

THE KNOLLS NEWS

Sharing News of Common Interest

March 2022

Annual WKCA Membership Drive has Started - Your Form Enclosed

Membership Drive Mar - April, Dues only \$20 per year!

Please open this newsletter and pull out the 2022 WKCA Membership form along with a self-addressed 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 – for 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

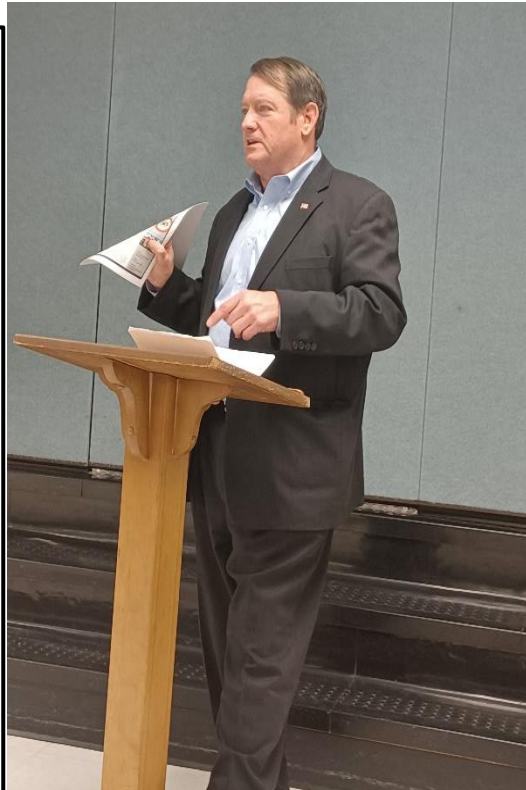
Winston Knolls Civic Association membership is voluntary and offered to each of our 489 homes. We sponsor civic-minded events and promote and protect the wellbeing of our neighborhood!

Website Resource for WKCA
www.winstonknolls.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

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



Above, Pat Herrity West Springfield Supervisor, addresses the Annual WKCA meeting in February 2022 and Cub Scout Pack 685 2022 holds its Annual Blue and Gold Banquet in February 2022.

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 please notify our Data Base Chairman John Flynn at john.flynn2006@yahoo.com, Tom Blume at kathandtomblume@gmail.com, or a Board Member in order for us to get your information into our database.

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors and Friends, –The last couple of years have been very trying for all. But it looks like we have turned the corner and we are starting to get back to normal, although it may be another several months to completely get back to where we were in 2019. I want to thank you for your contributions in making our community a great place to live and those individuals who came out and supported our annual meeting in February. Besides the normal business of the association, the 2022 Budget was passed along with the election of Officers. A big thank you goes out to Pat Herry for speaking and taking questions from the crowd. Pat spoke on several issues that dealt with taxes, local school concerns, road /street paving, and etc. The top three officers for WKCA 2022 are, President: Tom Blume, Vice President: Jeff Lins, Treasurer: Kathy Howard and the Secretary position remains vacant. All three positions were elected by acclamation. In addition, John Flynn has volunteered to be our new Data Base and Directory Chairperson, he replaces Kathy Sherman after 7 years of faithful service. As you can see from the front page, the WKCA Membership drive has started and we are striving for at least 290 (61%) of the 489 houses to pay their 2022 dues, in order to pay our basic bills. Although, Fairfax County has not resumed the Large Pick Up events that we host at the Orange Hunt Elementary school twice a year, we are planning to try and get back to normal with our activities and events. We will host the Community yard sale in May 14 and are planning to have a dumpster of our own at the corner of Spur and Huntsman – late May. In addition, we are in coordination with OHECA to look in to the possibility of having the local 4th of July Parade –a favorite that we have missed over the past two years. We have also revamped our website and have populated it. I ask that you please go to WKCA website <http://wknolls.net> to view – it will only take 10-15 minutes. In closing let me wish everyone a good spring/summer, now that COVID-19 is not as dominant in our lives as it has been in the past two years. However, we must remain on our guard and use common sense – please stay safe.

Volunteers Needed

The civic association is in dire straits –we have several officers that have held the same position for over 7-10 years and we are in need of “young/new blood”. The board is seeking new volunteers in order to turn over their role to someone new. The board meets approximately 5/6 times a year during September through May. Some of the jobs only take a total of 4/5 hours for the total year. Please contact me to learn more about the board and the role you could fill as a volunteer for the community. No prior experience is necessary and this is a great way to give

back and stay in the know about our community, Call me at 703-569-2368

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. 2023 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 – Community Yard sale Twice a year, Large Pick up and shredding, and 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 ~\$3,400.00 dollars annually for the mowing of Huntsman median sidewalks, and sign area throughout the spring and summer to keep up property values in the community.

