

# Southland Hills Insider

SOUTHLAND HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September/October 2011

[www.southlandhills.org](http://www.southlandhills.org)

## BOARD IS BACK IN SESSION

After a summer hiatus, the Southland Hills Improvement Association is back to holding its regular monthly meetings.

***We meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at the Presbyterian Home on Georgia Court.***

Members of the community who wish to bring an issue to the board's attention should email our new president, Therese McAllister, at [southlandnews@gmail.com](mailto:southlandnews@gmail.com). The board also welcomes Curt Johnson as its new vice president. Thank you for your service. The next meeting is Nov. 14.

## SOUTHLAND HILLS STARTS FREE CLASSIFIED SERVICE

Do you baby sit? Rake leaves? Do odd jobs around the house? Shovel snow? Are you looking to make extra money this year?

If so, there are people in your neighborhood who may be interested in your services. The Insider is willing to connect you with your customers. If you are interested in getting the word out, please send an email to [rkobell2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rkobell2002@yahoo.com) by the end of October with the following:

Your name, your contact number, your email, your skill/specialty, and your availability (only weekends, only evenings, or whatever).

## BOOT CAMP RETURNS

It's not too soon to be thinking about next summer's beach season. Join your neighbors for boot camp, a workout that includes cardiovascular training and resistance training at the same time. The workouts involve calisthenics such as push-ups, jumping jacks, crunches, and other body weight exercises. In Boot Camp, your challenge is to take your body to its limit.

## ***Boot camp is Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 - 6:30***

***a.m.*** The class meets in front of the Towson Chamber of Commerce. Classes are \$12; or \$144 for six weeks. It's held rain or shine and travels through the heart of Towson. If you're interested, you can register at [Fit2Order.com/community](http://Fit2Order.com/community).

## SOUTHLAND HILLS WELCOME NEW BABIES

This summer, five new babies arrived in Southland Hills! Twins Mio and Kenzo Rusli were the first to arrive, landing on Georgia Court at the end of June. Parents Eriko Ono and Volto Rusli are thrilled about their new arrivals, as is their daughter Maya, who is two.

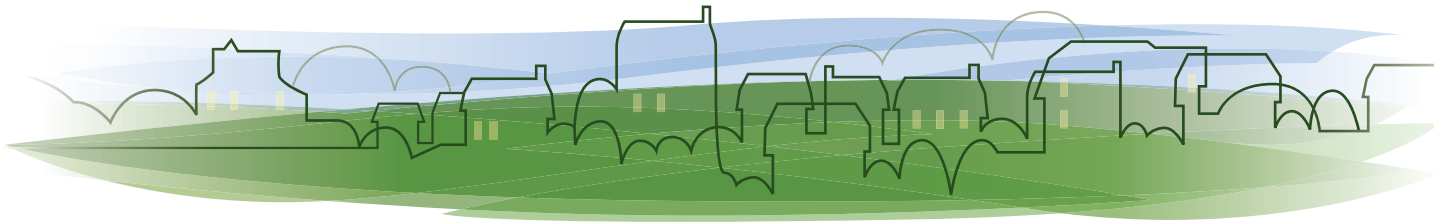
On July 27, two families living right behind each other welcomed new additions. Katherine Mae Webster arrived first on Georgia Court, joining big brothers Steven and Jake and parents Maureen and Steve Webster.

A few hours later, at the same hospital, Lila Rose Walker made her debut. She came home to Carolina Road a few days later, joining her big sister, Maya, and parents Rona Kobell and Jesse Walker.

In September, Gosia Piechocka and Todd Baker welcomed another baby to Carolina Road. Nadia Krystyna Baker was born on Sept. 16. She is the couple's first child.

## YMCA REVAMPS, PREPARES FOR NEW BUILDING

You may have noticed some changes at the YMCA. Staff there is preparing to demolish the older building now housing the childcare center by the end of the year, so it has



# Southland Hills Insider

SOUTHLAND HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September/October 2011

[www.southlandhills.org](http://www.southlandhills.org)

moved the childcare into the Hobbs room. Staff says over the next few months it will move the yoga classes and art classes into the main building. The pre-school is moving to a newly constructed building on the corner of Chesapeake and Bosley, in the old Jemicy School. They expect to be in there by the end of this year.

