

Ransom Oaks News

A Neighborhood Publication

Sponsored by Ransom Oaks Community Corporation & Our Advertisers

www.RansomOaks.com

2018 Thirty-Eight Years of Ransom Oaks News

January 2018

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



Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year 2018!

- Ransom Oaks Board of Directors

Start off 2018 by...
Joining us at the
ROCC Monthly
Meeting
Monday, Jan 8,
Monday, Feb 12

Meeting Details on p. 10

Resident's Forum



Safety After Dark

I am writing as a concerned resident. We have a number of folks who enjoy walking in our community. Some of these folks even walk on the street. My concern is that especially with daylight hours being so short, many folks are walking wearing dark clothes. My request is that people wear light colored clothes when they go for a walk. Better yet, wear something reflective and when it's dark, walk on the sidewalk.

Ginny Hemmer.



In This *ISSULE*

- 2 Ransom Oaks Board of Directors
- 3 President's Update
- 4 How to Reserve a Ransom Oaks Facility
- 6 Around Town January Events
- 8 How to Advertise with Ransom Oaks

Ransom Oaks Who-to-Call

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

- Ransom Oaks (Facilities) 716-508-ROCC, facilitiesmanager@ ransomoaks.com
- **Brendans Court** LMM Properties, 693-4670
- Charlesgate, or Glen Oak Clover Management, 204-2771
- Forest Edge R & D Property Management of WNY, cindy@rdmanagementofwny.com, 688-2083
- Briarwoods or Woodgate Andruchat Real Estate Service, 688-4757
- Ransom Oaks Architectural Matters (regarding Single-family homes ONLY) archcomm@ransomoaks.com)
- Comments President of ROCC, André Lam, alam@ransomoaks.
- Vandalism, Animal Control or Security Concerns Amherst Police, 689-1311
- Swormville Fire, 688-7055

Get your Ransom Oaks News 24/7 at

RansomOaks.com/newsletter

Our January Celebrations!

Mary Bridget O'Sullivan 19 January 2
Hallie Kenyon22 January 6
Eric Vitello
Darya O'Sullivan
Drew Butler19 January 14
Martin Luther King Jr.
Jennifer Sarah David 30 January 18
A.A. Milne
Ava Verrastro 14 January 18
Adam Hood31 January 22
Maria Merrill19 January 23
Irina Dmitriyev 28 January 24
Matthew Vizzi 19 January 26
Zack Agro 11
January 26
Terry Tubbs
Kevin Hall
Christian Jones 24 January 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.

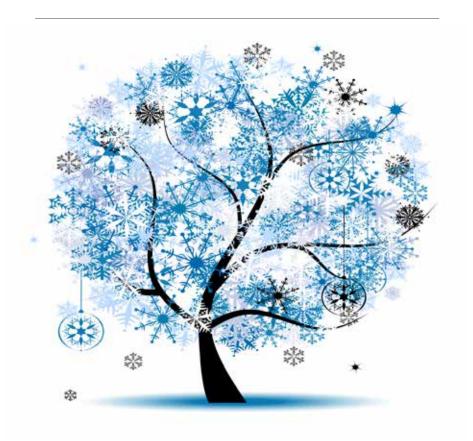
André Lam, President	alam@ransomoaks.com
Boris Roginsky, Vice President	broginsky@ransomoaks.com
Alan Montesanti, Treasurer	amontesanti@ransomoaks.com
Michelle Winters, Secretary	mwinters@ransomoaks.com
Andrzej Ogiba, Director of Facilities	aogiba@ransomoaks.com
Christopher Bogdan, Director of Communications	cbogdan@ransomoaks.com
Jeff Joseph, Director of Safety & Recreation	jjoseph@ransomoaks.com
Bill Klein, Director of Landscaping	bklein@ransomoaks.com
Jen Stewart , At-Large	jstewart@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

Facilities Manager - please see contact info on page 1 for your community

Terry Collins, Newsletter newsletter@ransomoaks.com



Ransom Oaks

President's Update

On behalf of all my fellow board members I want to wish all of our community members a happy and healthy 2018.

