



The Westfield Times

A Publication of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

August 2003

Block Party September 14th

Our annual block party will be held Sunday, September 14, 2003 in the 6400 block of Sefton Avenue. Food, fun, and games will be part of the excitement. Come on out and meet your neighbors.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish and a donation. If you are interested in helping with the block party, or if you would like to provide entertainment, please contact our hotline, or email us.

WNIA Website gets face lift

Kudos to Phill Cross for providing a new look to our website www.wnia.com. In June and July, John Collins and Phill worked to move the existing site over to the new design and a new hosting service. John Collins remains our webmaster, monitoring content and providing direction for the site. Phill will take over the role of designer.

If you haven't been to our site in a while, you will appreciate the expanded calendars and forums. Items for sale, neighborhood chat, and upcoming events can all be found on the site.

We are also pleased to announce that we are offering free email addresses to members in good standing. Full details can be found on the website.

Contact Us;

Hotline: (410)254-WNIA(9642)

Web: www.wnia.com

Mail: PO Box 28244

Balto MD 21234

Moore's Run Drainage Hearing August 13

Friday June 13th was not a lucky day for many of our Westfield neighbors. An early evening thunderstorm rolled through the area and quickly overwhelmed the storm drain system. Residents of Sefton Avenue, Pinewood Avenue and the surrounding streets experienced the worst flooding since Hurricane Agnes in 1972. Sewage and storm water backed up into many basements. On Sefton Avenue, cars were washed up onto the sidewalk. Much of the road surface of the 3000 block of Pinewood Avenue was carried away by the storm leaving the street riddled with potholes and nearly impassable.

Councilman Curran's office responded quickly, providing bulk trash pickups for storm damaged items and a speedy repair to the damaged roadway.

An inadequate storm drain system was at least partially to blame for the flooding. Our neighborhood lies in the Moore's Run Drainage district. Currently there is a plan on the books to address the storm drain situation.

The meeting with the Department of Public Works Bureau of Water and Waste Water concerning the Moore's Run Drainage District is scheduled for Wednesday August 13, 2003 at 7:30 PM at HARBEL, 5807 Harford Rd.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet with DPW representatives concerning drainage issues pertaining to the Moore's Run area.

Good Neighbor Tips:

The threat of West Nile Virus as transmitted by mosquitoes remains in our area and, while spraying is unlikely at this point, elimination of breeding areas and use of DEET like mosquito repellent remain your best protection.

Please rid your property of all standing water and educate neighbors as to the importance of eliminating all mosquito breeding areas. Practice precautions such as cleaning downspouts, emptying birdbaths, and eliminating any standing water to prevent breeding of mosquitoes in all areas of your property.

If a property has standing water that is not being addressed properly, it should be reported to the Health Department. The property owner will receive a warning and, then a fine if not improved. The phone number for the Health Department is (410)396-4387.

For more information contact the Maryland State Department of Agriculture at (410) 841-5870.

Recycling Schedule

August

11 th	Bottles and Cans
14 th	Paper
25 th	Bottles and Cans
28 th	Paper

September

1	Holiday – No Pickup
8	Bottles and Cans
11	Paper
22	Bottles and Cans
25	Paper

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Membership Drive and Contest Continues with our first "Greet and Eat"

At our July meeting, Lui Hernandez fired up the grill and kicked off our latest membership drive promotion, the "Greet and Eat". Members enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soda and learned how they could help increase our membership by holding one of these events.

The purpose of the "Greet and Eat" is to sign up new members by hosting a get together on your block. The association will reimburse you for your costs up to \$50 and help you promote the event. A member of the executive board will be in attendance to talk to your neighbors and answer questions about the WNIA.

To host a "Greet and Eat" you must be a member in good standing and you must schedule it with the WNIA through our hotline or our website. More information can be found on our website.

If you have been looking for an excuse to meet your neighbors, take this opportunity to do it on us.

Every time you sign up a new member, you will be automatically entered in our grand prize drawing. Get a gold form at the meeting, or go online to our website and download the form there.

Crime Report

The latest crime statistics for our neighborhood show a number of break-ins to sheds and other out buildings. Lawn mowers seem to be the main attraction. The best way to protect your property is by clearly marking it with an indelible marker or etching. This makes the item harder to fence and easier to recover if found.

Harbel Night At Camden Yards

Harbel and the Baltimore Orioles are sponsoring a Harbel group night at Oriole Park at Camden Yards on September 17th. Tickets are \$15, the normal admission price. If you are interested, please contact Mike Hilliard or Naomi Benyowitz at 410-444-2100 or by email at harbel.community@juno.com.

We've got Magnets!

We have new WNIA refrigerator magnets, free to all dues paying members. Stop by one of the meetings and pick yours up, or call the hotline and we'll get one to you.

Volunteers Needed

Summer is here and what better time to get out and meet your neighbors. We are pleased to offer several interesting and exciting ways to do that:

- Take a NECOP patrol. Thursday, Friday or Saturday night from 7:30 to 10:00.
- Deliver the newsletter. It takes less than an hour each month
- Our block party is in need of volunteers for setup and clean up

Our Next Meeting will be Tuesday August 5 at 7:30 p.m. We meet at the Holiday House 6427 Harford Road. Please use the Pinewood Road Entrance

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