Despite a setback in getting rent from the county to fund their new building, Y officials are still planning to build a new Y adjacent to the old one. There is no official word on when that will happen, though.

## **SOUTHLAND HILLS PREPARES FOR HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Southland Hills' *Spooktacular Halloween Event will be 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22 (Rain date Oct. 29) on the lawn of the Presbyterian Home.* Bring your costumes, your children, and please no pets. This event is just one of many exciting things the neighborhood has planned this school year.

## **DUMPSTER DAY COMING**

Southland Hills has scheduled its *Dumpster Day for Saturday, Oct. 29 from 8 a.m. to noon.* Three Dumpsters will be in the neighborhood: One at the bottom of Dixie Drive, one at 400 Alabama Road and one at Georgia Court, address to be determined.

**YOU MUST BE A RESIDENT OF SOUTHLAND HILLS TO USE THE DUMPSTERS!** You cannot dump toxic waste or paints. There are other items that won't be accepted; neighborhood volunteers will be staffing the Dumpsters and may be asking for identification. The Board is looking for volunteers to take two-hour shifts. If you're interested, contact Amy Welling at [welling76@msn.com](mailto:welling76@msn.com).

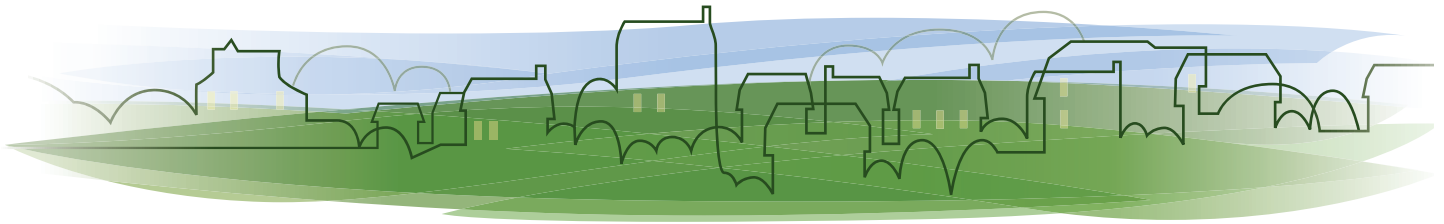
## **CONTACTORS COMING TO YOUR DOOR...BE PREPARED!**

Many of our neighbors are dealing with problems left in Irene's wake: roof leaks, flooded basements, and water damage. Most of the houses in Southland Hills were built without sump pumps, and if you haven't had one installed, you might consider doing it, depending on your position on the hill. Ask your neighbors for recommendations, check references, and don't forget to make sure the contractor is licensed. Your insurance company may be able to recommend a contractor, especially if the claim is covered. The shorter/lower the license number, the longer the company has been in business. Go online to: <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic> to search license status.

The news media has been warning people about "storm chasers" - people who come into an area after a flood and offer to do desperately needed work, such as clearing trees, and then fleece the homeowner. At least two companies in the neighborhood have been going door to door offering "free estimates" for replacement windows. It's worth remembering that there are those out there who prey on the most vulnerable. It's worth it to get several estimates for any project, no matter how much of a pain it is to be home during the contractors' time frame.

## **WEST TOWSON POOL STILL IN THE WORKS**

It's not a secret that times have been challenging for the West Towson Swim Club. Several years ago, a dedicated group of neighbors formulated a plan to put a swimming pool at the old jail site. They worked hard to design a plan, recruit friends and neighbors to put down a significant chunk of change, and lobbied the county for assistance to make the plan work. It was an extraordinary effort by a



# Southland Hills Insider

SOUTHLAND HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September/October 2011

[www.southlandhills.org](http://www.southlandhills.org)

group of volunteers who had busy day jobs and families.

About 200 families have signed up for the pool, but it wasn't quite enough, and the swim club board had to fill in the gap. Last year, a local developer stepped forward to fill that gap, but then changed his mind for unrelated business reasons. That left the pool committee with the following options:

- Getting a pool construction company to finance a portion of their work, potentially \$250,000, over five years. The swim club board is talking to one such interested company.
- Finding a sponsor to contribute engineering and site construction work, which would potentially reduce costs by \$150,000.
- Installing a portable building for the clubhouse to use for the first two seasons, thereby deferring a third of project costs until membership increased.
- Member dues guarantee – an idea that members might escrow their annual dues for several seasons, which could serve as additional collateral for a bank.

