

THE KNOLLS NEWS

Sharing News of Common Interest

December 2025

**The Winston Knolls Civic Association Wishes
You and Your Family Happy Holidays!**

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 kathandtoblume@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



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, or our President Tom Blume at kathandtoblume@gmail.com, or a Board Member in order for us to get your information into our database – visit our website.

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors and Friends, I want to thank you for your contributions to making our community a great place to live and all of those that have supported the Civic Association. Our latest event was the Halloween Party/Picnic in October 2025. A very special Thank You to the List with Elizabeth Realty family for sponsoring our event this year. Also, thanks to Wegmans at Hilltop for covering food and beverages, and to the local businesses listed below for generously providing over \$2,500.00 in items and services for our first raffle. Our event would not have been possible without their support!

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Breath Body and Mind | 10 Class Pass |
| Burke Lage Golf Center | 2 Passes for 2 |
| Burn Boot Camp | 2 1-Month Passes |
| Cardinal Plaza Shell | 2 Oil Changes |
| Glory Days Grill | Gift Cards |
| Healthy Vibes with Christie | Free Wellness Assessment |
| Milano's Family Restaurant | Gift Cards |
| Olde Towne Pet Resort | 3- Day Boarding and Spa Pass |
| Rats Cycles | 1 Bike Tune-Up |
| Spartans Family Restaurant | Gift Cards |
| Sunoco on Gambrell | 3 Car Washes |
| Workhouse Art Center | 4 Haunted Trails Tickets |

We had a ballon artist, face painting, and a visit by the local Fire Department, plus games for the kids. This event is always fun and enables us to get together with each other. We cooked over 80 hot dogs, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Message from the President (Continued)

An important issue the WKCA, the Springfield Section II Homeowners Association (HOA), and residents are involved in, is the traffic calming on Arley Drive. Several residents in the summer contacted the HOA and inquired what we could do about the speeding problem on Arley Drive. Below is the "Readers Digest" version of where we stand in this process. And I want to iterate it is a process, and nothing has formally been decided; no formal vote has been conducted.

The HOA Board agreed to write Supervisor Herrity to investigate how we could proceed to make Arley Drive safe for all residents to include our young children. Bottom line, a committee was formed by Arley residents, HOA member, WKCA member and a member from the Rolling Valley HOA, which encompasses the east end of Arley Drive. A survey was done by the County that indeed provided specifics on volume of traffic and speeding that enabled the street to qualify for a traffic calming process/study to begin. In the meantime, while the County was in the process of their study the committee wrote to VDOT to see about stop signs, extra speed signs, children at play signs, flashing speed limit signs and etc. We were rejected on everything – except they did allow us to have a children at play sign erected at the west end of Arley. The County's study was briefed to the committee in September, and they recommended we implement 7 Speed humps to reduce speeding on Arley. The committee met and rejected the number of speed humps and suggested to reduce the number to four speed humps. In addition, three of the speed humps would be located in the flood plain area and not in front of anyone's property. The fourth would be at the east end of Arley in the Rolling Valley HOA's area (this was agreed too and signed off by the property owners). There are approximately 218 residents on or adjacent to Arley Drive that are affected and are able to vote on any solution that may be put forward. In November, the committee taped flyers on all 218 resident's doors notifying them that the County was conducting a zoom meeting on 9 December to go over all of the data they have completed, where we are in the process of the Traffic Calming Study and to answer questions from residents. Approximately 40 residents participated. So, this is where we presently are - - step three of the five step process.

Traffic Calming Steps

STEP 1 Project Initiation

STEP 2 Plan Development

STEP 3 Community Engagement

STEP 4 Ballot Phase

STEP 5 Project Installation

After receiving the County's presentation and feedback from residents, the committee will meet after the holidays and discuss options. For those that are interested, please

contact me and I can email you the 9 December County presentation and audio.

The top three officers for WKCA 2025 are, President: Tom Blume, Vice President: Jeff Lins, Treasurer: Jeff Levine. **the Secretary position remains vacant.** In addition, John Flynn is our Data Base Chairperson, Fred Blum Median/Grass mowing Chairman, Stacy Ivie is our social Chairman, and Ed Linz is our Educational Chairman. A couple of projects we are looking at is to see if we are able to get battery operated lights for our sign, shredding event in the spring. For the Directory, we are discussing maybe an electronic version may be developed as printing one has become very costly. We have also revamped our website and have populated it. I ask you to please go to our website <http://wknolls.net>. Our dues are still only \$20.00, so please support/join the Civic Association. Also, we need your email in order to send you updates/electronic newsletters and other important data. In closing I wish everyone a great holiday Season!

