

Winston Knolls Civic Association

# THE KNOLLS NEWS

Sharing News of Common Interest

May 2025

## Annual WKCA Membership Drive in the final push, *dues are still only \$20 per year!*

I want to thank everyone that has supported us this year. However, we still need your help. The civic association needs another 50 members to reach our goal in order to pay our basic bills and activities. For those who have not sent in their membership, please go to the Website at <http://wknolls.net> on the home page, scroll to the bottom and you'll find user-friendly directions for Pay Pal. You can also locate the 2025 Membership form on the website, fill it out and mail it in with your 2025 dues.

### 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](http://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 WKCA advertising rates, please contact Tom Blume at [kathandtomblume@gmail.com](mailto:kathandtomblume@gmail.com)



The pictures above are of individuals that have a "small book or puzzle library" located in their yard. So, as you are walking in the neighborhood, stop by and check it out -- You may be surprised. The addresses are 9005 Arley Drive, 8933 Applecross, and 7100 Sontag. Outstanding community Support!

**THIS IS OUR FIRST WKCA ELECTRONIC NEWS LETTER - SEE INSIDE  
FOR ARTICLES AND OUR SPONSORSHIP**

- The WKCA in conjunction with the OHECA is sponsoring our Community Yard Sale event on Saturday 17 May
- Traffic Calming Study for Arley Drive Requested
- Education Report
- IRS exempt status under IRC Section 501(c)(3)
- The WKCA vs The Rolling Valley Section II HOA





## Preschool

Teaching Our Toddlers Since 1988

At TOT Preschool, our staff take extra pride in their ability to address the varied needs of its students and families

**Openings still available for  
2025-26 school year**

**Offering Classes for Children  
Ages 2-1/2 to 5**

- Small neighborhood preschool
- Christian values and sense of community
- Convenient location
- Science, music and preliteracy programs
- Chapel Time
- Playground and nature trails
- Participation in mission and service

TOTPreschool.org  
703-644-6384  
TOT@SydenstrickerUMC.org  
8508 Hooes Road, Springfield, VA 22153

## Family Fun Day!

Wednesday, May 28,  
from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 pm.



**FREE!**

Come for a day filled with free fun, snacks, & activities for caregivers & their children ages 0-5 years old. Story time at The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, magic show, Chapel Time, playground time, pizza, shaved ice and book and prize giveaways.



Please scan to register or visit  
[SydenstrickerUMC.org/Fun](https://www.SydenstrickerUMC.org/Fun)



## Playground Play Dates

**Wednesday, June 4, June 11,  
August 13 and August 20  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

At least one adult must stay with children participating.



## Vacation Bible School

**June 16-20, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

Gather with us for a fun-filled adventure on the open road. Along with an adventurous pup named Scout, we will take thrilling journeys to exciting destinations and learn that, no matter where we go, God is always with us.



Scan to register or visit  
[SydenstrickerUMC.org/VBS](https://www.SydenstrickerUMC.org/VBS)



**Sydenstricker** United Methodist Church

8508 Hooes Rd., Springfield

[www.sydenstrickerumc.org](https://www.sydenstrickerumc.org)

703-451-8223



**Preschool**



## Message From The President

As you can see from the front page, the WKCA 2025 Membership drive is in the final stages. Unfortunately, if we are not able to obtain our goal of 40-45 percent for 2025, the Civic Association may be forced to increase our dues for 2026 to keep up with higher cost. The civic association has updated our website to not only allow electronic payments from Pay Pal, but residents can update their form on line, and it will automatically update our database, plus you can log in and review and edit your data. Each resident should be able to see their own data. Residents will need to log in at our Website, <http://wknolls.net> and go to the Resident log in/update page. **It's very important that we have your correct data in order to send you updates.** The WKCA will host a Community yard sale in conjunction with Orange Hunt on May 17. 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. Traffic Calming: Several individuals on Arley Drive have mentioned the increased traffic and people not paying attention to the speed limit. In order to get VDOT to do a traffic calming study, the local HOA/Civic Association must request a study through their Supervisor. We have notified Supervisor Herrity of this issue and his office in turn has notified VDOT. We are now waiting to hear from VDOT for the next step in the process. 501c Status: Although the Civic association is a nonprofit organization, our treasurer is researching the ability for the WKCA to be able to obtain IRS exempt status, Section 501c. This will allow us to broaden our outreach on contributions from companies and sponsors. Again, thank you and I want to emphasize that Winston Knolls is a great community to reside in, and I wish everyone a great summer.

