



# THE KNOLLS NEWS

WINSTON KNOLLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2893

SPRINGFIELD, VA 22152

Sharing News of Common Interest

February 2012



and at [www.winstonknolls.net](http://www.winstonknolls.net)!

## Winston Knolls

Winston Knolls Civic Association membership is voluntary and offered to each of our 489 homes. We sponsor civic minded events and promote and protect the well being of our neighborhood!

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**Mark Your Calendar and Check [www.winstonknolls.net](http://www.winstonknolls.net) for calendar updates!**

Feb 1 – Membership drive begins  
March 7 - WKCA Board meeting, 7:00 pm at Pohick Library  
March 23 – Spring Newsletter Deadline  
May 5 - Yard Sale  
May 9 – WKCA Board Meeting, 7:00 pm at Orange Hunt  
May 12 – Cleanup/Dumpster Day  
Dumpster at 7:30am, Sign area landscaping at 9:00 am

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**Website Resource for WKCA**  
Check [www.winstonknolls.net](http://www.winstonknolls.net) for regular updates on community events and news of importance to Winston Knolls residents. Bookmark the site and check back regularly!

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The Knolls News is a periodic publication of the Winston Knolls Civic Association, and is distributed free to all 489 homes in the community. Classified advertisements are free to members of the Civic Association. Business advertisements are also available for a fee. We encourage you to use our advertisers, and expect that you will do your own research before employing persons to work on your home or property.

## Annual WKCA Membership Drive - Your Form Enclosed!

*Membership Drive February 1 – March 9  
Annual Dues still just \$15!*

Open this newsletter and pull out the 2012 WKCA Membership form enclosed – we need you to renew your membership! The WKCA can continue to provide the services, events and activities we all enjoy **only** through the continued membership of our Winston Knolls residents – both owners and those renting a home here. Be a good neighbor and support our Association! Dues are just \$15/year but - new this year – WKCA members can pay two years at a time – \$30/two years. This is a small price to pay for a big return!

Among the activities sponsored by the WKCA are:

- **Neighborhood Watch** – every weekend....patrolling our neighborhood and notifying residents when something is amiss.
- **Knolls News** – Quarterly – Providing information on WKCA activities, home improvement tips, committee reports, neighborhood news, and more!
- **WKCA Website, Facebook page and Email Updates** – Check out [www.winstonknolls.net](http://www.winstonknolls.net) or find us on Facebook – offering 24/7 access to neighborhood resources and information.
- **Neighborhood Directory** – A wonderful resource that is published biennially. 2012 will be a new directory year.
- **Social Events** – Sponsoring events like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Ice Cream Social, Halloween Parade and Party, Oktoberfest Community Picnic, and more.
- **Service** – Twice a year Dumpster Day saves you the time and effort of going to the dump or paying your trash service \$75 for a special pickup.
- **Beautification** – Sponsoring a Cleanup Day in the Spring, planting trees, mowing the Huntsman median and sidewalks throughout the summer, and maintaining the sign area - to help us keep up property values and support the natural beauty around us.
- **Advocacy** – Gathering information on issues of importance to WK residents, sharing it, gathering input, and representing the community when appropriate.

## Message from Winston Knolls President – Feb 2012

Dear Winston Knolls Neighbors and Friends:

Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to spend some well-deserved time with your family over the holidays. Here in the neighborhood, the WKCA board is planning our calendar for the year and we look forward to the new year. The WKCA website should be updated shortly with the calendar of events for 2012. If you have any thoughts about activities or programs that you think would be good to add, please contact me anytime to share your ideas.

I'd like to take a few lines to acknowledge and thank the members of the WKCA Board and Committee Chair Persons – we could not accomplish all the activities and events without these individuals' efforts and time. It also goes without saying – we owe a big thank you to Oriana Raffle, who was our president for 2011 and has volunteered to stay on as vice president this year. I for one, wish to personally take this opportunity to thank them all for volunteering for another year and making our community a place that we all can be proud of.