Volunteers Needed

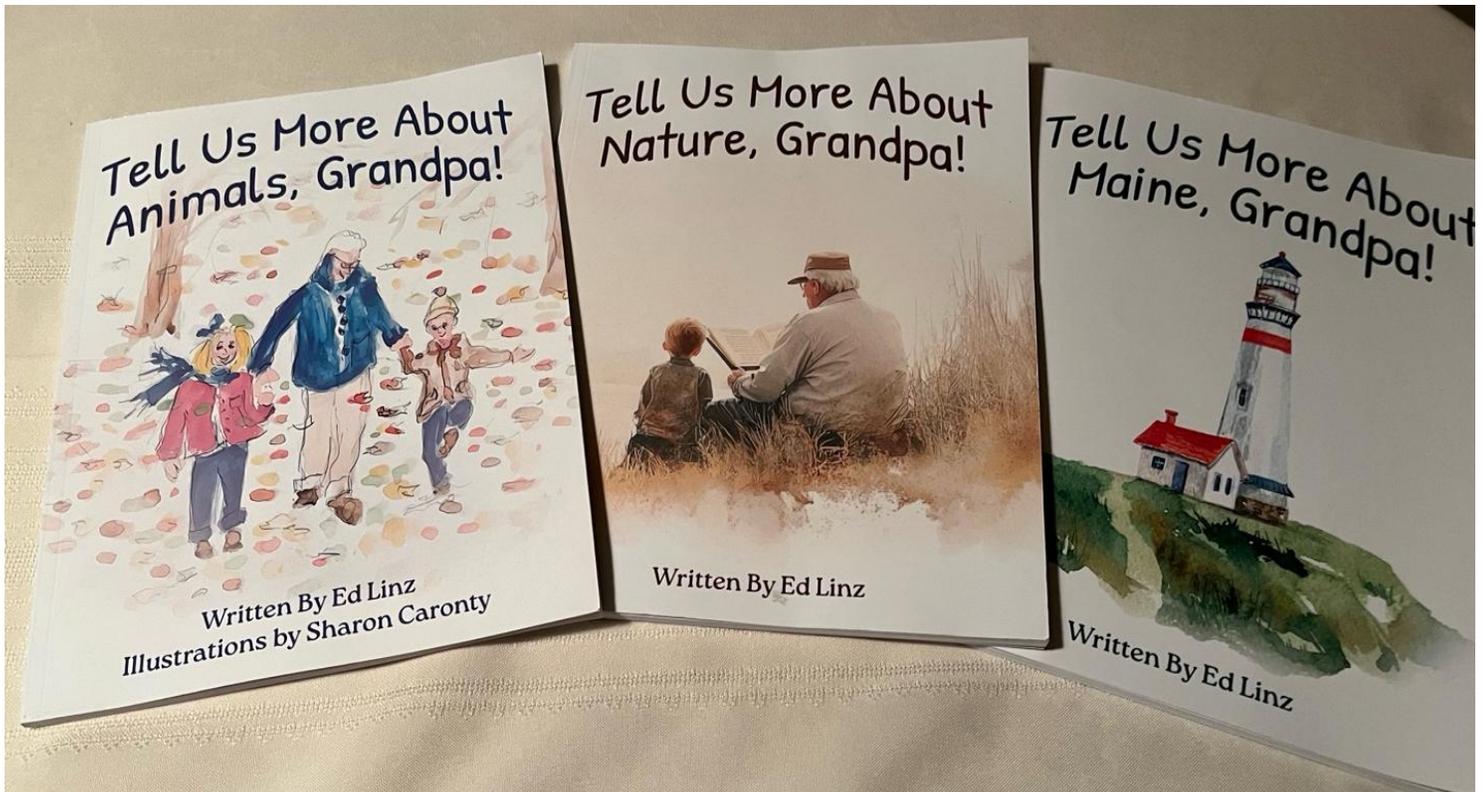
The civic association is looking to replace several of our officers that have held the same position for over 7-10 years, and we are in need of "young/new blood". The board meets approximately 4/5 times a year during September through May. Some of the jobs only take a total of 4/5 hours for the total year. Please contact me to learn more about the board and the role you could fill as a volunteer for the community. Also, if you know of a high school individual (s) who need community hours, we can use computer skills, canvassing for dues, articles for the newsletter etc. No prior experience is necessary, and this is a wonderful way to give back and stay knowledgeable about our community, Call me at 703-569-2368.

