

February 5, 2013

SERVICE PROVIDERS: YOUR NEIGHBORS' RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a listing of the comments sent to COMMUNIT-E by residents of Friendship Heights and Tenleytown/AU Park about service providers with whom they've had personal experience over the last 4 years. The resident's contact information is shown at the end their comments. It's organized alphabetically by category of service. Below is an index of the categories and the pages on which the entries for each category begin. Suggestions of how the list can be made more useful are welcomed.

Please note that inclusion in this list is no guarantee that a vendor will perform well for you, nor that there's anything wrong with a vendor that is not listed.

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ACCOUNTANTS –

I highly recommend Bradley Ralph. He's excellent! You can reach him at 301/980-2852. Bari Biern Sedar biernmail@aol.com September 2007

APPLIANCE REPAIRS –

I use Samir and Admirals Appliances. He has never let me down! He can be reached at 301.495.0734. Happy New Year, Christine phen_d@hotmail.com December 2009

I'm pretty sure we used Alexandria Appliance repair several years ago to repair the motor on an old (1950ish) oven hood. They did a good job and got the thing working. Can't recall the price. The web says it's under new ownership, so can't vouch for them but worth a try: Alexandria Appliance Repair, 3118 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305-2639, (703) 548-6480. Courtney Leatherman c_leatherman@ix.netcom.com April 2010

Call John at ALCO - Appliance Repair 301.937.6996. Randy Hill cicada17@starpower.net August 2010

We like Alco Appliance Incorporated (301) 937-6996, 4416 Tonquil St, Beltsville, MD 20705. Very reliable, honest and not that expensive. Sarah Morse morsekathan@gmail.com August 2010

We were VERY pleased with ALCO Appliance, ask for John, 301-937-6996. They sell appliances, so he could have talked us into buying new. However, he fixed our dishwasher when we thought that it would have to be replaced; saved us a bundle. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net August 2010

Three households on Grant Road (including mine for over 20 years) have been exclusively using ALCO for all appliance repairs. Their phone number is: 301-937-6996. The service has always been outstanding. Alco is checkrated both for price and quality by the Washington Consumer Checkbook and has been for years. You could not do better. John recently came and repaired our reasonably new dishwasher (the hot water intake valve got stuck and would not shut off provoking a major flood). The repair was quick, reasonable and the washer again works perfectly. Frank J. Haendler fjhdcm@aol.com August 2010

I'd recommend Bettar Appliance in Kensington. Dennis dahall2@yahoo.com August 2010

I second the recommendation of Bettar Appliances in Kensington. The man who seems to service our area is Lew Darling. He's great. I've used Bettar for repairs on all appliances and have bought new appliances there...all over a period of years. Harriet Hdwinell@aol.com August 2010

I highly recommend the shop in Wheaton/Silver Spring that fixes vacuums. AMERICAN VACUUM & SEWING, 11212 GEORGIA AVE., WHEATON, MD 20902, 301-933-6662. Handles all sorts of vacuums and has parts. susanwashdc@comcast.net September 2010

Try John at ALCO - Appliance Repair 301.937.6996. Randy Hill cicada17@starpower.net June 2011

John LeFevre at ALCO is an appliance genius. He is terrific. Lois Schiffer loisschiffer@msn.com December 2011

AUTO BODY REPAIR –

Frank Allen, Bethesda Chevy Chase Auto Body and Paint, delivers what you seek at a fair price. Free estimates, of course. Location: 5200 River Road #7 -- in the front of the group of small shops just behind Marten's Volvo, with free parking in front of the door. Tel: 301-657-2277. Ron Springwater rspringwater@starpower.net February 2009

I love White Flint Auto Repair on Nebel Road. They do great work for very reasonable rates and, best of all, they're in the same little complex with a consignment shop and a bead store! Who could ask for anything more? Bari Sedar biernmail@aol.com February 2009

BCC Auto repair in Bethesda. 301-986-0003. We have gone to Mike for years and send all of our friends. He always charges hundreds less than what any dealer estimates. Nice, honest guy and never does more than needs to done. Elizabeth Daerr egdaerr@starpower.net February 2009

AUTO DEALERS –

If you are considering purchasing a Prius, I recommend Mr. Tony Carr (yes, his real name!) at Darcars Toyota, 12210 Cherry Hill Road in Silver Spring. Our friends bought 2 Prius from him and we purchased ours in July. He is a friendly and accommodating and there was no "additional dealer markup". They had several Prius on the lot (all with the most expensive features). He will order the car to your specifications if you do not want the extra bells & whistles. On our first tank of gas, we averaged 45 miles per gallon. That included driving around town and a trip to Richmond. The car is amazingly roomy and very easy to drive. Kathryn Ray & Dennis Beaufort kcrdlb@verizon.net August 2005

AUTO MECHANICS –

For our Toyota and Honda, we've long used Ernie's Automotive Service, 5200 River Rd., Bethesda, 301-656-1246. Reliable service reasonably priced. Another good place: BCC Automotive, 4912 St. Elmo Ave., Bethesda. 301-986-0003. Aaron Epstein aajacks@starpower.net April 2009

I have a Toyota Matrix and I've been very happy with White Flint Auto Repair. The service is excellent and very reasonably priced. They'll also give you a lift to the Metro and pick you up when your car is ready. White Flint Auto Repair Inc., 12128 Nebel St Rockville, MD 20852 - (301) 984-3902. Bari Sedar biernmail@aol.com April 2009

We really like Ernies on River Road in Maryland. It's a little hard to find, located way behind the McDonalds. You keep going past Martin's Volvo until you get to a maze of car repair shops and landscaping places. A whole other world! Sarah Morse morsekathan@gmail.com January 2009

I second Sarah Morse's recommendation of Ernie's. The phone number there is 301 656-1246. To add to Sarah's directions, I'd just add that although the address is River Road, you need (coming from the District) to turn off River to the left immediately after the overpass and drive parallel to the bike trail (leaving Martens to your right), seemingly into the woods! Jenny Bland jcrabland@hotmail.com January 2009

I've been happy with Wheaton Service Center at 11321 Fern St., Wheaton, which specializes in VWs. It's a half block off University Boulevard and a short walk from the Wheaton metro stop. Haven't had anything major fixed there, but they seem to have done a good job with my routine maintenance. W. Thomas tomoliver@starpower.net January 2009

Unless your VW is under warranty, I recommend River Road Auto Haus (corner of River Road and Little Falls Parkway - 301-652-3787). Vladimir runs a very good shop, and right around the corner from Martens. Tom Bethell tombethell@gmail.com January 2009

I highly recommend **Marvin Yoon** at Bethesda Collision Repair Center, Inc. Complete Auto Services. They recently worked on my '98 Honda and not only did a great job at a competitive price (I called around a bit) his customer service is amazing! He even called to follow up afterwards. They also wash off the car once the work is completed. 5202 River Rd. A 1, Bethesda Md. 20816; 301-654-3333. bcrcc@bethesdaautoservices.com

(next to the McD's and across from the Whole Foods on River Rd.) Please let him know I referred you if you go there. Cheers! Natasha hopewellhenry@yahoo.com January 2012

I go to A+ Auto Services in Rockville near the Shady Grove metro station. 301-340-8100. Prices and service are very good. They specialize in Hondas/Acuras. Brian Pinnell bpinnell@me.com January 2012

We take our 11-year-old Honda to River Road Auto Haus and are very happy with the service. It runs beautifully. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net January 2012

Try Mike Cunningham at Bethesda Import Specialists. His shop is just off River Road. Kate Laguarda kate.laguarda@gmail.com January 2012

BABYSITTERS & NANNIES – (from 2011 - 2012)

My wonderful Sitter of nearly 6 years is now available for childcare and light housekeeping. She is legal, responsible, caring, and very trustworthy. She does not drive, but she is like having a 2nd godmother or grandmother. Please feel free to email me if you'd like to talk with her at pascotv@gmail.com. Best, Tien Pasco pascotv@gmail.com January 2011

We are very sad to have to say goodbye to our nanny of over 5 years and we want to help her find a new family. We have three children (6 years, 4 years and 2 years) and our nanny has been a part of our family since before our oldest turned 1. Unfortunately our childcare needs have changed substantially now that our oldest is starting kindergarten and our other children will be in nursery school. We cannot put into words how much our nanny has done for our family. Most important, she has loved our children and kept them completely safe. We have never had a concern about their safety when with her, and we have traveled and left them alone with her without a worry. She has fostered loving sibling relationships and has helped each of the children become independent in their own, age-appropriate way. She sets firm and consistent limits but she is never mean. She does all types of activities in the house, takes them to a nearby park every day, takes them to the library, and has taken our youngest two children to the Blue Igloo Playgroup. I work part time and she has all three kids for 12 hours on my workdays without any problem. On my non-work days I have spent time with her and it is very easy for us to work together to get everything done for the kids. She has traveled with us and she has also stayed with the kids at their grandparents without us -- the whole extended family knows and loves her. Our nanny does not drive but she uses the metro and bus system with the kids whenever they have a special class or if she needs to pick them up from pre-school (and she will walk anywhere!) She is looking for a full time position and she is legal to work in the U.S. Prior to working with our family she was with another family of 3 for 5 years (twins and an older sibling). Please email or call me if you are interested in meeting our nanny. Ideally we would like her to stay with us until mid-October but if she finds a new family that is a good fit we understand that she may need to leave before then. Apple Sussmann appsussmann@gmail.com 202-441-6105 September 2011

Our wonderful Nanny/Housekeeper, Raquel, is looking for part-time work in the neighborhood. She works with us three mornings a week and is hoping to find something either in the afternoon or a split of mornings/afternoons (as my schedule is somewhat flexible). She is very warm, energetic, reliable and hard-working. Please, feel free to call me with any questions or call Raquel for details. Katie 202.904.8400; Raquel 240.701.9914. Katie Clark klk12975@aol.com March 2012

Interested in having a Nicaraguan Mary Poppins? That's the best way to describe our nanny who has been with us for the past 5 years. She comes up with creative ways to teach kids their numbers, letters, and colors. She is legal. She cooks and does the laundry. She's really a dream of a nanny. She's so helpful and terrific with all kinds of kids. If interested you can contact me at 202-966-2087 or her directly, Martha, at 240-706-4790. liemscalcal@hotmail.com August 2012

BICYCLE REPAIR –

I am an avid cyclist who maintains several bicycles and has periodic repair and upgrade work. I highly recommend Dale Murphy of Dale's Cycle Works, www.dalescycleworks.com, 301-529-0945. Dale has a van and comes to your house to do the work, which is a great convenience. He has done a lot of work for years for DC cycling enthusiasts, both on his own and in his previous incarnation as head mechanic at The Bicycle Place in Bethesda before that shop closed. He's great. Kaid Benfield Noquru81@aol.com

I've had very good experiences with Hudson Trail Outfitters on Wisconsin Avenue for bike repairs -- several different times. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net 2005

It's a little farther afield, but I had a terrific experience at Performance bikes in Rockville's Congressional Plaza. It's large, clean, easy to get to/park near, and handles everything. I recently took my bike in after several years in the outdoor shed, expecting a "tune-up" bill of \$75+. The shop had it for 30 minutes, declared that all it needed was cleaning, oiling and some air, all of which are provided as free services, so they went ahead and did it. Big Wheel Bikes in Bethesda quoted me either \$49, \$69 or more depending on what I needed. So I'd recommend Performance. (I only went there originally because they are Thule dealers and I needed a rack.) Rick Dulaney DULANER1@WESTAT.com 2005

The Pro Shop on M Street, near Key Bridge has an excellent mechanic -- Courtney. One of the best mechanics in the area, he does most of the instructors' repairs that we cannot do in MPD. Another shop - Revolutions, just a few doors down, has excellent service, has always been helpful. There are other shops in DC but these are in 2D. Sgt. Mike Wear

CABINET MAKERS – (see also “carpenters”)

I recommend Mike Ryan. He has years of experience, does excellent, meticulous work. He has done many things for us over the past 20 years. Email: Mikeryanww@verizon.net or call him on (202) 316-3927. Let him know Les and JoEllen recommended. Les and JoEllen rufushound@gmail.com September 2012

We have a fabulous master cabinet/furniture maker in the neighborhood, Geoff Seeley. He does terrific work. He can be reached at seemark88@gmail.com. He does wonderful work, on time, is easy to work with and certainly worth talking to about your project. Lorna Watson waldodog1@aol.com September 2012

I strongly recommend Geoff Seeley. 202-363-4151 He does excellent work and is very easy to work with. Kathy Smith kathysindc@gmail.com September 2012

CARPENTERS – (see also “cabinet makers”)

I recently contacted Nice Day Services (Bill Wagner and Derek Gault) at 301-524-9620 about a small carpentry job in my house. I was very impressed with the response, with the work (Derek) and with the price. I had originally obtained their name from the "List" so just wanted to add my endorsement. Carol Carmody ccar4535@aol.com March 2009

Pat Turvey just replaced my shed roof and did an excellent job. He has done work for me before and I find him consistently careful and reasonable. He's a good carpenter for repairs and also gives good advice. His number is 703-241-1061. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net December 2009

We would like to recommend very highly a master carpenter and his assistant: Bernardo Castano and Wilmar Fernandez (240-882-5940). They are a dream team and have a very good heart. The quality of their work is excellent. They are very good at solving difficult issues and they can also install floors and tiles and work with concrete. And in addition, they are affordable. They created a dormer on our house, transformed a flat ceiling into a cathedral one, made built-in bookcases and a desk as well as beautiful radiator covers. They also

completely renovated our kitchen at a reasonable price. Robert and Fabienne Spier spierf@georgetown.edu
April 2010

We have used Dusan Home Improvements (Dusan Bucany) for indoor as well as outdoor carpentry such as the problem you describe (build exterior door). He is reliable and can handle a variety of projects with good results. 301 933-0203. squasher@starpower.net December 2010

He is Jaime Barrera, a legal guy from El Salvador who has lived here for many years and is excellent at carpentry and all other jobs. His phone (cell) is 301-509-2675 and email jaimebarrera2001@hotmail.com. He has worked for me for about 20 years and has a key to my door. He built my deck, my greenhouse, and has done numerous small jobs. Susan Ellis susanwashdc@comcast.net January 2011

You should interview my contractor, Mike Smith. He is an accomplished carpenter and jack-of-all-trades. He has done decks for my friends, who were all pleased. Reach Mike at 301 807 5240. Lynne Henson lheneson@aol.com January 2011

I would like to endorse a previous recommendation on Bernardo Castaño and Wilmar Martinez for carpentry work. They rebuilt a linen closet, a storage closet and a walk-in closet for us, all three in finished wood, and did a wonderful job. They are very skillful, honest, hard working and aim to please. I'm enjoying their work everyday. They can be contacted at 240-882-5940 or 301-452-7165. For questions, contact me at frfmsiegel@msn.com. Thank you Felisa Siegel October 2011

If anyone is looking for a fine carpenter to do any work around their home or build furniture, please let me recommend Mike Ryan. He is an excellent craftsman; very detail oriented and does spectacular work. He can be reached at (202) 316-3927 or mikeryanww@verizon.net. He's done many things for us over the years. Les and JoEllen rufushound@gmail.com August 2012

I have had a wonderful experience with Trent Brooks (202-271-0355), who was recommended to me to create some built-in bookshelves in my study. He did a fabulous job. I've generally subscribed to the notion that with contractors, one wants three things (on time, on spec and on budget) and can generally count on getting only two. With Trent I got all three! He sweats the details and is the best kind of perfectionist in his work. I recommend him heartily. If anyone would like to see photos of the shelves, feel free to drop me an e-mail. Scott Seligman heyscott@ymail.com October 2012

CARPET/RUG CLEANERS & INSTALLERS –

I have used Remarkable Difference a number of times for carpet cleaning and I think they are great. Their number is 703-753-2722. Sally Cox sscox13@gmail.com September 2010

We've used Stanley Steamer & they were terrific. Would use them again. Ellen Swann ellen.swann@yahoo.com September 2010

Manoukian Brothers on Georgia Avenue (202-882-7847) did a great job on our carpets (both repair and cleaning). David Winn hdcwinn@verizon.net October 2010

We highly recommend David Zahirpour Oriental Rugs at 4922 Wisconsin Avenue NW, phone #202-338-4141. Excellent service, wonderful people, and you're supporting a neighborhood business. Good luck! --Laura & Tim Marginata laura@marginata.com October 2010

Georgetown Carpet did an excellent job on several of our oriental rugs recently. Lyn Taecker lyntaecker@gmail.com October 2010

Manoukian Brothers (202-882-7847) have been in business for two generations in DC. The original brothers were friends of my parents. One of the Manoukian sons, Paul, runs the business now. He just cleaned and restored all of my oriental rugs in my house (some large; some small). In fact, I bought two new rugs from him in the past eight years. Manoukian Brothers will move the furniture; take the oriental rugs out to be cleaned

and/or restored; and return them. You will not be disappointed with the workmanship and the honesty of the company. Joan Topalian jtopa62045@aol.com October 2010

I recently used Manoukian Bros. for oriental carpet cleaning and repair and was very satisfied. 202-882-7847. Jane Khoury jfkhoury@mac.com October 2010

I have used these folks recently and they were great! Friendly and lovely to deal with, the guy was on time and careful and thorough to the max, and they are quite reasonable. Sunshine 301-869-0756. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com April 2011

CATERERS –

Rockland's BBQ in Glover Park/Georgetown. Charlotte Perry charlotte@luxbnb.com June 2012

O'Brien's in Rockville used to cater and their food is good. I've been there since they changed hands. John Kelly lasjkelly@gmail.com June 2012

Two suggestions: Rockland's and FreshStart Catering, a branch of DC Central Kitchen. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net June 2012

Hill Country Barbecue on 7th Street in Penn Quarter has great authentic BBQ and sides based on recipes from the Central Texas Hill Country. Here's a link to the catering website: <http://www.hillcountrywdc.com/catering-and-events.dc> . Debra Lacy dlacy@lacyltd.com June 2012

Excellent barbecue and sides at Urban Bar-B-Que Company , 2007 Chapman Ave. in Rockville. See www.iloveUBQ.com or call 240-290-4827. Sally Kranz sallygkranz@aol.com June 2012

CERAMICS REPAIR –

I highly recommend Nonomura Studios on Connecticut Avenue in Cleveland Park. I have taken two antique pieces there - they are real experts, very expensive, but worth every penny. They also verbally appraised my pieces and were eager to discuss them. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com January 2009

I recommend Prof. Turker Ozdogan. Please call him at 703-289-2469. Pat Talmon Patrick.talmon@verizon.net January 2009

CHILDBIRTH CLASSES –

Karen van Loon's Birth Works class. She teaches here in Friendship Heights and can be reached at KarenavanL@aol.com or 686-6463. Cellia412@aol.com

CHIMNEY SWEEPS & DUCT CLEANING –

Call Winston's Chimneys, 1-800-540-6127, I believe. They do a lot of work in NW DC. They do not only this (duct cleaning) and complete chimney services, but skylight window installation as well. We have been using their services for the chimney of our wood-burning stove since about 1986. They are wonderful, professional, very responsive, easy to reach and reasonable in price. I also know personally know the owner. Dave Benway is an area ambassador for our business group (Business Network International), as well as on the Rockville Chamber of Commerce. He's a straight-up and honest person and not only does he own Winston's Chimneys, he is a Chaplain as well! Melissa Haendler eveme18@aol.com October 2006