At the December 11th ROCC Board Meeting Jennifer Stewart was installed as

the latest board member. We are now a full 9 member board again.

On December 13th Santa stopped by the Ransom Oaks Club house to greet young members of our community. We had approximately 50 participants at this event. The board looks forward to bringing more events to the community.

The board received three proposals to replace LMM as a management company. By the printing of this newsletter a new management company should be in place. We look forward to working with the new group.

The board members are busy working to ensure we will have a successful 2018. Year-end budget numbers are being finalized. We will be working with the new management company to get quote for known repairs and upgrades. We will also set aside money for unexpected repairs. We will be sharing our plans for repairing and upgrading our facilities in the upcoming months with the community.

The board wants to remind everyone that the elections have been moved to April. In the original offering documents the meeting was set for April. It was felt that spring would be a better time for the annual meeting and elections. Our snow birds will be returning from their warmer winter reprieve, just in time to join those of us who endured the winter. We want to create an event where the community feels welcome and everyone will want to participate. More information will be forthcoming.

We continue to look forward to working with community members to continue make Ransom Oaks a great place to live.

André Lam

President ROCC

Ransom Oaks

Planning Changes to the Exterior of your Home?

We're working on updates to the External Modification process.

Email archcomm@ransomoaks.



com or contact a member of the architectural committee if you have any questions.



mber board again. In Oaks Club house to greet oximately 50 participants or more events to the If Mail to: Ransom Oaks Community Corp, 101 Ransom Oaks Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051 If Mas a management or management or management company with the new group. If We will have a successful ed. We will be working the for known repairs and opected repairs. We will our facilities in the up If Mail to: Ransom Oaks Community Corp, 101 Ransom Oaks Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051 If Mail to: Ransom Oaks Community Corp, 101 Ransom Oaks Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051 If Mail to: Ransom Oaks Community Corp, 101 Ransom Oaks Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051 If Mail to: Ransom Oaks Community Corp, 101 Ransom Oaks Drive, East Amherst, NY 14051 If Mas a management or management o

Phone

E-mail

Annual

NOTICE

Assessment

Amount Due: \$350.00

Ransom Oaks Community

Check Pavable to:

Due Date: by February 28, 2018*

Print Names of Permanent Residents at Address :

Receiving Email Updates from Ransom Oaks?

If not, join our email list

How?

Visit RansomOaks.com, scroll to the bottom, enter your email and hit our "Sign Up" button



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, 2018



Around The World

New Years Traditions

Auld Lang Syne

The song literally means "old long ago." The work by 18th-century Scottish poet Robert Burns has endured the ages and spread beyond Scotland and throughout the English-speaking world. The song is about "the love and kindness of days gone by, but



... it also gives us a sense of belonging and fellowship to take into the future," according to Scotland.org, a website of the Scottish government.

Kissing at midnight

Perhaps you'll have a New Year's Eve kiss that was the defining moment in a sweeping love story — like the one Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan shared in the 1989 movie When Harry Met Sally. Or maybe you'll pucker up with the person who happens to be standing next to you because, well, that's just what people do. But why? Not doing so will ensure a year of loneliness, according to tradition. The custom may date to ancient European times as a way to ward off evil spirits, the Montreal Gazette reports.

Black-eyed peas

It's a tradition to eat Hoppin' John, a stew made of black-eyed peas, in the American South. "Many Southerners believed that the black-eyed peas symbolized coins and eating them insured economic prosperity for the coming year," wrote Frederick Douglass Opie, a food historian, in his blog Food As A Lens.

12 grapes

In Spain and some other Spanish-speaking countries, one New Year's custom is to eat 12 grapes for 12 months of good luck. But here's the catch: to bring about a year's worth of good fortune, you must start eating the grapes when the clock strikes midnight, then eat one for each toll of the clock. The best strategy? "Just take a solid bite and then swallow, pips and all," writes cookbook author Jeff Koehler on NPR's blog.

