

THE KNOLLS NEWS

Sharing News of Common Interest

MAY 2026

The Annual WKCA Membership Drive is Winding Down

Membership Dues only \$20 per year!

The Civic Association only needs **50 more individuals** to renew their membership to obtain our 2026 goal, will you be the one that helps us reach our goal! The WKCA was established in 1975 as a non-profit organization to promote the common interests of Winston Knoll's community. You can pay dues electronically by using PayPal. See our website at wknolls.net and on the Homepage scroll to the bottom for the user-friendly directions for PayPal. Checks and the membership form can be mailed to WKCA, PO Box 2893, Springfield, Virginia 22152. To find the membership form go to our website and on the "Join the WKCA" page see the link for the membership form, fill in and mail both.

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
<http://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

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



The above pictures are from our Community shredding event on
26 April 2026 at the Orange Hunt Elementary School

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 WKCA President

Dear Neighbors and Friends, I want to thank you for your contributions in making our community a great place to live and all of those that have supported the Civic Association.

Update on the Arley Drive Traffic Calming issue. In the 2025 December WKCA newsletter, I relayed the process and where the Calming Committee stood. In February, the committee proposed a solution to the County, to install 4 speed tables on Arley Drive. There are 218 residents on/or adjacent to Arley Drive that were affected and able to vote on the proposed solution. The ballots were passed out to all 218 identified residents in late March, and April 10, 2026, was the last day to send their ballot to our local Superintendent. A percentage greater than 50% of the 218 was needed in order for the proposal to be passed or implemented. **99 'yes' votes were received and 110 were needed, so the proposal did not pass.** As you saw on the front page we hosted along with OHECA and the Rolling Valley Sec 8-D HOA, a community shredding event in April. The event was well received as several cars were lined up to start the activities. All-in-all, we counted 85-90 individuals between 0900-1200 that brought over approximately 25 containers full of documents to be shredded! This included individuals in cars, a few walked, and we also had repeat shredders, a worthwhile event.

Do not forget that **16 May 2026 is our Community YARD SALE.** We will place community yard sale signs around the area prior to the event and send out notifications to residents and others who may want to participate. Residents should use their own signs to direct people to their homes and pick them up no later than Sunday. In closing, again I would like to thank the individuals that have supported the civic association and also those who have volunteered their time and manpower over the last several years to help make us a success.

Volunteers Needed

The civic association is in need of volunteers – we have several officers that have held the same position for over 10 years, and we are in need of “younger/new blood”. The board is seeking new volunteers in order to turn over their role to someone new. The board meets/works virtually and by e-mail, we have one formal annual meeting a year. 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 aware about our community, Call me at 703-569-2368 if interested.

What WKCA Your Dues Pay For

- Knolls News –Dios tributed at least quarterly, providing information on WKCA activities, home improvement tips, committee reports, neighborhood news, and more!
- Social Events – Halloween Parade and Party; Community Picnic, and more.
- Service – Community Yard sale Twice a year, and 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 spring, planting scrubs/flowers, fund ~\$3,500.00 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.
- The Link between local/county Government Officials.
- WKCA sponsor/Charter Cub Scout Pack 685

Summer Concert Series (Beginning June 24)

The Summer Concert Series in Burke Lake Park is returning this summer on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm and will run from June 24 to August 19 – nine great bands including The Randy Thompson Band, The Road Ducks, The Skip Castro Band, The English Channel, and others will be performing in a family and dog friendly environment. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, the dog and the kids. We will have food trucks, 2 Silos beer, ice cream and so much more.

Safety in our Neighborhood

For everyone's safety, the posted speed limit within our neighborhood is 25 miles per hour. Please be mindful of this, as we have lots of walkers, bicyclists, and children playing. We ask all drivers to set an 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.

Free Shredding Event June 27

Supervisor Pat Herrity will be co-hosting a free shredding event with Crime Solvers on June 27th from 9 AM until 12 PM at the Rolling Valley Park and Ride.



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Pack 685 Holds Annual Blue and Gold Banquet

The Civic Association is the Charter member for the Pack 685 Scouts, and we are very proud to be associated with such a worthwhile organization. I was privileged to attend Pack 685's Annual Blue and Gold Banquet in February and present checks from both the WKCA and the Rolling Valley Section 8-D HOA, totaling \$450.00 dollars to help with their activities. As usual it was a fantastic event, the theme was "CANDY LAND" as you can see in the picture to the right. 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. At the event, 19 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 BSA 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 BSA Scout uniform. Arrow of Light is its own rank, making it a milestone in a Cub Scout's growth!