I highly recommend Sugarloaf Chimney Restorers. The owner is Gerry Neil. Phone number: 1-301-972-8558. He is fast, clean and honest. Having been told twice by a local company that I needed between two and over four thousand dollars worth of work on my chimney (two totally different estimates from the same company over a period of a couple of years), I decided to try somewhere else. Mr. Neil told me that all I had to do was to have my chimney cleaned, that there was nothing wrong with it, and that was that. I was certainly satisfied with the service. (If you want to know the name of the local company, you can ask me personally by e-mail.)
Aija C. Blitte aijacelbl@aol.com December 2009

COMPUTER REPAIRS & HELP –

For Macs: Try Phil Marchetti, 301.404.2210, phil@marchettiassociates.com. Randy Hill
cicada17@starpower.net October 2009

The place to try is Mac Upgrades. They are exclusively a Mac operation at 6931 Arlington Rd, Bethesda, in the little shopping mall across from the Strosniders shopping center. Telephone: 301-907-0300. Website: www.MacUpgrades.com. They not only sell and service Macs, give lessons, etc, but they also make house calls.
Kay Springwater rkspringwater@starpower.net October 2009

You should sign up at the Apple store in Bethesda. For \$100 for a year, you can get all the tech help plus instructions on all kinds of good things that Macs and do. The \$100 is good for once a week "One to One" instructions, personal help with Mac "geniuses" for tech help, repair, plus good telephone support with Mac techs. Nancy LeRoy nancyrleroy@mac.com October 2009

My husband and I are longtime fans of MacUpgrades in Bethesda. They're terrific. 6931 Arlington Rd, Bethesda, in the little shopping mall across from the Strosniders shopping center. Telephone: 301-907-0300.
Bari Sedar biernmail@aol.com October 2009

I heartily recommend Bruce Maliken for treating your computer woes. He is knowledgeable, professional and has helped me on a number of occasions. He can be reached at 240-475-4193. Jane Khoury
jfkhoury@erols.com October 2009

I got an excellent reference from this list when I was at my wits' end because nothing worked: computer, photocopying machine, DVD....Nathan C. Acuesta, mobile: (240) 281-7169; email: nacuesta@gmail.com. He services both PCs and Macs and is very quick. His fees are also very reasonable (\$60/ hour). Laura Garces
laura.garces@verizon.net March 2010

Lori Annaheim is great. We've worked with her for several years and she is knowledgeable and very thorough. And she lives in the 'hood! Her email is: LAnnaheim@mindspring.com . paulandsusanne@starpower.net
March 2010

Rick Airhart has been our computer guy for years. He's very knowledgeable, patient and reasonable. I would highly recommend him. rick@airhart.net. Margot Neuhaus margot@margotneuhaus.com November 2010

I have used Ivan for a couple of years now. He can solve anything. Works for a computer company but helps others out on his time off nights and weekends. His email is: babinoto@gmail.com and lives in NW Washington area just over the MD. line. He is familiar with all computer systems including the Mac.
susanwashdc@comcast.net January 2011

I recently bought a new computer - switching from a PC to a Mac. A friend recommended a computer support specialist who was fantastic. I was able to contact him on his vacation, explain my situation when he returned, and to make an appointment and get him to the house in just a few days to set up my new computer. He is Cameron Jones of Cameron Jones Computer Services, 571-217-3596, Cameron@CameronJonesIT.com, www.camereonjonesit.com. He is a Princeton grad, very patient, knowledgeable, incredibly fast, and I would highly recommend him to anyone needing any kind of computer help. If you want more information get in

touch with me, otherwise run, don't walk, to Cameron Jones. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com
July 2011

Try "The Right Cliq. Responsive, knowledgeable and reasonable. <http://www.therightcliq.com/> David
dy49@rocketmail.com July 2011

We have a very good computer guru. He knows both Windows and Macs and is reasonable (\$60/hour) His name is Nathan Acuesta cell phone: (240)281-7169 and e-mail nacuesta@gmail.com Good luck! Laura Garcés
laura.garces@verizon.net September 2011

I have just had an excellent experience with Ivan Babinoto (dba Hot PC), a freelance computer support person in the Westmorland Circle area. My lap top got a bad virus infection, and he responded very quickly, cleaned it up overnight, and installed more robust security/anti-virus protection. He charges a very reasonable (much less than Geeks on Call and its clones) flat fee, and does not charge if he can't fix the problem. He's looking to build up his clientele after recently going out on his own. His e-mail is babinoto@gmail.com, and his phone is 202 657-5123. Sunderwood4104@gmail.com January 2012

Ivan, my computer expert who does everything computer-wise for me, is leaving his employment and going out on his own. He is readily available at very reasonable rates. He has done work for me for a couple of years and I'm always satisfied. His email is: babinoto@gmail.com Phone: 202-285-0887. susanwashdc@comcast.net
March 2012

We have used Ivan as well and were very pleased. Pat Mullan mullandoty@aol.com March 2012

I know he's been mentioned on the Communit-E board, so I'll just add another positive note for Ivan -- Babinoto@gmail.com -- Telephone 202 657 5123. He's good at identifying and fixing your computer problems, hardware, software issues, connectivity, etc. Reasonably priced, and he has a policy of "no fix, no fee". Jay Silbermans Silbermans@aol.com May 2012

I just wanted to share my experience on Mac. It was running very slowly and worst of all, won't let me log in. It logs me in, goes to my desktop and immediately logs right back out. After finding the phone number of Mr. Babinoto here I called him and in 1 hour he has arrived (I think he lives on Westmoreland circle). The next day he brought my Mac back running as new. Belinda Mathison belindamathison@yahoo.com June 2012

Ivan is terrific. He has helped me out for a number of years and now is starting his own business instead of working for a computer company. He has completely revamped my 2 computers and helped me in numerous ways to decipher programs and set things up the way I want them - far better than Geeks does and at a much lower cost. Susan Ellis susanwashdc@comcast.net September 2012

I recently used Ivan to repair four computers--a desktop and three laptops. I thought his prices were reasonable, and he was fairly good at explaining what was wrong with each to a non-techie. One older laptop could not be repaired, but he recovered what was on the hard drive. I definitely would use his services again. Laura St. Martin watsaint@gmail.com September 2012

I would like to recommend Jonathan - a great guy for solving tech problems around the computer and other devices. He created a web site for us and it was a pleasure working with him. Are you stuck with some technical problem in your house - with your computer, TV or your sound system? You would like to move forward and you don't know how. Or have you just bought a new computer and would like to learn how to use it better? If this is the case, Jonathan is your guy. Jonathan can diagnose and repair computer problems and even custom build your own computer. He can also create you a custom website using WordPress. Jonathan's gift is to give you easy, step-by step instructions and tips so you could solve many of your computer issues by yourself in the future.

Jonathan is 14 y.o. For the last two years he has been responsible for his school's technical equipment. He also assembled over a dozen of new computers for his school. Please email Jonathan at jtechDC@gmail.com. Mary Dolan dolanhogrefe@yahoo.com January 2013

CONCIERGE SERVICES –

Just had a very pleasant experience with a new woman-owned business in our area. In case you need an extra hand especially during this busy time of the year I highly recommend you contact them. Phone 202-390-6791 Website www.youdesigntime.com RM Bozarth rmbozarth@aol.com November 2007

CONCRETE/PAVING –

I highly recommend Edgar Granados for concrete work and flagstone. He just repaired some broken concrete walkways around my house and also replaced my old cracked concrete front walkway with a flagstone walkway. He does beautiful work. He brings an assistant but closely supervises the work himself. He is very prompt and offers reasonable prices. He can be reached at 202-439-3082 (cell phone). Michelle Brotzman Michelle.Brotzman@verizon.net September 2007

CONSTRUCTION –

We wanted to join the chorus of positive comments that have been posted to this list about contractor David Ochoa. We recently hired him to remodel our basement, and he and his team were every bit as good as advertised and then some. This was a comprehensive remodeling and a complicated job -- he had to move the plumbing and put in a support column, among other challenges. He did impeccable work, anticipating design aspects we never would have thought of and ultimately making sure that every detail was perfect. The basement turned out beautifully and on budget at about 20-30% less than other quotes we got. David is pleasant and trustworthy and very considerate, as are the two men who work for him. We couldn't recommend David more highly. In addition to this type of remodeling, he also does more basic tasks. Please feel free to call us at 202-236-1368 if you'd like a more detailed reference. David can be reached at 202-409-6921. Seth & Suzanne Hanlon seth.hanlon@gmail.com February 2009

I recently had my bathroom and kitchen remodeled along with some windows and siding work. This gentleman did an incredible job and can do most anything plumbing and electrical wise including additions and concrete. His prices were very reasonable in comparison; he was reliable and left my house free of any debris. Everything looks great. I am soooo happy and most importantly so is my wife. His name is Joe Castle and number is 240 620 8884. Jeff Phelps geekxprt@gmail.com July 2009

I suggest that you discuss your project with Charles Kiss of Kiss Brothers, 202-409-6708. He did a fabulous job on our kitchen last year. He has a lot of construction knowledge and skills when it comes to renovations of these older homes, as well as the flexibility to deal with whatever "surprises" may come up. He is smart, artistic, communicates well and researches thoroughly. He has done other projects in the area, from small (bookcases) to large (full basement w/bath, bedroom, playroom/office redesign/renovation). Feel free to call me at 202-237-6858. Come see our kitchen if you wish. Lyn Taecker lyntaecker@starpower.net July 2009

Luis, of Bath & Kitchen, LLC has done my bathroom (full renovation) and he did such a great job we had him and his company work on our dining room. We also referred him to a friend of ours and he has done a ton of great work for him too. Unlike many contractors, Luis shows up every day work is done to check on it, even if he has his employees doing work, is responsive and honest with you and, if he thinks that something might work better a different way, he'll suggest options, but respect your decision. I recommend him and his company very highly, whether for a small project or a full reno. His phone is 301-674-4017, and their website is <http://www.bathandkitchenllc.com/> Good luck! Joel PresJMS@aol.com September 2009

We would like to recommend very highly a team of workers who have renovated and improved almost every room in our house over the past year. This project included their building a full shed dormer off our back roof, enabling us to transform our attic into an elegant and contemporary living space. The lead contractor's name

is German Alzate. He and his team can accomplish small or large jobs. German has all the qualities you would hope for in a contractor. He is completely reliable, extremely honest and reasonable, very clever at what he does, meticulous, conscientious, and very pleasant. Even though he and his team have been working in the house for quite some time now, given the scope of our project, at no time have they themselves been a burden on us. German's lead carpenter, Bernardo, is a master carpenter and a true craftsman. His skills range from built-in bookcases to framing entire roofing support structures. Bernardo has an excellent eye for detail, and demonstrated considerable taste as we worked together to conceive various carpentry projects. In addition, German and his team have accepted to use green building materials, paints, etc., of our choosing, something we have found many contractors unwilling to do. If you are contemplating any home improvement project, please consider calling upon German, whom you can reach at 301.442.4343. We would also be more than pleased to provide any additional details. Fabienne and Robert Spier spierf@georgetown.edu December 2009

David Ochoa (dochoa@verizon.net, (202) 409-6921) just completed a major renovation of my new apartment in McLean Gardens, and I couldn't be more satisfied. All of the previous recommendations which speak to his quality workmanship are absolutely correct. He did a meticulous painting job, installed a wood floor, did plumbing (dishwasher, disposal, sink and toilet installation) and oversaw the placing of new appliances, etc. But he gets highest marks from me for being able to manage the renovation while I was living in Rhode Island. He checked in appropriately and followed through well without close onsite supervision. I would fully recommend him. annthacher@cox.net December 2009

We have used Cracovia Contracting for two remodeling projects and could not have been more pleased. They are extremely skilled workers who are also delightful to have working on all aspects of our remodels. They are reliable, conscientious, and neat! The primary contact is Darius Kwiatkowski and can be reached at 301-762-7907 or email at DKwiatk531@aol.com. They also have a terrific newsletter. Marg Peterson margpeterson@earthlink.net December 2009

Last month I had some small projects done at my house and wanted to give a strong recommendation to the contractor who did the work. The job was done at the price quoted and within the time quoted and looks great! Robert Weaver is conscientious about his work and goes the extra mile. He even replaced a cracked outlet cover in my house that was in no way related to the project, which I didn't notice until he was gone. If you need a contractor, I would recommend contacting Glen Echo Contracting at 240-997-8062. If you would like more details about the work he did for me, feel free to contact me directly. Julie Bloecher jbloecher@verizon.net January 2009

We are having a similar construction done with a slight expansion. Bradley Construction is doing a great job and super people to work with. The number is: 301-253-6080 or 301-426-9223. Pat Davis patdavis@starpower.net April 2010

Alex Rounds, Green Way Works Remodeling 301-270-6681 or 240-338-7049, did a terrific job converting our screen porch for us. He worked in a passive solar approach of adding more overhang to the roof to let in the lower winter sun, but shade the room from the summer sun. The room is naturally cooler now in the summer than it was as an open porch, and yet it is light filled. We even put on a green roof and the irises are in bloom now. We are very happy with the conversion and the quality of the workmanship. Best, Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net May 2010

My husband and I recently had David Ochoa do some major carpentry and painting projects at our home on Brandywine St. We would highly recommend him for projects, both large and small. David is a true craftsman and is professional, dependable, pleasant, and meticulously neat. It is rare to find all such qualities in one individual. You can reach David at (202) 409-6921. If you would be interested in seeing some of David's work, my husband or I would be happy to show you some of the samples of his work at our home. Virginia Howard Virginia.howard@ymail.com July 2010

Dusan Bucany (Dusan Home Improvements). He has done a lot of work for us, including small jobs as well as two bathrooms, which included new tile, plumbing fixtures, and cabinets. 301 933-0203. squasher@starpower.net September 2010

I cannot recommend CASE Design enough. They completed putting a first floor powder room in my house beautifully last month. Their staff was very professional, started and came each morning on time, cleaned up after themselves, the day's work was checked by a supervisor each day and was finished on time as promised. I also found the gentlemen who worked on the project very helpful and nice to have in the house. No overruns on the set amount - I was delighted to pay the final amount. I had three bids and their bid was only a couple of hundred more than the other independent contractors. Having heard so many horror stories - I was very happy! Cheers, Sheila L. Summers sums@ix.netcom.com September 2010

I must add my endorsement of CASE Design. I have used them twice and I have been totally satisfied both times. Last year, I had them complete about a dozen projects, and the work was excellent. The workmen showed up on schedule, completed the work on schedule and cleaned up the work site each day. Charlene Kramer charlrog@comcast.net September 2010

We used Jennifer Gilmore Kitchen and Bath on Wisconsin and simply could not be happier. Carolyn Thomas was the designer and I gave her an impossible set of parameters and she exceeded in meeting every one of them. We have the most beautiful bathroom and it would not have happened without her persistent expertise. Give them a call. Marg Peterson margpeterson@comcast.net October 2010

I highly recommend A&H Masterbuilders to do any sort of renovation or handyman work. They did a basement rehab for me in which they sealed the foundation, regraded and laid sod in the yard and put in irrigation piping. They also did a wonderful bathroom rehab, and some masonry/wood work for me. They were a pleasure to work with and their prices were reasonable. Their number is: 703-931-1965. Email: Cooperhoward88@gmail.com. Cheers, Murray Gherson mmgherson@yahoo.com October 2010

I just came across the posts regarding J&R services. I have had 2 remodels done by J&R Services. I am not going to deny the fact that they do have an incentive for referrals, but I also agree with Mr.Suter- we are all adults and I don't think someone would falsify a testimonial just for \$100. J&R remodeled my entire basement and I hired them again a year later and had my kitchen remodeled. I couldn't be more pleased with the work that was done. All the workers were efficient and clean. Dave (my point of contact) was very nice and trustworthy. Ambera1233@yahoo.com November 2010

WE used a great, very reasonable company who re-tiled our kitchen and 2 bathrooms and they did a spectacular job. They are Atech Home Improvement. You can reach George the owner at 571-226-0651. They are also licensed and insured. geekxpirt@gmail.com November 2010

Call Peter Lustig at 202-333-5515. Or email peter@lustigassociates.com He does beautiful work and is a pleasure to work with. Please tell him I sent you. Marjorie Dick Stuart mdickstuart@hagner.com December 2010

I would again like to recommend carpenter and handyman Marcotulio Orellana and his company "The Home Doctor." Cell phone. (240) 793-0568. Marcos, who is licensed, bonded, and insured, finished our restoration years ago begun by a crooked contractor and half finished by his nice subcontractors until they too walked off the job. Marcos, whose English is excellent, has done many jobs for us since then. He has also worked frequently in Northwest Washington. He comes with thirty years of local recommendations; he gives fair, firm estimates free; his work is done quickly and well; and he cleans up daily. Deborah C. Fort Deborah.fort@starpower.net December 2010

You should interview my contractor, Mike Smith. He is an accomplished carpenter and jack-of-all-trades. He has done decks for my friends, who were all pleased. Reach Mike at 301 807 5240. Lynne Henson lheneson@aol.com January 2011

Bath Reno: Highly recommend Brandon Butler and Gene Sibley at Holdfast LLC. They are licensed in DC and do fabulous work and their price is very, very competitive. You can reach them at <http://www.holdfastdc.com/> Here are photos of our transformation: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/modernloft/sets/72157627129886414> Adam Tope adam@adamtope.com July 2011

We've had two bathrooms done by ANT Builders. They are prompt, clean and very professional and by far the lowest bid. Email renovateDC@cs.com or call (202) 330-7525. David Schmucker david@sidewalkdogtraining.com July 2011

Dusan Bucany of Dusan Home Improvements, 301 933-0203 installed tile, sinks, and toilets in two bathrooms and painted one of them. Very dependable and an excellent handyman and craftsman. Andrew squasher@starpower.net July 2011

I'd like to recommend our contractor Sam Rummel. He has tackled projects of all sizes in our old cape including finishing the basement, installing a bathroom, and fixing major plumbing leaks. He can do plumbing, electrical, tile work, drywall work, paint, hang doors, etc. He is prompt, reliable, thorough, easy to work with, and reasonably priced. He can be reached on samrummel@centurylink.net or on his cell, 540.421.1805. Deborah debbielehrich@yahoo.com September 2011

I met David Ochoa several years ago because of high praise on this list. Since then he has done major home improvements and smaller jobs for me and is now practically a member of the family. He works carefully and intelligently and is honest and dependable. A seasoned professional I can recommend. His cell is 202-409-6921. Vera Meyer verameyer12@gmail.com December 2011

In 1998 we undertook a major renovation/restoration of our 1921 house. We chose the design/build company Hopkins & Porter because they had a sensitivity for historic houses. They added a bay window and removed an enormous radiator in our living room, greatly increasing the space; repaired cracked plaster; replaced our peeling and cracking exterior cedar shingles with new cedar shingles; replaced the ill-fitting and inoperative windows with double-paned wood windows with divided lights; and installed insulation under the enclosed back porch. In 2011, after living in our house for twenty-four years, we tackled the final renovation project replacing the tile on the floor and walls of the downstairs bathroom and installing a new sink and new light fixtures. Again we called on Hopkins & Porter. First a representative came to look at the job and give an estimate; he actually met with us several times. Over the course of three weeks a carpenter, an electrician, a plumber, and two tile men worked on the project. All of the specialists are consummate craftsmen. They're not only doing beautiful work, they've gone out of their way to keep the rest of our house clean and they sweep up after themselves every day. Hopkins & Porter is not cheap, but they absolutely know what they're doing. I totally recommend them. See their website at <http://www.hopkinsandporter.com/>. For a small project like ours, you'd probably want their handyman service, <http://www.hopkinsandporter.com/handyman/index.shtml>. We were successful in giving away the 1920s sink. Now we're looking for towel bars from the same time period, and also gas stove knobs. Brass knob and other websites have them, but they sell for an unbelievable amount of money. Do you have something like this hanging around your house that you don't want. Carolyn Long and Doug Wonderlic carolynlong@earthlink.net December 2011