Molten lead

Instead of reading tea leaves to tell the future, some in Germany and Austria read the molten lead. Here's how: Heat up some lead in a spoon. When it's melted, pour the molten lead into cold water. The shape of the lead will tell you what's ahead of you in the coming year (although the shapes are open to interpretation). If you don't want to actually melt metal, there's an app to do it for you.

Fireworks

It's not surprising that China, the country that invented fireworks, also makes setting them off a central part of New Year's celebrations. It's believed the noise scares off evil spirits and misfortune. The Chinese observe the lunar new year, which this time falls on Jan. 31, 2014.

Polka dots

Many in the Philippines wear polka dots because the circle represents prosperity. Coins are kept in pockets and "are jangled to attract wealth," according to Tagalog Lang, a website about Filipino language and culture.

Source: usatoday.com ■



Ransom Oaks

How to Reserve a Ransom Oaks Facility

There are *three* ways to reserve a Ransom Oaks Facility

 Print, complete and send the *NEW* form available on the website by navigating to Living In => Forms => Reserve a Facility Form



- 2. E-mail cbogdan@ransomoaks. com
- 3. Call (716) 508-ROCC. Please leave a message and someone will return your call ASAP.■



Times Square New Years Eve Ball Fun Facts



Each year, millions of eyes from all over the world are focused on the sparkling Waterford Crystal Times Square New Year's Eve Ball. At 11:59 p.m., the Ball begins its descent as millions of voices unite to countdown the final seconds of the year, and celebrate the beginning of a new year full of hopes, challenges, changes and dreams.

- The Ball is a geodesic sphere, 12 feet in diameter, and weighs 11,875 pounds.
- The Ball is covered with a total of 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles that vary in size, and range in length from 4 ¾ inches to 5 ¾ inches per side.
- For Times Square 2018, 288 of the Waterford triangles introduce the new Gift of Serenity design which is a pattern of cuts resembling butterflies flying peacefully above a meadow, capturing the spirit of serenity. 288 are the Gift of Kindness design consisting of a circle of rosettes symbolizing unity with the fronds reaching out in an expression of kindness. 288 are the Gift Of Wonder design composed by a faceted starburst inspiring our sense of wonder. 288 are the Gift of Fortitude design of diamond cuts on either side of a crystal pillar to represent the inner attributes of resolve, courage and spirit necessary to triumph over adversity. The remaining 1,536 crystal triangles are the Gift of Imagination design with a series of intricate wedge cuts that are mirrored reflections of each other inspiring our imagination.
- The 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles are bolted to 672 LED modules which are attached to the aluminum frame of the Ball.
- The Ball is illuminated by 32,256 Philips Luxeon Rebel LEDs (light emitting diodes). Each LED module contains 48 Philips Luxeon Rebel LEDs - 12 red, 12 blue, 12 green, and 12 white for a total of 8,064 of each color.
- The Ball is capable of displaying a palette of more than 16 million vibrant colors and billions of patterns that creates a spectacular kaleidoscope effect atop One Times Square.

Revelers began celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square as early as 1904, but it was in 1907 that the New Year's Eve Ball made its maiden descent from the flagpole atop One Times Square. Seven versions of the Ball have been designed to signal the New Year.

Source: www.timessquarenyc.org ■

Around WNY

Buffalo Ball Drop

A lighted ball is dropped, at one time along with a Ford Edge automobile.

The Buffalo Ball Drop (formerly the 97 Rock Ball Drop) is the second largest in the country, with 40,000 in attendance during a typical year.

The Buffalo Ball Drop is held annually from the Electric Tower in Roosevelt Plaza. It was nearly canceled in 2010 (due mainly to the effects of the late 2000s recession) before a last-minute sponsorship drive brought in the necessary funds to successfully carry out the festivities.

The event is broadcast on both radio and televisions.

Source: wikipedia.com ■

Around The Country

4 Cool Things to Know About Martin Luther King

Jr.

