

THE KNOLLS NEWS

Sharing News of Common Interest

September 2014

Winston Knolls Civic Association

P.O. Box 2893
Springfield, Virginia 22152

Message from Winston Knolls President – September 2014

Tom Blume

Dear Neighbors and Friends – I hope that everyone had a great summer - we at WKCA are starting our fall activities. The spring and summer were busy months for our Association and hopefully you had a chance to enjoy one or more of our sponsored events. But, first we have had some new family's move into the neighborhood over the past few months and I know that you join me in welcoming them to the WK community; **Lynn & Sam Bower, Michelle & Joe Combs, Cathy & Pat Portele, TJ & Carol Cluff**. If I missed any other new arrivals over the summer, please let me know.

Ever had someone make your day? It can be a kinder/better community if we just pay it forward, give just because we can and help just because we can. Mow your neighbor's yard or pick up the trash along the street, because you can. Put the newspaper in front of the neighbor's door, because you can. Share a meal or special treat with your neighbor, because you can. We have a lot of residents who can benefit from our kindness and help. WKCA has an active Board, Newsletter, Bi-annual Directory with community information/resources, Website, local county and government officials email communication and websites, Neighborhood Watch Program and special events annually. Encourage new residents to join. For only \$15.00, WKCA is a real deal. You can obtain the membership form on our website or call me at 703-569-2368. As we approach the fall, I must "shout out" a big thank you to our many volunteers, and I also want to take a moment to recap our spring and summer activities. First, thank you to everyone who joined or renewed their membership this year. Our membership drive resulted in an

increase from last year, to approximately **320 homes, but we have over 450 homes in the community, so we have a way to go.** More than 15 of our neighbors graciously volunteered their time to knock on doors on their street to collect membership and directory forms and dues. We owe many thanks to our wonderful Block Captains! I also would like to thank those who came out for the Spring Cleanup and Dumpster Day. As unusual, **Cub Scout Packs 685 and 686** picked up trash and cleaned the wooded area behind Hanks Place and our sign. Alan and Terri Perry had help from the Gleghorn family in weeding and turning over the mulch at the WK sign – resulting in a beautiful area surrounding our sign. Dumpster Day was a great success, as we were full and had the dumpster towed away in four hours. In other events, we had over 25 families participate in the WKCA/Orange Hunt Yard Sale, and we had over 150 families turn out for our WKCA/Orange Hunt Community Large Item Pick-Up/Dumpster Day at OHES. Inside the newsletter is a little taste of the 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social, the turnout was terrific, and a "Big" thank you goes out to **Joanne & Joe Zamfino and family**. Last but not least, we also have pictures of the "National Night Out" community event, focusing on the prevention of crime and drug activity.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! *The WKCA board is in need of new and volunteers to fill positions of long-serving committee chairs that would like to turn over their role to someone new or can no longer serve more than 5 years, according to our bylaws. 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! This is a great way to give back and stay in the know about our community. Call me!*

Mark Your Calendar and Plan to attend the WKCA's 2014 Fall Events

WKCA Board meeting (open to all) - Sep 9 at 7PM, Jennifer's house, 8915 Spur Road

Deadline for articles to WKCA Newsletter - Sep 12

WKCA and Orange Hunt Yard Sale Day - Sep 27

Board meeting (open to all) - Oct 7 at 7PM, place Jennifer's house, 8915 Spur Road

Deadline for articles to WKCA Newsletter - Oct 13

WKCA Cleanup/Dumpster Day at Spur Road - Oct 18

Halloween Parade & Party - Saturday Oct 25

WKCA Nominating Committee formed for 2014 WKCA Officers - Nov 4

WKCA Board meeting/preparation (open to all) for General meeting - Nov 18 at 7PM, Jennifer's house, 8915 Spur Road

Deadline for articles to WKCA Newsletter - Nov 20

WKCA General meeting - December 9 at 7:30 OHES cafeteria (Guest Speaker TBD)

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!

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 Sue Guthrie at austriasb03@yahoo.com.

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

*From the Home Improvement Desk....*by Karen Brown



Please visit the www.WinstonKnollsCivicAssociation.com website and go to the Home Improvement site...you will find a list of Vendors who our residents have used over the years...As you send names to me, I will have them posted on this site. Thank you for visiting it and also sending me names...Karen Brown

I am scheduling to have a company come who is highly recommended and has many state wide awards for work done on the home exteriors, to include Roofing, Windows, etc. If you are interested in coming over, please call me and let me know. I will be scheduling it for the last week in September. One reason I am doing this, we need a new roof...When our roofs were replaced because of the hail damage back in the late 90s, most of us didn't get new plywood, so now the plywood is very old and ours is not in good shape.