### Texting and Driving ("My Pet Peeve")

Because it's a common, even daily activity for most people, sending a text doesn't seem dangerous. However, when you're doing it behind the wheel, there are a litany of other factors at play. Driving is a privilege because of the inherent risk and responsibility we all need to assume out on the road. When you choose to text and drive, you're threatening every single driver around you—and placing more value on that text message than yourself and your fellow drivers. **Texting & Driving Statistics**: It can be hard to grasp the dangers of texting and driving, but once you know the facts, this hazardous habit starts to become a reality.

In the United States:

- 26% of all car crashes involved cell phone use.
- At least 9 people are killed every day because of a distracted driver.

- More than 1,000 people are injured every day due to a distracted driver.
- 42% of teens say they have texted while driving—and texting and driving is the leading cause of death in teens.

As you can see, texting while driving has very real consequences that will only get worse unless we work together to make these statistics a thing of the past. Texting and driving is especially dangerous because it incorporates all types of driving distractions:

- Visual: Takes your eyes off the road.
- Manual: Takes your hands off the steering wheel.
- Cognitive: Takes your focus away from safe driving.

When you're engulfed in a texting conversation, it's easy to forget you're sharing the road with other people. In just the 5 seconds it takes to send or read a short text message, you've already zoomed past the length of a football field (traveling at 55 MPH) with minimal attention on the road ahead. Would you want a family member or friend to be on the road with someone so oblivious to the traffic around them? Remember, every time you get behind the wheel, you're entering a shared experience with mothers, fathers, friends, and children. It is every driver's responsibility to always be careful and attentive, ensuring everyone can safely get from Point A to Point B. With the rise of smart phones and social media, more and more people, especially Millennials, prefer to communicate via text. A majority of U.S. states have passed laws to keep up with the corresponding increase in texting and driving. The penalties for texting while driving could include a Hefty fine, License suspension, Rise in auto insurance rates, or Prison time. Is sending that text worth the financial burden? Is it worth risking your freedom? More so, is it worth the emotional damage a car accident causes to everyone involved? The consequences you'll face for texting and driving are similar to those you'd get for another one of the most serious driving offenses: DUI. **If you'd never drive drunk, then you'd NEVER text and drive.** Moreover, texting while driving can put you at a higher risk for an accident than drinking and driving. How's that for sobering? Teens make up the largest portion of people involved in distracted driving accidents. Work with your loved ones on strategies to decrease the chances of texting while driving. **DON'T HESITATE** to tell them to stop. Give them the facts, they're putting their life in danger, not to mention the lives of everyone else on the road just for the chance to send a text message.

# List With Elizabeth<sup>®</sup>.com

## "Your Neighborhood Real Estate Expert"

We are very delighted to recommend Elizabeth to anyone who wants to sell or buy house in the Springfield/Burke areas. My wife and I found Elizabeth from our online search for real estate agents who are specialized in Springfield VA. She stood out as a top-rated one. Our first phone call with her convinced us that she was the right one. The rest of the story was amazing. She had our house under contract in less than a week and sold smoothly a few days after! Here are the impressive highlights you want to know about Elizabeth. She knows the market and how it operates extremely well (for sellers and buyers). She is masterful in getting the property to hit the market with professional and attractive staging, comprehensive coverage of the key features of the house and its local attractions, appropriate pricing (a very critical decision in this process), and the timing of the listing—striking the iron while it is hot. On a personal note, Elizabeth is exceedingly pleasant to work with. She told us at our first meeting that she would treat us as her only customer when she was working with us, no matter how busy she would be. Indeed, we knew that she was having several other listings in the making at the same time; but she gave us all her attention and made our selling seamless. Elizabeth is very dynamic and very well organized. Her team is remarkably efficient and friendly. Together, they made their business an enjoyable experience for us.

David & Cindy, Springfield, VA



# 703-829-LIST (5478)

## www.ListWithElizabeth.com

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## The Rolling Valley Section II HOA

VS

### The Winston Knolls Civic Association 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. The Civic Association is also the Charter Member that sponsors Cub Scout Pack 685. 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 our activities, mowing the three medians and the sign area, maintaining our website, insurance, post office box. See our website at [www.wknolls.net](http://www.wknolls.net).

The WKII HOA is a total of 191 homes constituting Winston Knolls II and is mandated by Virginia law as WKII owns three parcels of common land. A description and detailed map can be found at the HOA 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 of \$30.00 dollars 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 the 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 Dumpster Day at Spur Road, providing Winston Knoll resident's disposal of trash and debris. The HOA also donated funds towards the WKCA sign on Huntsman. Both organizations contribute yearly with financial donations to the local Boy/Girl Scouts, and we maintain an active dialogue between 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 HOA website at and check it out today!