What Your Dues Pay For

- Knolls News – Printed/Electronic quarterly, providing information on WKCA activities, home improvement tips, committee reports, neighborhood news, and more!
- Social Events – Halloween Picnic / Party, Community Picnic, and more.
- Service – Community Yard sale Twice a year, and spring shredding event
- 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 fall/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.
- WKCA sponsors Cub Scout Pack 685

Three New Children's book by Local WKCA Author

Ed Linz



Great gifts for the holidays!

All available on Amazon, \$15

Get signed copies via edlinz@edlinz.com

Free delivery anywhere in WKCA 😊

Ed, a resident since 1982, was on the WKCA board for many years. He taught and coached at WSHS for over 20 years and is the author of nine books, including works on The Great Depression, the Vietnam War, a novel, and a textbook.

Pack 685 holds Its December Pack Meeting

For those who may not know, the Civic Association has been the Charter member for the Cub Scouts for over the past ten years. We are very proud and fortunate to have an outstanding unit/Pack. This does not come about very easily, or by circumstance. We have some of the best and most dedicated leaders and parents in the local area. They do a tremendous job of teaching/guiding both young boys and girls. The scouts also help the community with local cleanup and other civic projects. Pack 685 concluded their December meeting on Thursday, and I wanted to share a few photos with you.



Board of Supervisors, School Board warns about possible budget shortfalls “synopses”

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors held a joint meeting last week with board members from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to discuss the county budget forecast, raising concerns about pessimistic budget predictions. Board of Supervisors Chairman, Jeff McKay emphasized that the meeting discussion focused on forecasting the county's financial position, so that county officials can consider what to do in the future. McKay said the meeting did not discuss a budget proposal. The next joint budget committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. in the Government Center. “For the longest time, we’ve been the helper; now we need a little bit of help,” said McKay, citing the “chaos” of the federal worker upheaval this year. Fairfax County Chief Financial Officer Christina Jackson said that economic uncertainty continues in the region, noting that the Northern Virginia economy depends on federal employment and federal procurement spending. “Consumer confidence is down,” impacting tax revenues, Jackson explained.

Jackson said that the unemployment rate in Fairfax County is above the state rate, which she said was not surprising given recent layoffs. She noted that overall job growth has been flat in Northern Virginia over the past year. She said that there are some positives in growth, such as in education and health services, but she reported a negative trend for the county. Jackson said that over the past couple of months, inflation has risen in part due to tariffs. She said that nationwide, the housing market is cooling, with decelerating growth, and that this is the case in Fairfax County as well. In her report to the joint committee, she projected a lower growth in the real estate tax base projected for FY 2027, compared to FY 2026. Jackson said a new food and beverage tax is too recent to make predictions about, particularly since it is not yet implemented, but she noted that dollars from that tax will be seen in “mid-February or so. Jackson reported.

On the subject of county budget reductions, Jackson said it is getting “harder and harder” to produce cuts. She said that the “easy” cuts have been taken, and that county reductions are being reviewed to determine the most feasible options. County agencies were asked for reductions amounting to five percent of their budget. School system FCPS Chief Financial Officer Leigh Burden said the school system has limited revenue data, with the current fiscal forecast. “There is still a great deal of uncertainty” regarding federal funds, she said. Managing a budget of about \$4 billion, Burden said that the school system has “bare bones needs” for fiscal 2027. She also said enrollment has declined and that this is “pulling our budget down.” “We all know that education is the county’s largest and most consequential investment,” school board chair Sandy Anderson said at the meeting. School board member Mateo Dunne said that many crucial pieces are missing in the budget formulation, in a statement to the Fairfax County Times. “We are in the early stages of formulating the FCPS budget. We are missing vital information such as how much the federal government and

