



# The Westfield Times

A Publication of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

February 2004

## At Our January Meeting

- ✓ Board members for the coming year were introduced including new Vice President, Laura Stedman.
- ✓ President Kevin Duval spoke on the State of the Neighborhood.
- ✓ Committee Reports: We need a new volunteer to head the Beautification Committee. Volunteers are welcome to help with the Social Committee's upcoming candy sale. The Membership Committee reports that paid membership is now at 169, up from 69. Safety Committee reports that we have 20% coverage for NECOP patrols and want to raise this to 60%. Volunteers needed.
- ✓ Ideas were sought for the \$1000 given to the neighborhood by the John Waters movie company.
- ✓ Neighbors commented on noisy motorbikes on Pinewood, speeding on Eastern Pkwy., greater police presence noted around Glenmore and Sefton.
- ✓ Kevin reported plans to attend a luncheon with city council president Sheila Dixon
- ✓ A representative of State Delegate Talmadge Branch provided information on available state services.

**This Month's Agenda**  
**Moore's Candy Sale**  
**Presentation by Life Line**  
**Screening**  
**Discussion of Harbel Grant**

## Tutoring Program Seeks Students and Volunteers

Harbel's tutoring program is seeking high-risk middle and high school students and is also recruiting new volunteer tutors. Tutors work one-on-one with students residing in or attending school in Northeast Baltimore. Tutors help with homework assignments and test preparation. Students and volunteers commit to as little as one hour per week, and schedules are flexible. No experience is necessary, and all tutoring occurs at the Harbel neighborhood center at 5807 Harford Road. Volunteers must furnish three references and consent to a background check. To apply or seek further information, contact Karen Lydick at the Harbel Prevention and Recovery Center, 410-444-2100, extension 1028.

## Online Tax Help for Seniors

Helpful information for seniors preparing their income tax returns is available at several internet websites. They include the following:

- <http://www.seniors.gov/taxes.html>. This is a federal government site.
- <http://www.aarp.org/taxaide/>. Links to senior-specific tax answers and a way to ask a question online.
- <http://individuals.marylandtaxes.com/seniors/default.asp>. A special section of the Maryland Comptroller site.

## Kathy Brennan Leaving Housing Post

As of January 20, Kathy Brennan will no longer be the person prosecuting housing violations in the Northeastern District. Until a permanent replacement is hired, complaints can be directed to the Northeastern District field office at 410-396-4140 or attorney Jesse Halvorsen at 410-396-4140 or [Jesse.Halvorsen@BaltimoreCity.gov](mailto:Jesse.Halvorsen@BaltimoreCity.gov).

**Our Next Meeting is Tuesday February 3 at 7:30 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 by 3 p.m. on the meeting date**

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## WNIA President's Report: State of the Neighborhood

By Kevin Duval

2003 was a tough year in many ways for our neighborhood. Record snowfall, flooding, and a hurricane all made their presence felt in the community. But despite all of this, our association forged ahead and I am proud to say that the state of the neighborhood is good.

**Membership:** I set an aggressive goal of 300 members by year end, and although we didn't meet that, we got more than half way. Our numbers increased from 69 to 169 in 2003. I am going to keep the bar high and shoot for 300 this year. One simple way to do this: each member recruits a new member. Don't forget that 2004 dues are due now.

**Safety:** We worked very closely with the NEPD and as their budget was shrinking and the level of community service was affected, several members of our community stepped forward to make sure we are represented at community meetings and that we participated in NECOP (Northeast Citizens on Patrol).

### Recycling Dates

Bottles: Feb. 9 and 23

Paper: Feb. 26. No pickup on Feb. 12.

We need to keep going forward with our patrols in 2004. Right now, we are only covered about 20% of the time. I would like to see this get up to 66% or at least two of the three shifts per week covered.

We have noted a decrease in the presence of prostitutes along Harford Road. Although this problem appears to be with us for the long haul, I hope that through our intervention and education we can deal with this problem more effectively. I will be inviting YANA, an organization which reaches out to these individuals, to address our association again this year. And I ask you to continue to call 911 when you see men and women engaged in this crime.

**Harford Road/Business:** We saw some very positive developments with the conversion of the Altenberg funeral home to the new Marzullo funeral home. Also, the old bowling alley took on a new tenant, MCC Custom Cabinetry. The Large Art Company moved into our area in July, bringing a very upscale business to this area. Through requests made to our city councilman, Robert Curran, sidewalks were repaired, more trash receptacles were placed on the streets, and new signs replaced old or missing signs.

**Social/Beautification:** Our block party was held in September, and we expect to hold one again this year. We participated in the Fall Clean-Up.

I am hopeful that we will continue to participate in these efforts. I would also like to see a successful home and garden tour this spring.

**Wrap-Up:** These are exciting times for our neighborhood. Housing prices are up. All around the neighborhood, I am seeing houses being rehabbed and neighborhood pride being restored. The enterprise zone was expanded to include Harford Road from Argonne to the county line. This will help attract new businesses to our area.

We will need the continued support and commitment of our neighbors to keep Westfield one of Baltimore's Best Neighborhoods.

### Contact Us:

Hotline: 410-254-WNIA  
(9642)

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Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

2004 Annual Membership Dues

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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