

# Windreader

Vol. 1, No. 1, Fall 2016



## Neighborhood News

*Windridge happily introduces a neighborhood newsletter for the purpose of sharing community activities, helping residents get to know each other, and generally maximizing the benefits of condominium living.*

*Anyone interested in volunteering, in any capacity, e.g., reporting, desktop publishing, photography, or distribution is invited to contact: Kathleen Roman at: 317-602-6419.*

*Initially, it is anticipated that Windreader will be published six to eight times per year.*

## Windridge Resident Paul Farrell Recounts Busy Life As Businessman, Athletics Coach – and Card Shark

Windridge resident Paul Farrell is a living legend in the Indianapolis high school sports scene. His staunch support for high school athletics and his willingness to put his time, enthusiasm, and money on the line have contributed to the athletic prowess – and college educations – of countless students.

Born in Indianapolis in 1933, Paul was always very close to his older brother Charlie. After graduating from Cathedral High School, Paul attended St. Edwards University in Austin, TX, and majored in Accounting.

During his college years, he first began to play tennis, claiming that he might have preferred golf but it was too expensive for his college student's limited budget.

Upon graduation, Paul was drafted and served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific aboard the *USS Bon Homme Richard*. Following his military discharge, Paul moved to New York City where he worked for AT&T as an installation manager.

But he missed the Midwest and returned to Indianapolis where he earned his designation as a licensed insurance agent and started the Farrell Insurance Agency where he worked for the next 40 years. For 35 years Paul lived in his Ellenberger Park home where he was a frequent player on the neighborhood's tennis courts.

*(Continued on pg. 4)*



*Windridge resident Paul Farrell*

## Two Windridge families victimized by phone scammers; “Phishing” criminals often prey on seniors

Two Windridge families have fallen victim to telephone scams. In each case, scammers convinced victims to send money orders for substantial sums of money.

Scammers may try to pose as a friend or family member. Because of new technologies, they may actually be able to simulate a reasonable facsimile of a loved one's voice.

In one Windridge case, the victims were contacted by a man who identified himself as a friend from church. He told them that he'd struck a telephone pole while texting in his car and that he was being held by the sheriff's department until he paid for the damage.

Trusting the caller, the victims hurried to help him obtain his release by sending a money order, per his instructions. The following day, he told

them that he needed an additional amount to cover alleged court costs – and they complied with his request.

Once they realized they'd been scammed, they reported the loss to the police – but doubt that the money will be retrieved or that the criminals will be caught. “We just don't want anybody else to get hurt in something like this,” they warned.

A family member of another Windridge resident was contacted numerous times by an individual who announced that, as winner of the “Publishers Sweepstakes Lotto” (which doesn't exist), the victim would have to pre-pay the taxes in order to receive a substantial prize. Family members interceded but not until a significant amount of money had changed hands. This victim had also been instructed to send a money order. Once the family put a *(Continued on pg. 3)*

## SAVE THE DATES

### Tuesday, Nov. 8

Election Day  
(Some precincts have changed; be sure you know where to vote.)

### Wednesday, Nov. 9

Windridge Town Hall Meeting; Laurel Hall 6:30 p.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 11

Windridge Annual Mtg. and Holiday Gathering; Laurel Hall 1:00 p.m.

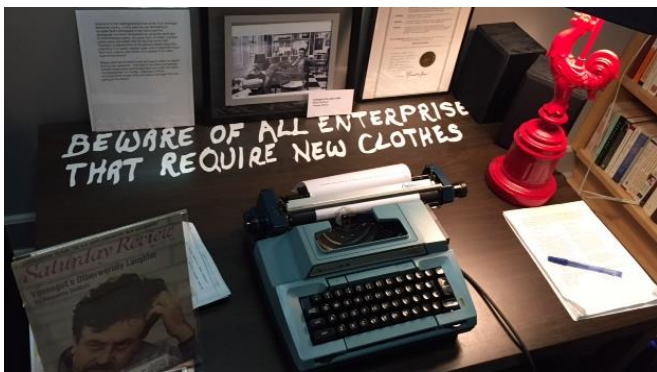
“We are dancing animals.”

## Windridge Book Discussion Club Meets at Vonnegut Library



*Windridge Book Discussion Group at the Vonnegut Library included, back row, from left: Vicki Eident, Susie McAllister, Lea Carroll, Diane Quinn and Rosemarie Stoeppelwerth. Front row, from left: Susan Stoops, Kathleen Roman and Marilyn Hunter.*

Members of the Windridge Book Discussion Club altered their usual meeting format in September when they visited The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library. The selected book was Vonnegut’s most famous work, “Slaughterhouse Five,” a semi-fictional memoir of Vonnegut’s experience as a witness to the firebombing of Dresden near the end of WWII. Vonnegut, born and raised in the Indianapolis area, prided himself on the Midwestern values the city had imprinted on him. Following a fascinating presentation by library staff, and the group’s discussion of the book, they reconvened for lunch at the Rathskeller, a local German restaurant – which is located in the Athenaeum Hall, a structure that was designed by the Vonnegut family’s architecture firm in 1893.