Scams the US government wants you to know about

The Federal Trade Commission has put out some tips on how to avoid being defrauded, and how to report scams to the government. Some of the common scams the FTC says to be aware of are:

- **Social Security scams:** Some fraudsters might pretend to be from the Social Security Administration and your social security number, or even money. Be aware of this.
- **Phishing:** Be highly aware of any suspicious emails or text messages and either use your email's, delete the message, and never click on any strange links from unknown senders. Beware of generic greetings like "Hi Dear."
- **Unemployment benefit scams:** Claims for unemployment benefits by imposters have been reported. Report fraud to your state's benefits agency,
- **Phone scams:** Be aware of, and from anyone asking you for personal information over the phone. Never send cash or pay for something with a gift card over the phone. Some scammers might even pretend to be law enforcement to scare you.



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- 2018 - 2022 voted "TOP REAL ESTATE AGENT" - Northern Virginia Magazine
- 2020 - 2022 voted BEST Real Estate Agent - Washingtonian Magazine
- ELIZABETH lives in Winston Knolls. In over 300 recent home sales, 75% have been right here in Springfield & Burke! ELIZABETH is your Neighborhood Real Estate Expert!

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Pack 685 Holds Annual Blue and Gold Banquet

The Civic Association is the Charter member for the Pack and we are very proud to be associated with such a worthwhile organization. I was fortunate enough to attend Pack 685's Annual Blue and Gold Banquet in February and present checks from both the WKCA and the Winston Knoll II HOA, to help with their activities. As usual it was a fantastic event. We are fortunate to have one of the best Packs in the area, if not the state. This is due to the Pack/Den leaders, parents, and of course the scouts themselves. Even as we struggled through COVID-19, the pack kept busy with zoom meetings and socially distance activities. At the event, 12 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. Arrow of Light is its own rank, making it a milestone in a Cub Scout's growth. I want to thank all of the volunteers who took the time over the last years to make Pack 685 such a success. Thank you all for the countless hours of hard work! Below are the individuals who participated in the Arrow of the Light.

Ben Basslor

Alexander Bohn

Matthew Clapp

Jacob Jarrett

Sam Landen

Jack Mahoney

Ryan Neumann

Andrew Parker

Owen Smet

Landon Walker

Noah Warschaw

Charles Yelnicker



WALKING THE DOGS, LLC



Fun Part Time Job for Moms

Love dogs and animals of all types? We are currently seeking mature adults ready to become part of a fun dynamic team for a local dog walking and pet sitting company. We have been successfully taking care of local pets since 2007. We make owning pets easier for our clients. We currently have openings in Burke and Springfield. This is the perfect job for stay at home moms who live in these areas. Cell phone, internet access, and flexibility are a necessity. Competitive pay and fun work environment! Grab your walking shoes and call Abbie to join our team at (703)473-9768



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Higher Education
By
Ed Linz, Education Chair

With much of the news lately focused on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it is very easy to lose sight of a pivotal legal case, *Students for Fair Admissions v. President & Fellows of Harvard College*, which the U.S. Supreme Court has just agreed to hear. The issue surrounds admissions policies at Harvard which was sued eight years ago by applicants (mostly Asian-Americans) who were denied admission on what they alleged to be factors based on race rather than academic excellence. Lower courts have consistently sided with the universities, and before agreeing to hear the case, the Supreme Court asked the U.S. Solicitor General to state the federal government's position. Recently, in response, the Biden administration urged the Court not to take the case. But apparently the Supreme Court has been looking for a case to decide on affirmative action programs and decided to take the case. It is expected that arguments will begin this fall when the Court, with a new member (probably Ketani Jackson Brown who has been nominated by President Biden).

Assuming that Judge Brown is confirmed to the Court, she will be under considerable pressure to recuse herself (making her ineligible to vote) due to her past position for many years on the Harvard Board of Overseers. It is safe to assume that this issue will be raised during her confirmation hearings. Of course, all eight of the current Justices are graduates of Harvard or Yale, with half of the current eight Harvard grads. So much for impartiality!

Harvard is not sitting still awaiting the outcome of the case. Just in the event that they lose, they have already taken pre-emptive action which may affect you if your child will be seeking admission to any university in the future. They have recently dropped the requirement for applicants to submit national standardized test scores such as the SAT's or ACT's which are at the heart of the plaintiff's claim against Harvard. If there are no longer any such test scores, how will anyone be able to claim that Harvard (or any other college which has

dumped the SAT/ACT requirement) has discriminated against them by taking applicants with lower test scores *when there are no test scores*? Basically, they will be free to take whomever they choose with no fears of being sued for discrimination. Grades, of course, will remain important, but let's be very frank here: having a high GPA or even straight A's "ain't what it used to be." Harvard (and other "selective schools" will be able to base selection on where you went to school, such as prestigious (very expensive) prep schools, race, diversity, sexual orientation – whatever they wish to use. Your student at West Springfield, Lake Braddock, even Thomas Jefferson can be easily overlooked even if they have perfect SAT scores! They are no longer a factor.

