



The Westfield Times

A Publication of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

May 2003

Business Development Efforts

It's been a busy month on the Business Development front thanks to the efforts of Lui Hernandez.

On Tuesday May 13 Lui Hernandez and Kevin Duval walked the Harford Road corridor with Kevin Malachi Director of Small Business & Neighborhood Development for the Baltimore Development Corporation. The Baltimore Development Corporation's mission is to promote businesses in Baltimore. They work with national chains and with entrepreneurs looking for smaller spaces.

The walk along Harford Road was an eye-opener for Mr. Malachi. He was very impressed with the quiet, tree lined streets of our neighborhood as well as the charming and affordable houses. He was also appalled by the number of abandoned businesses and the condition of the streets and sidewalks.

Several times he stopped along the way to make a call on his cell phone about a broken sidewalk or an empty building.

Lui gave Mr. Malachi a folder containing a listing of the empty businesses along Harford Road along with a list of other problems that affect the business corridor. Among these other problems are: a lack of trash cans and regular pick up; dead, missing or poorly tended trees; poor road and sidewalk condition; and chiefly, lack of inclusion in either the streetscaping effort taking place to the south of us or the great gateway program taking place to the north of us.

Mr. Malachi took the folder with him and also a first hand impression of a neighborhood he never knew existed before. Lui will be in touch with Mr. Malachi to make sure that he doesn't forget us.

On Wednesday May 21, Lui and Kevin Duval met with Jim Street and Rick Marsiglia of the Hamilton Business Association. The meeting proved to be very informative and gave some good background on how to get the businesses in our area better coordinated.

Later that morning Lui and Kevin were in Councilman Curran's office discussing the vacant businesses, street condition and the crime problems that are affecting our business corridor. Councilman Curran provided some guidance on how we can best get problems addressed and also informed us of upcoming legislation he is introducing that would make solicitation and other nuisance crimes easier to prosecute. He has vowed to make the development of the Harford Road corridor part of his campaign and he knows that Westfield will be around to hold him to that promise.

**Our Next Meeting will be Tuesday June 3rd at 7:30 p.m.
We meet at the Holiday House 6427 Harford Road.
Please use the Pinewood Road Entrance**

NOGLI Expansion

Westfield has been presented with the opportunity to join the Neighborhoods of Greater Lauraville, Inc (NOGLI) and at our June meeting our membership will have a chance to vote on it.

At our May meeting, Bob Seidel, President and Lauren Voos, Co-Director of NOGLI provided some background as well as the benefits of joining.

NOGLI is made up of six neighborhoods (Arcadia, Beverly Hills, Lauraville, Moravia-Walther, Morgan Park and Waltherson) with the mission to "Promote and Protect the Neighborhood" by attracting new businesses and new residents to the area.

NOGLI's business development efforts include having an Urban Renewal Plan in place. An Urban Renewal plan preserves the economic characteristics of the neighborhood.

NOGLI also provides access to façade improvement loans to businesses in the area. These low interest loans make it easier for business owners to expand and improve their properties.

NOGLI actively markets homes for sale in their area. They list homes for sale on their website as well as marketing these homes in the D.C. area. They also provide tours of homes for sale in the neighborhood. Low interest home improvement loans are available to NOGLI members.

NOGLI is now looking to expand their catchment area to include the Harford Road corridor up to the county line. They are in the fact-finding stage, trying to gauge interest first in neighborhood associations and then in the business communities.

If Westfield were to become part of NOGLI, there would be two commitments needed from us. First, we would need to elect someone to sit on their board. The neighborhoods hold a majority of the positions on the board. Second, there would be a financial contribution required, of about \$100 annually. The Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association would continue to exist in its present form with its present function.

An executive committee consisting of Troy Warner, Lui Hernandez and Kevin Duval was formed to further investigate the issue and report back to the membership. They will make their report and their recommendation at the June meeting.

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To Commissioner Clark it's not personal, it's business

"When I was coming up through the ranks, I was taught that this is a business and you are my customers." said Baltimore City Police Commissioner Kevin Clark summing up his approach to policing. Commissioner Clark was on hand to address the North East Police District Community Relations meeting on Wednesday May 21st.

"In the past, quality of life crimes didn't get much attention", that's going to change. Quality of life, recruiting, community affairs and training are big on his list. "I need to find more cops", he said. But other efforts may make it easier for the cops he has to focus on their jobs.

Commissioner Clark is taking an inter-agency approach to policing. If there is a problem that another agency should be handling, he will refer it to them and follow up with them.

Councilman Bob Curran will be introducing a criminal citation program to the City Council in June. Commissioner Clark has pushed for this legislation which would allow his officers to ticket "nuisance crimes" instead of taking an officer off of the street for four hours to process an arrest.

There will be District Commander meetings every month with the community. And finally efforts are being made to protect the identity of 911 callers.

"The strategy I'm using has worked for the past seven years in New York City; I think it'll work here."

Membership Drive and Contest under way

We are 1/3 of the way to our goal of 300 members this year. Be sure to pick up your gold membership drive contest forms at our next meeting. We would like each member to recruit two new members. Give your neighbor one of the gold membership drive forms and when they send it in with their dues you will be entered in our drawing for a grand prize to be awarded at our Holiday Party. The more neighbors you sign up, the more chances you have to win.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2003, please send them with the coupon on the newsletter.

Good Neighbor Tip

All of the rain that we've had this spring has made keeping up with the lawn a real challenge. Tall grass is not only unsightly it presents a safety risk as well as a health risk. If your lawn is over 12" high, the city can cut it and fine you.

Recycling Schedule

June 9 th	Bottles and Cans
June 12 th	Paper
June 23 rd	Bottles and Cans
June 26 th	Paper

Garden Tour Announced

A tour of gardens in our neighborhood will be held on Sunday July 20 2-4 p.m. Contact Jenn Leister at (410)319-9657 or jennifer.leister@cendant.com if you are interested in participating.

Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

2003 Annual Membership Dues

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Please mail this coupon along with a \$10 check or money order payable to:

WNIA Membership Dues

PO Box 28244

Baltimore, MD 21234

Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association P.O. Box 28244 Baltimore, MD 21234

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