Few people doubt that once the pool opens, membership will swell. But it's hard to get people to join a pool that they can't see, and it's hard to build the pool without money. The pool committee plans to keep in touch with its members with a timeline and a plan, and will let everyone know as soon as they can when the pool will open. The hope is still that it will open for Summer 2012.

## TOWSON WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES BUT DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE OLD ONES

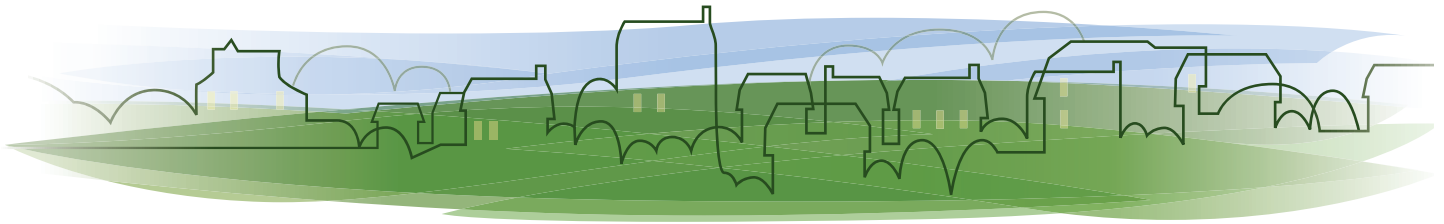
Sounds like Towson finally has something sorely needed: A good family restaurant. S & J Crab Ranch opened in the space that was formerly Osaka, and before that Olive and Sesame. Despite its name, the restaurant is more than just crabs: it serves burgers, grilled cheese and other family favorites.

One block away, an old Towson favorite, Ridgely and Ferrens, is chugging along. The odd little deli is sometimes overlooked, with its dark inside and its year-round Christmas lights. But it has two features hard to find elsewhere in Towson: An ice cream parlor in the front and a butcher in the back.

In the back of the store, customers can order fresh ground beef and other meats; the owner will grind the meat as you wait. They don't really advertise, and because it's kind of dark in there it's hard to tell there is a butcher shop back there. But there is, the quality is excellent, and the prices are quite reasonable.

## PERMIT PARKING MAY EXPAND IN NEIGHBORHOOD

Alabama Road and Dixie Drive residents have contended all summer with Towson University construction workers parking in front of their houses, sometimes blocking them in. The drivers park early and disrupt an otherwise quiet neighborhood. Some drive very fast through our streets as they look for parking. As the university continues its building projects, the parking situation is going to get worse.



# Southland Hills Insider

SOUTHLAND HILLS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

September/October 2011

[www.southlandhills.org](http://www.southlandhills.org)

This situation is driving the neighborhood to consider a neighborhood-wide permit parking system.

Alabama Road has permit parking, but the whole street doesn't have it until 5 p.m. The board is asking neighbors there what they think of extending the permit parking until 5 p.m. on the whole street.

Some streets, like Carolina and Georgia, have permit parking, but it's hardly enforced.

Because more people are complaining about the parking situation, it's possible Baltimore County will be coming through the neighborhood and ticketing those without permits. If you have lived in the neighborhood for years and never bothered to get a permit, you might consider getting one now.

To get a permit, go to the county window in the County Office Building, 111 W. Chesapeake (two buildings down from the Post Office.) Keep in mind you will have to go through the metal detector. You will need to bring with you your driver's license, registration and a tax bill for your home, as well as your checkbook. Permits cost about \$30 per car, and you can get some extras for guest parking. You can renew them each year for about \$8. If you get a new car, you will have to get a new permit, but they discount it.

## **WEST TOWSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSIDERS ENROLLMENT CAP**

The new elementary school built to alleviate overcrowding in Rodgers Forge is getting close to being overcrowded itself. Parents were notified that the school board is considering a cap on enrollment. The Towson Times recently reported that a cap is a last resort and the county is considering building a

new school to alleviate the overcrowding in the York Road corridor. The overcrowding can be attributed to the desirability of Towson as a neighborhood and a school, and also to the economy. Private school is tough for many families right now. The Insider will keep neighbors posted on school news.

*Got News? Email [rkobell2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rkobell2002@yahoo.com).*