Our Membership Drive is in full swing and we hope that you not only join this year, but attend the events that make us such an amazing community. How many other communities have a 4th of July Parade where your children and grandchildren are the stars of the show? What other communities offer roll off dumpsters for your large trash items not once, but TWICE a year to their members? Have you been to our newest event, Oktoberfest? Do you notice in the summer that the median in Winston Knolls on Huntsman Blvd is always mowed and our community always looks well manicured? For this year we have included mowing around the sign area, negating the issue of asking for volunteers to do this work. Also, our free Fall "Halloween" Festival is a great time to be had by all with the Cake Walk, Moon Bounce and plenty of goodies and games. All this – within walking distance of your home! This says a lot about Winston Knolls! Not only does a strong community spirit make everyone feel good about their neighbors and neighborhood, but if issues of concern arise, as they sometimes do, you'll be able to comfortably approach that neighbor to seek resolution.

WKCA helps facilitate that neighborhood spirit by supporting activities and events that bring us together --- please join in those activities this year! The membership drive starts this month and I hope you'll be renewing your membership or starting a new membership, in order to help support the many important services, events and activities provided by the WKCA. We are counting on a strong membership drive to be able to continue to offer these benefits to the community – please join us! Thank you!

– Tom Blume

### **2012-2013 WKCA Board & Committee Chairs**

#### **WKCA Board:**

President: Tom Blume

Vice President: Oriana Raffle

Treasurer: Jeff Lins

Secretary: Susan Guthrie

#### **WKCA Committee Chairs:**

Social - Joanne Zamfino

Membership - Tom Blume, Shari Burghart, Bob Hafer

Biennial Directory and Membership Data Base - Shari Burghart

Home Improvement - Roz Johnson

Neighborhood Watch - Bob Hinson

Newsletter - Stephanie Pettoni and Sue Israel

Newsletter Delivery - Carolyn Rapoza, Bob Hafer

Grounds Maintenance – Fred Blum

Sign Area Beautification - Terri & Alan Perry

Public Service/Communication - Vacant

Education-Empty – Vacant

Welcome Wagon - Vacant

### **WANTED**

#### **Website and Newsletter help--earn community service credit**

Want to help the Winston Knoll Civic Association (WKCA) and your community, and earn credit towards community service? We are looking for self-motivated and energetic individuals with an interest in web design and journalism. The WKCA website is up and running, but needs help with design, posting of articles, and updating of the website. Also, the WKCA Newsletter is published quarterly and we are looking a person who is interested in working with our newsletter chair to help with the layout, design, proofreading. If so inclined, we'd like an article on your school or on a community issue. If you interested and want more information on any of the above, call Tom Blume at 703-569-2368 or e-mail me at [kathandtomblume@gmail.com](mailto:kathandtomblume@gmail.com)

**WKCA Annual Membership Form  
January-December 2012 Membership Year**

**ANNUAL DUES STILL JUST \$15.00  
2 YEAR DUES \$30.00**

**Please complete this form and mail it with your fee to WKCA by March 9, 2012.**

Your dues support, among other things, the WKCA website, biennial Directory, *Knolls News*, special events like Dumpster Day, social activities like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ice Cream Social, Oktoberfest Picnic, Halloween Parade and Party, our Neighborhood Watch program, community beautification efforts, and more; all to benefit the Winston Knolls community. Join us!

**Resident Information**

Name(s) of adult residents (last name, first name(s)) \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of children/others in household \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_, Springfield, VA 22153  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Unlisted  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Give Back to Your Community**

We invite you to get involved with any of the following activities of the Winston Knolls Civic Association. Check any/all that interest you and the committee chairperson of any you check will contact you with more information.

- Neighborhood Watch** – will serve as (mark one or both) \_\_\_\_\_ Patrol \_\_\_\_\_ Call and assist chairman to solicit volunteers  
Email address for scheduling purposes: \_\_\_\_\_
- Membership Committee** – help organize the membership drive, coordinate with block captains
- Block Captain** for my block – help during membership drive by visiting neighbors to collect forms.
- Social Committee** – help plan and setup special events
- Hospitality** – bake for, or donate items, for special events like the Halloween Party
- Beautification** – help during Cleanup Day and with gardening around the sign area
- Public Service Committee** – monitor issues with service providers and report to board/community as needed
- Education Committee** – monitor FCPS issues, upcoming local events, etc. and report to board and community
- Home Improvement Committee** – collect contractor referrals from neighbors, provide articles based on them
- Welcome Wagon** – greet new neighbors and provide local and WKCA information
- Directory/Database Coordinator** – manage existing WKCA member database, produce directory every other year.