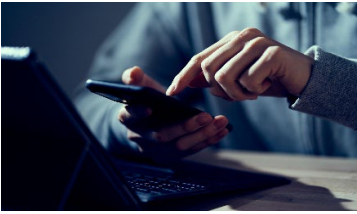
WALKING THE DOGS, LLC



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

COMMON SCAMS FOR 2026



Imagine seeing a huge online sale from a brand you recognize, receiving a message from a government agency, or getting a notification through a workplace platform like Microsoft Teams. Each of these situations feels normal, which is exactly why scammers are increasingly using them to target victims. Today's scams are designed to blend into everyday digital life. By impersonating trusted organizations, copying legitimate websites, or exploiting workplace tools, criminals are finding new ways to trick people into handing over money or sensitive

information. Here are some of the most common scams circulating right now.

Online Shopping Scams: Online shopping scams use fake online stores designed to look like legitimate retailers. These sites often promote popular products, like clothing, electronics, or fan merchandise at massive discounts to lure people into making a quick purchase. The websites may copy the branding and layout of well-known brands, making them appear convincing at first glance. But once payment is made, the product never arrives, or a cheap counterfeit item is sent instead. In many cases, the real goal is to capture payment details and personal information.

Common red flags include:

- Prices that seem too good to be true
- Website URLs that look slightly different from the real brand
- Limited contact information or missing return policies
- Poor spelling, grammar, or low-quality images

Business Impersonation Scams: A business impersonation scam happens when criminals pretend to be a trusted organization to trick people into handing over money or sensitive information. These scams often involve organizations people recognize and rely on, such as banks, government agencies, delivery companies, or major brands. Below are two examples currently circulating in Australia. Scammers are pretending they work for the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and other law-enforcement agencies to deceive victims into sending them funds from their cryptocurrency accounts, or to share seed phrases, a list of random words used to help recover your account. The victim will receive a call from someone claiming to be an AFP officer working on an investigation. The scammer may say the person has been involved in a data breach or financial crime, and that urgent action is required. They often pressure victims into transferring funds or sharing sensitive information.

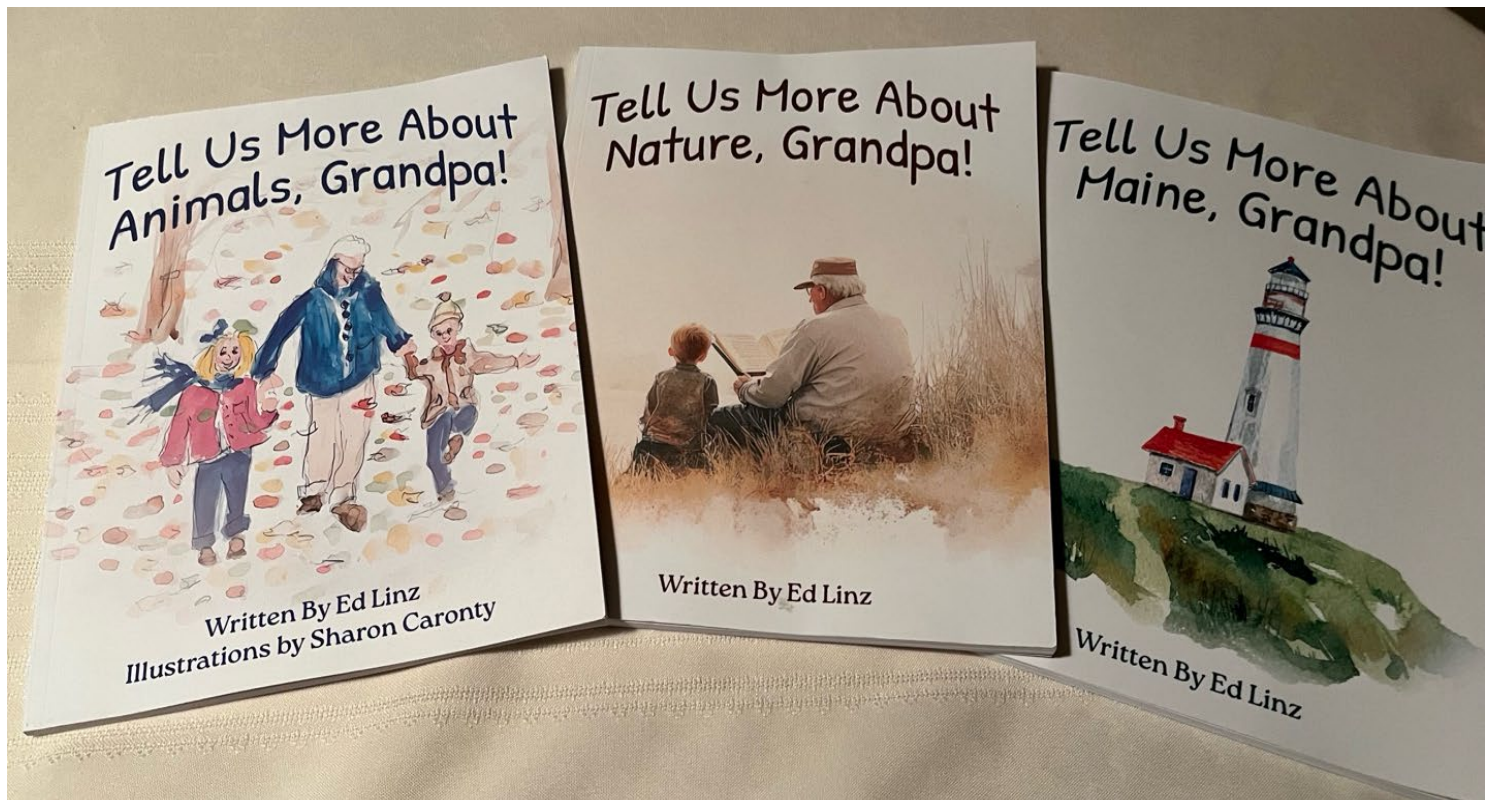
Medicare: Another common impersonation scam involves criminals pretending to be from Medicare. The message usually includes a link directing people to a fake website designed to look like an official Medicare page. Once there, victims are asked to provide personal details, banking information, or payment to “restore” access or replace a Medicare card. Because Medicare is an essential service for many Australians, scammers rely on the fear of losing access to healthcare to pressure people into responding quickly.

