



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

February 2018

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

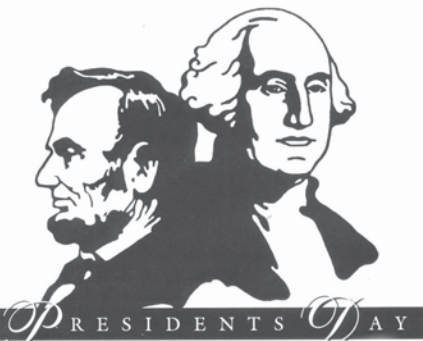
Ransom Oaks Lifeguard Positions Open

Ransom Oaks seeks qualified lifeguard candidates for the 2018 Summer season.

Please submit a letter of interest, resume of past experience and all relevant certifications to:

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

Deadline for submissions is
March 10, 2018. ■



Venture out to join us at the ROCC Monthly Meeting

Monday, Feb 12

Monday, Mar 12,

Meeting Details on p. 10

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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.com
- **Vandalism, Animal Control or Security Concerns** Amherst Police, 689-1311
- **Swormville Fire**, 688-7055



Our February Birthdays!



Matthew Lyskana	15
February 5	
Michael Brown	30
February 7	
Ainsley Hansen	7
February 7	
Abraham Lincoln	
February 12	
Meredith Cook	28
February 12	
Emilio Marong	25
February 15	
Nithya Priya Ramalingam	27
February 16	
Elana Lesse	27
February 16	
George Washington	
February 17	
Molly Ferguson	26
February 22	
Michelle Sawaya	26
February 23	
Matthew Berus	24
February 25	
Oliver Jackson	24
February 26	
Papa Goeckel	??
February 26	
Emily Gnozzo	17
February 26	
Eyob Marshall	12
February 27	
Thomas Jackson	19
February 27	
Marcia Wells	??
February 28	
Lemony Snicket	48
February 28	

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



Happy Valentine's Day

Ransom Oaks

President's Update



At the December 8th ROCC Board Meeting we announced that MCGK will be the new management company that will be assisting the board. At the meeting a presentation was shared with the public that showed the timeline of managers from the Halters to our newly selected management. The presentation also showed the RFI process we used to assure a fair bidding process. The board sent the RFI to 4 entities that showed an interest in applying. Of those 4, two declined to submit a proposal. The final selection was based exclusively on the response to the proposal. The presentation and proposals will be posted on the ROCC web site shortly.

The board wants to apologize for the confusing bill for the yearly assessment that was sent out by our previous management company. The bill was not clear and it was missing an introductory letter. The bill was also sent to Woodgate residents with the incorrect amount due. New bills have been sent to Woodgate residents. For all other residents please see the newsletter for further information regarding the bill, the address and due date.

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.

There will be three board seats up for election. Anyone that is interested in running can send a short Bio to facilitiesmanager@ransmoaks.com. Please include a description of who you are, why you want to run and what skills you have that would make you a good candidate. All Bios will be published in the newsletter ahead of the election.

André Lam
President ROCC

Annual Assessment NOTICE

Amount Due: \$350.00

Due Date: by February 28, 2018*

Check Payable to:
Ransom Oaks Community Corporation

Mail to: Ransom Oaks Community Corp,
101 Ransom Oaks Drive,
East Amherst, NY 14051

Name

Ransom Oaks Address

Other Address for Mailing (1)

Other Address for Mailing (2)

Phone

E-mail

Print Names of Permanent Residents at Address :

NEW! No envelopes necessary.

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

*A 1.5% Monthly Service Charge will apply after February 28, 2018

Happy Belated Birthday
to
Gabby Mirand!
Gabby turned 13 on Jan 21



2018
HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR



Happy Chinese New Year - February 16

Chinese New Year is celebrated by more than 20% of the world. It's the most important holiday in China and to Chinese people all over. Here are some interesting facts that you probably didn't know about Chinese New Year.

1. Chinese New Year is also known as the Spring Festival

In China, you'll hear it being called chunjie or the Spring Festival. It's still very wintry, but the holiday marks the end of the coldest days. People welcome spring and what it brings along: planting and harvests, new beginnings and fresh starts.