It is a good time to look in your yard for BROWN (DEAD) trees and think about getting them taken down before they fall on your house. Most insurance companies won't pay if the tree is dead.

Another thing to consider before winter sets in is to have a Termite inspection...Many residents have not had one since they moved into their home. Termites love our homes...like many repairs, don't wait until you decide to sell to get things taken care of and with termites you could find they have munched on your home enough that you have some damage. An inspection is less than \$75 by most all of the companies...If you are told you have termites and need a treatment, I would get a second opinion.

Junk Removal and Furniture Moving

The Leedom's recently employed **Nova Junk Removal** (telephone: 571-432-8162) to clean out a crawl space and cart away considerable heavy and bulky pieces of old furniture, bricks, firewood and yard debris at another property. The Leedom's say that the very favorable (and numerous) Yelp and Angie's List recommendations for this small family-owned business only understate how professional, reasonably priced, prompt and totally reliable are the company and its crew. They were far more than pleased with the work done and the price charged. The company's website lists additional services offered.

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Education Chair Report By Ed Linz

I spoke to each of the Principals in our three schools in the West Springfield pyramid. All were very cooperative and upbeat about what is taking place in their buildings. A universal concern among the Principals was the funding situation for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Due to budgetary constraints, class sizes continue to increase (now at 30.5 students per teacher at the high school level). Each of the principals indicated that their schools are “near the tipping point” and are in need of increased funding.

Mark Greenfelder, the prior WSHS Principal, was replaced by Mike Mukai just prior to the opening week of school. Part of Mr. Mukai’s previous experience has included both teaching Chemistry at WSHS and also being an Asst. Principal there, so he certainly is very familiar with the school and much of the staff. He reports that the **renovation remains on schedule to begin in early to mid-summer 2016 and will last “4 summers”** (if all goes well). There are still issues to address, the drawings are available at, <http://www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs/programs/Renovation/Renovation.html>. Due to less students coming up the pipeline from Washington Irving Middle School, the overall population at WSHS will be perhaps 100 students less during the renovation. There will still be numerous trailers used during the renovation. The front of the school will be facing the current parking lot. New parking will be added in the current front area and there will be 644 total spaces when finished. The design is nearly completed, and the finished product should be quite attractive and functional. Mr. Mukai asked for patience from the community during the renovation, because most of the community meetings and activities currently being held at WSHS will not be taking place during the renovation

Danny Little, the Principal at Washington Irving, wanted to stress the increased use of technology in all disciplines at his school. There are now Smartboards in every classroom at Irving and there are 2 computers available for every student. Mr. Little's main concern was that he was going to lose 5 staff members (4 of which are teachers) due to declining enrollment in rising 7th graders and a small rising 8th grade class. It also appears now that high schools and middle schools in FCPS will be essentially swapping starting times beginning in the fall of 2015, that is, middle school students will be starting sometime between 7 and 7:30 and high school students between 8 and 8:30. If that sounds like robbing Peter to pay Paul, you’ve got it.

Enrollment at Orange Hunt Elementary School will be increasing, according to Jason Pensler, the Principal. He is expecting 850 students this fall, up from 790 two years ago. The German immersion program remains intact, and the school is enjoying the use of the new playground facilities (courtesy of a significant contribution by the PTA). Class sizes remain stable and student academic achievement continues strong. As most of you are aware, Monday schedules are now like every other day, with no early dismissal.

My overall impression of our local schools is that they are providing good value for money. Each has a very clean and safe environment (you have to be “buzzed in” to gain admittance). However, it appears that many of our students are doing better academically in their elementary years than as they progress up the academic food chain. I am not sure why this is taking place, but perhaps it is due to increased parental involvement for our younger children. What is certain is that active PTA participation peaks in elementary school, and declines dramatically in middle and high school. Bottom line: even if you no longer have children in our local schools, they deserve your support, and if you do have students, please stay involved.

One more non-education issue: the work on Huntsman Lake appears to be nearing completion. However, you should take official information on completion dates with considerable skepticism. Every time I talk to the actual workers, they say, two more months.” The lake may be full by spring.

Highlights from the 4th of July Parade and Ice Cream Social

The weather was perfect for the annual Orange Hunt and Winston Knolls 4th of July parade. Once again the streets were lined with anxious parents, grandparents and neighbors waiting for the parade to begin. Besides the residents having a super time marching in the parade, State Senator Dave Marsden, Supervisor Pat Herrity, and Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn also attended the festivities and chatted with parade-goers. Additionally, Cub Scout Pack 685 and 686 set up a static display providing information on the scouting program. The Zamfino and Blume family, along with other volunteers fed and cooled the masses with icy treats. Check out the WKCA website for more pictures of the event.