My husband and I recommend using A&H Masterbuilders. They did a few projects for us recently: a bathroom renovation, waterproofed our basement and rebuilt/fixd our damaged chimney and roof. They were professional, efficient, easy to work with, and their pricing was reasonable. We'd certainly use them again for any additional home improvement work we need. I found it easiest to contact them by email. Here is their information: Owner: Howard Cooper; Email: Cooperhoward88@gmail.com; Tel.: 410-645-0136. Cheers, Sandy Selnan sandyselnan@yahoo.com January 2012

We DO NOT recommend Jose Villalta of JV Construction. Some work was not completed or was performed improperly, he abandoned the project after receiving payment, and did not complete or correct work as he had agreed. Some of the fixes are major/costly. Laura & John watsaint@gmail.com January 2012

And please don't confuse those guys with (JV Construction) JV Improvements owned by John Owens. They are working on a project for me now and are doing an amazing job. They are focused, on time, on budget, with high quality workmanship. John can be reached at jvimprovements@verizon.net. David Feinstein daf@bevseay.com February 2012

I just had a terrible experience with a contractor who has been doing work in the AU Park area. The company is JV Construction and the owner is Jose Villalta. In a nutshell, he walked away from my job with about \$30,000

worth of work left to do even though he had already been paid. I have had huge issues with the work he has done at my house including safety hazards. I know of several other families in AU Park who have used him and had to hire new contractors to come in and fix his mistakes. Please feel free to message me if you have any questions. Melinda Johnson melindajohnson@msn.com March 2012

I wanted to recommend a guy who does great remodeling work and other jobs around the house both big and small. His name is David Ochoa and he just finished installing all new light fixtures in our house. Earlier he redid both bathrooms and the basement in our house. He is fair, a good worker and he is funny. If you want to get your job on his schedule, his cell number is 202-409-6921. John Natali john.natali@verizon.net April 2012

DC CITY GOVERNMENT –

Parking Tickets - You have to write a letter appealing your ticket, see the instructions on the ticket. I have nearly 100% success rate when I appeal the tickets I receive. Make a copy of your pass and the letter you send. Then send it via priority mail with receipt that it was received. Then wait, which can be up to six months. Keep track of your tickets. I know this is a pain to do, but your only other option is to pay the ticket, which, of course, is what they want you to do. Ann Eichenberger aeichenberger@gmail.com February 2012

Parking Tickets - You can now appeal tickets through the web which I have used a few times and works great. Scan the documents, upload them and you get a receipt. If you join the eTIMs system (<http://dmv.dc.gov/serv/ticket/EmailTicketAlertService.shtm>) it will email you once the appeal is decided and also email you when you get tickets in the future. Adam Tope adam@adamtope.com February 2012

Street Lights - Call 311 to report street lights out. You will be given a service request number. The light should be replaced within two days. They come at night to do the repairs. Please report the yellow and black number on the pole and tell if the pole is wooden or metal. Also give the address of the house closest to the light pole. If it is not fixed within two days, call back to speak to a supervisor and give your service request number. That should work. Samantha Nolan nolantutor@yahoo.com February 2012

DENTISTS –

I recommend the dentists at National Integrated Health Associates (NIHA), 5225 Wisconsin Ave. NW Ste 401; 202-237-7000, www.nihadc.com/biological-dentistry/biological-dentistry, particularly Lowell Weiner, DDS, FAGD and Mark McClure, DDS, ND, Doctor of Integrated Med., mccluredds@msn.com (excellent ratings in Checkbook.org; didn't recommend unnecessary dental work for me [unlike other dentists]. I've heard universally excellent things about him from patients and other health professionals, including my dentist.) leonardleonard1@earthlink.net July 2010

I recommend Dr. Richard Sapperstein on Connecticut Avenue near Jenifer Street. His phone number is 202-244-5122. Gail Rebhan grebhan@starpower.net July 2010

I highly recommend Stephen Fred, DDS, whose office is at the Promenade (near Grosvenor Metro) in Bethesda. 301-530-7383 Richard Stolker rstolker@yahoo.com July 2010

I have used Dr. Maria Nichols in the building next to Rodman's for years and like her work a lot. Don Vater dvater4527@aol.com July 2010

We, too, vote for Maria Nichols, our great dentist for 20 years or so. Aaron and Jackie Epstein aajacks@starpower.net July 2010

I highly recommend Judy Penski, 202-244-6650. She is fabulous; her staff is wonderful and her location couldn't be more convenient, 4545 - 42nd Street, on that stretch of 42nd between River Road and

Albemarle Street. Best dental care that I have ever had! Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net July 2010

We have a very honest and reliable dentist. Members of our family have been patients of his and his predecessor for over 40 years. Dr. Pierre Palian, 2844 Wisconsin Ave. N.W. (corner of Garfield and Wisconsin), 202 362-1218 Barbara Reed barbarareed6@yahoo.com July 2010

Root Canal: I can recommend Chevy Chase Endodontics, 5530 Wisconsin Ave., 301-907-2931. Both my husband and I had good experiences with them. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net October 2010

The following are the only nearby places I would consider going if I potentially needed a root canal. They offer biological root canals (www.nihadc.com/biological-dentistry/biological-root-canal.html), which I believe, are much healthier than conventional root canals. Mark McClure, DDS, ND, Doctor of Integrated Medicine (& other excellent dentists on staff) National Integrated Health Associates (NIHA), 5225 Wisc. Ave. NW Ste 401, Washington DC 20015, 202-237-7000, www.nihadc.com/biological-dentistry/biological-dentistry.html, excellent ratings in Checkbook.org. I've gotten a consistently great impression of Dr. McClure and other NIHA dentists and have heard excellent reviews from many people. My colleagues and I have found that Dr. McClure does not recommend unnecessary dental work (when other dentists did). Michael Goldman, DDS, 3815 E-W Highway, Chevy Chase MD, 301-656-6171, www.mgoldmandds.com, good ratings in Checkbook.org. Two friends of mine in the health field have gotten (a total of 4) root canals from him and gave him excellent reviews. Leonard Rosenbaum leonardleonard1@earthlink.net October 2010

Try Stan Shulman. His phone number is 202/966-3100. I went to his father many years ago and then Stan took over the practice. I think he only does what he thinks is necessary. And if I don't think it's necessary, I tell him. He's on Mass Ave in the District, Natalie Wasserman nwass609@gmail.com July 2011

My dentist is downtown on 19th St, but I and my kids have gone to her for 20 years. She is wonderful. Dr. Margaret Culotta-Norton, 202-833-1111. Greta Kreuz gkreuz@wjla.com July 2011

Gene Giannini is a practical dentist. He doesn't fix it if it's not broken. He's at 4801 Wisconsin Avenue, 202-244-4111. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net July 2011

Stan Shulman is a wonderful, caring, knowledgeable and judicious dentist, with great recognition professionally and devoted following from his patients. As Natalie Wasserman writes, he does what is necessary. He consults with his patients wisely. As a patient along with all my family of Dr. Stan Shulman, I can recommend him most highly. He is skilled with both children and adults, and his patients include those he treats on trips to underserved areas as well as his regular ones in our comfortable one. In practice and my dentist for about 30 years, he is certainly caring, most attentive, personable and knowledgeable. He has won awards for his professional practice and is listed as one of Washington areas best/top dentists in both Washington consumers' Checkbook (for the past six years) and Washingtonian magazines. Professional recognition includes the American Dental Association's "community preventive dentistry" award for research. Dr. Shulman is an active member of the DC Dental Society. His office is nearby -- 5002 Massachusetts Avenue, NW. Phone number is 966-3100. Elaine Greenstone ehgreenstone@aol.com July 2011

I like Dr. Bauer. I have a lot of stuff that could be fixed for cosmetic reasons, but not necessary for dental health, which Dr. Bauer told me! He is very personable and certainly seems to know his stuff. He's in the office building where Elizabeth Arden and Kinko's are located. His telephone number is 202-966-4050. Ann Ingram anningram@mac.com July 2011

Stan Shulman would be a great choice. He has been our dentist for many years and his office is on Mass. Just above 49th. 966-3100 Larry Williams lwindc@starpower.net July 2011

When I came back from living overseas the first time, my teeth and gums were not in good shape. I started going to Bernard Kirshbaum at the Watergate Dental Office, and, at 78, I now have an excellent set of teeth and gums. He has always been straight with me, including when he told me I didn't need the gum surgery that a periodontist had urged. He was right. You may find him a bit pricey, but to me it is an investment in good

health that has paid off handsomely. Bernie likes to play golf, so he is only there 2-3 days a week. I don't know if he takes new patients. The phone is 202-965-5400. Jim Phippard jhippard@msn.com July 2011

Regarding dentists, Dr. Ralph Mazzuca is excellent and has been our family dentist for more than 30 years. He is located on Wisconsin Ave. in Friendship Heights, in the building above Rodman's. His office telephone is 202-537-1088. I usually go on Saturday mornings - I believe he is closed on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays. There is free parking on Saturdays and Rodman's validates parking during the week. Roshini Ponnamparuma roshini2@msn.com July 2011

I HIGHLY recommend my dentist, Dr. Judy Penski, who is very conveniently located at 4545 - 42nd Street, NW, 202-244-6650. Conservative is not the word that I would use to sum up her approach, but she does focus on prevention and healthy teeth versus than repair. And an ounce of prevention costs less than that pound of cure! Now my teeth and gums are so much healthier. And she is straight about what is cosmetic and what is for health. Furthermore, you couldn't find someone who is better about treating you, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net July 2011

DOCTORS – (arranged by specialty)

APNEA - As someone who has this condition, I can recommend Dr. Ann O'Donnell, Georgetown University Hospital Sleep Center, 202 444-8830. Ron Springwater rspringwater@starpower.net March 2009

DERMATOLOGIST - I would like to recommend Dr. Howard Brooks at SKIN, 2233 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 230, 298-SKIN [7546] in Glover Park. He is proficient in all aspects of dermatology plus performs all cosmetic procedures. Not only is he experienced and thorough but is incredibly easy to converse with, patient and understanding. Check out the website www.georgetownskin.com for specials every month. Laurie England leng20007@aol.com August 2009

FAMILY PRACTICE - I use Dr. Jonathan Musher and I think he's terrific. Very thorough and personable. He accepts my BCBS insurance. (301) 986-4774, 5530 WISCONSIN AVE STE 1045, CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815 cortlk87@yahoo.com November 2010

INTERNIST/CARDIOLOGIST - I have been a patient of Dr. Ramin Oskoui for about 5 years - he has an excellent reputation, is a wonderful doctor (and, I might add, with a great sense of humor), is not an alarmist, but a realist. His office staff, who do a lot of the echos and other tests, are very well trained and knowledgeable. Go for him.....and the location couldn't be better: 3301 New Mexico NW, 464-5770. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com December 2010

MAXILOFACIAL SURGERY - Robert W Emery DDS 202-386-7100. Highly recommended after using another surgeon. Martin Rothfield martinrothfield@his.com January 2012

OB/GYN - Location - Chevy Chase - 5454 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1035 - 301-654-5700: Dr. Amanda McPherson. She's thorough, a good listener, and the office staff seems very good. Joanne Capper jocapper@att.net

OB/GYN - Location - Downtown DC: 1. Drs. Reiter & Hill - also offices on 19th Street; 2. Dr. Lori Picco @ 2141 K Street downtown - 202-331-9293. She is vibrant and a great listener. Joanne Capper jocapper@att.net

OB/GYN - Location - 5550 Friendship Boulevard - Chevy Chase. I can't recommend Powers & Bergin highly enough – I could write pages of reasons why. Joanne Capper jocapper@att.net

OB/GYN - Location - Foxhall OBGYN - Mass Ave, NW, Suite 112, 363-0845, billing 301-316-2846: 1. Dr. Constance Bohan; 2. Dr. Maro Sarafian (sa-ray-fee-en - accent on the 'ray'); and 3. Dr. Sharon Malone. Joanne Capper jocapper@att.net

OB/GYN - Location - GWU Medical Faculty Associates (downtown): Dr. Nancy Gaba Joanne Capper
jocapper@att.net

OB/GYN - Location - Georgetown - 202-444-8531: 1. Dr Christine Colie (2 votes); 2. Dr. Breen Megan; 3. Dr. Bray Megan; 4. Dr. Dennis Amini Joanne Capper jocapper@att.net

ORTHO - The best orthopedic surgeon in the business for shoulder repair is Dr. Robert Nirschl (703 525-2200) whose office and clinic are adjacent to Arlington Hospital. He rehabbed me once after a rotator cuff injury, then 5 years later I tore the cuff completely so he had to perform major surgery. Thankfully, he used no pins or metallic supports, spending 3 hours laboriously sewing the torn strands back together with thread. To this day I have had no pain in that shoulder, which is fully functional again. His onsite clinic is very well staffed, and he accepts Blue Cross and GEHA, among other insurance coverage. Most importantly, Dr. Nirschl is quite conservative in advising the need for surgery. squasher@starpower.net October 2010

ORTHO - I love Vincent Desiderio, who is at the Foxhall building on New Mexico Ave, 686-1286. He is an orthopedist. On his list of P.Y. referrals is Tom Welsh, 301-654-7383, in the basement of Highland House in Chevy Chase. He is in the offices of Kibbe & Terle, but is not part of their practice as also is Dr. Desiderio not part of Dr. Rothschild's practice though' he shares office space. Tom Welsh has cured me of "frozen" shoulder, sciatica, and helped me recuperate from a "thrown-out" back, broken leg, and broken wrist. He is very knowledgeable and does not keep you coming back forever. Once you have shown some improvement and are doing his prescribed exercises properly, he says "goodbye".
Ann Ingram anningram@mac.com October 2010

ORTHO - I would like to second the recommendation of Dr. Desiderio (Foxhall Square, 2nd floor). I and other family members found him excellent for sprained ankles, frozen shoulders, and back trouble. He is very experienced and skilled and not overly aggressive. I can recommend physical therapist Lydia Ilieva, of Physiotherapy Associates, on the third floor of Foxhall Square, very highly. I have been going there, off and on, for various injuries, over about two years. Lydia is a very caring, capable, but no-nonsense therapist. Once one gets used to the "multiple patient"/open gym/multi-tasking format, everything works fine.
R Ponnampereuma roshini2@msn.com October 2010

ORTHO - Dr. Desiderio is indeed an exceptional doctor. He has treated me for a variety of sports-related injuries (back, shoulder, tennis elbow, hamstring, among others), always with skill, intelligence, and compassion. squasher@starpower.net October 2010

DONATE ITEMS –

Books for America, 1417 22nd St. NW, DC. 202-835-2665 or send an email to info@booksforamerica.org. This is an excellent local non-profit organization that collects books and distributes them to schools, hospitals, shelters, etc. They will pick up the books at your home. Janet Bachman jbachman47@gmail.com 2009

There is a wonderful organization called "A Wider Circle" that helps people either transitioning from homelessness or living in poverty to furnish their homes. They accept donations of furniture and household items, among other things (and will also do pick ups), so I imagine a vacuum would be welcome if you are still looking to give it away. Their number is 301-608-3504, and I believe they are located in Silver Spring. Their website is www.awidercircle.org . Marsha Goodman-Wood Goodman-wood@yahoo.com December 2010

From time to time I see usable clothes and household items placed in alleys for trash pickup. It's a real shame because someone could use these items and charities could benefit from them. Also, they just add to the landfill burden. When placed in the alley, they usually get rained on and ruined for anyone to ever use. The trash collectors are not allowed to take them for personal use. Here are two places that will come and pick up such items. You just need to call them and they'll give you a date when the items can be put out for their pick-up. You can ask for a receipt and deduct the value of these items from your taxes. They are very liberal about what they will take. Vietnam Veterans Association, 1-800-775-8387; and National Children's Center, 1-800-296-1122. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net February 2012

I agree with Kathy's point, and let me add another possibility: The Opportunity Shop of St. Alban's Church is run by volunteers, and all proceeds go to grants to city charities, mostly ones that deal with the hungry, homeless, children and the aged -- more than \$150,000 each year. If it is too much trouble to drop off gently used items, I will gladly pick them up from your home and take them myself. --Jo Turner
jombturner@gmail.com February 2012

AMVETS is another charity that will pick up and leave a receipt for tax use. Their number is 1-800-526-8387. Mary Abate mary.m.abate@usdoj.gov February 2012

DOORS –

We had a door custom made (because we didn't want to give up our moldings). We used Washington Home Improvement Inc., of Washington Energy Conservation Systems. Their phone number is 703-354-5700. Kelly Rubenstein rubacats@yahoo.com May 2004

To replace a storm door Wheaton Door worked for me. <http://www.wheatondoors.com/> Wheaton Door & Window. 11258 Georgia Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902; 301-949-8399 or 703-535-7940 Stephanie Faul steph@faul.com November 2006

DRIVING INSTRUCTORS –

Someone requested information on a driving instructor for their teenager. I highly recommend "Officer Wilson", a retired policeman who teaches teens to drive. (His son also teaches this.) He was incredibly good with our son. He even goes with his students when they take their test. Everyone at the test site knows him - and they also know that if he taught this kid, this kid knows how to drive! His # is 202-581-6256. His son's # is 202-438-9038 - Glenn Wilson. AndrewsSachs@aol.com

DRYCLEANERS –

I have used Drape Rite for many, many years. Their phone number is 301-322-2285; I am not sure where they are located. They will come to your house, remove your drapes, clean them, and return them and rehang them for you. If you have any small needed repairs, they will also take care of them for you. They have always done a super job for me and I highly recommend them. Ben Okner b.okner@pobox.com Jan. 2009

Polyclean on River Road will do bulk dry cleaning. Tory Ruttenberg vrutten@aol.com July 2012

Valley Cleaners, on River Road right next to Talberts Ice & Beverage (in the same building, actually) will dry clean in bulk (16 pound increments). You might need to dry clean two or three to get your money's worth. Fred Vinson fvinson@flash.net July 2012

ELDER & NURSING SERVICES –

You might look into ESM Cares <<http://www.esm.org/cares/>>. ESM stands for Episcopal Senior Ministries and I believe they operate Friendship Terrace as well. ESM Cares are geriatric care managers and are headquartered in the low-rise offices at 42nd, Brandywine and River Road. The director is Mary Ann Buckley at (202) 364-0020. One of their counselors, Helen Ramsey, worked with my mom for nearly 2 years until my mom's dementia necessitated a move to an assisted living facility. ESM Cares has lots of experience in this type of situation and Helen was terrific. Capital City Nurses <<http://www.capitalcitynurses.com/>> also has a program called 'Daughter Down the Street' which is more companion-care and less care management or nursing. We also used this program (at Helen's suggestion) in the latter stages of my mom's time in her home. Gave us another set of eyes on my very independent mom as she became less and less able to fend for herself.

