



The Westfield Times

A Publication of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

April 2004

WNIA Policy for Voting on Community Issues

Our monthly meetings frequently involve discussion of issues involving some degree of controversy. Typically these questions in recent months have centered around the association's decision to support or oppose the location of a new business in our neighborhood.

The official by-laws of the association state that "only members in **good standing**" are eligible to vote. A member in good standing is one who resides in the community and has paid his or her association dues for the current year.

When future issues arise justifying a vote of the membership, this policy will be adhered to firmly. Attaining membership in good standing is easy. Just use the coupon on the back of this page.

Walther Avenue Traffic Diversions

Progress on the Moore's Run storm drain improvement project is necessitating a traffic diversion at Walther and Parkmont Avenues so that a storm drain and sewer can be constructed across Walther Avenue.

Beginning in March, northbound and southbound traffic on Walther Avenue at Parkmont will be reduced to one lane in each direction using the southbound lanes for two-way traffic. The diversion will result in reduced on-street parking between Mary Avenue and Hilltop Avenue. This diversion is expected to be in place for six months. It will be followed by a subsequent six-month diversion using the northbound lanes for two-way traffic.

Any questions concerning this project can be directed to the Moore's Run Community Outreach Coordinator, Wendy O'Donnell at 410-727-2131.

Parents Working to Organize Charter School in Northeast Baltimore

At the association's March meeting, we learned that efforts are underway to organize a public charter school in Northeast Baltimore. A charter school is a city, public school open to public school students and staffed by Baltimore City Public Schools teachers. Charter schools, however, rely heavily on parent and community involvement and enjoy some flexibility in developing priorities for the school's program and operation.

A potential school site has been identified in the Rosemont neighborhood. Plans call for beginning with a small school with perhaps only ten students per grade with multi-age class groupings. Organizers hope that, as a charter school, the program may be able to emphasize enrichments such as art and music programs which may no longer be offered at existing public schools.

Admission would be based on a lottery system if applications exceed school capacity. Challenges include the need for asbestos abatement in the structure, but organizers hope for an opening for the 2005-06 school year. We will keep you posted as this effort progresses

Westfield Neighborhood Yard Sale May 15th

Our neighborhood yard sale is approaching. This will give you the opportunity to hold your own sale in your own yard on a day when many others are doing the same. The association will advertise the fact that the neighborhood is holding yard sales on this date and advertisements will direct shoppers to a starting location to obtain a map of yard sale locations. The central site where maps are distributed may also be available for setting up tables. More details to follow, but **mark your calendar for the date, Saturday, May 15. Rain date is Sunday, May 16.**

Our Next Meeting is Tuesday April 6 at 7:30 at the Holiday House,

6427 Harford Road. Please use the Pinewood Avenue entrance.

NOTE: If a meeting is cancelled due to weather, a message will be posted on our hotline, 410-254-9642, by 3 PM on the day of the meeting.

Recycling Dates:

April 8: Paper
April 12: Bottles, plastic
April 22: Paper
April 26: Bottles, plastic
Household

Hazardous Waste:

April 24, 9AM-3PM
April 25, 11 AM-3PM
At Polytechnic Institute, Falls Road & Coldspring Lane. Proof of city residence required. More info: call 311.

Bulk Trash:

You must call 311 or use the online 311 to schedule bulk trash pickup. You are allowed one pickup of three items per month. You will be advised of the pickup date.

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Contact Us:

Hotline:

410-254-WNIA

(9642)

www.wnia.com

P.O. Box 28244

Baltimore, MD 21234

Car Theft Prevention Reminder

The city police department continues to issue warnings of an increase in automobile thefts in Northeast Baltimore. They cite the area as offering easy pickings because of a lower level of prevention in our part of town. They recommend the use of a steering wheel locking device.

Keep Reporting Potholes

The city actually wants us to do this, so don't be shy. Call 311 or use the online 311 to report your very own.

Northeast Citizens on Patrol Ride-Around

Help celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Northeast Citizens on Patrol Recognition Event. Ride through the participating communities and end up at the patrol's Recognition Event for food and fellowship. The date is **Thursday, May 20 at 6:00 at St. Anthony's, 4414 Frankford Avenue.**

We Need Your Help

Even if you can't make a meeting, we still need your help. Please contact us if you can volunteer to help with any of our upcoming efforts including:

April 17 – Super Spring Sweep Thing

May 15 – Yard Sale

June 5 – Garden Tour

NECOP Coordinator / Patrol

Newsletter Distribution

Become a member

Joining our association is the easiest way to tell us that you support us. Membership does not obligate you to attend meetings or to volunteer for any of our events, though we would love to see you. Please consider joining today.

Our Neighborhood Liaison, Keia K. Butts

An increasingly familiar face at our meetings is the city's liaison to the neighborhoods of Northeast Baltimore, Keia Butts. Prior to joining the staff of the mayor's office Keia was employed as a planner for an engineering and architecture firm in the city. She received a Master's of Landscape Architecture degree from Morgan State University and a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Services with a concentration in Interior Design from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. You may contact her at keiabutts@baltimorecity.gov.

Change in Date for the Mayor's Open Dialogue

This meeting which was originally scheduled for March 23 has been rescheduled for 7:00 p.m. March 31 at Glenmont Elementary school. Arrive by 6:30 if you want to ask the Mayor a question.

Tax Assessment Appeal Hearings

You may appeal a recent tax re-assessment, and schedule a hearing in the neighborhood at the Harbel Community Center, 5807 Harford Road. Hearings will be scheduled for April 15 from 10AM to 5:45PM. To make an appointment, call the number on your tax bill and request an Assessment Appeal Hearing.

Saturday, April 17 is the Baltimore Super Spring Sweep Thing

We will be out cleaning up the neighborhood, focusing on residential streets. Please give an hour, join the effort, and meet your neighbors.
Info: 410-254-WNIA

Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

2004 Annual Membership Dues

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

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

WNIA Membership Dues, P.O. Box 28244, Baltimore, MD 21234

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