Neighborhood Watch News

WOW is all I can say about National Night Out. On Tuesday, August 5, our neighborhood met at Orange Hunt Elementary School and we had a fantastic two hours of meeting local politicians, looking inside police and fire vehicles, jumping on the moon bounce, and eating all kinds of goodies. We had about 150 people over the course of the evening. I cannot thank you enough for showing up, meeting new neighbors, and getting to know your local fire and police officials. That is exactly what this event is all about. We partnered again with Orange Hunt Civic Association community. Next year we will do the same and also welcome the Edgewater community. So, mark your calendars for **Tuesday August 4, 2015**. Remember to lock your car every night and place your outdoor equipment in your shed and lock that up too! As mentioned before, please remember to turn on your porch and/or curb lights. Darkness is a great asset to crime. Please help reduce crime by keeping your lights on. I'm always looking for volunteers to patrol the neighborhood. We only ask for 4 hours of your time out of an entire calendar year. Come join us and really get to know your neighborhood and the amazing folks that live in Winston Knolls. **Please contact Bob Hinson, our WKCA Coordinator at rnkja@cox.net.**



Front row, left to right: Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) John Bauer, Police Officer First Class (PFC) Shelley Pleva, Board of Supervisor Pat Herrity, Assistant Commander - West Springfield Station Tim Field, McGruff, the Crime Dog, Commander - West Springfield Station Kathleen Sefchick, Board of Supervisor John Cook, Master Police Officer (MPO) J.T. Frey and PFC Tom Champ.

In this edition of the Pat Herry Report

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield

Bringing the FBI to Springfield: The GSA warehouse site is on the shortlist of sites being considered for the FBI's new headquarters. The GSA site is optimal because it already has in place, transportation facilities, communications infrastructure, shopping amenities, and hotels and restaurants that the FBI and its employees will need to be successful. In addition the GSA site is right up 95 from the FBI's training facility in Quantico. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce fully supports relocating the FBI headquarters to Springfield, and it wants to show the decision makers that our citizens do too. The Chamber created this petition and I urge you to sign it and show your support today!

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/bring-the-fbi-headquarters-to-springfield>

Reimbursement for Unaccompanied Minors: At Tuesday's Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' meeting, I asked the County Executive to calculate the costs associated with providing services to the over 1,000 unaccompanied minors now in Fairfax County, and to look at options to recover the money for these services from the Federal government, either directly or through the Commonwealth. The influx of unaccompanied minors across the southern border of the United States is in the tens of thousands. According to the Office of Refugee Resettlement the number of these children now in Fairfax County stands at 1,023 - one of the largest in the country. Unlike in Prince William County where children were placed primarily in one center with the costs reimbursed primarily by the Federal government, the children currently in Fairfax County have been placed with family members and none of the costs are being directly reimbursed by the Federal government. These children will be using a multitude of County services including County schools. At the cost of \$14,755 per English as a Second Language student (per FCPS approved FY14 budget), that could mean that Fairfax County schools alone will have over \$14M in new unexpected expenses to deal with in this school year. I also believe it is important for us to know the extent to which this influx will affect both ours and the schools' budgets - \$14M is no small chunk of change, especially in this difficult economy. It is the Federal government who is placing these children in our communities that should be paying for the services that localities have to provide while they are here. The over \$14M figure is just the cost of basic ESOL services.

Great News for Old Keene Mill Road: The Virginia Department of Transportation began the repaving of Old Keene Mill Road/Franconia Road (Route 644) from Elder Avenue to Rolling Road this week. The work will occur five nights a week, Sunday through Thursday from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. This work is expected to take about three months to complete, weather permitting. Many of the County's roads are in disrepair and VDOT is working to address them as quickly as they receive the funds. Old Keene Mill Road has been in a state of disrepair for quite some time now and I glad we were able to work it on to this year's list. I am also working to get a short section of Union Mill Road done this year. Several other major arteries were paved earlier this year. I know firsthand that the section of Old Keene Mill Road between the Fairfax County Parkway and Rolling Road is just as bad as the section being repaved. VDOT tells me this is on the radar; it could be completed later this year or next season. This also applies to the section of Rolling Road between Braddock Road and Burke Road. I also hope VDOT will be able to make it into our neighborhoods next year as well.

Springfield Town Center, Opening Oct 17th: Please Google Springfield Town Center and look at the most current post. I think you will be very pleased with the lineup of stores, all along the Loisdale Road side, there will be the Restaurants, a LA Fitness center/ pool, Movie theaters with reclining seats, plus serving wine, and etc. Gone is the MALL - We all look forward to the NEW TOWN CENTER!