They were founded by a local woman, Sue Rodgers, and are headquartered in Friendship Heights, on the Maryland side. I don't know Sue but do know her husband socially and her son, Brian, who also works in the business. Please feel free to use my name with either company, and I wish you the best of luck.
Jack Barse jblists@barse.org February 2009

Ms. Sandra Bautista is available to work as a home health aide for seniors with Medicaid. She can do laundry, make appointments, do housekeeping, do shopping (or take the senior shopping), pick up medicine, accompany to the doctor, and cook. She is available M-F 8:30-4:30 or 9-5. She does not have a car; she will arrive by metro or bus. If you are interested, please contact her directly at 202-713-4529. She is the parent of two of wonderful students at the school I work in. Thanks, Katharine Landfield klandfield@earthlink.net
January 2011

Individual or round the clock team of CNA certified healthcare helpers now available after helping my mother until her recent death and me, following shoulder replacement surgery. Expert in providing home health and basic nursing care and management, the absolute ultimate in kindness, dependability and honesty with decades of individual experience for in home care and/or companionship. Email me for references and/or further details or call Winifred Barribeau, the team leader directly at 202-726-7886. Sarah Horset shorsey@erols.com April 2012

ELECTRICIANS –

I would like to recommend Kevin Rozier for electrical work. He has done several jobs for me, including the installation of an attic fan. His work is excellent and his charges are very reasonable. He can be reached at 202-841-8021. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net July 2009

I highly recommend V&A Electric (301-440-3100). It is a family run business, very professional, with the best rates I found when doing my renovation last year. Peter bungalow2@mac.com March 2010

This past fall we changed, at last, the electrical system in our 1930 recommended by "Check list" and we decided on the least expensive one (a difference of almost a thousand dollars from the most expensive estimate). It turned out that we had superb professionals, punctual, neat, even innovative, honest, reliable and pleasant. We do not have enough superlatives to describe the "Tower-Davis Electric Company", 5265 Port Royal Road #100, SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA, 22151, tel. 703-591-8860, Mr. Brad Bounds. Aurelia Roman romana@georgetown.edu March 2010

I would like to second the endorsement of Tower-Davis electricians. We have used them for several years and been very happy with their work. Joanne Levine joannelevine@earthlink.net March 2010

We have had a very good experience with D&P Electrical Service. They are located in Kensington, MD. Phone number: (301) 933-4619. Last time they came, they concluded that we had a problem with our computer and not with the electrical system, and they didn't charge anything. Good luck! Laura Garcés Fischer laura.garces@verizon.net April 2010

Kevin Rozier is a delightful person. He does very good work that is fairly priced. 202 841 8021 Claudia Taubman cltaubman@earthlink.net April 2010

I'd like to thank everyone who replied to my request for a reliable electrician. I ended up using Kevin Rozier and he did a great job. I also want to let everyone know that I left two messages with Crescent Electric and they never returned my phone calls. Barbara Chowney chowney@sprynet.com May 2010

Sorry to hear about Barbara Chowney's bad experience (non-returned voicemails) with Crescent Electric. For what it's worth, we've had excellent service from them for many years. --Tom Bethell tombethell@gmail.com
May 2010

I, too, have always had great experiences with Crescent Electric. Linda Hughes lindahughes3@verizon.net May 2010

The latest issue of Washington Consumers Checkbook gives its highest rating of electricians to Patriot Electric for both quality and price. So I tried it last week and found the service to be excellent. The phone number is 410-360-0058. Just thought you'd like to know. Aaron Epstein aajacks@starpower.net October 2010

Electrician: Hubert Reid, 240 601 6945. Also a listserv find. An old school gentleman, quite competent and kind, as well as well priced. Lynne Henson lhenson@aol.com May 2011

ELECTRONICS' RECYCLING –

Old Cell Phones - The police accept them for use in preventing domestic violence. You can take them to the 2D station on Idaho Avenue. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net August 2007

I found the web site for the Electronic Industries Alliance Consumer Education Initiative (www.eiae.org). The site lists organizations, by state, that accept used computers or their components. I have never used this myself but it's worth looking at. Pat Mullan Mullandoty@aol.com

Tenleytown Ace Hardware will recycle light bulbs and cell phone batteries for you. Stop by the store and talk to Jeremy or one of the other folks and they'll tell you about the new recycling program. Gina Schaefer gina@loganhardware.com August 2007

If you're talking about PC Computers see #1 below otherwise see #2. #1.) Did you get a new PC, Monitor or other PC hardware this Holiday Season and don't know what to do with the old stuff? Why not donate it to Project Reboot? Reboot refurbishes PCs and distributes them to needy families. Reboot is located at 4 Choke Cherry Road, Rockville, MD. You can drop off machines, monitors, keyboards, mice, speakers, etc. on Mondays and Tuesdays from 1PM to 4PM, and Wednesday from 10AM to 4 PM. We are in desperate need of working monitors - CRT or LCD it doesn't matter. For more information go to www.cpcug.org/reboot. #2.) Household Hazardous/Electronic Waste & Shredding at Ft. Totten Trash Transfer Station 4900 John McCormack Drive, NE. Randy Hill cicada17@starpower.net January 2009

ELECTRONICS' SERVICES –

VHS TAPES TRANSFERRED TO DVD - I recommend David at Transvideo: 919 North Kenmore Street, Arlington 22201. 703-525-0297 david@transvideo.net. Highly recommended. Works out of his house. Bill Harwood wharw32487@aol.com September 2006

I use a company called cdBBQ, www.cdbbq.com, to convert my LPs and audio cassettes to CDs. They do a great job. Bill Adler billonline@adlerbooks.com October 2006

FENCES –

We recently used Calco Fence to replace our falling-down fence. We are very pleased. Jane Khoury khouryjane@yahoo.com October 2011

I know a fellow that does great fences and trellises. He does conventional ones and also does near furniture grade work for outdoors. Think "Japanese" quality. His name is Jim Evans and he is at [301-972-8439](tel:301-972-8439) and [301-525-4834](tel:301-525-4834). I think he has some fencing up in AU Park too. Rick Holl rickholl@ymail.com October 2012

I had a very good experience with Accokeek Fence, which I found on this list serve. here's the link: www.accokeekfence.com. Lois Schiffer Loisschiffer@msn.com October 2012

FINANCIAL ADVISORS -

You and your husband should definitely talk to Will Bruno who is a financial consultant (and JD) with AXA Advisors located in Falls Church. Will is a neighbor on 46th Street with his wife, Catherine, and son. He's knowledgeable and, most importantly, trustworthy. A truly solid guy. Will Bruno's contact information: william.bruno@axa-advisors.com or Cell: 202 669-0280. I have two office numbers and am not sure which, or if both, is correct: 703 207-0900 and 703 205-0391. Linda Hughes lindahughes3@verizon.net July 2009

I recommend Mary Ginn, CFP, EA at MCG Financial Planning, 4630 Montgomery Avenue, Bethesda. (301) 951-9160. E-mail: MCGFin@verizon.net She also has an office in Oakton VA. Marion Connell mfconnell@msn.com
December 2009

I highly recommend our financial planner, Rob Silva, who is with Smith Barney. Not only does he do all of our planning but he also works with my mom in Florida who was quite content with her ex planner but switched when she heard how delighted we were with Rob. We have been very pleased with his work and the care that he brings to our accounts. He's also very experienced working with federal employees especially since he lives in the AU neighborhood. Rob Silva, 703-556-8122, work fax 703-356-6492, work robert.silva@smithbarney.com. Good luck, Denise Parietti denise@icon-com.com January 2009

I highly recommend Robert Reichelt. He did an excellent job of assisting me in my retirement planning when I left the Federal Government. He is an independent advisor and an expert on IRA rollovers.[Barbara Reed] He is [Barbara Reed] not selling any product. [Barbara Reed] He gives excellent advice on all family financial matters. I have worked with him for over 10 years and have been very satisfied. I find him very honest and trustworthy. He formerly worked at my Agency and is very familiar with Federal Government retiree matters. His office is located in Alexandria, but he is also available to come to your home. Robert can be reached at (703) 200-8830 or (703) 765-5339. Barbara Reed barbarareed6@yahoo.com January 2009

My recommendation for financial advisor is Russell Wild. He has handled my portfolio for ten years or so and has done very well. His web page is: www.Globalportfolios.net and email: www.russellwild.com. susanwashdc@comcast.net June 2012

If anyone is in need of a financial advisor, I would like to suggest contacting Will Bruno, a fellow Tenleytown resident who has been helping me and my family get our financial house in order. He is professional, well informed, friendly, and generous with his time. In my particular case, I wasn't looking to hand over my portfolio to someone to invest or manage. I handle our investments myself but was in need of some big picture advice on improving our cash flow, implementing a tax-efficient college saving plan, and putting my family on a budget. Will has provided solid advice, done some financial modeling for us, and recommended concrete actions that are going to immediately save us hundreds of dollars a month while increasing our overall financial security. My family's finances were relatively solid to begin with, and our needs are relatively straightforward. I get the impression Will is capable of dealing with much more complicated and involved situations. He helps people with large asset bases to develop and implement comprehensive financial strategies. He also specializes in retirement planning. Will's email is William.Bruno@axa-advisors.com and his number is 202-669-0280. I believe he will give you an initial consultation for free. Please feel free to contact me for additional reference info. Jason Y. Kim jasonykim@verizon.net July 2012

FIREWOOD –

Try Randy @ Star Hollow Farm; he has been delivering farm produce weekly to the neighborhood since March & is a nice, straight-up guy: Randy & Chris Treichler, Star Hollow Farm, Three Springs, PA 17264, (814) 448-

3223, randy@starhollowfarm.com. Also, we have bought firewood from Jim Crawford @ New Morning Farm, members in the same cooperative as Star Hollow Farm, in previous years. We ordered it and he let us know when they could deliver it. Worked great! New Morning Farm, HC 71, Box 168-B, Hustontown, PA, 17229, (814) 448-3904, Jim@newmorningfarm.net Both are local farmers invested in the community so you are sure of an honest load. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net October 2007

New Morning Farm, (814) 448-3904, Jim@newmorningfarm.net, is a great source for an honest load of firewood. They are regulars in the community and have had a farm stand at Lafayette School for many years. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net February 2008

Try Five Star Firewood (www.fivestarfirwood.com). They supply kiln-dried wood to many restaurants in Fairfax/NOVA. I just took delivery of a half-cord myself a couple weeks ago. Best wood I've ever had the pleasure of setting alight. Eric Kohls sapru-kohls@rcn.com October 2012

FLOOR INSTALLERS & REFINISHERS –

As the "Tradesmen Recommendations" file attests, we have highly recommended Elmer Herrera for painting and plasterwork. We'd like to up-date his entry. Elmer has also been doing installation, repair, and refinishing of hardwood flooring. While this is not something we have had Elmer do for us, those looking for these services might want to consider Elmer. We have now used Elmer on multiple occasions (for both interior and exterior painting, but also for a variety of other things, including some involving wood, for instance the repair of our porch steps), and he is the most meticulous and skilled service provider we have had. I believe he also does tile work. His phone number is 240-508-2873. Steven Gross and Micki Chen gross.steven@gmail.com June 2009

I can highly recommend Residential Floors. They have repaired and refinished our hardwood floors, and will be installing bamboo floors in our master bedroom. The owner, Sam Mardini, is very honest and knowledgeable. He is the rare breed of contractor who not only understands but even supported and advised us in our efforts to save money by doing parts of our floor-work ourselves (we decided to level the subfloor before putting in the bamboo). Sam and his crew did a superb job repairing and refinishing our original oak floors. The price was competitive (we had gotten several estimates). They used high-quality finishing products, were courteous, reliable, and left the place clean. I have no doubts the bamboo installation job will be great, too. Sam was also very supportive in helping us pick out high-quality FSC-certified bamboo, and get a great price on it. As far as I know, they do tile floors and backsplashes as well. Their office number is 301-990-7775. The website is www.residentialfloors.com. Best, Katharina no_reply@yahoo.com November 2010

Recently we had Friends & Family Flooring sell us and install some carpeting (a complicated stairway job) and vinyl flooring (2 rooms and a hallway). I have been meaning to share my experiences. First, Steve, who runs the company came to our house with samples, and we chose what we wanted. That was easy, and actually fun. He's a great guy, and really easy to work with. Then, on two different days, installers came (first the vinyl, then the carpeting). It was different guys, each an expert in the specific material. They were terrific, did a precise and tidy job, and were thoughtful and courteous, quiet and helpful. All and all, highly recommended! Friends and Family Flooring, www.friendsandfamilyflooring.com 866-752-9826, ask for Steve Rados jbmahaffie@starpower.net December 2010

We had laminate floors installed in our basement by Friends and Family flooring and were really happy: www.friendsandfamilyflooring.com Ross Filice rwfilice@gmail.com January 2012

My kitchen floor, which is vinyl with foam underneath, was installed by Classic Floors about 2 years ago. They did a fine job and I love the floor. The material happened to be very inexpensive yet it makes a terrific floor. Such easy maintenance too! Classic Floors is located on L Street near 22nd. Gloria Buckberg albuckberg@aol.com February 2012

I have also used "Family Floor and Covering". Steve Rados was great in renovating our damaged wooden floor. He was detailed, quick and reasonable priced. I am very happy with the look of my floors, and I would definitely use Steve in the future! zlatanajd@gmail.com February 2012

In January 2012 I had some of the floors on my first floor refinished and others replaced. The company used, Atlas Floors, removed the existing oak from my (side) hall, as well as the layers of vinyl and pine in the kitchen. They also patched two large dark spots in the middle of the living room and the dining room. I obtained three estimates. Atlas was the lowest priced but more importantly, they coordinated all of the work unlike the other two companies who told me I had to get a plumber to remove the dishwasher and stove. I rented a Pod, they moved my furniture into it. The four experts used came like clockwork. The first day the old floors were removed. The plumber was there to disconnect stove and dishwasher so that new flooring could be installed beneath them. The next day the sanders were there. By the end of the day the plumber was there to reinstall. Since the dark spots didn't come up, the third morning a man came who was incredibly skilled at removing the stained boards and installing new ones. He was a genius. The sanding and refinishing crew continued until the job was finished. They hauled my furniture back into place and put little pads under all the feet. The stairs to the second floor were done at the same time. None of the competing bids offered this complete service and Atlas acted as though this was how anyone would do the job. I highly recommend them. They do sub-contract to the best people for the job. Danny & Sons were used for the sanding and refinishing. I paid the plumber directly but he was very reasonable. There are two Atlas Floors. Call 301 948-9144 and ask for Mike. His cellular is 301 370-4480. The service and quality of their work is exactly what a person who is living in their house needs. Please feel free to tell them I recommended them. I'd like them to know how appreciative I am for their work. I made the arrangements for the Pod, which sat in the street in front of my house. If you need some guidance for the company, the permit, and the visit to the police station to obtain the permit, give me a call. Linda Hughes lindahughes3@verizon.net June 2012

I thought you'd like to know that I used and am very pleased with Rawlings Floor Covering in Alexandria. Phone 703-548-2218. They did a great job and were very nice to deal with. David, their salesman and chief of installation, had some very creative ideas that I appreciated. They did all the work themselves, including moving appliances. Although we did not use Georgetown Floorcoverings (they did not bid on the job -- maybe it was too small for them) they were very nice about allowing me to take samples home and keep them as long as I needed to. We replaced the existing vinyl flooring with new vinyl in the kitchen and two bathrooms. If anyone is thinking about doing this I'd be happy to talk to you about what I learned about vinyl and linoleum. Kathy Smith kathysindc@gmail.com July 2012

FURNITURE RPAIR/REFINISHERS –

I've been very pleased with the work done by Raymond Burkett, an ex-Smithsonian furniture conservator now an independent craftsman. He's done several projects for me, including re-caning an East Lake armchair and repairing a seriously broken bracket on one of the side chairs of the same set. In addition to doing the specific tasks, in both cases and at his own initiative (and without extra cost) he did additional maintenance on both chairs, re-gluing the odd joint, repairing a scratch, etc. He's now my "go-to guy" for all furniture-related work. I don't have an email for him, but he's in Takoma Park, 301.589.2658. Chip Levy troinc@aol.com January 2009

A couple of years ago, we requested the same information and were referred to Steve Young who does caning and also furniture restoration. Presumably he is still in the business. His telephone number is 202-966-8810. He did an excellent job on two chairs for us. Kay Springwater rspringwater@starpower.net August 2010

Artisan Lamp on Conn. Ave (across from Uptown) has repaired lamps for us. Although their huge selection of fancy lighting might make them look too upscale for ordinary repairs; they do repairs & also carry spare parts, shades, etc. Best, Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net November 2009

I would try Artisan Lamp at 3331 Connecticut Avenue - they can do almost anything and have always been very speedy with any jobs. Very pleasant guys also. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com November 2010

Over the years I have worked with wonderful repair people. I figure I just must be lucky considering the numerous complaints I see about some repairmen on this list serve. Steve Young does more than repairs seats and chairs. He is an artisan who is not only knows caning but can do complicated work on chairs. He repaired

an old beautiful wing back chair and table and made them like new. He is a rare artist and extremely reasonable. He may be reached at by email at chairsandseats@aol.com or at @202-966-8810. What a treat!
Diana Winthrop dianawinthrop@gmail.com August 2010

I recommend Schoenbauer. They did a very nice job restoring two vintage bureaus I inherited from my grandfather. A. David Adesnik adesnik@gmail.com December 2011

GARAGE DOOR REPAIR –

I recommend Clozermatic at (301) 942-0096. Megan Wallace meganwallacelaw@gmail.com August 2008

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS –

If anyone needs a graphic designer for web designs, logos, business "stuff" or even personal designs, contact John Alspaugh email: johnshel@starpower.net or phone him at 240 432 9939. He is a delightful young man, with lots of great ideas, not at all pushy. He has done a lot of creative work for me, for my son's business and for Cure Autism Now. December 2005

Someone asked a short time ago about a designer for a business logo. You might try local designers from Design 35 a dynamic duo of two women who have been in business for a while doing that sort of thing - including a fair bit of work for the American Association of Museums. Try Christiane Riederer van Paar at d35@design35.net or 301-320-0882. She's a lovely person and she used to live in the 'hood too! Lotte Lent lottelent@starpower.net
March 2007

GUTTER CLEANING & REPAIR –

We needed to repair or replace several gutters after the 2010 winter storms. Based on the Communit-E tradesman recommendations, we tried Winston -- we found them uncommunicative, even rude, and impossible to schedule or talk to. They promised to come on two different occasions to look at the gutters and leave an estimate, but never showed. They were not available to discuss options (larger gutters, leaf shields, etc.). We turned to D & M roofing, which had earlier replaced individual slates, and they were prompt and professional. I'm not sure how old the positive recommendations for Winston's are that are on this listserv, but they certainly are not current, in our experience. Rick dulaner1@westat.com September 2010

We recently used Winston's and everything went very smoothly. I cannot explain the difference in our experiences. Cynthia Grant grantc@gao.gov September 2010

We've had good success with I and J Services for gutter cleaning, 301 933-2598. They may also do repairs. squasher@starpower.net September 2010

We've always had good results with Gwynn Brothers Roofing. (202) 362-2993, (301) 770-3120, or (301) 896-0028. Mention the work Dave has done on Warren St. in the District. D.Winn hdcwinn@verizon.net November 2010

