

# THE KNOLLS NEWS

Sharing News of Common Interest

March 2019

## Annual WKCA Membership Drive has Started - Your Form Enclosed

***Membership Drive March – April, Dues only \$20 per year!***

Please open this newsletter and pull out the 2019 WKCA Membership form along with a return envelope to send in your form and dues; we need you to renew your membership! The WKCA can only continue to provide the services, events and activities we all enjoy through the continued membership of our Winston Knolls residents – both owners and those renting a home in the community. **Even if you decide not to join the WKCA, please update the form and send it in, so your listing and our data base is up to date.** Be a good neighbor and please support our Association, a small price with a big return!

### 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 wellbeing of our neighborhood!

**Website Resource for WKCA**  
**[www.wknolls.net](http://www.wknolls.net)**

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. For information on any article or on WK advertising rates, please contact Tom Blume at [kathandtomblume@gmail.com](mailto:kathandtomblume@gmail.com).

### Advertising Rates:

**Business card size: \$20.00**  
**One-fourth page: \$35.00**  
**One-third page: \$45.00**  
**One-half page: \$60.00**  
**One-Full page: \$100.00**



### Pack 685 wins 2018 Excellence Award

For those that do not know Pack 685 and Pack 686 merged last year into one Pack and we are the Charter member for the Pack. We are very proud to be associated with such a worthwhile organization. I was fortunate enough to attend Pack 685's Annual Blue/Gold Dinner on Feb 23, 2019. There were over 210 people that attended the dinner and activities. In addition, several of the cub scouts participated in the Arrow of Light ceremony, these are Cub Scouts who have completed the Webelos rank and prepare to become Boy Scouts. The award is significant in the Scouting experience, so significant it is one of the only Cub Scout badges that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. There are Eagle Scouts out there still representing the Arrow of Light award alongside their Eagle Scout medals. Arrow of Light is its own rank, making it a milestone in a Cub Scout's growth.

### Are you new to the neighborhood?

**If you recently have become a Winston Knolls resident or know of a new family that has moved into the neighborhood over the holidays or in the last few months, please contact a Board Member, Kathy Sherman at [kisherman3@gmail.com](mailto:kisherman3@gmail.com), or Tom Blume at [kathandtomblume@gmail.com](mailto:kathandtomblume@gmail.com) in order for us to get their information into our database.**

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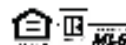
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## Message from the President

Dear Neighbors and Friends – 2018 was an unusual year for us in respect to having the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade/social and the Halloween party canceled. The parade was canceled due to technical difficulties and the Halloween party was canceled due to weather. But, I do hope that you were able to participate in the other Civic Association sponsored activities/events. I want to thank you for your contributions in making our community a great place to live and the many volunteers who plan and support our activities. The Civic Association has established a new website. We are planning in the near future the ability to enable individuals to update their data electronically, plus other new features. Please bear with us as we update the site, “[wknolls.net](http://wknolls.net)”. However the site is populated and current. We are also trying to revive the neighborhood watch, headed up by Keli Jacewitz, so stand by for her to contact you for support. The December annual meeting was well attended and Mr. Herrity, our District Supervisor took questions from the audience after his opening comments. Besides the normal business of the association, the 2019 Budget was passed along with the election of Officers. Your WKCA 2019 Officers are: President – Tom Blume, Vice President – Jeff Lins, Treasurer – Ed Linz, and Secretary – Jennifer Williams. Below is a list of our Committee Chairs who we could not do without and also a list of our up and coming activities. We are seeking your help, as the WKCA board is in need of volunteers to fill vacant positions, plus positions of long serving officers and committee chairs who would like to turn over their role to someone new or who have past their service limit according to our bylaws. As you have seen from the front page, our Membership Drive has started and I hope you’ll be renewing your membership or starting a new membership, in order to 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. Last year we had a 63% membership participation, and to ensure that we will be able to have enough funds to pay for all of the activities to include grass cutting and a little reserve, we need to have at least a 70% participation. This equals approximately 343 out of 489 homes of the WKCA area residents to join. I ask that you please fill out the enclosed insert and mail it back to the Civic Association in order to continue to provide activities for the community. Again thanks to all who support the Civic Association; without you we would not exist!

