



The Westfield Times

A Publication of the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association

March 2005

Guest Spotlight

Are creepy crawlies giving you the willy nillies? Are there ants on parade in you kitchen? Did you know there was such a thing as termite “season”? Well then you won’t want to miss this months guest speaker. Marshall Hobbs from Hobbs Professional Pest Mgmt will be on hand to address your pest concerns. This is an opportunity you won’t want to pass up. Hobbs Professional Pest Mgmt is located at 3816 Hamilton Ave.

Community News

DID YOU KNOW!

Pet owners in Baltimore City are required to have their cats and dogs licensed. The owner of a cat or dog 4 months or older must obtain and annually renew a license for that cat or dog. The license must be obtained within 10 days of the cat or dog becoming 4 months, or when the animal is acquired whether or not the previous owner has a license for the animal.

Pet owners can apply for a cat or dog license at the City Animal Shelter (301 Stockholm Street). A description of the cat or dog and proof of current rabies vaccination is required when applying for a license.

License Class	Fee	Late	For more information on the new legislation or fees, call Robert Anderson, Director of the Bureau of Animal Control at 410-396-4688.
Class A	\$10	\$5	
Class B	\$30	\$10	
Senior Class A	\$5	\$5	
Senior Class B	\$15	\$10	

NEXT MEETNG

March 1, 2005

7:30 p.m.

The Holiday House Banquet Room

6427 Harford Rd

Enter on Pinewood Street

In and Around the House

Hiring a Contractor

Increasing your property value often entails remodeling. Whether you have a fixer-upper or a great house that you plan to stay in indefinitely, you’ll probably hire a contractor sooner or later to finish the basement, remodel the kitchen, or renovate other rooms.

Decisions on home improvement should be made in a judicious manner. If you want to recoup your investments, choose projects that are likely to add value to your home, such as a new kitchen or an extra bathroom.

Although it is tempting to hire the contractor who submits the lowest bid, there are other factors to consider. Here are some basic questions that can help you improve your chances of making a good choice:

- How long has the contractor been in business? Is the contractor licensed and registered with the state?
- Ask for copies of the contractor’s insurance coverage and make sure it’s current.
- How many projects like **yours** has the contractor done? Ask for a list of references . Get at least three and speak with them, or go and see the job.
- What kind of permits will your project require? Getting permits is the contractor’s job; be suspicious if he suggests you get the permits.
- Ask if the general contractor will be hiring subcontractors. If so, meet them and check their insurance and licenses. The general contractor must pay them on time, or they could put a lien on your home. So, protect yourself by asking the contractor , and every subcontractor and supplier, for a lien release or lien wavier.
- One way to protect yourself is by paying for the job prudently.
- Try to make your down payment as small as possible.
- Make payments periodically during the job, and make them contingent on satisfactory completion of certain parts of the job.
- Don’t make a final payment or sign off on the job until you are satisfied with the completed job and until you know all the subcontractors have been paid.

MOORES CANDY SALE
due by March 3rd

All orders are

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What's On the Web

OpenSecrets.org is a Web site of the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan non-profit research organization based in Washington, D.C. that tracks money in politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Opensecrets.org essentially provides three ways to track political contributions.

Track an industry. You may want to start with the industry you're working in now. There are more than 80 different industries profiled in the industries section, with political contributions going back a decade.

Check up on the candidates. Perhaps you're curious about the money behind the current election. There are profiles of every congressional and Senate race in the country, as well as the presidential race.

Check out your own backyard. Where are the contributions coming from in your area, and which political candidates are they going to? They'll make it easy for you to find out.

Just point your browser to www.opensecrets.org

Crime and Safety

What to Do if You're in an Car Accident

Car accidents can be very stressful. Read the tips below to learn what you should do if you're involved in a car accident.

- Stay calm. Keeping a normal demeanor helps you stay in control of the situation. Make sure you and your passengers are OK. Move as far off the roadway as possible, but stay at the scene of the accident. Warn oncoming traffic by activating your hazard warning lights and/or setting flares.
- Call the police to report the accident.
- Contact your insurance company and report the claim. The sooner your insurance company knows about the accident, the sooner they can start working to resolve your claim.
- Do not admit fault for the car accident or discuss the car accident with anyone other than the police and your claims representative.
- Exchange vital information with the other driver involved in the car accident. Write down the name, address, phone number and license numbers for all drivers and witnesses, particularly those who were not riding in a vehicle involved in the accident. Ask for the insurance companies and policy numbers for drivers involved in the car accident

Neighborhood Entrepreneurs

MARZULLO FUNERAL CHAPEL P.A.

MICHAEL MARZULLO, DIRECTOR AND OWNER, since April, 2003.

Formerly an employee, now the Owner and Director.

He will work harder to earn your business;

You are not just a client, **you** are the boss;

He will arrange funerals, not just sell them;

He likes meeting families, not goals;

He will spend time with you.

THERE IS NO NEED TO TRAVEL FARTHER THAN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A FITTING TRIBUTE TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

City Services

Animal Matters

To obtain a dog license (410) 396-3993

To find out about animal bites or animal complaints 311

To request pickup of dead animals 311

Unwanted animals 311

To obtain traps for stray or wild animals 311

To obtain assistance with rodent problems 311

Municipal Animal Shelter
301 Stockholm St
(410) 396 4688

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*Hotline: 410-254 -WNIA
P.O Box 28244 Baltimore, MD 21234*

*Newsletter also available online at www.wnia.com
Volunteers are needed for Newsletter distribution
Please contact us on the Hotline above*