**By March 9, please mail this form along with your check for \$15.00/\$30.00, made out to WKCA,  
PO Box 2893, Springfield, VA 22152 -- Thank you!**

Do you provide a service, such as babysitting or tutoring? If so, see reverse of this form to get on our WK list!

**For treasurer use – 2012/2013 dues**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE PROVIDER DIRECTORY

Interested in letting others know what you can do? The following information will be entered in the community database (maintained by sharib@erols.com) and published in *The Knolls News* as space permits. Information for services provided by adults over 18 may also be listed on the WKCA website. The names of children under 18 will not be listed on the website. Please print your name, age (or "adult") and phone number.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Babysitting:

Pet-walker/sitter:

Tutor:

Lawn care/mowing:

Seamstress/sewing:

Music lessons:

Childcare:

Odd jobs:

Other:

***YOU MUST MARK ONE BELOW TO AUTHORIZE YOUR LISTING:***

- I am an adult and authorize this listing to be included on the WKCA website and in the Winston Knolls newsletter.
- Service provider is under 18, but I am the parent/guardian and permit this listing with phone number to be printed in the Winston Knolls newsletter.

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***parent signature required here***

- Do not print my listing; just keep it available to be provided to neighbors when they make a request directly to the WKCA database manager.

**Check below if you would like information on either or both of these other neighborhood groups:**

- WK Home and Garden Club  WK Breakfast Club

**This form may also be submitted online at <http://winstonknolls.homestead.com/survey.html>, but dues must be paid by mail.**

## **Your Neighborhood Watch – Be Part of It!**

I hope it is a Happy New Year for all as we begin the 2012 Neighborhood Watch in February. There was mixed success in 2011 with the often suggested/requested ability for on-line sign-up for dates to serve. We implemented the capability by using the Volunteer Spot web site service “free” option. “Mixed success” translates to ‘concern’ by your watch chair and the WKCA board on how to achieve our normally 90 percent plus watch schedule coverage. Not as many members visited the Watch Calendar as we expected to both review and volunteer. Emailing monthly and special newsletters to the volunteers with a one click link to the calendar got less than 15 of 121 volunteers to visit the site. We had anticipated that the centralized, on-line sign up would reduce or do away with phone calling all together. Most neighbors may recall we used to divide the watch scheduling between four watch captains; each had one fourth of the volunteers to call and schedule for one fourth of the watch schedule dates. The Neighborhood Watch committee believed that by allowing a single list of volunteers with a single list of all the year’s open dates, we would provide our volunteers with better options to choose a date compatible with their personal schedules.

I am now seeking volunteers to assist in phoning the watch team members with the goal to return a 90% plus coverage. Perhaps this might best fit for several of our volunteers who were the third team member as “home base” for the weekend patrols. The general concept at present is that these schedulers would, within their personal schedule, take a 2 week period or more to phone the watch volunteers and schedule as many dates of the watch calendar as they can until the schedule is filled. At end of the scheduler’s term the next scheduler would take his or her turn. I will work with any volunteer schedulers over the year to refine and improve such a process. Our goal is to return us to the nearly fully scheduled Neighborhood Watch Program of the past which Captains’ Fred, Jim, and Joe maintained for over a 12 year period.

Any suggestions to improve the scheduling procedures are requested; you may email suggestions to [wkwatch@winstonknolls.net](mailto:wkwatch@winstonknolls.net). And of course, volunteers to serve are always welcome. A full list of volunteers serving means each household need only perform Neighborhood Watch duty once a year.

**--Bob Hinson, NW Coordinator**

**The Winston Knolls Home and Garden Club**, founded in 1976, meets the third Thursday of each month, September to June, in members’ homes. This evening group enjoys a wide variety of programs including field trips, dinner out, speakers, and social time. Interested? Call President Carol Benedetto, 703-451-0713 for more information.

If you’d like a morning group, **The Breakfast Club** may be what you are looking for. Members meet in each other’s homes on Monday morning, once a month. The contact person is Sonja Vanden Berghe, 703-569-5368.