### Education Report

By Ed Linz

Although the end of this school year is fast approaching, as a retired classroom teacher, I would encourage parents to keep attuned to what is going on in your children's classroom. Many high school students are currently taking Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations. Both of these exams take place in a variety of subjects and are very important for several reasons. Students who are not High School Seniors can use success on these exams to bolster their chances for being accepted at competitive universities when they apply early in their senior year. Generally, an AP exam score of 3 is considered passing (scores go from 1 to 5; 1 meaning that you took the exam but did not do well, 5 indicating that you essentially aced the exam). College admission officers prefer students who have taken several AP or IB courses and react favorably if you score 3 or above on these exams. Almost all students will be taking Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in the next few weeks. Assuming that students have paid attention and done their work during the school year, these should pose no significant hurdle. As a parent, your main role is to ensure that the student shows up on the test days and has had sufficient sleep. Looking ahead to school in the fall, I recommend that you as a parent become involved with course selection to ensure that your child has a full range of options when completing high school studies. This means taking courses that will maximize success whether it be further education at the university or community college level, learning a trade, or pursuing options in the military. The time and attention that you invest now will pay dividends in the future. Good Luck!!



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# **Remodeling Services**

*A Winston Knolls Family Owned Remodeling Company*

**HomePerformanceMasters.com**

**Tel. 703-945-4300**



### Please keep your yard and Street clean/neat

Walking through the neighborhood I am amazed at the number of well-kept yards. But there are a few that have let their grass grow a little too high. In Fairfax County, residential grass on lots smaller than half an acre must be kept under 12 inches tall. In reality anything over 8 inches is unsightly. I do realize that there are obstacles such as bad weather, you are out of town on vacation, your lawnmower is broke and etc. However, I do ask individuals make the effort to keep up their lawn. If you need help in getting the grass cut, please notify the board at [WKCABoard@wknolls.net](mailto:WKCABoard@wknolls.net) and we can help you figure out a solution. We also 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 can blow away in the street, ending up clogging one of the many storm drains. Thanks in advance!

### Recycle Glass at the Purple Bin

**Address:** 8438 Bauer Dr, West Springfield, VA 22152

**Hours:** Open 24 hours



### COMMON 2025 SCAMS

- Phishing and Smishing: AI creates realistic emails and texts that mimic official communications, tricking victims into sharing personal information.
- Deepfake Videos: Fake video recordings promote fraudulent investments or services, while scammers use real-time face-swapping tools to impersonate others.
- Cloned Voices: AI-generated voices mimic loved ones or authority figures to manipulate victims.

- Protect yourself: Stay skeptical of unexpected communications, even if they seem authentic. Double-check by contacting the sender through a verified source.

#### 1. Imposter Scams:

- Scammers often pose as trusted figures, from government agents to family members, to gain access to personal information or money.
- Shift to Digital Contact: Imposter scams increasingly start via text or email rather than phone calls.
- Scammers may claim to be a bank or government agency with a fake alert, invoice, or tracking error.
- Protect yourself: Verify the legitimacy of messages by contacting the organization directly using their official website or customer service line.

#### 2. "Accidental" Text Messages:

- Scammers send texts meant to seem like mistakes (e.g., "Sorry, I'm running late"). If you respond, it can lead to a drawn-out scam.
- Protect yourself: Be cautious when engaging with strangers online or via text.

#### 3. Smartphones offer new avenues for scammers:

- Malicious Apps: Fake apps steal personal information or use in-app purchases to commit fraud.
- SIM Swapping:** Scammers transfer your phone number to a different SIM card to gain access to your accounts.

#### 4. QR Code Scams:

- Fake QR codes redirect you to malicious websites or trigger unauthorized transactions.
- Protect yourself: Use secure, verified apps, and avoid scanning unfamiliar QR codes.

### Avoid Scams and Protect yourself with these strategies:

- Be Skeptical: Treat unsolicited communications with caution.
- Don't Click Unknown Links: Verify links independently before opening them.
- Enable Multifactor Authentication (MFA): Use MFA on accounts and opt for non-SMS methods when possible.
- Keep Devices Updated: Regular updates ensure you have the latest security measures.
- Verify Before Acting: Contact organizations directly through verified channels before responding to any request.
- Protect Your Devices: Run antivirus scans to check for malware.
- Update passwords and enable stronger security measures.
- Add a credit freeze or fraud alert to your credit card to prevent unauthorized activity.