Martin Luther KIng Jr. (1929-1968) was a Baptist minister and social activist who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. Explore surprising facts about the civil rights leader and 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

1. King's birth name was Michael, not Martin.

His father, a pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, traveled to Germany and became inspired by the Protestant Reformation leader Martin Luther. As a result, King Sr. changed his own name as well as that of his 5-year-old son.

2. King entered college at the age of 15.

King was such a gifted student that he skipped grades nine and 12 before enrolling in 1944 at Morehouse College, the alma mater of his father and maternal grandfather. Although he was the son, grandson and greatgrandson of Baptist ministers, King did not intend to follow the family vocation until Morehouse president Benjamin E. Mays, a noted theologian, convinced him otherwise. King was ordained before graduating college with a degree in sociology.

3. King received his doctorate in systematic theology.

After earning a divinity degree from Pennsylvania's Crozer Theological Seminary, King attended graduate school at Boston University, where he received his Ph.D. degree in 1955. The title of his dissertation was "A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman."

4. George Washington is the only other American to have had his birthday observed as a national holiday.

Source: history.com ■

Around Town

January

Open Ice Skating, Curling & Ice Biking

Daily, check canalsidebuffalo. com as hours vary

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.

■

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

Kid's Day

Monday, January 15, 10am-4pm

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, Buffalo, NY

Stop by the Wegmans Family Garden and other hands-on stations to participate in fun seasonal activities and meet some of the amazing plants that live at the Botanical Gardens!

Details: www.buffalogardens.com.

T-Mobile Backyard Classic Hockey Tournament

Fri-Sun, Jan 19-21, All Day Canalside, Buffalo, NY

The tournament, which started in a backyard, now has grown into one of the largest regional outdoor pond hockey tournaments in New York. In 10 years The Backyard Classic has had 175 team, 500 players and has raised over \$75,000 for charity.

Separating themselves from other pond hockey events by using full size nets and goalies and also, unlike all other pond hockey events, the T-Mobile Backyard Classic spans all age groups from Micron through Adult level players, making it a very family friendly, fun event for all ages.

Details: http://www.canalsidebuffalo.com.

DigiPlaySpace

BUFFALO

M U S E U M of SCIENCE

Through April 22, 2018

Buffalo Museum of Science

Produced by TIFF (Toronto International

Film Festival), digiPlaySpace is an interactive playground for kids and grown-ups alike where they can explore new media technologies, learning-centric games and handson installations. From large-scale interactive installations and fast-paced multi-player videogames, to immersive green-screen adventures and experimenting with robotics, digiPlaySpace offers guests of all ages exciting ways to explore our increasingly interconnected world.

Cost: \$20, \$10 members for year.

Details (including cost): http://sciencebuff.org ■

Lumagination

January 27-28, February 1-3, 7-11, 14-24; 6-9pm, 6-10pm Fridays & Saturdays

Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens, Buffalo, NY

Lumagination will take visitors on a spectacular walk through the Botanical Gardens to experience creatively themed greenhouses, interactive entertainment and so much more!

Details: www.buffalogardens.com.



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For a Limited Time - Get 25% Off Your Purchase of Park Avenue Triple Pane Windows!!
To Schedule Your Free, No Obligation Estimate, Contact Mark Mayle @ (716) 568-0478
www.nexgenwindows.com

** minimum 3 window purchase**





www.easternhillsprinting.com

Days of the Year -January

January is one of those months we spend time inside. Every day of the year has a theme, who knew? Here are some to have a little fun with in January.

Tuesday Jan 3 - Chocolate Covered Cherry Day

Tuesday Jan 10 - Peculiar Person

Wednesday Jan 11 - Learn Your Name In Morse Code Day

Saturday Jan 14 - Dress Up Your Pet Day

Friday Jan 20 - Day of Acceptance

Saturday Jan 21 - Hugging Day

Sunday Jan 22 - Hot Sauce Day

Sunday Jan 29 - Curmudgeons Day

Monday Jan 30 - Bubble Wrap **Appreciation Day**

Tuesday Jan 31 - Backward Day Source: daysoftheyear.com ■

Mark Your Calendar

ROCC Meeting January 8





Get The Word Out

Advertise your fundraiser, sale or household item with a Classified Ad for \$8

PIANO INSTRUCTION

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.