Both groups are welcoming new members!

### **From the Home Improvement desk . . .**

Happy 2012! This year, the oldest Winston Knolls homes turn 37. I guess you could say they are now ‘middle aged’, but with so many homes sporting new vinyl siding, insulated garage doors, renewed front doors, and re-done driveways and walkways, the neighborhood is lookin’ good. And we want to keep it that way.

The January blahs were banished this year by the lack of snow (hurrah) and February is upon us. It’s time to stay indoors and take a look at what needs sprucing up. Are you due for an indoor paint job? Not sure of your colors? Jerry’s Paint (Benjamin Moore) store at 6715-A Backlick Road in Springfield can come to the rescue. Twice a week they provide a decorator who will work with you. Call the store (703-569-2622) and make an appointment with Sue (Thursday afternoon) or Sandy (Saturdays). Bring a floor plan of the house, swatches of fabrics from the rooms you are working on, and some digital photos of your spaces. Before we painted our foyer, I met with Sue, who sent me home for all of the above, and then patiently guided me through zillions of paint samples before finding just the right ones. And the best part is...her services are free.

The Shealeys of Spur Road also shared. They had a large tree taken down by Pro Arbor Tree Care Professionals, 703-209-7247, and were impressed with the company’s work. Others in the neighborhood have used them as well. The Shealeys also recommend Springfield Roofing, a longstanding local business that has done excellent work for them, including doing a timely repair when a leak occurred. Springfield Roofing can be reached at 703-354-3229; they also do windows, skylights, and siding.

**From the Home Improvement desk . . . (continued from previous page)**

Now let's move to the kitchen. For those who have the original cabinets, some of the plastic drawers are getting a little long in the tooth. The good news is that you can easily replace them. A Hanks Place family recently did just that, and they were kind enough to give us an update on the dealer who carries them. The new company is AMSCO—A Maintenance Supply Company, Inc. They are located at 27505 Ridge Road in Damascus, MD, 20872. Call them at 800-992-4282; access their website at [www.amscousa.com](http://www.amscousa.com). Thanks, neighbor, for this update on replacement drawers. It's a great help to have people who offer to share their home improvement experiences with the community.

You probably read Karen Brown's good advice in the previous newsletter: Always check for a LICENSE and PROOF OF INSURANCE when you hire anyone to do work on your house. Don't rely on your intuition; make sure you see the license and get a copy of current insurance. Likewise, remember that the 'recommends' in this column are only the *suggestions* of what worked for a neighbor...do your own due-diligence and check out contractors of any kind before you entrust them with your house and your cash.

Meanwhile, enjoy the cold weather before we turn our thoughts to spring and the outdoors. If you have names and ideas to share with your neighbors, let me know. And..... keep on improving! Roz Johnson, rozgram1@aol.com, 703-644-0758

**-Roz Johnson, Home Improvement Chair**

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**Premium Lawn Care Offers Price Reduction to  
Winston Knolls Residents**

As you may already know, Premium Lawn Care has been mowing the Huntsman Boulevard medians for the last few years. They have been asked if any cost reductions can be offered to Winston Knolls residents this year if we have them continue mowing the Huntsman Boulevard medians. Their offer follows:

1. Any Winston Knolls resident will get a 10% reduction from the normal cost of their lot.
2. Any two adjacent neighbors will each receive a 25% reduction.
3. Any three neighbors in close proximity will each receive a 30% reduction.

Any neighbors who have been having their lawns mowed commercially might want to consider their offer, especially if an adjacent neighbor does also. The Premium Lawn Care telephone number is 703-239-8000. Ask for the Winston Knolls mowing special.

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**CLASSIFIED ADS:**

For Sale: SONY TV – 42” – with stand. Includes a SONY DVD player and a SONY surround sound amplifier. \$375.00. Please call Patty or Fred at 703-644-1145.

Free: 6 panel replacement door (colonial look) that fits the kitchen pantry in the original Aspen kitchen. Ready to go. Call 703-644-0758.

**WKCA Advertising Rates:**

Business card size: \$20.00

One-fourth page: \$35.00

One-third page: \$45.00

One-half page: \$60.00

Full page: \$100.00

20% discount to members of WKCA