

Birkdale Community Association
Candidates for the Board of Directors

Donald Abel

I am a military transplant and a full-time “Grampa” with family in the local area. I have been married for 51 years to my beautiful bride Janet and we have lived in Virginia (Springfield, Yorktown, Suffolk and now Birkdale) for 31 years. We moved to Birkdale in Jan 2019 and enjoy the beauty and calm serenity here. I am a retired Air Force Colonel with nearly 30 years of military and 11 years of corporate program management experience. I have college degrees from Montana State University and Webster University and my hobbies include hiking, camping, golfing and fishing. Most of all we thoroughly enjoy the weekend sleepovers we often get with our two grandchildren.

Reasons for serving on the Board:

Running for the board of directors of the Birkdale Community Association allows me to influence community rules, improve neighborhood life and directly protect property investment. For the majority of us in Birkdale, the home represents our most significant personal asset. Properly maintained roads, walks, amenities, and landscaping present a favorable image that enhances curb appeal and property values; conversely, poor maintenance results in the exact opposite. By taking a seat on the board, I would have a say in decisions that will positively impact our property values, such as setting the budget for maintenance and prioritizing community improvements. This is an opportunity for me to help shape policies of our shared living experience. In addition, board members bring the voices of their immediate neighbors to the table and that is lacking for the Avalon area. Being a board member living in Avalon lets me be that voice and it will help the community understand how dues are spent by promoting clear communication and transparency.

James R. English

Hello neighbors,

My name is James “Jake” English and I hope you will consider me for HOA Board! I am a life-long chesterfield resident (with a brief few-year stint in Hampton Roads) but a new Birkdale Resident as of last Spring. I am 34, married to my wife Bonnie, and have 2 young girls, Frankie (3) and Margret (7 months). I am an attorney, practicing civil defense for a large insurance company. I love to paint miniatures and going on walks, hopefully I will see you around!

Reasons for serving on the Board:

I have already fallen in love with this community and would be honored to have a chance to serve it! As an attorney, I believe my diligence and attention to detail will be an asset to the Board. In addition, as a young father. I know we have a lot of new families in the community and would be honored to be a voice for those families, injecting some fresh perspective into the conversation! Thank you for considering me for Board, and I am always happy to chat about what I bring to the table.

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Mark Fink

30 year resident of Birkdale. Spent 38 years at Dominion Energy where I held various management roles and retired as the Director of the Retail Natural Gas business.

In Birkdale I served for 5 years on the Architectural Review Committee and was chair for 3 years, served 2 years on the Board and I currently serve as Chairman of the Covenants Committee for the past year.

Gary Alexanian

I was a landlord since 1968 38 years in Virginia, 17 years in Sacramento Ca, and same time 18 years south of Indianapolis In, my trade is Master HVAC and refrigeration (US AIR FORCE) I speak 6 different languages, and now we own 22 homes in Chesterfield,

James N. Hewitt

On 8 August 2000 I entered the United States Army as an enlisted 19D (Cavalry Scout) with Basic Training at Fort Knox, KY and first duty assignment with 2-34 Armor at Fort Riley, KS. I was offered a Direct Commission into the United States Army JAG Corps and became a 1st Lieutenant in November 2002. I graduated from Officer Basic in April 2003. I was offered my first-choice duty assignment with 10th Mountain Division SJA, Fort Drum, NY and reported for duty in April 2003, being promoted to Captain, on 15 May 2003.

While at 10th MTN DIV I started in Administrative Law until I deployed to Afghanistan on 15 September 2003. In Afghanistan I served as Detainee Operations JAG, OIC for Legal Assistance, and the only Foreign Claims Commission in the Theatre at the time. Upon my return to Fort Drum, NY in April 2004, I served as a Trial Defense Counsel from May 2004 through July 2006.

In July of 2006 I was reassigned to United States Army Legal Services Agency (USALSA) as a litigation attorney with the Army's Environmental Law Division. I worked in that position until the end of my active-duty time on 11 November 2008. During my active-duty time I represented soldiers in 60 Courts Martials, going to trial on 48 of them. I worked over 25 major federal litigation cases in my time at ELD. Since leaving Active Duty I have served in the Army Reserve as Trial Defense, Senior Defense Counsel, Deputy Regional Defense Counsel, Operational Law Attorney, and Brigade Judge Advocate. I have been awarded the Army Achievement Award (4 OLC), the Army Commendation Award (4 OLC), the Meritorious Service Award (3 OLC), and the Bronze Star. I continued in the U.S. Army Reserve after Active Duty until my Retirement on December 25, 2023.

Upon leaving Active Duty, I became Associate Counsel for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Disposition

Services where I was employed from September 2008 through November 2018. In that position I primarily practiced Environmental Law, International Law, Domestic Operations Law, Contract Law, and Fiscal Law. I also served as Ethics Counsel for the Office. I next served as Senior Counsel for DLA Energy from November 2018 until the end of May 2020.

As senior counsel I was in charge of a team and oversaw all Environmental Law, International Law, and Fuel Services Procurement worldwide for DLA Energy.

In May 2020 I joined the Navy Office of General Counsel, officed at Quantico as Environmental Counsel. In addition to my work here in environmental law, I practice museum law, ethics questions, real property issues, and fiscal issues as needed. In 2022, I was runner-up for Senior Civilian of the Year at Quantico.

I have been coaching at Cosby High School since November 2021. I coached track for 4 years and continue to coach cross-country in my 4th year now. This is in addition to my main employment above.

I am married to my lovely wife, Brenda. Between us we have 7 children (Nick Brunner, Jack Brunner, Sierra, Ann Hewitt, Tristan Cheyenne Hewitt, Aspen Rain Hewitt, Winter Faith Hewitt, and Savannah Breeze Hewitt).