergency and asks you to send money immediately. But beware, ***there's a good chance this is an imposter trying to steal your money!*** Follow these tips to avoid becoming a victim of fraud.

• **How do these scammers choose you to contact?** Sometimes they contact people randomly. They also use marketing lists, telephone listings, and information from social networking sites, obituaries and other sources. Sometimes they hack into people's email accounts and send messages to everyone in their contact list.

• **How do these scammers know the names of your friends or relatives?** In some cases they don't. For instance, the scammer may say "Hi grandma," hoping that you actually have a grandson. If you ask, "David, is that you?" the scammer will say "Yes!" Often these crooks will call in the middle of the night and take

advantage of the fact that you may not be awake enough to ask more questions and you may not want to disturb other people by calling them to confirm the information. Sometimes the scammers do know the names of your friends or relatives. They can get that information from a variety of sources. Your relatives may be mentioned in an obituary or on a social networking site. Your email contact list may contain the names of friends and relatives.

• **What do these scammers usually say?**

They might say something like, "I'm in Canada and I'm trying to get home but my car broke down and I need money right away to get it fixed." Or they may claim to have been mugged, or been in a car accident, or need money for bail or to pay customs fees to get back into the United States from another country. They may also pose as an attorney or law enforcement official contacting you on behalf of a friend or relative. No matter the story, they always want you to send money immediately.

• **If you realize you've been scammed, what can you do?** These scammers ask you to send money through services such as Western Union and MoneyGram because they can pick it up quickly, in cash. They often use phony IDs, so it's impossible to trace them. Contact the money transfer service immediately to

report the scam. If the money hasn't been picked up yet, you can retrieve it, but if it has, it's not like a check that you can stop – the money is gone.

• **How can you protect your email account from being used by scammers?** Use a firewall and anti-virus and anti-spyware software. Many computers come with these features already built-in. They are also easy to find on the Internet. Keep your software updated. Don't open attachments in emails from strangers, since they can contain programs that enable crooks to get into your computer remotely.

• **What else can you do to protect yourself?** If you get a call or email from someone claiming to know you and asking for help, check to confirm that it's legitimate before you send any money. Ask some questions that would be hard for an imposter to answer correctly – the name of the person's pet, for example, or the date of their mother's birthday. Contact the person who they claim to be directly. If you can't reach the person, contact someone else – a friend or relative of the person. Don't send money unless you're sure it's the real person you know. For more information about protecting yourself from fraud, go to www.consumerfed.org/fraud.

Source: www.consumerfed.org/fraud

Ransom Oaks Homeowners!

Hi! Are you thinking of selling your home and downsizing? I would like to introduce myself, I am Maureen Mirand and I have lived in Ransom Oaks for 20+ years, raised my triplets here and know the challenges of now having to downsize as they grow up & move out!

Give me a call today to discuss your options! (716) 866-9959

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Looking To Downsize?

Around Town
December

Free 1st Fridays

1st Friday, every month
10am-10pm

Albright Knox Art Gallery
1285 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY 14222

Free 2nd Fridays

2nd Friday, every month
4pm-8pm

Burchfield Penney Art Center
1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222

Free 3rd Fridays

3rd Friday, every month
10am-8pm

The Buffalo History Museum
1 Museum Ct, Buffalo, NY 14216 ■

Open Ice Skating

Daily, 10am - 10pm
Canalside, Buffalo, NY

Lace up your skates for The Ice at Canalside presented by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York! Whether you're on your lunch break, on a date, with family, or with friends you'll love to take a spin on the Canals on Downtown Buffalo's Waterfront!

Details: <http://www.canalsidebuffalo.com>. ■

Lois Robinson-Fullam

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Lego Engineering Club

Saturday, Dec 17, 1-3pm

Buffalo Museum of Science

The workshop will include LEGO brain teasers, free builds, and design



challenges. Workshop attendees will also take home a Lego souvenir.

Cost: \$15.00 for members, \$20 for non-members. All participants must pay prior to day of workshop + museum admission. Ages 5-8. Registration deadline is December 10th

Details: Call 716.896.5200, <http://www.sciencebuff.org>. ■



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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 (be sure to leave a message), 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, Maroon Technology, 1879 Whitehaven Road, Suite 110, 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.

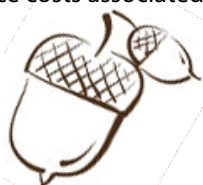
■ Full Page Ad: 3 Col. x 9.5" \$235/mo.

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. ■




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December

Please visit our web site at RansomOaks.com

Next ROCC Meeting:
Monday • December 12, 2016
6:30pm @ Greenwood Facility.

MEETINGS begin at 6:30pm at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center the 2nd Monday of each month except for the October 2017 meeting which is on 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 meetings are held at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center, unless noted otherwise. ■

2016/2017 Meetings

December 12	July 10
January 9	August 14
February 13	September 11
March 13	October 10
April 10	November 13
May 8	December 11
June 12	

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, Forest Edge or Glen Oak**
Clover Management, 688.4503
 - **Briarwoods or Woodgate**
Andruschat Real Estate Service, 688.4757
 - **Vandalism, Animal Control or Security Concerns** Amherst Police, 689.1311
 - **Swormville Fire**, 688.7055
-

December 15
Deadline for
Ransom Oaks News
January issue



Ransom Oaks
Community Corporation
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East Amherst, NY 14051

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