state government will contribute,” said Dunne. “What we know at this point is that it will be a challenging budget year,” he revealed. Dunne said that compromises need to be made. “I strongly support investments to increase teacher pay to attract the best and brightest, but we need to continue to evaluate opportunities to be more efficient with taxpayer dollars,” he said. “I welcome the positive collaboration with the county to enable productive discussions early in the budget cycle and avoid last-minute demands and surprises. FCPS needs to plan carefully and support robust community engagement, identifying potential budget cuts early in the process,” Dunne concluded. Expected ‘shortfall’ Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity offered some criticism of the budget forecast in a statement to the Fairfax County Times. Herrity said that the budget forecast shows a significant “shortfall” after cuts to county programs. “The forecast is the culmination of years of unrestrained Board spending on ‘Board priorities’ coupled with the sizable impact of federal workforce cuts on our local economy,” he continued. Herrity, however, noted some consensus between the two boards. “For years, I have been advocating that both boards look at ways to reduce spending, and I am finally starting to hear other members agree. Last year, there were difficult cuts presented by the county executive for the board’s consideration, and I expect the coming budget will be no different,” Herrity concluded.

Franconia District Supervisor Rodney Lusk said in a statement that the county is facing challenging times. “Fairfax County continues to face fiscal headwinds that have persisted in recent years,” said Lusk. He reiterated Jackson’s concerns about federal workforce cuts and their impact on the county. “The full effects of the federal government shutdown and reductions in federal agencies on our local economy and tax base remain uncertain,” said Lusk. Lusk said that the county is fighting back against its fiscal challenges. “To help mitigate these challenges, Fairfax County has taken significant steps to reduce spending. Between FY 2024 and FY 2026, more than \$90 million in recurring agency cuts were implemented, and more than 270 positions were eliminated to help balance the budget,” said Lusk. He suggested a further remedy. “The Board of Supervisors will need to continue looking for efficiencies and cost-reducing measures and identify ways to expand the commercial tax base that can support reducing taxes on residential property owners,” said Lusk. Lusk also emphasized the need to work collaboratively with the school board. “We also must work with our partners on the Fairfax County School Board, and I appreciate their efforts to craft a budget proposal that reflects our shared concern for this year’s economic projections,” he said. Finally, Lusk stated that the forecast is not the last word. He said, “While the Board of Supervisors has been presented with an initial fiscal forecast for FY 2027, these numbers are by no means final and are likely to change between the initial forecast in early December and budget approval. We will know more resents his advertised budget to the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 1

Classified Ads: Need Help, or Want to Help?

Winston Knolls Civic Association posts opportunities for our community that are from our community. If you are in need of a babysitter, pet care-taker, dog walker, tutor, or lessons, please visit our website at: <https://wknolls.net/committee-reports/> All non-business ads (for sale, garage sales, wanted, sitters, etc.) are free for WKCA residents to post as long as membership fees are up to date. Services may or may not be provided for free but are reasonable. Please submit your request to john.flynn2006@yahoo.com.

Safety

For everyone's safety, the posted speed limit within our neighborhood is twenty-five miles per hour. Please be mindful of this, as we have lots of walkers, bicyclists, and children playing. We ask for all drivers to set the example and obey the established speed limit and be watchful of your surroundings to prevent accidents. If you are running, walking, or riding a bicycle outside during low-light hours, please wear reflective attire or light-emitting devices so drivers can see you.

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, The Annual dues are a very modest, \$20.00 dollars, which pays for all of the activities and mowing the median and sign area, our website is www.wknolls.net. The WKII HOA is a total of 191 homes constituting Winston Knolls II and is 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. We maintain an active dialogue between the WKCA and the HOA Board members for the betterment of the community. 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 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!

Minimum Wage Increase: The **New VA laws that go into effect in January 2026**

- statewide minimum wage will rise to \$12.77 per hour under the Virginia Minimum Wage Act
- Baby Food Protection Act: Manufacturers must test every production batch for contaminants and include test results on product labels and websites.
- Consumer Protection: Social media platforms must limit minors to one hour of use per day and use effective age-verification tools.
- Commerce:Telephone Privacy Protection Act: Unsolicited commercial text messages must include a clear opt-out option and, companies must honor opt-out requests for up to 10 years.
- The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will expire, and updated rules under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will take effect, impacting Virginia residents' tax liabilities.

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 cannot 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. 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, do not do it. It is also vital to review all statements from your insurance provider. If there are any charges you do not 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.