Mike Brown is wonderful..... he has repaired my slate roof and does my gutters. He was recommended to me by a very picky real estate agent, who passed his name on to her clients. She no longer lives here. His number is: 240-372-9574. Ann Hanes salem12704@starpower.net October 2011

Most people I've heard from in the area seem to be happy with Winston's. We have used them once and thought they did a good job. Ross Filice rwfilice@gmail.com April 2012

We use Winston's & recommend. Ellen Swann ellen.swann@yahoo.com April 2012

I've used Winston's for years and feel they do a good job, making sure water flows freely through your gutters and drain pipes. Harriet hdwinell@aol.com April 2012

HANDYMEN –

I highly recommend Mike Hotka. He lives in our neighborhood and can do darn near anything that needs to be done. He's completely trustworthy and reliable, and his rates are very reasonable. His phone number is 202-364-8577, email mikehotka@gmail.com. Janet Bachman jbachman47@gmail.com 2010

I can highly recommend a man named Jose (phone: 301-821-5274). He has done quite a lot of work at my house, including painting and putting in a fence in my backyard. His prices are very reasonable and he will be there when he says. Just let him know that I recommended him and he will be right there to give you an estimate. Phyllis Young pyoung@mckennalong.com February 2009

Jim Bonham has many years of experience in home repairs and painting work. He has performed maintenance work and painted for me, as well as my neighbors,. Jim is a meticulous painter, trustworthy and will leave your home as clean as he found it. He also personally renovated his own 50-year house. In addition to his skill, what I especially like about Jim is his honesty and fairness. He knows what he can do and will give you the benefit of his wisdom and experience. I recently recommended Jim to an elderly widowed neighbor who needed a handyman to repair a variety of things. After interviewing three persons, she chose Jim and is most pleased with the results! Please give Jim a call at (301) 325-9309 for a no-obligation consultation. If you have any questions, or would like to see the quality of his work, I would love to show you my home. You can reach me at (202) 256-5217. Mary Lindquist marylenore@comcast.net February 2009

I have a great handyman. Doug Riedel at 202 413 6854 or DARIEDEL2@hotmail.com. He has done a lot of work for me and others, affordable, knowledgeable and fairly priced! Deena Kotlewski dekot70@aol.com February 2009

Try calling "Creighton's". He is licensed in DC and does many different tasks all at very reasonable rates. His phone number is: 202-363-0502. Chris marcm2006@peoplepc.com March 2009

Another positive vote for Jimmy Riera (J&S Renovations, 240-353-0980). He is competent, personable, reasonably priced, and showed up 5 minutes early for our appointment. Definitely "a keeper." Please use my name. Day Walters daywaltersphoto@yahoo.com September 2009

I highly recommend J. David Ochoa as a very skilled and reliable handyman. He came to our home and we went over my list of chores. He's thorough and meticulous. He checked some dead electrical outlets and replaced an outside outlet; installed a doorbell; replaced hinges on wood cabinet doors; installed a shower door and caulked the sink and shower; reglued loose wallpaper; replaced an interior closet pull-chain light fixture; dismantled and moved a bed to the basement; put together a dresser w/mirror, my list goes on and on. He arrives on time and cleans up any mess created by his work. David is reachable at 703-451-1557 (office) or his cell 202-409-6921. Susanne Koffsky paulandsusanne@starpower.net April 2010

I recommend Pat Turvey (703-241-1061). I got his name off the Communit-e tradesmen list and he did a lot of odd jobs for me last summer including weather-proofing, assembling furniture, building a shelf for my dehumidifier to drain into my laundry tubs, installing a window lock, installing lattice work under my porch, hanging storm windows (the old-fashioned kind), and various other odd jobs. I was very pleased with his work. He charges \$55 an hour -- which may be expensive for a handyman (can anyone tell me how that rate compares with others?) -- but he is very fast, efficient, resourceful, prompt, honest, reliable, and likable, so he is worth it to me. -- Elinor Tucker elinor_tucker@yahoo.com May 2010

I've been very pleased with Todd Drawbaugh at Spring Valley Craftsmen. His number is 202-270-2077. Beth Johnson p-johnson@starpower.net May 2010

We were very happy with David Ochoa's handyman work. He also renovates basements. He can be reached at 202-409-6921 (cell). Susanne Koffsky paulandsusanne@starpower.net May 2010

Jonah Hamilton is an excellent handyman and he lives just down the street from Tenleytown. He has done many jobs for my company in the past and he always gets the best reviews. His rate is market competitive and he does excellent work. He graduated from VT with an engineering degree and he is a pleasure to have work for you. Please feel free to contact him, I have copied him on this email. Otherwise he will probably just reach out to you when he has a free moment. Jacob Suter suter.jacob29@yahoo.com September 2010

Call Tom Derr--301 754 1602. Good handyman and excellent painter. Lynne Henson lhenson@aol.com September 2010

I would like to put in a "plug" for our wonderful handyman, Mike Hotka. He does beautiful work (he patched our ceiling after an ugly leak and now nobody can even tell where he did it!). Even more importantly, he is friendly, honest, reliable and reasonable. We've enjoyed his services for many years for a wide variety of tasks, from plumbing to electrical to carpentry. He lives right in the neighborhood and can be reached at mikehotka@msn.com or at 202-364-8577. Jane Stewart janebstew@comcast.net February 2011

Jonah Hamilton is a great local handyman and you can reach him at 202 280 8303 or jonahbhamilton@yahoo.com. He grew up here in the area, he graduated with an engineering degree and he is 6'6"- so he's fully capable to help out. Jacob Suter suter.jacob29@yahoo.com February 2011

David Ochoa -202-409-6921 -- he is on the recommended list and I have used him (based upon those recommendations) and I would recommend him as well! Beth Kravetz bk@bethlaw.com April 2011

Great Handyman Skip Holmes is a Veazey Street neighbor and a superb handyman. We have known him for about 15 years; he is a bright, energetic, cheerful genius. He has done a fabulous job bringing his 1930's house into the 21st century for his family. For us, he recently bought a solid wood door, sized it for an odd shaped opening and hung it, completed plumbing and electrical jobs, and is soon to install a custom sized storm door and built in closets. We can't say enough good things about him - he is always our 'go to guy'. Email or call me (244-6214) if you want more details or references. You can reach Skip at 202-302-0252 or skip_field@yahoo.com Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com September 2011

I have used a wonderful guy, who happens to be a neighbor - Skip Holmes. He can be reached at [202-302-0252](tel:202-302-0252) or skipholmes@gmail.com. Some of the many projects he has done for us over the past year include: installing 2 garbage disposals, installing new door to garage and special order storm door, boxing in some new A/C vents, creating closet, plant/TV shelf and cabinets underneath, rehabbing bathroom skylight, moving and created new wall outlets, not to mention installing a totally new kitchen! Call me if you want more details [202-244-6214](tel:202-244-6214). Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com July 2012

I would just like to, once again, say how pleased I was with the work of Pat Turvey 703-241-1061. He's done 3 or 4 jobs for me over the past few years. No job is too small and he's good at whatever he does. He is reasonable and scrupulously honest. I got his name, originally, from the COMMUNIT-E community recommendations last. My thanks to whoever put it there first. Kathy Smith kathysindc@gmail.com October 2012

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING –

I used M.P Energy Services (headed by Marlon Pujol) who installed two separate systems in my house. Excellent work and if anything goes wrong, even in heat of summer, Marlon takes care of it. He also installed the systems in Matisse restaurant on Wisconsin Ave near Fessenden. Nancy LeRoy nancyrleroy@mac.com June 2009

We used Climate. They were terrific. Climate Heating & Cooling - www.climateinc.com - (202) 857-0212. Bari Sedar biernmail@aol.com August 2009

We had Polar Bear Air install new A/C in our former home on Capitol Hill a few years ago. We were very happy with the quality of the work and the prices. Polar Bear Air Conditioning, (202) 333-1310, 1045 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20007. Mheller2000@hotmail.com April 2009

Call Eric Ettare (571.331.7641) at Cropp Metcalf, in the past year, I had him do the furnace and A/C at my mom's house in Bethesda. David Griff bgsbny@boo.net December 2009

HD Johnson, located in the District, did well by us. Marlon Perez is service manager and is very good. David Adamson adamsondm@juno.com December 2009

Robert Clubb and Associates-301-428-9634. He's great and runs a family owned business. I have used him for 22yrs. He isn't a salesman type and isn't going to sell you a system you don't need. He is an excellent engineer as well. Mention my name. Stay warm, Linda Miller catmaniac10@aol.com December 2009

I just got a fantastic deal from the people who replaced my mother in laws furnace in VA after getting about a dozen quotes. Their name is Aegis and the owner's phone number is 703-385-3599. His name is Cyrus. They were able to come out for a quote and install it in about a week's time and during this cold weather I really appreciate the quick turnaround. They were very professional, very quick and took all of the old equipment away for her home. I highly recommend these guys not only on their quality work but for the best deal in town. Laura Phelps geekxpert@gmail.com December 2009

I second Rod Miller! We have used them several times. They do great work and are pleasant to deal with. Marjorie Dick Stuart December 2009

Many AU Park neighbors (including me) use Rod Miller; they do a good job, are reliable and reasonably priced. www.rodmillervac.com Beth Kravatz bk@bethlaw.com December 2009

I recommend John Garrett. He just fixed my furnace and installed central air in my mother's home. Super nice guy and very competent. Garrett Inc., 13921 Hallowell Court, Highland, MD, (301) 854-2790. Sarah Morse morsekathan@gmail.com December 2009

We add another vote for Rod Miller. They worked with us to get a refund on a malfunctioning boiler that was improperly installed even though it was not purchased from them or installed by them. We have them service ours annually and find them professional and helpful. Good luck. Patti Macie pmacie45@yahoo.com December 2009

Basement Heating - I'd suggest a quote from Home Air Services Inc of Rockville 301-585-8100. In '07 they installed a basement a/c unit combo heat pump that is a wall-mount 'picture-frame' design by LG. Looks good and doesn't make much noise. Also lowers the humidity in room. I have been overly pleased with it and with the installation and company. cost me approx \$3700 - high - but I would do it again. Dreaf8@yahoo.com October 2010

B and B is excellent. I have a yearly contract with them. I'm very satisfied with their service. Amy Schaffer amyeschaffer@yahoo.com January 2011

Bethesda Refrigeration is excellent! 301.654.3224. Richard Joyce arjay@his.com January 2011

Try Steve Galpern, Progressive HVAC, 301-470-0108. he's excellent, does heating/AC, electrical and plumbing work. He's been taking care of these things for us for almost 20 years. Les Wexler rufushound@gmail.com October 2011

Our old 1959 boiler died, and we used Howard Heating (301) 277-3818 to replace it. We found them about a year ago through their high ratings in Washington Checkbook, and we signed up with them for annual AC-heat maintenance. They've provided excellent service and have been just super to deal with. Replacing the boiler was a big job: they were very careful and professional, and thoroughly nice. At no added cost, they also did

some extra work on the pipes that connect to our water heater, because they didn't like how they had been done. Definitely recommended. Steven Gross gross.steven@gmail.com January 2012

I'll echo the praise for Howard Heating. A friend recommended them after we had a spat with our previous heating and air conditioning contractor. Mr. Howard was on time, courteous, quick, friendly, and reasonably priced. Dealing with him, and with the phone receptionist, was a pleasure. Boris Weintraub bweintra2000@yahoo.com January 2012

I have had excellent experience with installation of my air conditioning system and superb, clean, quickly/appropriately responsive service on both my air conditioning and heating systems for years from the Howard Heating and Cooling Company, which is, listed top for quality in Checkbook. They are fine, trustworthy, professional. Phone number is: (301) 277-3818. Feel free to use my name. Elaine Greenstone ehgreenstone@aol.com January 2012

We recently had work done on our HVAC systems to correct grossly improper work done by JV Construction. To correct their work, we used Tucker's Air Conditioning and Heating. Dan Boyd and his crew from Tucker's did a great job at a reasonable cost compared to other estimates we had. Dan explained all of the problems and helped us come up with the most economical solution. I highly recommend them. Here is the contact information for Tucker's: 301-670-0034, www.TuckersAC.com. Laura St. Martin watsaint@gmail.com February 2012

We just got estimates from four different companies for a partial A/C system replacement, and ultimately worked with Rod Miller. My husband is an engineer and understands the technical aspects pretty well (and does his own research), and Don from Rod Miller was the only one who really gave us an honest assessment of what needed to be done and knew what he was talking about. They did the job quickly and very well. The price was competitive with the others. We highly recommend them. Katharina billandkatharina@gmail.com September 2012

For AC- we use Howard Heating & Cooling- a smaller company-- phone 301-277-3818. They were the only company of 3 or 4 we contacted that could figure out & repair a problem we had a few yrs ago. Courtney Leatherman c_leatherman@ix.netcom.com October 2012

For A/C, call Ed Penfield at Airways Unlimited (301-589-6401). They are incredibly responsive, reasonably priced, and completely trustworthy. We have used Ed and his team for both emergencies and routine maintenance and I can't say enough good about them. Ed is the kind of guy who'll give you his personal cell phone to call after hours and will come to your house at any hour if needed, but won't gouge you for doing so. Five star service. kipgregory@gmail.com October 2012

I second the suggestion of Ed Pennington, owner of Airways, Unlimited. Linda Hughes hugs4linda@gmail.com October 2012

We think your best bet is M.P. Energy Services, Inc. in Silver Spring. They replaced our central heating/AC system a year ago and we're very pleased with both the price and quality of the work of M.P. (Marlon Pujol) The phone number is 301-774-2299. Aaron & Jackie Epstein aajacks@starpower.net October 2012

HOME INSPECTORS –

Alan Beal of Mid-Atlantic Inspections is terrific. His number is 202-607-4153. The website is www.midatlanticinspections.com. kjstanley@aol.com November 2007

I second the recommendation of Alan Beal. We had him do a pre-offer inspection on our house (built in the 1880s) last spring. He is very thorough and knowledgeable. My real estate agent says he has killed a few deals for him because he is so good. He will point things out to you at the time of the inspection and then send you a written report by email. Norma Scogin n_scogin@hotmail.com November 2007

HOUSEKEEPERS/CLEANERS – (from 2011 - 2012)

Veronica is wonderful: responsible, honest, caring, thorough, etc. She has integrity, and is punctual, friendly, gentle & will be happy to do any "extras" when they are needed. She has been with me for 3 years & has lost some clients due to moves & divorces, etc. Veronica Gaona, her phone number is: 703- 627-0752, her email is: vgaona1@msn.com. And you can email me with any questions. She speaks & understands English beautifully - she has been in the states for many years. Ann Hanes salem27104@rcn.com January 2011

We recommend Dolly Sanjines, mobile: 703-408-0507. She cleans our house and does our laundry Wednesdays, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, and is looking for more work. She's the daughter of Nelly Sanjines who worked for us for 20+ years before retiring last year. Dolly is reliable, efficient and punctual and we highly recommend her. Please contact us for more info. Benjamin B. Lacy & Debra G. Lacy blacy@lacyltd.com January 2011

My housekeeper of several years, Rosa Castillo, has some time available for a new client. She speaks fluent English and does a beautiful and careful job of cleaning my home. You may call her on 240-671-2028. Dreaf8@yahoo.com February 2011

I, too, can vouch for Rosa Castillo. She has been my housekeeper for several years also and does a beautiful job. Her phone number is at it is shown on the message from dreaf8. Kay Springwater rkspringwater@starpower.net February 2011

We second, without qualification, the recommendation of Ana Abrega, who has cleaned and polished our home for years. Aaron and Jackie Epstein ajacks@starpower.net August 2011

I highly recommend Esperanza for house cleaning. She has been cleaning my house on a regular basis for the past 5 years. She is dependable, trustworthy, and does an excellent job. You can reach her directly at: 301-213-0588. She speaks English and Spanish. Sunny333666@yahoo.com September 2011

My wonderful housekeeper Saida DiBari has some availability. She is skilled, conscientious, dependable, and a lovely person. Contact me for a recommendation or call her directly at 240-515-1021. Jan Cook jlc470@gmail.com September 2011

Hi, if anyone is in need of cleaning services every other week, my cleaning lady is looking for additional work on Mondays and Tuesdays. I can highly recommend her. She is very thorough, reliable and cheerful! Her name is Ligia Galvao and you can reach her on 301 910 7181 or ligiagalvao@hotmail.com. lisalindy@yahoo.com September 2011

I have had good experiences with Maid To Clean in Bethesda. 301-656-7171. Marjorie Dick Stuart mdickstuart@hagner.com January 2012

Very recently I was in someone's home when her cleaning crew was there. I was most impressed at their care and professionalism. Also the director of this company was there with the two ladies, and he gave a very favorable impression. Easy to talk to, caring, energetic, responsible, professional. I can't recommend him and his crew highly enough. Please try calling him. He responds to e-mail very quickly too. JOE BOVO, "HOME CLEAN HOME"; Tel.: 301-598-4788; e-mail: hchinc@live.com; Please tell him that Karen highly recommended him to you! Karen Handford sterling229@comcast.net January 2012

My wonderful cleaning lady is available for cleaning every other Friday. She is extremely thorough, reliable and generally just a lovely person who I am happy to have in my home. I cannot recommend her more highly. You can reach Ligia Galvao on ligiagalvao@hotmail.com and 301-910-7181. Lisa lisalindy@gmail.com February 2012

I want to recommend the ladies that clean our house to the readers of the Communit-E newsletter. Veronica Gaona and Carmen have been cleaning at our house for about a year and we are so impressed

every time that they leave! I asked Veronica if she had any openings for a friend of mine, and she said that in fact she has three openings. If you would like to have a very professional housecleaning, please call her. Veronica's number is 703-627-0752. John Natali john.natali@verizon.net April 2012

My superb housekeeper, Saida, has Thursdays and every other Wednesday available for new clients. She is conscientious, dependable, and a very hard worker. Contact her at 240-515-1021. Contact me for an enthusiastic reference. Jlc470@gmail.com April 2012

INSULATION CONTRACTORS –

If any of you are considering adding insulation to your houses to mitigate the harsh winter we'll probably still get, I would recommend Dan Roberson, owner of Quality Insulation, in Silver Spring. Phone: 301-257-4116. Dan came in last week to increase my attic insulation to R49, the DOE recommended level for this area. Dan and his crew arrived on time, spread tarps over all the floors and furniture that might be affected, and did a very thorough job. He told me what was good about what I already had and also what was not, and how he was going to improve it. In addition, in looking at my basement he showed me several points where I was getting air infiltration and at no extra charge, he sealed those points for me. He is a gentleman who personally checked all the work areas before leaving--actually bending over and picking up stray bits of insulation that his crew had missed. I'm happy to recommend him, and note that here is a man who proves that "customer service" is not an oxymoron. Ben Okner b.okner@pobox.com January 2009

For those seeking to reduce their energy bills and want additional insulation in their homes, I'd like to recommend Dan Roberson of Quality Insulation, LLC. Dan was highly recommended on the Cleveland Park listserv. He came to my house this past Saturday to look at the job, recommend what should be done and propose a price. He reorganized his schedule to come to my house this morning (two days later) at 7 am to do the work. He and his crew of two additional workers worked efficiently and finished the job at about 9:45 am. While his crew was working, Dan did several things around the house to better seal it from the elements. He did not charge anything additional for this service. He was very personable and professional. I highly recommend him. His telephone number is 301-257-4116 and his email is drober8192@verizon.net. David P. Frankel slovakdc@starpower.net February 2009