Some other universities, such as the California state universities, have gone so far as to refuse to accept any SAT scores, ensuring that they will be totally exempt from second-guessing their admission policies. Once other universities with competitive admissions see how cleverly Harvard has protected itself from further legal challenges in the event that the Supreme Court rules against them, those institutions will also dump the SAT/ACT requirements. Bottom line: we are all about to enter a new era of how colleges select candidates for admission. Good luck!

Keep your Yard and Street Neat!

I would ask all residents to remember to remove your trash cans from the street and store them accordingly, once they have been emptied. Letting the trash cans sit in the road empty overnight or for several days is not recommended. Also, if you have branches or lawn trash -- please ensure that you properly tie up or bag the yard debris for pickup. If not the debris will not be picked up by your trash company and blow away in the street, possibly ending up clogging one of the many storm drains.

Winston Knolls Home and Garden Club

Want to serve the community, have fun while learning something new, get to know your neighbors and meet new ones, then think about joining the Winston Knolls Home and Garden Club! The Winston Knolls Home and Garden Club was established in 1976 and continues to be a very active organization in the neighborhood and always open to new members. They meet on the third Thursday of the month at members' houses and have a "focus" for each meeting - sometimes a speaker, activity, etc. Over the years, the Club has planted and cared for the trees along Huntsman Boulevard and has maintained the plantings around the Winston Knolls sign. But, the group activities only start with gardening - there's a lot more going on. The Garden Club also holds many special events, for example, going as a group for dinners out at local restaurants or taking in a play/musical at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Meetings begin in September and end with dinner out in June. Due to COVID-19, the Garden Club has not met for approximately 15-18 months, but will be getting back to together shortly. For information on joining or upcoming activities, please contact Kris Leedom at krisleedom@gmail.com

Relationship between the WKII HOA and the WKCA

In an attempt to clear up the confusion between what the Rolling Valley Section 8-D Homeowners Association (WKII HOA) is responsible for and what the Winston Knolls Civic Association (WKCA) does, please read the following. The WKCA was established in 1975 as a non-profit organization to promote the common interests of the Winston Knolls community. Membership for the WKCA is purely voluntary and we have 489 homes in the area, however only 53 percent renewed their dues for 2021. The Annual dues are a very modest, \$20.00 dollars, which pays for all of the activities and mowing, our website is www.wknolls.net. The establishment of the WKII HOA, a total of 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 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. Please visit the website for the HOA Officers, Board members and other information. The primary expenditures of the HOA are liability insurance, mowing 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 Dumpster Day at spur Road, providing Winston Knoll resident's disposal of trash and debris for spring and fall clean-up and maintains an active dialogue between the WKCA and HOA Board members for the betterment of the community. By the way, if you live in Winston Knolls II, the HOA Board is seeking volunteers to fill positions of long serving officers and members who would like to turn over their role to new individuals. Please contact Michael Graves, the President or a board member to learn more about the board and the role you could fill as a volunteer for the HOA, please go to the website at www.winstonknolls.org and check it out today!

Medical identity theft

When most people hear identity theft, they think of someone stealing their credit card info and buying a big-screen TV. But you can't legally be held liable for fraudulent purchases like that. It's different, however, with medical identity theft. "You can be required to cover the cost for health care services you never received. These can include tests, prescription drugs and even operations. Your Plan Never surrender Social Security, Medicare or health insurance numbers to anyone you don't know and trust. Be particularly wary of free health checks offered at shopping malls, fitness clubs and retirement homes (so-called rolling labs). If they ask to photocopy your cards or ask you to sign a blank insurance claim form, don't do it. It's also vital to review all statements from your insurance provider. If there are any charges you don't understand, call immediately. And when shopping online for prescription drugs or other health-related items, remember that if a price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

CLASSIFIED ADS

All non-business ads (For Sale, Garage Sales, Wanted, etc.) are free to WKCA residents, as long as membership fees are up to date. Please Submit your request to me at john.flynn2006@yahoo.com

Items for sale:

6 bags (40 pounds each) of Bright and Soft salt pellets for water softener - \$4 a bag OR 6 for \$20.
Call Patty K. at 703-644-1145

Babysitting:

Evie Englert (12 call: 703-451-4787)

PET WALKERS/SITTERS:

Evie Englert (12 call: 703-451-4787)

Tutor:

Ed Linz (Adult) call: 703-577-5175 – Physics

Marina Elsi (Adult) call: 703-505-7336 – German Grade 1-6

Music Lessons:

Leonard Seidel (Adult) call: 703-644-1468 Intermediate/Advanced Piano for Ages 10-18

Batting/Pitching Lessons:

Trip Morgan (Adult) call: 703-569-8619

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 2022 membership form you can fill in and send back to me. My email is john.flynn2006@yahoo.com 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. If you have a strong database skill and have time to help us, please contact me directly at my e-mail above -- Thank you!