Maureen Mirand

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson Ransom Oaks Resident

If you are considering selling, call Maureen now to discuss how you can get top dollar for your home.

Cell: 716-866-9959 MaureenMirandhomes.com





Here's what my clients are saying:

"Maureen was the fifth agent we've worked with (over 3 houses), and she is above and beyond the best!! She is smart, kind, and went above and beyond. Her knowledgeable marketing skills and strong work ethic brought us six offers!" Perrotta Family, Williamsville

"Ms Mirand handled our real estate sale in an excellent manner. She is extremely professional yet easy to talk to..." R. Perez



5500 Main St., Ste 108 | Williamsville, NY 14221 | 832-3300 Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



7

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, (716) 980-5470 (be sure to leave a message), newsletter@ransomoaks.com
- 2. Pay via PayPal or major credit/ debit card via PayPal.com to payments@ransomoaks.com. Indicate which month(s) to apply your payment.
- 3. 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.

Adore Your Home

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



Estimates

716.400.8581

Ransom Oaks Resident, Tim Maher - adoreyourhome@hotmail.com

BOB STEPHENS HUCK

Plumbing & Heating, Inc. Complete Plumbing Service for Western New York Repairs & Remodeling 632.1149

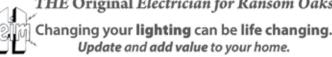
SAVE \$15.00

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

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THE Original Electrician for Ransom Oaks



PLUMBING Need work done? Best prices around. 10% discount. Free estimates, Call 877,4538 or Emergency 448.8967. PH Horvath Plumbing



BUFFALO OVERHEAD DOOR, Inc.

"Ransom Oaks Own Door Company"

Featuring: Clopay Pro-Series SunSetter Retractable Awnings LiftMaster

Residential • Broken Springs & Cables Repaired **Free Estimates**

689.4593

4455 Millersport Highway • East Amherst

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."

Affordable Advertising

Julie will donate a portion of every sale for 2017 to the SPCA.

Fulie Brown is celebrating 150 families served by joining forces with the SPCA for their 150th anniversary.

Julie Brown

Licensed Real estate Salesperson

c: **716.830.8787**

E: jbrown@realtyusa.com www.juliebrown.realtor

Realty USA .com

A Howard Hanna Compar

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RealtyUSA Williamsville Office: 914 Maple Road, Williamsville, NY 14221



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"You have my personal guarantee" - Bruce Weiss, Owner

Oil Change Save \$15.00

Applicable with most other discounts, see store for details. Exp 3/31/18

Enjoy Safe Travels

Full Check-Up

\$19.88 + tax Save \$15.00

Applicable with most other discounts, see store for details. Exp 3/31/18

- - _{12/31/2017} - - -

January

Please visit our web site at RansomOaks.com

Next ROCC Meeting: Monday • January 8, 2017 6:30pm @ Greenwood Drive Recreation Center.

MEETINGS begin at 6:30pm at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center the 2nd Monday of each month except for Oct & Nov 2018 which are 2nd Tuesdays.

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.

2018 Meetings

Jan 8	July 8
Feb 12	Aug 13
Mar 12	Sept 10
Apr 9	Oct 9*
May 14	Nov 13*
Jun 11,	Dec 17

Jan 15
Deadline for
Ransom Oaks News
Feb issue

Charlesgate Meeting:

second Wednesday of each month.

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

- Charlesgate, Glen Oak Clover Management, 688-4503
- Forest Edge R & D Property Management of WNY, 688-2083
- **Briarwoods or Woodgate** Andruschat Real Estate Service, 688-4757
- Vandalism, Animal Control or Security Concerns Amherst Police, 689-1311
- Swormville Fire, 688-7055

RANSOM OAKS

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