*Replica of Kurt Vonnegut office.*

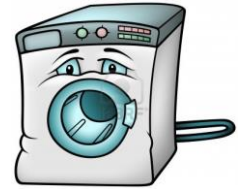
## Reminder: Hawk’s Pt. Rd. Gate Exit

Keep your car safe. Don’t pull through the gate if another car is waiting to pull out onto Emerson. The **gate will close and hit your car!** Wait until the front car has turned. There is a reminder sign at the gate.

## Autumn is Fire Prevention Season; Laundry Dryers Pose House Fire Risk

**Dryer Safety:** According to AARP, dryers cause about 6000 home fires every year. Here are some easy ways to avoid this risk:

1. Clean your dryer lint trap after every load. Takes just a few seconds.
2. If you use liquid fabric softener, wash your dryer lint trap with soap and water once a month. Liquid fabric softener can clog a lint trap, preventing air from moving through it and increasing the possibility of overheating.
3. If your dryer vents into your yard, check the external opening several times a year. Even if the dryer’s lint trap is clean, you may have a clog in the line leading to the outside vent. These periodic checks may also help you prevent wildlife from getting into your house through the exterior opening.
4. Consider having a repair check if the dryer seems to be taking longer than usual to dry normal loads. A lint clog beyond the dryer trap may pose a fire hazard. Or the problem might be caused by wear and tear making the tumbling process less efficient. It’s a good idea to have older dryers checked periodically to make sure they don’t pose gas or electrical risks.
5. If you have a gas dryer and you smell gas, turn off the gas valve, leave the house, and call 911. Assume that it is an emergency until an expert, e.g., fire fighter or plumber, tells you otherwise. If you don’t know how to turn off your gas, find out. Write the instructions and post them near the appliance. That way you won’t forget how to do it if the midst of a gas leak.



## Speaking of Gates...

Since January 2016, Windridge has spent \$9,043.13 on gate repairs. Drivers are shoving the gates open without using their openers. Some are pulling through before the gates are fully open. The gates have a safety delay of three seconds until they open. Remember, damage caused by one individual is an expense that must be shared by all residents.

(Phishing cont'd from P. 1) stop to the conversations and changed the victim's phone number, it took the scammer less than 48 hours to discover the new, unlisted number and to continue calling the victim - sometimes dozens of times in a single day.

Today, scammers can obtain a great deal of information about their targeted victims. Much of it is easily available on the Internet and in public records. Also, some phone companies sell information about their customers. And, unfortunately, victims may inadvertently attract the attention of criminals.

Experts say that some simple steps can help make it difficult for scammers. First, have an ID system on the telephone and television. When the phone rings, the person's name and phone number should appear on the screen. If an unknown name or area code appears, don't answer. When in doubt, let the phone roll into voice mail. Many times soliciting callers will simply hang up without leaving a message. This is a pretty good sign that it was a junk call. If the caller begins to speak and the homeowner recognizes the voice, it is still possible to answer. And, finally, just because someone leaves a voice message, there is no obligation to return the call. Many people are victimized because they don't want to be perceived as rude. With scammers the best protection is avoidance and, if necessary, refusal to have anything to do with them.

Scammers sometimes use these kinds of messages to lure people into calling them:

- This is the IRS (or this is the police department) and you are about to be arrested for tax fraud (or for leaving the scene of an accident). Call this number now if this is an error.
- This is your credit card company (or bank). There's a problem with your card (or account). Call us now at this number. **NOTE: Never** call a credit card company or bank unless you use phone numbers that are *on the credit card* or in documents that you know are valid.

What to watch for: a) individuals who claim that you've won a prize or inheritance; b) anyone claiming to be a friend or relative who needs money urgently (stranded in another country, has a health emergency, has been arrested, lost money gambling, etc.) Don't ever be in a rush to send money. Regardless of the circumstances, take the time to contact a family member or friend. Look up the police department number separately from the number given by the



They're phishing  
for you  
**don't bite**

Check directly with your bank or credit card company to find out if there really is an emergency.

Demand that your phone company help you block calls from suspect numbers. In one of these cases, the caller used many different phone numbers with different area codes. Unknown area codes and unidentified caller names should always be considered suspicious.

One Windridge victim reported that Brighthouse, their cable and phone provider, was very helpful in setting up a call blocking system. When asked for similar information from AT&T, their representative replied that AT&T does not provide such assistance and referred Windreader to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) website: [www.fcc.gov/complaint](http://www.fcc.gov/complaint) Or, call 800-382-4357.

Join the Indiana *and* National Do Not Call Registries. They can't eliminate all junk calls, but they do help.