I'd recommend Colin of Cleveland Park Remodeling - this company does excellent work, and is good at discussing your needs and figuring out the best solution at a price you are ok with. That's been my experience. Colin Delzell, 202-321-0045, colin@clevelandparkremodelin.com Kopal Barnouin-Jha kopalb@gmail.com February 2009

I want to recommend Dan Roberson for any insulation work (someone else gave his name on this posting). He carefully re-hung falling insulation in my attic, after convincing me I did not need to remove and replace it for thousands of dollars as suggested by another company. At the same time he wrapped some chronically freezing pipes in my neighbor's basement and would hardly allow her to pay him. He did a great job, was courteous and honest and willing to do jobs of any size. Dan Roberson Quality Insulation, 301-257-4116. Allison Hampton barnes.hampton@erols.com February 2009

For home insulation installation, I recommend Dan Roberson, owner of Quality Insulation, in Silver Spring (he serves the DC area too). Dan's phone# 301-257-4116. He and his crew did an excellent job of installing new insulation in my home in Dec. 2009. In addition, he plugged some heat leaks in the basement using foam and applied new insulation to our radiator pipes. He had the lowest price of any contractor I called. His customer service was phenomenal. Dan was able to schedule an estimate and the actual work within a week of when I contacted him. I now have an attic with R49 rating insulation that looks nice too- like freshly fallen snow. I am sure the minimal costs I paid for the insulation will be earned back in energy savings within 2 years. Sincerely, Scot sbholiday4@yahoo.com December 2009

I can heartily recommend Dan Roberson of Quality Insulation, who just did our attic today. We had quite a bit added to a finished attic - which means that parts of it were difficult to access. From the estimate 3 weeks ago to the excellent work today by his crew of 3, Dan provided ready explanations and an excellent price. He even

added insulation to an area where he thought we already had some (but didn't) at no additional cost. We are very pleased with his service. Lyn Taecker lyntaecker@starpower.net April 2010

INTERIOR DESIGNERS & DECORATORS –

Shari Daniels in Bethesda at 301-654-1654. Company name is Dzyn Studio, syd4dzyn@aol.com.. Lisa Berger Lberger728@aol.com

I know a fantastic interior designer who owns Yardstick Interiors. His name is Steve Corbeille. He can be reached at 1 (301) 349-3449 or by e-mail:scorbeille@aol.com. He is discreet and open to the views needs and financial capacity of his clients. He was recommended to me by the interior design center in SW Washington. Laura Garcés Fischer laura.garces@verizon.net August 2012

IRONWORKING –

I have had excellent work done both inside and outside my house by Miguel Gutierrez - 202 686-5946 (Home), 202-316-4770 (cell). I believe he went home to Mexico over the holidays, so he may or may not be available right away. Jenny Bland jcrabland@hotmail.com January 2009

I had a metal smith make one for our front stairs and it is pretty wonderful - come by if you want to see it. We are at 3726 Veazey Street, NW. He can do anything. The genius is Robert Lukinic and he lives way out in Bryans Road, MD. Phone is 202-215-6817. He did work for us thru a landscape designer, but I believe he also works independently. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com January 2009

Radiator Covers - Skip Holmes and he can be reached at 202-302-0252. He has just made about 10 for someone from this listserv. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com December 2011

JEWELRY APPRAISERS & DESIGNERS –

I highly recommend Judith Weinberg, 301 681-8678, in Silver Spring. The key to designing a jewelry piece, I think, is working with a jeweler who will take the time to help you get just the right setting. Judith is very knowledgeable, reasonably priced and a delight to work with. Nancy Stanley January 2009

I can highly recommend Emma Villedrouin who lives here in DC. Emma was one of the artists we featured at the Trunk Show put on by the Smithsonian Women's Committee at the National Building Museum last fall. Her work is beautiful. You can check out her web site emmale.com. Good luck. Kay Springwater rkspringwater@starpower.net January 2009

If you like contemporary jewelry, I recommend you talk to Denise Graham. Her designs and use of materials are wonderfully creative and eye-catching. She lives on 44th Street, phone 966-9040. She has Parkinson's, so it can be a little hard sometimes to understand her speech, but it hasn't in anyway affected her talent. Janet Bachman jbachman47@gmail.com January 2011

JEWELRY, WATCH & CLOCK REPAIRS –

I've used Ecker's in Bethesda with good results. Ecker's Clock & Watch Shop, 8010 Norfolk Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814, 301-652-0549. David Schmucker March 2009

I used Ecker's and while he repaired the watch he was TERRIBLY SLOW and it was almost impossible to get an estimate as to when the work would be ready. I would keep looking. Sscox13@gmail.com March 2009

I used Kensington Clocks, 10426 Armory Ave, Kensington MD 301 942-3794. (Corner of Howard Ave, just behind the Safeway). Repair quality was good, although the repair was not cheap. Charles Pfleeger chuck@pfleeger.com March 2009

They have done nice work on my watch and have a good reputation. I'm pretty sure they also do clocks. Gold N Time, Inc., 1742 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20009, phone: (202)-328-8700. Dvater4527@aol.com December 2009

The best repair shop we know -- and used recently -- is the Kensington Clock Shop at 10426 Armory Ave., Kensington, 301-942-3794 or 301-942-3774. And be sure to take time to see their exhibit -- a museum, really - - of marvelous and diverse clocks for sale. Aaron & Jackie Epstein aajacks@starpower.net December 2009

I used Kensington Clock Shop for repair and servicing for a grandfather's clock for over 20 years and have always had excellent service. Dona Lenkin lenkind@mail.nih.gov December 2009

If you have an old and valuable clock, I would call Doug Whitesell. He lives way out in VA, but does come in to work on clocks at the White House and State Dept from time to time. He is excellent, is from a long line of clock restorers, appears on time and is very pleasant and interesting, etc, and I can't recommend him highly enough. He can be reached at 540-687-5550 and please tell him that I recommended him to you. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com December 2009

JUNK HAULERS –

We have used 1-800-Got-Junk several times. They are not cheap, but they are reliable and careful, and they take small loads. Their prices are based on the volume of the stuff they take. Joanne Levine joannelevine@earthlink.net May 2007

I use Morris Brown who lives in the neighborhood and has made cleaning peoples' messes his vocation. He is reasonable and honest. He has hauled debris and junk for me and my friends, clients and contractors for over three years and we have not had a problem once. You can call him on his cell at 240-938-3485. PS. He is strong, smart and works very hard, we need more young men like him. Rick Holl ricksoll@ymail.com September 2012

KITCHEN REMODELING –

I used Chesapeake Kitchen Designs, on Wisconsin Ave. They did a terrific job for me - tore out the whole old kitchen, pulled down a wall, moved the door to the basement, then rebuilt a lovely new kitchen for me. They listened to what I wanted, made suggestions, and designed and built a really good space. Their staff was friendly and efficient. They do everything except paint! Lesley lshneier@worldbank.org September 2010

Glad someone had a good experience with Chesapeake, but mine was terrible. Unmet promises (so had no kitchen for Christmas!), crabby people, subcontractors calling me saying that their checks from Chesapeake bounced, etc... Jo T jombturner@gmail.com September 2010

I reiterate my recommendation for Mike Smith, a contractor who has done several renovations for me, including a kitchen and a bathroom. Mike is skilled at all trades and has a creative eye. He's very reliable and communicative, as well as unusually dedicated to the job. The best way to reach him is by phone--301 807-5240. Please use my name when you contact him. Lynne Heneson lheneson@aol.com January 2011

I have the perfect company. George of Atech Home Improvements did a recent and total remodel on our kitchen and 2 bathrooms. They are licensed, insured, very reasonable and finished on time and under budget. They replaced all kitchen cabinets, tile, counters and appliances and the whole project including basement remodel and 2 bathrooms took only 1 month. George had his guys coming in shifts to replace all flooring, paint all surfaces and install all upgrades while he performed all of the electrical and plumbing tasks himself. The final project was excellent and the price unbeatable. They also have over 50 five star ratings on Service Magic and the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. I have previously recommended him to friends and family. Jeff Phelps geekxpert@gmail.com January 2011

KNIFE & TOOL SHARPENERS –

Thanks to all of you who provided me information on the man who comes around in a truck and sharpens knives, lawnmowers, clippers, etc. His name is John Vecchiarelli and his phone numbers are 301.935.4730 or cell 240.463.0506. He welcomes all business! lenkind@mail.nih.gov July 2008

Tool Grinding Services - John Vecchiarelli, 301-935-4730. John has taken over from his father, Tony, who was a real neighborhood institution and who died a few years ago. John drives around the alleys in the original green van, ringing his melodic bell. Visits AU Park, Pallasades, Cleveland Park, etc. Call to find out what days he is in your 'hood. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com October 2008

Strosnidars in Bethesda sharpens knives and tools, including lawn mower blades. ACE Hardware in Tenleytown sharpens knives only. Janet Bachman jbachman47@gmail.com October 2008

LAMP REPAIR –

Gaylord's in Bethesda. Ellen Swann ellen.swann@yahoo.com January 2013

Artisan Lamp on the 3300 block of Connecticut Avenue has been helpful to me too, excellent and prompt with repairs. Elaine Greenstone ehgreenstone@aol.com January 2013

Artisans Lamp on Connecticut Avenue, across from the Uptown Theater. lyndaCouvillion@yahoo.com January 2013

LAWN & YARD SERVICES –

I have another entry to the Landscape Design section of COMMUNIT-E: "Bent Branch Landscape Design. Designing custom landscapes to beautify your home's surroundings. Designs incorporate homeowner needs, site-specific conditions and plants best suited to meet all requirements. Plant palette includes many native plants. Installation service available. Education: Certificate in Landscape Design from George Washington University (2008); Candidate for Master's in Professional Studies in Landscape Design (Specializing in Sustainable Landscapes), May 2009. Contact: Rasma Plato, 240-899-8773 (mobile)" I have used Ms. Plato's services and am very satisfied with the results. She puts her whole heart into her work. Aija Blitte aijacelb@aol.com February 2009

We have used Field of Dreams for several years now, and we have been happy with both price and quality of the yard work. Call (301) 762-3261 and ask for Norbert. Or, his cell phone is (240) 286-2721. Susan Beale copingptnr@aol.com February 2009

Last month I used Renee Hernandez. He can be reached at 240-498-2594. He was great! Came when he said he would, did an excellent job and was reasonable. I had him do the clean up, mulch and some pruning. I had gotten him off the Communit list. Dona Lenkin lenkind@mail.nih.gov April 2009

I also want to endorse Renee. He does work for us both inside and outside our house. He is extremely reliable and very reasonable. Claudia Taubman citaubman@earthlink.net April 2009

Try Dan Murray --The Avante Gardener (202) 550-2339. Michele Crown michelecrown@hotmail.com March 2009

We couldn't agree more about what you write re Barbara Balman's (202-744-9515) talent and patience! We also extend an invitation to whoever wants to see her work in our garden come the Spring: it is beautiful! Laura Garcés Fischer laura.garces@verizon.net January 2009

I used Gardens & Grounds last year for extensive landscaping of my property and was very pleased. The hands on and very attentive owner is very nice to deal with and her prices are reasonable. She works right with her crew. The problem I have with American Plant, Johnson's or others is that they usually sub-contract out their work to someone who may or may not be alright and take a middleman cut in the process. Gardens & Grounds, Alex McCarthy, 202-537-3521. Don Vater dvater4527@aol.com August 2010

I have used Marty Hays for number of projects - stone terrace, stone front steps, forged iron front railing, garden lighting etc. She has been in the business for quite a while, has graduated from both the GW Landscape Design and also Sustainable Design programs, and is a Master Gardener, a real expert. She is very easy to work with, listens carefully, is very wise and creative, and has great vision. You can't go wrong with her. You can reach her at 703-675-6015. Email me if you would like to see some of her work at our house. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com August 2010

I recommend DC Gardens: <http://www.dc-gardens.com>. Ask for Stoff and tell him Robert sent you. They do good, well-priced, creative work. Vze2jhj8@verizon.net August 2010

I can recommend Zaranis Lawns - we have used them and their family for over 37 years. The cell number of Anthony (President, Zaranis Lawns) is 240-418-0815. Roshini Ponnampereuma roshini2@msn.com March 2012

POND MAINTENANCE - We used Lily Pons. They're pricey, but VERY good. www.lilypons.com or 1-800-999-5459. Ann Ingram anningram@mac.com April 2012

I recommend: www.KhalsaLandscaping.com , 202-441-0543, bkhalsa@verizon.net. "Mowing and Routine Maintenance. Leaf cleanups. Haul Debris. Overseed. Plant flowers and Bulbs. Flagstone steps and patios (dry). Timber walls and stairs. Gutter clearing. Plant trees & shrubs....keeping beds and bushes weeded & pruned. Mulching, feeding, even vacation-time watering"; "taking care of lawns (and gardens) for 35 years....My 2-man mowing crew does about 60 lawns a week in NW DC and lower Montgomery county" 4/23/08. They use natural, environmentally friendly products. Affordable. Leonard Rosenbaum leonardleonard1@earthlink.net August 2012

LAWYERS –

Wills & Estate Trusts - I can recommend the lawyer I used for the same things: Quinn O'Connell. He's right in our neighborhood, in the building above Rodman's, 5100 Wisconsin, suite 514. Phone = 537-1820. He interviewed me thoroughly to find out what I needed and wanted, shared personal experiences, and did a great job. Janet Bachman jbachman47@gmail.com November 2009

Family Law - I don't know how old you are, but I recommend Robert Bullock of The Elder Law & Disability Law Center. He is absolutel fabulous with a variety of family related law issues. He is straightforward and down-to-earth. www.edlc.com 202.452.0000. If you use him, pls. tell him Ann Eichenberger recommended him. aeichenberger@gmail.com January 2010

Wills - I created my will and my company entity using www.Legalzoom.com. It was a huge savings over a local lawyer and very easy to draft online. Jeff Phelps geekxpert@gmail.com January 2010

Wills: I recommend Craighill, Mayfield, Fenwick, Cromelin & Cobb (<http://www.lawyers.com/cmfcc/>), located at 4910 Mass. Ave. They are very good and very easy to work with. Fred Vinson fvinson@flash.net January 2010

I'd suggest Robbett & Robbett, LLP. We had a great experience working with Ken and Mary Anne, the senior partners. 910 17th street nw suite 800 <http://www.robbettlaw.com> (202) 887 1791. Michael Cervino Michael.cervino@beaconfire.com January 2010

Civil Disputes: We had a similar nightmarish experience with a contractor, Nicholas Carson (dba Carson Assoc.), whom we eventually fired. Although we didn't attempt to recover any money, we were greatly aided in the disentangling process by Jason Pardo, then with the firm of Jackson & Campbell. He was extremely knowledgeable and pleasant to work with, and I would recommend him unhesitatingly. He has since formed his own firm, Pardo & Drazin, in Friendship Heights. Here's a link to his profile:

<http://www.pardodrazin.com/jasonapardo.html>. His direct number is (202) 683-1561. Lorie Leavy ljleavy@gmail.com January 2012

LOCKSMITHS –

I heartily recommend using Tivoli locksmith, (202) 829-9222. His superb work saved me hundreds of dollars in repairing (instead of replacing) locks on my front door and two interior doors. Mikej3612@yahoo.com January 2009

I recently needed a locksmith and looked at the service providers' community recommendations list on COMMUNIT-E. I chose Tivoli Locksmith and was very pleased with the results. Tivoli is owned by two brothers who do their own work. Joseph, one of the brothers was able to come within an hour of my call. I was pleased since I was having trouble with the front door lock. He was able to replace the locking mechanism in such a way that I didn't need to change keys. He was nice to work with and quite reasonable in price. Also the business is located in the District, which I like. The phone numbers are: 202-829-9222, 202-338-5335, Cell-301-270-4783. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net November 2010

I had to have our front door lock changed. I called Tivoli Locksmith and Joseph came within the hour and fixed the problem. I mentioned that I found his name on your list serve and he knocked off the emergency call fee. Their (Joseph and Martins) phones are 202-829-922 and 202-338-53352. Their cell is 301-270-4783. They are from Cameroon so they speak both French and English. Dale Jones drjindc@rcn.com July 2011

We recently used Tivoli Locksmith due to recommendations in this site's tradesmen listing. They were excellent – they came when they said they would, were completely professional, and were very friendly. We strongly endorse them. Telephone numbers: (202) 338-5335, (202) 829-9222, cell (301) 270-4783. Bobby Turnbull bobbyturnbull@comcast.net January 2013

I highly recommend D&S Locksmith Service (Dan Viriya) 301-320-3538; 301-346-6981 cell; very affordable and ethical; wonderful man; he recently replaced my lock and did a great and comprehensive job. He got superb ratings for price, average ratings for quality in Checkbook 2012. Leonard leonardleonard1@earthlink.net January 2013

Our recent experience with Tivoli was also an excellent one. Ron Springwater rkspringwater@starpower.net January 2013

MASONS – (Stone & Brick)

I'm posting this to recommend Stepfan Martin, a stonemason who has now (1) repaired and repainted my basement walls; (2) reconstructed my fireplace; and (3) installed flagstone pavers on my cellar steps. Mr. Martin is cheerful, resourceful and reasonably priced. His skills are varied, and I also intend to have him refinish

my interior hardwood floors. I have been delighted with all aspects of his work and consider him a real find. I recommend him without reservation. Mr. Martin's numbers are 202/489-7633; and 631/838-8437. Please call me if you need additional information. Nancy Stanley redrufus818@yahoo.com May 2009

An enthusiastic thumbs-up for stonemason Bobby Murray, 240-432-8651. He was recommended by friends and surpassed our expectations. Fine workmanship, pleasant, open to suggestions, reasonable prices. He just finished our front walkway & retaining wall. You're welcome to see his excellent handiwork! --Laura & Tim Marginata, 4114 Ellicott Street NW. laura@marginata.com November 2009

I recently had similar work done on my house at 4527 Fessenden St. The work was very professionally done by a father/son team, John & Bernie Moorkamp out of Chantilly, VA. The father, Bernie has been doing stonework for 64 years! They do excellent work and do it all themselves; no "crew" is let loose on your property. This type of work is custom and not cheap, no matter who you choose, unless, of course, you want substandard work done. I had 6 steps leading up a hill from the city sidewalk done, a winding walkway of about 35 feet done and a 2 step stoop and small porch ending at the front door done. The first step of the stoop was demolished and replaced due to a tree limb underneath it. The total cost was \$8,500. I initially balked at this until my landscaper told me what was involved and potentially how bad the job could be botched. Most pieces of stone have to be cut at exacting angles. It took the two of them 9 full days of labor. I was very pleased with the job. Walk by and take a look if you wish. Don Vater dvater4527@aol.com November 2009

We just had our front steps/walkway repaired by A. Volpe and Sons, 301-345-7743 who were recommended on the COMMUNIT-E list. They were very responsive, well-priced, and did a beautiful and thorough job. I give them a big thumbs up. Sara Jones sjones4420@aol.com November 2009

Chimney Repair: When we needed chimney repair, I asked our roofer for a recommendation. He said that some of the big chimney sweeps also did repair. He said that many regular masons did not like chimney work. I hired Winston's and was satisfied with the work. John Wheeler johnwheeler.dc@gmail.com August 2011

Chimney Repair: Winston's Chimney Services -- I recommend them. Jo Turner jombturner@gmail.com August 2011