Red Flags of Business Impersonation Scams

- Unexpected contact claiming to be from a government agency or major organization
- Requests for urgent payments, especially through unusual methods like cryptocurrency or gift cards
- Links directing you to websites asking for personal or financial details
- Messages warning that your account will be suspended or restricted if you don't act immediately

The Unexpected Scam on the Rise: Microsoft Teams Scams: Scammers are now targeting workplace tools like Microsoft Teams to reach victims in a more trusted environment. In this scam, attackers send guest invitations to join a Teams group with names designed to look like billing alerts, such as messages claiming there has been a subscription charge or payment issue. Because the invitation is generated through Microsoft's system, the notification email often comes from a legitimate Microsoft address. This means it can bypass many email security filters and appear more trustworthy than a typical scam email. Instead of using suspicious links or attachments, the scam message is built directly into the Teams group name itself, which may include a phone number or payment instruction. The scam relies entirely on social engineering. If someone believes the billing alert is real, they may panic and contact the number provided, where scammers attempt to convince them to make a payment or share sensitive information.

**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.

Respecting and Helping Each Other

A few words on what a community is and how we are bound by a sense of doing what is right and expected of us. No matter what your race, religion, politics and etc., all must be treated with respect and listen to what each individual has to offer. It is OK to agree to disagree in a civil manner. In fact, I enjoy conversations with individuals who differ in opinion, as I want to understand how they formed their opinion. The bottom line is that we are a diverse community and we need to ensure we look after each other. If you know of a neighbor that needs help in getting their lawn or house chores completed, a ride to the store or looking after their property when they are on vacation and etc., please jump in and help, especially for our "older" residents. The Civic Association is not qualified, nor set up to deal with personal situations, but we do want to let the community know that we care and if we can assist in getting you to the correct individual, let us or a neighbor know. After living in Winston Knolls for several years, I can honestly say that I am proud to call you my friends and neighbors -- Thank you!

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 caretaker, 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.

Relationship between the Rolling Valley Sec 8-D (WKII) HOA and the Winsto Knolls Civioc Association

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 is **\$35.00 dollars**. 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, in the past the HOA and the WKCA have sponsored shredding day at the Orange Hunt Elementary school and other events. We maintain an active dialogue between the WKCA and 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 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!

New VA laws that go into effect in January 2026

- **Minimum Wage Increase:** The statewide minimum wage will rise to \$12.77 per hour
- **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.