You can also call it the Lunar New Year, because countries such as North and South Korea and Vietnam celebrate it as well. And because the Spring Festival goes according to the lunar calendar that means . . .

2. There's no set date for Chinese New Year

According to the Lunar calendar, the Spring Festival is on January 1st and lasts until the 15th (the full moon). But when you try to calculate it with the solar (Gregorian) calendar, the date is all over the place. Chinese New Year ranges from January 21 to February 20. In 2018, it occurs on February 16. The lunar calendar is still really important in China, even though it has officially moved to the Gregorian calendar like the rest of the world. All traditional holidays and days such as the Winter Solstice are celebrated. Some people still calculate their birthdays and ages according to the lunar calendar too!

3. The Chinese New Year is a day for praying to gods...

The Spring Festival was originally a ceremonial day to pray to gods for a good planting and harvest season. As an agrarian society, the harvest was everything. People also prayed to their ancestors, as they were treated as gods

4. and fighting off monsters

But the myths are much more interesting. According to one legend, there was a monster named Nian. It would come about every New Year's Eve. Most people would hide in their homes. But one boy was brave enough to fight him off using firecrackers. The next day, people celebrated their survival by setting off even more firecrackers. And that practice became a crucial part of the Spring Festival.

5. The most fireworks are set off in the world that night

As in the myth about Nian, firecrackers are supposed to scare off monsters and bad luck. So people stay up on Chinese New Year's Eve and set off firecrackers at midnight. In the morning, firecrackers are used again to welcome the new year and good luck.

6. (but sometimes it's illegal)

Due to safety reasons and concerns for air pollution, many Chinese cities have banned fireworks. More than 500 cities have restrictions too. But... many people don't care and they do it anyway. Beijing had banned fireworks for 13 years. The ban was lifted in 2006 because of the angry public. If you're in China during this time, you'll probably be able to hear and see the explosions for at least 3 nights (and it can go on for weeks).

7. It is the longest Chinese holiday

The Spring Festival is technically 15 days. But celebrations start on New Year's Eve (making it 16 days). You can also say that the holiday season starts in (lunar) December with the Laba Festival . That's around 40 days of celebrations!

8. Every year has a zodiac animal

Western horoscopes include 12 zodiacs, one for each month. There are 12 Chinese zodiacs as well, but the animal is for the entire year. Chinese New Year zodiac animals are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig

2018 is the year of the dog. Some of the animals (such as Rat, Snake, Dog and Pig) aren't normally well-liked in Chinese culture. But as a zodiac, their positive traits are bestowed on people born that year.

Source: chinesenewyear2018.com ■

Mark Your Calendar



Groundhog Day February 2

Valentine's Day February 14



Presidents' Day February 19

2018 TOWN OF AMHERST BICENTENNIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 2 6:30pm ~ Opening Ceremony * - Town Hall
- Feb. 10 First Ladies Tea \$ (pre. reg. req.) - BNHV
- Feb. 14 Commemorative Edition of The Amherst Bee
- Mar. 24-25 Maple Weekend \$ (walk-ins welcome) - BNHV
- Apr. 7 Whisker Club Opening Ceremony * - TBA
- Apr. 5 Bicentennial Anniversary Reception \$ (pre. reg. req.) - BNHV
- Apr. 15 Amherst Symphony Orchestra * - Amherst Middle School
- May. 5 Bicentennial Interclub Luncheon \$ (pre. reg. req.) - BNHV
- May. 5 Swormville Walking Tour *
- May. 10 BNHV Open House (Amherst Resident Free Day) * - BNHV
- May. 28 Memorial Day Parade * - Main Street
- Jun. 2 Village of Williamsville Walking Tour * - BNHV
- Jun. 7 BNHV Founder's Day \$ (pre. reg. req.) - BNHV
- Jun. 14 Flag Day Celebration *
- Jun. 30 Erie Canal Walking Tour * - BNHV
- Jul. 4 Town July 4th Celebration *
- Jul. 7 Snyder Walking Tour *
- Jul. 10 Bicentennial Old Home Days Parade *
- Aug. 4 Williamsville Cemetery Tour *
- Aug. 18-19 Buffalo Niagara Scottish Fest \$ (walk-ins welcome) - BNHV
- Sep. 8 Bicentennial Gala \$ (pre. reg. req.) - UB Center for the Arts
- Sep. 22 5K Run in the Country \$ (pre. reg. req.) - BNHV
- Oct. 19-20 Halloween Trick or Treat \$ (pre. reg. req.) (walk-ins welcome) - BNHV
- Oct. Whisker Club Closing Ceremony * - TBA
- Dec. 1 Winter Wonderland & Holiday Tea \$ (pre. reg. req.) - BNHV
- Dec. 2 Winter Wonderland & Breakfast with Santa \$ (pre. reg. req., walk-ins welcome) - BNHV
- Dec. 8 Taste of Christmas \$ (pre. reg. req.) - BNHV
- Dec. 17 Closing Ceremony * - Town Hall