Chimney Repair: We used Winston's and are very satisfied. It's a family-owned company, a rarity nowadays. Paul and Susanne Koffsky paulandsusanne@starpower.net August 2011

While I understand Winston's does a good job, the question is do you need the work in the first place? I will share with you that last week, I had a senior technical expert come from Winston's to check out my flues, in particular, the flue (one of two within my chimney) which vents the gas appliances in the basement (hot water heater and furnace). I had reason to believe we had CO fumes in the basement. Winston gave me a cursory inspection and an estimate for \$3,700 to put new liners in both flues. I called the other company listed on our Community Contractor List, Sugarloaf, and Gerry himself came down on Tuesday, did a thorough inspection with me there, for \$129; told me the flues in the chimney were fine, and identified what he thought was the problem, sent a team of two this morning at 7:30, opened up the drywall and discovered an elbow pipe which had come loose in the gas venting pipe system accessing the chimney, fixed it, and put a nice neat access panel in the drywall. They were in and out in an hour and charged me \$209 including the materials. And I feel safe now. \$338 versus \$3,700. Always get a second or third opinion. By the way, Gerry's (Sugarloaf) next stop after mine on Tuesday was to inspect the chimneys at the White House! Steve Anlian steveanlian@yahoo.com September 2011

I used Carl's Masonry [\(301\) 519-2233](tel:3015192233) to do some repointing at my house. They were the only people I could find interested in taking a small job. They just did the cracks where the house had settled and fixed my front steps. It cost about \$1,000. The only other person wanted \$20,000 or more and wanted to repoint the whole house. I got another estimate from a well recommended mason who said that the house did not need a total repoint, but they didn't want to do the job as it required going up 3 stories and they weren't doing work that high anymore. Sarah Morse morsekathan@gmail.com November 2012

MESSAGE THERAPISTS –

I can wholeheartedly recommend Patricia Huggins: 202-460-8713, phugg05@yahoo.com. She mostly works out of her home (614 Rock Creek Church Road NW) but also schedules sessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 3000 Connecticut Ave NW. Patty is a wonderful person and has deeply powerful hands. --Tom Bethell tombethell@gmail.com March 2010

Yes, I used Patty decades ago and am glad to know she's still around. She is wonderful! Helen Sebsow sebsow@hotmail.com March 2010

I can highly recommend Lisa Bregman; she lives in the neighborhood and does wonderful work. She can be reached at (202)686-7202. Beth bk@bethlaw.com March 2010

MOLD REMOVAL –

We used American Restoration Service (<http://www.americanrestorationservice.com/>) for mold inspection and removal in March 2011 and were very pleased with their work. They were very careful about sealing off the work area, creating negative air pressure, etc., and they did an excellent job of laying new tile and fitting new molding to replace the glued-down vinyl flooring that had to be removed. In fact, we liked the crew so much we inquired whether they were available for general handyman work (unfortunately, no). Lorie Leavy ljeavy@gmail.com May 2012

MOVERS/HAULERS & DELIVERY SERVICES –

Just wanted to second the recommendation for Great Scott -- we've used them twice in the past few years and they're fantastic. The Great Scott movers have been punctual, hard-working, and careful with our furniture (including a piano) during each move. I think their prices are reasonable too. Susanna Chu schu24@yahoo.com November 2009

Tobin Transport is a wonderful local freight/delivery company. I've used the company for my business the past 10 years. They are not a moving company but a local delivery company. They're located in Alexandria and family owned. Shannon Bieter sbieter@aol.com April 2010

I highly recommend Town and Country Movers. I don't have their phone number with me, but I believe they are in suburban Maryland. They do both local and interstate moves -- they moved my mother here from New York state and moved friends locally. They are very responsive and responsible, and their prices are reasonable. Jo Levine joannelevine@earthlink.net October 2010

We have had a good experience with District Relocators, 202-528-7831 (that's Corey's cell, who is the owner or manager). They did our move to AU Park, and at the end let us know that they are also available for small deliveries like a piece of furniture from a store. You can contact Corey at districtrelocators@yahoo.com. Katharina no_reply@yahogroups.com April 2011

I have a wonderful delivery service which I have been using for years. They will do anything you need. I've used them to take my mom to doctors' appointments in the snow, deliver my pet to the vet, make copies of keys and deliver them. Really, whatever you need. Transtime Express, 301-652-6662. Marjorie Dick Stuart mdickstuart@hagner.com April 2011

I recently used Bookstore Movers for a smallish move and they were terrific. Great back story, too. A bunch of guys working to make enough money to buy the Capitol Hill Bookstore. <http://www.bookstoremovers.com/> City Paper gave them the "Best Movers in DC" award. Email cs@bookstoremovers.com or call (202) 570-4697 if you have any questions or would like a quote. Sjones4420@aol.com April 2011

Just (as in Tuesday) used a company called Get Up and Go Movers to unload a U-haul truck, which I had the pleasure of driving from NJ to DC (moving my mother-in-law). Matt and Everett unloaded the truck including some heavy furniture. Mark B. Cole, Get Up and Go Movers, 202-210-8251, mail@getupandgomovers.com . Rochelle Rubin rubinre@gmail.com October 2012

MUSIC TEACHERS –

My wife Heidi and I highly recommend piano teacher Ruth Rose, who has taught our daughter Catherine (now aged 11) for the past four years. Following a short, unsatisfactory experience with another teacher, Catherine has had a very happy, productive time with Miss Rose, which has included mastering a varied repertoire and performing in quite a few recitals and competitions in the DC area. Ruth Rose, who was trained in Amsterdam, has a degree from John Hopkins' Peabody Institute, and is well-known on the Washington-area performing-artist scene, is now accepting enrollments for the fall. She is conveniently located near the Van Ness Metro Station. Her phone: (202) 362-2493. Please e-mail (hdcwinn@verizon.net) or phone (202-364-4350) us for further details. David Winn June 2008

My daughter's guitar instructor-- Brian Gross -- will be offering group lessons beginning 4/12. My daughter has taken private guitar lessons from Brian for almost five years and is very happy with his teaching. Contact Brian at 301-320-6999 or bqmojohands@yahoo.com. jfkhoury@erols.com April 2010

PAINTERS –

Felipe Orosco, 240-604-6968, felipe@realpaintingandservices.com. I have used Felipe for interior and exterior painting on a number of occasions and have been extremely pleased. His prices are reasonable, and he and his crew do great work. Beth Johnson p-johnson@starpower.net April 2009

Re Alberto Painting - run, don't walk away from Alberto. He had done an OK/adequate, but not great job at our house a few times, but the last time was a real disaster. Paint all over the rug, a food stain on the rug from something they left there, they removed grass cloth wallpaper and then spackled and painted but as soon as the paint dried it was apparent that they should have taped and used mud on the drywall as the joints are all obvious, many places where they used paint that was either thick or old or used old, hard brushes, as window sills and other trim have brush marks everywhere, and the list goes on and on. There were too many guys working in such a small space and time was of the essence for them, not quality. I would never use them again and advise against anyone using them. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com July 2009

We thoroughly recommend MBS Painting Company, Proprietor Crofton Alexander for every kind of interior and exterior residential painting. We have used MBS many times over the years for both exterior and interior painting of our house in A. U. Park and we have always been very happy with the quality of the work and the fair price. Crofton can assemble a large or small crew of expert house painters as needed. He is punctual, well-organized and finishes the job on time, as promised, causing a minimum of inconvenience to the residents. His workers always clean up thoroughly at the end of each work day. He is flexible in choice of paint and colors and will work with you to get just the right effect you want. We cannot praise him too highly. Crofton can be reached as follows: Office: 301-390-3760; Cell: 301-343-5075; Fax: 301-390-3760. We will be happy to give personal recommendations and answer questions, on request. Alec and Chahnaz McRae admcr@aol.com October 2009

Only painter I use for my properties. Trustworthy, neat, fast. Antonio Guitierrez, 301-933-6539. L. Carter Ldcdc1@yahoo.com January 2009

I am happy to recommend Olympia Painting / Carlos Ruiz (301) 728-4174. Carlos and his crew are wonderful! Professional, friendly, trustworthy, dependable and reasonable. His popularity in our neighborhood started several years back when he painted my garage, located in an alley. Pretty soon, a number of my neighbors had hired him. In the last several years, Carlos has painted the exterior of four out of the five houses on my street,

including mine, and has painted the homes of many of my neighbors and friends --- interior and exterior. He is also excellent at drywall and plaster repairs. And no job is too small. I cannot recommend him highly enough. Julie Mack juliemack@starpower.net August 2010

Barsa Quality Painting has done excellent interior and exterior work for us over the years. They stress the importance of prep work-their prices are a bit higher but our exterior paint jobs have lasted for 10 years or so. I'd highly recommend them. Emilio Soler is the owner - he's great to work with. 837 Still Creek Lane, Gaithersburg Maryland 20878, Tel: (301) 943-3436. Courtney Leatherman c_leatherman@ix.netcom.com August 2010

The best house painter we have encountered since we first bought our house in Chevy Chase DC (1971) is, without doubt, Tito Miranda. Tito has recently repainted our 1915 house, and two others across the street. Tito is the ultimate perfectionist; he is never satisfied until everything is perfect. And, his prices are very reasonable. In addition, he and his family are extremely attractive individuals, and we now consider them friends. We cannot recommend Tito too highly. Tito can be reached at 240 464 8535 (cellular) or 301 962 8511 (home). His email address is TMiranda5@verizon.net. Ed Kane ermk@aol.com August 2010

Call David Ochoa 202-409-6921. He has worked for me and others in the area. He does great work and has received excellent recommendations in the past. Dick Reed dickreed1@rcn.com September 2010

I would recommend Martin Thibault 703-476-0834 martythibault1@verizon.net. He painted my condo - his prices were competitive and the quality excellent. Cecilia Perry cecillaperry@gmail.com November 2010

Painter: Tom Derr, 301 754 1602. I found him on one of the listservs. He is skilled, works quickly and neatly and is reasonably priced. Very pleasant guy as well. Lynne Henson lheneson@aol.com May 2011

Tenleytown Painters painted the exterior of my house almost four years ago, in the spring of 2004. I feel they did a good job. There is no sign of any deterioration thus far. Harriet hdwinell@aol.com January 2012

Try Jeanie Broderick. jeanie.broderick@gmail.com. She does great work. Has done inside & out for me. Is not the cheapest, but definitely the best. Her crews have been trustworthy & detailed. She was recommended to me by someone on this list serv. Ellen Swann ellen.swann@yahoo.com April 2012

We use Andy Phillips. He's a professional painter, not just doing it on the side. Very nice and very reasonable prices. (240) 832-8465. beccaboneyeatsmacaroni@hotmail.com April 2012

We have used David Diaz for more than 25 years. 301-252-4773. Edward Cowan edcowan1114@yahoo.com April 2012

David Diaz has done many painting jobs for us over the years. His work is excellent and his prices are reasonable. He is licensed, bonded and insured. Telephone: 301-260-0063. E mail: davidiaz24@gmail.com. Kay Springwater rkspringwater@starpower.net April 2012

I can highly recommend Carlos Ruiz of Olympia Painting. (301) 728-4174. I have know him for years and he has painted four out of the five houses on my street, including mine, of course -- 49th between Alton Place and Albemarle. He does excellent work and is a pleasure to work with. I have recommended him to many of my friends and they have not been disappointed. While he may cost just a bit more, he is worth every penny. Please let me know if you have any questions. Jules Gardener juliemack1@verizon.net April 2012

COMMUNIT-E and Washington Consumer Checkbook led me to a long time Tenleytown resident and house painter, MIGUEL GUTIERREZ, who lives on Wisconsin Avenue next door to the Friendship Post Office. And I want to let everyone know that he is marvelous. He is responsive and carefully listens to what you want. And then follows through to the letter. I have an historic frame Victorian house and given that 11 years had passed since it was last painted, intensive and thorough preparation work was required. Miguel and his crew were

meticulous. The prep work was outstanding. Then they applied a coat of primer and two finish coats. An interior wall was also painted as was the front porch and the garden shed. The results were beyond my expectations. Given constant rain days the project took much longer than expected, through no fault of the painters. But they stuck with it faithfully. I selected 4 contractors all of whom made proposals. I checked references, drove past houses they painted and spoke to homeowners. Miguel was BY FAR the most reasonable in price. Like Miguel, his crew is pleasant and accommodating. Altogether it was the best experience I have had with a major project. Drive by my house on Grant Road to see for yourselves (4561 Grant Road NW) and call me if you wish (202-244-6021). I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. MIGUEL GUTIERREZ, 4105 Wisconsin Avenue NW, 201-316-4770, mgutierrezwdc@yahoo.com (mailto:mgutierrezwdc@yahoo.com) . Frank Haendler fjhdcm@aol.com June 2012

A crew from W.E. Painting Services is wrapping up a couple of weeks of exterior and interior painting today at our house on the 4300 block of Verplanck Place. Their exterior prep work has been incredibly meticulous and Mr. Espinoza, the owner, is hands-on and a pleasure to work with. We used this company for our previous exterior paint job and it lasted nine years (although I understand that for environmental reasons reformulated paints are no longer expected to stand up for that long). The price was quite reasonable for a high-quality job. Incidentally, we always use the highest rated paints (and, this time, zero VOC for the interior); the cost of the paint is a relatively small part of the job. Wilfredo Espinoza's number is [240-271-9944](tel:240-271-9944). Lawrence Miller Lawrence.miller@starpower.net June 2012

Jean Broderick is a FANTASTIC, talented, fairly priced & reliable painter. She can be reached at [301-580-5381](tel:301-580-5381). Ellen Jackson Swann ellen.swann@yahoo.com June 2012

Just wanted to give an amazing shout out to Dan Llacera, he painted the interior of our house yesterday and did a fantastic job, completely meticulous, he also has a great eye for color (he helped me pick the color!) moved all the furniture and put it back, even vacuumed behind the couch!

I highly recommend him if you need some painting, he also does hard wood flooring and a few other things! Dan Lacera: 302-245-0800, dllacera@aol.com. Sincerely, Deena dekot70@aol.com December 2012

PERSONAL TRAINERS –

I strongly recommend Betsy Wittleder at Northwest Sport and Health at 4001 Brandywine St. I used her for several sessions and found that she was very good and very attuned to the issues of aging bodies. She's not a kid. She can be reached at 202-244-6090. Northwest Sport and Health has a number of group classes. There are three "Muscle Up" classes on weekdays at 10 am (Mon., Wed., Fri.). Sounds like these might be what you're looking for. But first you should have a few sessions with a personal trainer to figure out your needs and fitness level. Kathy Smith kathysindc@gmail.com October 2012

I highly recommend Mark Shafer at Elements of Motion. It is located at the corner of Brandywine and Wisconsin (NOT Sport and Health). I also am "of a certain age" and Mark has patiently brought me gradually into super form. He will work with your own goals but is mindful of different capacities at different ages. Truly outstanding. Nancy Adams njadams1@verizon.net October 2012

Highly recommend Brian 202 3654586 who will actually come to your house to work with you to prevent those first awkward sessions when you feel like you don't even want to be seen at the gym. He is a terrific guy, personable, reliable and in great shape---and works with the individual and any issues they may have. Lorna Watson waldodog1@aol.com October 2012

I heartily second the suggestion for Betsy Wittleder at NW Sport and Health (Brandywine Street). She worked gently with me and gave me a lot of encouragement when she was my personal trainer for 6 sessions. Mary Ann Ryan maryannryan@starpower.net October 2012

If you are interested in a group experience with a superb trainer, not held in a gym with machines, Caroline Gichner may be your answer. At 9 AM to 10 AM on Wednesdays and Fridays, she holds a small class in

everything for the body (and the spirits!) at the United Methodist Memorial Church on Nebraska Avenue. She is a responsive, sensitive, cheerful, and attentive teacher, so knowledgeable about the body, so effective in instructing each of us about what is happening as we do aerobic and other exercises. The classes are fun at the same time, encouraging, productive. A leader in the health field, and with her reputation of the highest order, she does lead other classes for various institutions. Her telephone number is 362-4393. You can learn much more by calling her as she warmly welcomes calls, responds to messages left. Her e-mail address is: cgichner@aol.com. Elaine Greenstone ehgreenstone@aol.com October 2012

You might try out TNT at Tenley Sport and Health. It is group training, which makes it fun and less expensive. The trainer is named Pat and he teaches in the morning and in the evening. Avis Sanders avis.sanders@gmail.com October 2012

PEST CONTROL SERVICES -

I use Connor's Pest Control, 202-544-5600, for mice and ants. They have an excellent plan that covers a broad range of potential and actual pests. Nancy LeRoy nancyrleroy@rcn.net November 2009

Try Rick Shultz at A&R Pest Control 202.207.8052 - They are a 'green' company. Randy Hill cicada17@starpower.net September 2010

Moths: I can recommend MR Bugs. We had silverfish so it's not always moths doing the damage. Mike R from MR Bugs can help you know what it is. He also gave us all the options. Phone is 301-229-7200. Connie Rhind Robey c_rhind@yahoo.com December 2011

PET SERVICES -

DOG TRAINER - David Schmucker is a wonderful trainer. He is calm, patient, & dedicated to helping owners enjoy their canine companions to the fullest - in as few visits as possible. His visit to us was a pleasure, & very successful. To fully understand his philosophies & "style", visit his website: sidewalkdogtraining.com. Start enjoying your relationship with your dog in its best potential - no more pulling, food grabbing, etc - whatever your issues are, David will address them all, & show you how to have a well behaved dog that will be welcome anywhere. Call David, if you have any questions, or I'll be happy to share my experience. Ann C. salem27104@starpower.net April 2009

GROOMER - We've used Cleverdog in Silver Spring for several years for our dogs, and are very happy with their work and their prices. We've tried others, and also liked Bone Jour in Bethesda, but they are a bit higher. If your dog doesn't need clipping, just bathing and brushing, you could also try Petco in Cleveland Park, which is reasonably priced. Liz Mohre lmohre.fbg@verizon.net April 2010

GROOMER - I've just discovered the Doggie Washerette at 7714 Georgia Avenue NW. It's a self-service laundromat for dogs. Its much easier than washing the dog in the bathtub or shower and cheap (\$20.00 for 15 minutes of washing time, and the staff (the owner's son) is very helpful in explaining how it works. In non-rush hour it only takes about 15 minutes to get there from Chevy Chase/Friendship Heights area. Check out the cute website at www.doggiewasherette.com and support a new small business. Sunderwood4104@gmail.com May 2012

SITTER - Tails of the City are dependable and reasonable. www.tailsofthecitydc.com squasher@starpower.net September 2011

SITTER - We are fans of Tails of the City. www.tailsofthecitydc.com . Or email tailsofthecitydc@aol.com. They are dependable, reasonable, and neat. Andrew squasher@starpower.net May 2012

SITTER - I highly recommend cat sitter "Shani Madden," who can be reached at 703-868-3038. lhertz@msn.com May 2012

SITTER - We recommend Tails of the City (www.tailsofthecitydc.com) for their dependability, affordability, and affectionate care of our two cats since they were kittens. I would imagine they are sterling dog walkers as well. 202 669-7230 or 261-6615 squasher@starpower.net September 2010

DOG WALKER - We use Puppy Love. They were recommended to us & we have recommended them to others who have had good feedback. Ellen Swann ellen.swann@yahoo.com September 2010