### What Your Dues Pay For

- Knolls News – Printed at least quarterly, providing information on WKCA activities, home improvement tips, committee reports, neighborhood news, and more!
- Neighborhood Directory – An excellent resource is published biennially. 2019 is the next printing. Keeping our data base current is a must.
- Social Events – 4th of July Parade/Ice Cream Social, Halloween Parade and Party, Community Picnic, and more.
- Service - Twice a year Large Pick up and shredding, plus extra dumpster in the spring for yard trash
- WKCA sponsors Cub Scout Pack 685
- Advocacy – Gathering information on issues of importance to WK residents, sharing it, gathering input, and representing the community as appropriate
- Beautification – Sponsoring Cleanup Day in the spring, planting scrubs/flowers, fund ~\$2,200.00 dollars annually for the mowing of Huntsman median sidewalks, and sign area throughout the spring/summer to keep up property values in the community.
- Neighborhood Watch – Working with local authorities and looking out for each other.

### “The WKCA 2019 “Meetings & Activities”

- Membership Drive, March - April
- Board meeting – 5 Mar at 7PM, Tom Blume’s house, 8908 Arley Drive
- Block Captains start their canvassing for memberships in the month of April
- Board meeting –18 April at 7PM, Tom Blume’s house, 8908 Arley Drive
- WKCA Cleanup (Cub Scouts)/Dumpster Day at Spur Road – 23 April (WKCA & HOA Residents only)
- Deadline for articles to WKCA Newsletter – April
- Newsletter Distributed 4 / 5 May
- WKCA & OHECA Community yard sale Saturday – 18 May
- WKCA & OHECA Community Large pick up and shredding Saturday, 25 May at OHES, Furniture, mattresses, monitors, TVs, grills, lawnmowers and etc., No paint, yard trash or hazardous material
- Board meeting – 21 May at 7PM, Tom Blume’s house, 8908 Arley Drive
- Annual Members Picnic tentatively scheduled for 8 June at Hanks Place: Moon-bounce, games, free hotdogs/chips/water
- **No board meetings in June and July**
- 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social. Parade Starts at Hunt Valley School at 1245
-

### Hands Free Bill

Virginia lawmakers will again endeavor to mandate hands-free cellphone use in vehicles when the General Assembly begins on Jan 19. Virginia is the only state in the region that allows you to hold a phone while driving. Delegate Chris Collins (R-Frederick) got close to passing an expanded distracted driving bill, [HB 181](#), last year. It would've added to the texting and driving statute and bar any "substantial distraction." But some lawmakers were concerned police would use the measure to initiate more traffic stops against minorities. Others thought it didn't go far enough and wanted a full hands-free bill. In the end, the bill died in the final days of the 2018 session because lawmakers couldn't come to an agreement on differing House and Senate versions of the bill before they adjourned. So in 2019, Collins is proposing a complete hands-free bill, [HB 1181](#). "If you have your phone in your hand, that's a violation," Collins said.

Under the proposal:

- No more holding a phone to your ear for a call. Drivers may still use voice activation such as Siri or Google voice assistant to place calls via speakerphone.
- No more browsing of Facebook, using apps or surfing the web while driving.
- No more using GPS or streaming music features – unless your phone is mounted to your windshield or dashboard.

If passed, the penalty for a first offense would be a fine of \$125 and a second or subsequent offense would jump to \$250. Collins says the distracted driving epidemic demands action. Currently, law enforcement can only pull you over for texting while driving, but police say the law is hard to enforce and convict. They've told lawmakers they've largely abandoned ticketing it. Meanwhile, traffic fatalities in Virginia have increased since 2014, according to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles data. Nearly 850 people were killed on Virginia roads in 2017. About a third of those fatalities involved distracted driving or cell phone use. About 28,000 crashes involved distracted driving or cell phone use. "We had a VDOT worker last year who got struck and killed because a woman dropped her phone and reached down to pick it up," Collins said. "We had a firefighter killed... same kind of situation." Collins said he's unsure if the new proposal will pass, and estimates he'll have a few issues to work through with his colleagues. But if 2018 was the closest a distracted driving bill got to passing, Collins hopes 2019 is the year it does. The District

instituted a hands-free cell phone law in 2004 and Maryland followed suit in 2013.