* Denotes Free Event

Please visit the websites for more information or call:
Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village at 716-689-1440

STAY CONNECTED!

facebook.com/amherst200 instagram.com/amherst200
twitter.com/Amherst200
#amherst200! amherst200.wordpress.com

Around The World

A Month of Valentine's Days



Instead of a single day, celebrate Valentine's Day through the entire month of February.

Here are some ideas to help extend the day:

- Make & decorate Valentine's Day cutouts.
- Hold a pink-themed dinner for friends and family.
- Pick a day early in the month to make Valentine's using construction paper, markers, glitter & glue.
- Get up early for a Valentine's weekend breakfast with pink pancakes & fresh strawberries.
- Each day of February, share a compliment.
- Raid your closet (or a friend's) and wear your red and pink clothes all month. ■

Around The World

Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day or Ground-Hog Day, ground-hog's day, etc., is a popular tradition celebrated in the United States and Canada on February 2.

It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog (Deutsch: Grundsau, Grunddax, Dax) emerging from its burrow on this day sees a shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks, and if he does not, due to cloudiness, spring season will arrive early.

The weather lore was brought from German-speaking areas where the badger (German: dachs) is the forecasting animal. This appears to be an enhanced version of the lore that clear weather on Candlemas forebodes a prolonged winter.

The Groundhog Day ceremony held at Punxsutawney in central Pennsylvania has become the most attended. Grundsow Lodges in Pennsylvania Dutch Country in the southeast part of the state celebrate them as well. Other cities in the United States and Canada have also adopted the event.

Source: wikipedia.com ■



The groundhog (*Marmota monax*) is a rodent of the family *Sciuridae*, belonging to the group of large ground squirrels.



Maureen Mirand

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Ransom Oaks Resident

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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



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

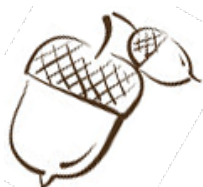
- 2 Col. (4.75" x 1.5" high) Ad: \$37/mo.
- 2 Col. (4.75" x 3" high) Ad: \$65/mo.
- 1/3 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 3" \$85/mo.
- 1/2 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 4.5" \$125/mo.
- 2/3 Page Ad: 3 Col. x 6" \$155/mo.
- Full Page Ad: 3 Col. x 9.5" \$235/mo.

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. ■





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

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School Break Camps

Winter Break: Maple East 2/20-23 Spring Break: Dodge 4/3-6 Summer: 6/25-8/17

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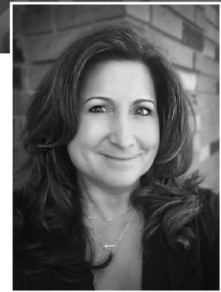
justforkidsonline.org

Call: 639-8500

Affordable Advertising

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

Julie 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



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February

Please visit our web site at RansomOaks.com

Next ROCC Meeting:

Monday • February 12, 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 meetings are held at the Greenwood Drive Recreation Center, unless noted otherwise. ■

2018 Meetings

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

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

Feb 15
Deadline for
Ransom Oaks News
Mar issue



Ransom Oaks

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