- Indiana: Cell phone Do Not Call: 888-382-1222
- Indiana Do Not Call: [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2445.htm](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2445.htm)
- To file a complaint: 888-834-9969
- National Do Not Call: <https://.donotcall.gov>

Remember that you may still be contacted by: insurance agents; realtors; newspapers; charities; and political parties. Anyone receiving these unwanted calls can instruct the caller that the number is registered on a Do Not Call List and that the phone number should be removed from any further solicitation. If they don't comply, file a complaint.

By signing HIPAA or privacy agreements with certain organizations, e.g., banks or hospitals, the client may be agreeing to various solicitations. Read the fine print! It's usually under this type of heading: Here's How We Will Use Your Personal Information. In many instances, you can opt out of these agreements to receive ad or calls.

Many phone scammers are in other states or even in other countries. They use sophisticated emotional ploys to steal money from their victims, especially the elderly. Everyone should have a scam avoidance plan. It helps if each home owner can rely on a trusted confidante for advice when questions arise. Stalling is an excellent tactic that helps potential victims gain time to analyze the situation and call for assistance.

## It's been a Wet and Wild Windridge Summer

In spite of unseasonable rains, including two massive storms, flooding, and power outages, the stalwart Windridge maintenance crew, consisting of Manager Doug Beyers, Javier Alvarado, Efrain Romo and Evan Strattman have managed to complete the following projects by mid-October. The yearly allocation of labor is approximately 16.5 labor hours per home and common area.

- ✓ Replaced 30 sidewalks
- ✓ Replaced 8 driveways
- ✓ Replaced 2 sewer lines
- ✓ Repaired siding & painted 30 homes
- ✓ Improved draining issues for 7 homes
- ✓ Completed over 270 work orders
- ✓ Removed brush from Cathedral fence line
- ✓ Repaired foundation & water proofed 6 homes
- ✓ Rebuilt/repaired 3 chimneys
- ✓ Rebuilt/repaired courtyard/brick walls
- ✓ Repaired wind damage and removed debris for 7 homes
- ✓ Replaced privacy fences
- ✓ Relocated staff to new building
- ✓ Inspected 100 homes for termites
- ✓ Treated 1 building for termites
- ✓ Completed 3 major roof repairs
- ✓ Mowed grounds 27 times, to date
- ✓ Completed 2 major pruning projects
- ✓ Cleaned gutters for 221 units
- ✓ Restored 3 yards, including seeding.
- ✓ Replaced main entrance gate opener.

**Paul Farrell, cont'd from P. 1** A perennial bachelor, Paul poured his leisure efforts into helping coach high school athletes. He contributed seed money for the first tennis courts at the Cathedral High School campus on E. 56<sup>th</sup> St. and he helped raise funds that paid for the courts' completion. Paul coached the Cathedral girls' tennis team for 20 years. He is especially proud of their state championship in 1986 - the first IHSAA State Championship won in any sport by a Cathedral team. Paul was also assistant coach for the Cathedral boys' tennis team for 20 years, from 1977-1997.

Remaining close to his brother Charlie and his family, Paul was the proud uncle of Charlie's and wife Helene's six children - all of whom graduated from Cathedral. Upon retirement, the two brothers bought adjoining condos on Hawk's Pt. Rd., where they lived for the next five years. Helene passed away in 2010 and Charlie passed away in 2015 but their children and grandchildren are still an active presence in Paul's life.

While the two brothers were still Hawk's Pt. neighbors, an event occurred that has all the elements of a Hollywood love story. While vacationing with Charlie and Helene in Florida, Paul's Cathedral Irish sport jacket attracted the attention of a woman who asked what the jacket signified. Their conversation led to the discovery that she was a good friend of a woman Paul had dated years ago, while in college. Once he graduated, they'd ended up in different parts of the country and Paul lost contact with Connie Hickey who had graduated, married, and raised a family in Rochester, NY. Through this chance conversation, Paul learned that Connie's husband had passed away. He wrote her a condolence letter and she replied. They reunited, and, at age 74, Paul became a bridegroom!



**Paul and his bridge cronies. Windridge resident Jane Hodge at right**

Today, they maintain homes in Windridge, Rochester, and Stony Lake, Ontario Canada. While it is becoming more difficult for them to travel, they speak on the phone every day when separated and are inseparable when

An inexhaustible resource for sports-related facts about his beloved Cathedral High School, and numerous other Indiana high school athletics programs, Paul can recount fascinating stories about cliff hanger games, professional athletes who first tasted success in Indianapolis, and outstanding coaches and school programs that helped pave the way for college and successful careers - even if not all of them were in professional sports.

Paul also host perhaps the longest-running bridge game in the Indianapolis area - a group of card sharks who show up every Friday afternoon at his Windridge condo for the next episode in their 60-year bridge saga. The group's dedication wasn't even dampened by the recent massive storm that took out power and toppled hundreds of trees in the vicinity. There they were on Friday, August 27, sitting in the dark with no air conditioning, battling away over Paul's bridge table. "They're all pretty good players," Paul says, and he's proud that one of their members is a woman, Jane Hodge, the widow of Charles, one of their original members. "We don't let little things like power outages get in our way."