### Winston Knolls Neighborhood Watch Connect with your Community!

Neighborhood Watch is ready to begin again. I will begin knocking on doors and looking to solicit volunteers soon. I will be emailing current volunteers a sign up genius link. Please consider taking a shift. We are always in need of new volunteers. If you have 3 hours out of an entire calendar year to give, then we are the place to be! You can feel good about serving your community and you will be in the loop on the most important neighborhood watch news. We do ask that you be over 18 years old. If you have the time, we would love to have you join our team! Volunteering is a great way to spend time with a spouse or an older child. We look forward to seeing you out in the neighborhood! **A huge THANK YOU to Dennis Kurre and Joe Coombs.** They were the only 2 drivers we had all year long in 2018. Dennis even drove during the power outage last March! Please contact me at [kjacewitz@gmail.com](mailto:kjacewitz@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

To help prevent crime in Winston Knolls, remember these great tips:

- Work with your neighbors to keep your neighborhood clean and orderly.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.
- If possible, set timers on lights when you're away from home, so they appear to be occupied.
- Illuminate or eliminate places an intruder might hide: the spaces between trees or shrubs, stairwells, alleys, hallways, and entry ways.
- ALWAYS keep your car locked with valuables out of sight.
- Don't let newspapers or flyers pile up on your driveway or front door.
- Don't ever announce your vacations on social networking sites, such as facebook.

To report something or someone suspicious to FCPD use the non-emergency number, (703) 691-2131. If you are interested in Neighborhood Watch, please call the Coordinator, Keli Jacewitz, at 703-912-7610 or email at [kjacewitz@gmail.com](mailto:kjacewitz@gmail.com).





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## Education Chair Report

By Ed Linz

As a tutor and retired teacher at West Springfield High School, I am frequently asked questions by parents concerning college admission for their students, both with respect to which schools may be “best” and what factors are important to gain an edge in admission. My experience with thousands of former students over the years has been that no school is best. What is important is that the student graduates. With the exception of a few “name schools” my students have found that most employers do not care, and are not impressed, by which university you have attended. Accordingly my answer concerning which schools your student should apply to is always, “Pick several that (1) you can afford, (2) that the student (and, hopefully you) have visited, and (3) one that offers a curriculum which is aligned with the student’s current interests. Then make a family decision and do not look back. Simply cross your fingers that your student works hard at that school and graduates. In nearly every case that I have seen that the only benefit to a “name” school is bragging rights for parents at neighborhood parties. The second question concerning how to gain an edge in admissions involves some straightforward facts, namely, that the **only objective** measures for any university to distinguish one candidate from another are SAT (or ACT) scores and performance on Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations taken prior to 12<sup>th</sup> grade (results for AP courses taken during the senior year are not available until after the student has already been accepted or rejected at colleges). These are the only objective yardsticks to measure a student’s academic performance versus other competing students from around the state and the U.S. **What about grades?** Obviously, low grades will hurt your chances, but high grades will not necessarily help you because so many students now have high GPA’s. And grades are often a function of which school a student is attending, so they have less value in the eyes of admissions officers. **Essays?** My answer is that a bad essay (spelling errors, poor grammar) will ruin your chances, but a great essay will not necessarily help for the simple reason that the university has no way of determining who wrote it. **Activities?** They are not nearly as important as some think, because there is no way for admission personnel to audit what you say you have been involved in. Obviously being an exceptional athlete will help your chances and may by itself assure admission to many schools, perhaps even with an athletic scholarship, but these situations are essentially very rare and often turn out to involve countless hours at college dedicated to practice and performance which detract from academics. **Letters of recommendation?** Not having any is a problem, but as a teacher who one year wrote over 125 letters for my

students, I can report that they all say the same thing....the student walks on water and is the best I have ever seen. So no letters or a bad letter will hurt your chances, but a good letter probably will not help you against other good candidates. **Bottom line** for both students and parents: work hard to achieve good grades, take challenging courses (some AP or IB), be involved in some school or community activities, but really concentrate on doing well on the national exams (SAT/ACT) and scoring high (3 or higher) on all AP (and IB) exams in your sophomore and junior years. Good luck!!!!

### WINSTON KNOLLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION (WKCA)

VS

### ROLLING VALLEY SECTION 8-D HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (WKII HOA)

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Just to make sure you understand the difference between the WKCA and the HOA, I have provided a few words below that described the difference. The WKCA was established in 1975 as a non-profit organization to promote the common interests of the Winston Knolls community (currently 489 homes). Membership for the WKCA is purely **voluntary**. Annual dues have been a very modest **\$20.00** and you have seen in the previous pages a list of the activities/events that we provide.

The establishment of the WKII HOA (the 191 homes constituting Winston Knolls II) was mandated by Virginia law because WKII owns three parcels of common land. A description and detailed map can be found at their website, [www.winstonknolls.org](http://www.winstonknolls.org) identifying the 191 homes and the parcels of common land. Membership is **mandatory** for these homes with the annual dues voted on by the HOA Board of Directors, presently **\$30.00**. The current President is Dennis Kurre (703-644-1261). The primary expenditures of the HOA are liability insurance for, and mowing of portions of the common land and periodic removal of trees that are identified by professionals as an unacceptable risk for falling on neighboring homes. The HOA is also responsible for declarations and covenants enforcement and home re-sale/disclosure documents. The HOA and the WKCA continually explore opportunities for joint sponsorship of activities that are consistent with their respective missions. For example, the HOA and the WKCA sponsor a spring Dumpster Day at the corner of Spur and Huntsman, providing Winston Knoll resident’s disposal of trash and debris; maintains an active dialogue between the WKCA and HOA Board members for the betterment of the community; and the HOA donated a sizeable amount of funds towards the Winston Knolls sign at the corner of Huntsman and Spur.





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# CLASSIFIED ADS

**PLEASE NOTE:** The information below will be removed for the next Newsletter. If you want your information posted in the next Newsletter, please complete the 2019 WKCA Membership form. In the future, if you want to add or remove your information, please contact me at [kjsherman3@gmail.com](mailto:kjsherman3@gmail.com)

*All non-business ads (For Sale, Garage Sales, Wanted, Babysitters, etc.) are free to WKCA residents – as long as membership fees are up to date. Please submit your request to [kjsherman3@gmail.com](mailto:kjsherman3@gmail.com)*

## **BABYSITTING:**

Kailynne Landry (teen) call: 571-222-5634  
Sydney Schaffer (teen) call: 703 303-6824  
Grace O'Grady (teen) call: 703-913-3464  
Audrey Valentine (teen) call: 703-625-7299  
Amy Peterson (teen) call: 703-912-6363  
Reed Gray (teen) call: 757-705-8835  
TJ Brantley (teen) call: 703-451-0077  
Marie Cluff (teen) call: 610-704-6087  
Katharina Hines (teen) call: 571-230-2804  
Teresa Hines (teen) call: 571-230-2804

## **PET WALKERS/SITTERS:**

Kailynne Landry (teen) call: 571-222-5634  
Sydney Schaffer (teen) call: 703 303-6824  
Joey MacDonald (teen) call: 571-533-0003  
Reed Gray (teen) call: 757-705-8835  
Lauren Cluff (teen) call: 610-505-0440  
Erin Burns (teen) call: 703-455-1820  
Joseph Harris (teen) 202-255-3068  
Sam Harris (teen) 202-255-3068  
John Hines (teen) 571-230-2804

## **LAWNCARE/MOWING:**

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Joe Burns (teen) call: 703-455-1820  
Andrew Burns (teen) call: 703-455-1820

## **SNOW SHOVELING:**

Melissa Newell (12) call: 412-295-4411

## **Tutor:**

Ed Linz, (Adult) call: 703-577-5175 -**Physics Tutor, all level including AP.**, WKCA resident, retired FCPS Teacher, contact me at [edwinrlinz@gmail.com](mailto:edwinrlinz@gmail.com)  
Heike Hines (Adult) call: 571-230-2657 - **German**  
Joe Hoenscheid (Adult) call: (703) 569-3826 - **ESL, German, French, Spanish**  
Angie Chang (Adult) call: 571-319-9175 - **ESL**

## **OTHER:**

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**Entertainment/Singing/Instrumental:** Jessica Newell (15) call: 412-295-4411  
**Pictures/Screen Savers:** Melissa Newell (12) call: 412-295-4411  
**Certified Health Coaches:** Tony and Cheryl Bell (adults) Home: 703-417-9040, Cheryl cell: 434-316-8216

### Directory / Database Update

Information for our WKCA database. You can contact me to verify your dues status. I can also send you an electronic version of the 2019 membership form you can fill in and send back to me. My email is [kjsherman3@gmail.com](mailto:kjsherman3@gmail.com). The WKCA membership form provides us information for the directory, residents interested in committees, and services that can be included in our classified ads section of the WKCA Newsletters. To manage all this data, I'm in need of volunteers to help. I have recently set up a sub-committee and currently have a few members. If you have strong database skills and have time to help us, please contact me directly at [kjsherman3@gmail.com](mailto:kjsherman3@gmail.com). -Thank you!