DOG WALKER - After more than 10 years, my dogs' incredible walker/caregiver has room for a few extra clients. Lynn has taken care of my dogs for the last eight years (willful puppy, geriatric sweetie-pie, and extremely skittish rescue). I cannot recommend her highly enough. From kittens and puppies to geriatric seniors in need of special care, she lovingly cares for them all. You can reach her at (202) 363-1597. Please let me know if you have any questions. Juliemack1@verizon.net March 2012

DOG WALKER - Chris Aden is excellent. His telephone number is 1-402-960-8381; email is topherj@yahoo.com Ann Ingram anningram@mac.com August 2012

VETERINARIAN - We highly recommend our veterinarian, Rhya Marohn, who handles all of our annual check-ups and routine care by visiting us at our house. She has been taking care of our two cats and one dog for about 3 years now and has been great. For obvious logistical reasons, having someone come to our house is fantastic - but she also provides very good and reasonable care - we appreciate someone who is not quite as aggressive as some area animal hospitals - and her fees are also very reasonable. She is also available year-round via email for advice and to fill various prescriptions as needed (we have a dog with diabetes who also has food allergies etc). She can be reached at drmarohn@gmail.com, 301-332-8563, and www.athomeanimalcare.com. Ross Filice rwfilice@gmail.com December 2012

PIANO TUNERS –

I haven't "shopped," so I don't know how his prices compare, but Vincent Ling is excellent, 301-571-4878 or 301-982-0866. We've used him for years and have always been pleased. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net April 2010

PICTURE FRAMERS –

The framers on MacArthur Blvd near the Animal Hospital and across from the Safeway. They are excellent. Sue Schumacher sue.schumacher@longandfoster.com January 2008

I use Framers' Workroom at 4431 Wisconsin Avenue between Albemarle and Tenley Circle all the time. They will either custom frame for you offering a wide range of frames, mats, etc and excellent advice or they will prepare the materials for you and assist you in doing it yourself. Check out their website - www.framersworkroomdc.com for their hours and other information. Kay Springwater rkspringwater@starpower.net January 2008

I recommend the Watergate Gallery and Frame Shop, where I have had several pictures framed. Dale Johnson, the owner, has a huge selection of beautiful frames. She has a real eye for putting together the right combination of mat and frame to make a picture glow, and is willing to take the time to listen and work with you. Watergate Gallery and Frame Shop, 2552 Virginia Ave NW, 338-4488. Eve Moscicki emoscick@mail.nih.gov January 2008

I have used the FRAMERS WORKROOM for many years and they are extremely knowledgeable, very helpful, and excellent. They are on Wisconsin Avenue at Albermarle, across the street from the ex-Tenley Library. Barbara Dinsmore barbaradinsmore@msn.com January 2008

PLUMBERS –

I have been dealing with Sharys Plumbing in Cabin John about a water pump. They have been incredibly helpful: returning my calls quickly; faxing me info on many options; very pleasant on the phone. I have been impressed! 301-515-1422. On the other hand, I am thoroughly unimpressed with Peterson Pump and Plumbing Co. in Kensington. Very poor follow-through and expensive. Elizabeth Daerr egdaerr@starpower.net April 2009

I recently used Anthony Allen (301) 877-2019 (cell 301-787-8812) to drain my water heater. I was very pleased with him and would use him again for other jobs. He charged by the job, not the hour, and was extremely reasonable. He was recommended to me by Kevin Rozier, an electrician who I also like. Kevin is on the Community Recommendations list. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net July 2009

Kathy, Thanks so much for putting Allen's name into your newsletter. I had him in on Wednesday this past week. He did four jobs for me, the most serious of which was to move a section of copper piping away from a lead pipe which had corroded the copper and caused it to leak. He also replaced a set of faucets in a sink, flushed my hot water heater, and lifted a toilet, added two more wax seals and reset the toilet. The work took about four hours. The bill was \$350. I gave him cash to go to Ace and buy the faucets. The bill for his labor was \$350. What a bargain! I will use him and recommend him to clients a lot. He's a keeper! Linda Hughes lindahughes3@verizon.net July 2009

This is a recommendation for exceptionally good plumber. We came home one day and found the living room ceiling laying on the floor. The upstairs shower had developed a leak and caused the ceiling to collapse. This plumber repaired the shower stall, and then replaced the ceiling in the living room. To this day, I defy someone to come in and detect where he had made the repairs. He is exceptional. Recently, we had a flooded basement, in which his crew came in and replaced the lower 3-4 feet walls in the basement bathroom, plus replace the floors, etc. The same quality job was done. You cannot find a trace where the old wall stopped and the replacement was put him. To contact him: Luke Stewart, National Director & 5LINX Global Expansion Leader, Luma Interiors Design & Build, 301.404.2984, lumastewart@aol.com, Richard Clark biking2@yahoo.com February 2010

I can highly recommend Glenn A Swann of Proper Plumbing Services. Glenn came by free of charge to analyze the problem of diminished water pressure in an overhead shower and provided the lowest of three estimates. Only he had a solution that did not require enlarging a wall opening, and/or risking broken tiles, but simply knowing how to fit a new valve into an older system using the existing opening. He and his associate worked efficiently, cleanly and were very pleasant. 301-843-4785 (office). Irmgard Hunt iahunt@verizon.net April 2010

William Collins Plumbers just unblocked an outdoor drain for me. They are expert and reliable. 301 881-2370 Sheila Summers sums@ix.netcom.com September 2010

I had a wonderful experience with MASTER PLUMBING (301-650-9100), whose name was given to me by a friend who said they were highly recommended by either Washington Checkbook or (Somebody's) List, or both. I was nervous about this job, which required replacing both my kitchen sink and two original toilets without my having to do anything to the surrounding countertop and tile afterwards. I went with Master Plumbing because of the thoughtfulness with which Joe Maier, who is one of the owners, explored the jobs when he came out for an estimate. They did a wonderful job and thoroughly cleaned up afterwards. Harriet hdwinnell@aol.com October 2010

After having two plumbers - one independent and one from John C Flood - out to fix separate problems with my sink and shower, I was discouraged by their total inability to deal with the problems. John C. Flood's person

was particularly incompetent, failing to even check my sink to rule out basic problems like a faulty cartridge. In fact, he told me that because I didn't have manuals for the faucet he couldn't even begin to figure out why the water pressure was weak. He also was clueless as to how to fix the shower. I was charged \$250 for his time. Today, at the recommendation of Bethesda's Union Hardware, I had Greg Smith of RL Voight out. He fixed both issues within 20 minutes, charging me \$110. He can be reached at 301-946-6100. In addition to being a skilled plumber with a variety of less common brands (in my case Santec and KWC), Smith is also a very nice guy. Blubie09@yahoo.com September 2011

I have used James A Wheat and Sons many times and I also would recommend them. Rob Schwartzberg Schwartzberg.Robert@verizon.net September 2011

Based on this listserv's glowing reports about John Taylor, we called him on Tuesday to see if he could come round and fix our dishwasher that had stopped draining the water away. We settled for 2pm the next day. He called before 2pm to say he was running late. We settled on the following day (Thursday) and he showed up promptly at 2pm. Polite, friendly, on time, responsive, he diagnosed the problem, then worked hard to get the machine working again, including going out and getting a new hose to replace the old patched-up one. He stayed extra time to make sure the dishwasher was draining properly at the end of a wash cycle! He then caulked the top of the machine to make sure it wouldn't tip up on opening, as it had not been attached to the counter when installed. An incredible find. Everyone should use John for their plumbing needs! He's everything that people have already said below (reliable, friendly, knowledgeable, competent, affordable, a good and gentle soul), and then some. Please make sure you put his number in your address book: 240-472-2121! Please tell him Karen and Walter on Military Road recommended him. Karen Handford & Walter Schimmerling sterling229@comcast.net January 2012

Our experience was not so great with Michael & Sons. We needed them for urgent repair of bathroom faucet gushing hot water, and it took them 8 hours to get to us! They came to just look at it, charge us for visit without repairing the problem (even though they have promised over the phone that they will exclude charges for emergency visit since it took them 8 hours to come). We do not have agreement with them, and they might be offering better service if you hired them under the contract. After this experience, We have found great plumber (Payless Plumbing: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/payless-plumbing-and-heating-silver-spring-3>) and HVAC company (PCK HVAC: <http://www.pckhvac.com/>) with amazing service and great prices. Zaza zlatanajd@gmail.com February 2012

Someone recommended John Taylor for a plumber. I used him and was quite pleased. He was very good and very reasonable. His number is 240-472-2121. Thanks to whomever recommended him. Kathy Smith kathysindc@gmail.com July 2012

I want to add my kudos to plumber John Taylor, telephone 240.472.2121. He was prompt and his fee was very reasonable. He could have suggested a very expensive or an unnecessary repair but did not do so. I am very pleased with the result. Kenneth kenwashdc@yahoo.com January 2013

POWER-WASHING & DECK CLEANING –

Rony Sanchez 202-669-7046 and his family did excellent work painting the interior of my home, power washing the exterior, painting the trim to my home, and staining/sealing my deck. His bid price was significantly lower than the next lowest bidder. His crew only works nights and weekends, which is convenient for those who work during the day. If you have questions, e-mail me vze2ww92@verizon.net. December 2004

I used Lance Robinson of LRL Services. They cleaned our park bench recently of all the green algae and it looks new. He can be reached at 202/710-7713. They do power washing of decks, siding, driveways, windows, park benches and more. He also does hand washing and waxing of cars, though he has not done that for me yet. Samantha Nolan nolantutor@yahoo.com August 2010

REFERRAL SERVICES –

HOME CONNECTIONS, a free referral service for all kinds of home repairs, etc. All of their referrals have been checked out, (kind of like Washington Consumer Checkbook). 301-565-5902 OR 1-888-POINT-ME. I have used a variety of service/repair people through them. Robmayers@aol.com

I've seen many requests for contractor referrals that may or may not have been addressed. With that in mind, I thought the community might appreciate knowing that there is a local company, called Urban Referrals, LLC, that exists to match homeowners and home improvement professionals. There is no cost for the referral, which is what caught my eye. I have used Urban Referrals for my roof repair/replacement, and it made the world of difference to have screened contractors recommended by a professional service. In case anyone is interested, here's the official description and contact information: "Urban Referrals is an organized network of highly skilled, pre-screened home repair and improvement specialists. They will connect you to a multitude of professionals who can assist you with any large, small or unique home projects such as home additions & renovations, painting, interior design, landscaping, chimney repair/cleaning, home computer systems and more! Best of all, there is no cost to the homeowner for using Urban Referrals' service. Urban Referrals is constantly updating their network of service providers and welcomes contractor recommendations. Please contact Marla Selko at 202.332.0848 with any questions, job requests or contractor recommendations, or visit Urban Referrals on the web at www.urbanreferrals.com." Email - marla@urbanreferrals.com Susan Baer baer@aclcinc.com .

Tenleytown Ace Hardware outsources its referral requests to a local company called Urban Referrals (www.urbanreferrals.com). UrbanReferrals does an extensive background check on all of the contractors and service providers it refers. It's been a great source for us and our customers when we're not sure who to turn to and when we want multiple quotes for jobs. gina@loganhardware.com February 2008

ROOFERS –

Jack's Roofing just replaced our roof and we are very pleased with that company. We especially liked the foreman, John Wozney. The number is 301-585-4985. Out of four bids, they were the second lowest. We thought they had more experience than the lowest bidder. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net May 2009

George Ugaz is a roofer who was highly recommended by this electronic letter. We hired him to install skylights and he did such a bad job that we have had to have the job completely redone by another company! From the beginning he caused us trouble not respecting timetables and he worked in an untidy and disorganized way. He seemed puzzled by working with slates and obviously didn't know his trade. Fabienne Spier spierf@georgetown.edu May 2009

David Gwynn, Gwynn Brothers Roofing, installed a new roof for us this summer: excellent work, fair price, and a pleasure to work with. His number is (301) 896-0028. Linda Bowdoin l.bowdoin2@verizon.net September 2009

One I can NOT recommend is Aaron Service, which had been recommended by our community. They were argumentative, very costly and surly when asked to come back to recheck the job. Most unpleasant was the representative, who came in, involved my visitors and made himself at home very intrusively. Helga Ehudin heldin@aol.com September 2009

Skylight Repair - FGE, Fred Ess, 410-956-4934; General Contractor, Skylight Specialist, replaced five skylights for me providing clean, quality work at a reasonable cost. LCRosenman@aol.com December 2009

John Gwynn's telephone # is 1-301-865-5027. He's hard to reach, but worth the wait. He's an old fashioned roofer. He uses a hammer to drive a nail and believes it should stay in for at least 50 years. He can do all types of roofs, but is a slate wizard. John Wheeler wheels-dc@att.net April 2010

We used him to repair snow damage and he did a great job. Here is the information on the Roofer: William Beattie (he owns his own contracting business) (703) 868-2482. Elizabeth Tang ecudzil@yahoo.com August 2010

I have had Paul Hair of Action Roofing do some work on my slate roof and am very happy with the result. His # is 301-292-6300. Helga Ehudin heldin@aol.com August 2010

I recommend Rose Roofing and also Jack's Roofing. Bonnie Bradford sunny333666@yahoo.com August 2010

Regarding slate roof repairs, we have used Don Hoover. He did a great job for us, and was very helpful in suggesting and then working with our homeowners insurance company to file a claim for the storm damage. I recommend Mr. Hoover highly. Donald Hoover, 10020 51st Avenue, College Park, Maryland 20740, 301-441-2712 office, 301-4404850 mobile, thoover@aol.com James Ryan jfryan@starpower.net August 2010

We have used Widmayer for slate roofs. 301-984-7787. Sarah Morse morsekathan@gmail.com August 2010

We use William Beattie for both things (roof repairs & gutter cleaning) and have been happy with his work. He can be reached at 703-868-2482 Adam Tope adam@adamtope.com October 2010

We've had very good response and work done by D&M roofing. thanks, Rick Dulaney dulaner1@westat.com October 2010

A few years ago I hired Superior Home Improvement (George Ugaz) to install snow guards on my roof. All seemed well until the big snows we had 2 years ago when virtually all the snow guards came off the roof, along with some shingles. Turned out Superior hadn't nailed the guards in place. I will not use this company again. Janet Bachman jbachman47@gmail.com May 2011.

Back in October 2010, I found a roofer on the Community E list who received very good reviews. I tried him out and received very bad services. The roofer is George Ugaz whose business goes under the name of Superior Home Improvements. He lists the company's MHIC # as 69735 which does not exist. Anyway, my experience was the following. In October 2010, George repaired some shingles on my roof which was leaking. He advised that I needed new skylights as they were leaking also (in fact, they are not leaking, nevertheless..). Per our contract/agreement, I paid him \$850 on November 1, 2010 to purchase three skylights that he would install. Following numerous follow-up calls on my part over the past 7 months (he never contacted me afterwards) as well as numerous appointments made to deliver and install the skylights which he never kept, in May I requested a refund. To date, and after several deadlines and promises, I still have not received the refund for the goods never delivered. Although George is a pleasant young man, my experience suggests that he is neither reliable nor trustworthy. Now, I have to go through the Better Business Bureau, etc. to file a complaint and try to get my money back. Rosemary Bellew June 2011 rbellew@gmail.com

For decades I have found Jack's Roofing to be the one I trust and use. Elaine Greenstone ehgreenstone@aol.com October 2012

I would like to second, third or fourth that recommendation for Jack's Roofing. Have used them a couple times and always good. Quite reasonable too. Deb Morris debmorris3@aol.com October 2012

My roofer Mike Brown is honest and reliable. He is a good human being. When a contractor tried to take advantage of me (perhaps he thought this woman or all women are stupid ?) -- Mike implored me to pay 3/4 less to the guy (I paid him about 2/3 less). It was a terrible experience -- contractor was enraged. But Mike called me to say stand my ground! Decent tradesmen are hard to find: Mike Brown, meb0506@yahoo.com. Lisa Newman lisa4news@aol.com October 2012

I use for my home, an investment property, and as a recommendation to clients, Rasevic Construction. Darryl Hawthorne, who was highly and frequently recommended on Communit-E in the past, joined forces with Rasevic about three years ago. They come three times a year to clean my gutters. I use them for routine maintenance on the flat roof of a townhouse I own and I have used them for slate roofs repeatedly. Call Darryl himself at Cell: 301 370-2210 or Office: 301 986-6900. In my opinion they do top quality work and I trust them sufficiently to send them to properties to evaluate problems and thereafter hire them on the spot. They may be comparable to Jack's as far as cost is concerned. No really good roofer is cheap. Please feel free to use my name if you decide to call. Linda Hughes hugs4linda@gmail.com October 2012

We used Shiner Roofing in Sterling, VA, 888-570-6141. We interviewed and obtained offers from several companies to replace our roof. Their proposal was by far the most detailed and careful. They also did a great job. They have my recommendation. Geert DePrest gdeprest@stewartlaw.com October 2012

SECURITY SERVICES –

We have used ADT since we moved back into our Chevy Chase DC house 12 years ago, and I have been fully satisfied with their services. I would strongly recommend, however, that you take their maintenance package along with the service. Ed Kane ermk@aol.com November 2008

I signed up with ADT but canceled within the cancellation period because the system they installed was ineffective. The motion detector did not pick up motion where it was aimed. The glass breaks didn't seem to work at all (the installer and I tested this by breaking glass near them, to no effect) so I didn't get those. Not only was the system ADT installed not working, but the sales people for DC (a separate company that get local customers and sells these accounts to ADT) use high-pressure tactics, such as repeated phone calls. They also offered incentives like ipods, etc. They also provided grossly inaccurate information about the system. And no one seemed to know anything about how to actually get the ipod ... as best as I could tell, it was just a gimmick to close the sale. Finally, I had to file disputes with my credit card to get the charges reversed, even though I had canceled within the period specified by the ADT contract. Finally, ADT contacted me to come remove the system, which was hard wired into my walls, after the 30-day period specified in the contract. I told them that they had missed their own deadline but that they were welcome to come get it, provided they would cover the cost of repair/paint to repair the areas that they drilled. They opted not to do that, either. So unfortunately, I had a very negative experience on nearly every possible point with ADT. The only good thing I can say was that the installer was very pleasant. Elizabeth girlxdc@yahoo.com November 2008

Take a look at FrontPoint, a wireless system you can install yourself. Monthly fees are much less than the others, too. We recently had competitive bids from 3 vendors for our new school building, and FrontPoint came out ahead in many ways. We chose them. <http://www.frontpointsecurity.com/> Philip Bogdonoff pbogdonoff@igc.org November 2008

Always two sides. We have had ADT for over 20 years and have had excellent service from them. Phyllis K. pkokus@aol.com November 2008

We have had a very good experience for eight years with Protection One. The equipment has functioned well, service is quick, and they react diligently (over the phone, and to the authorities, if necessary) should the alarm go off. D. Winn hdcwinn@verizon.net October 2010

SIDING –

Phil Zlotnick at All Four Seasons also handled the contract to replace the siding on our house and garage. They also installed new shutters. Again, as with the replacement windows, the workmanship was excellent and the price was great. Phil's number is 301-580-9399. Bari Sedar sedarmail@aol.com June 2008

SNOW SHOVELING –

Try Sunrise Landscape Corp., 301-877-4001. They did a good job shoveling out several neighbors' cars. Joanne Levine joannelevine@earthlink.net

SOLAR PANELS –

Standard Solar is excellent. They also have an email newsletter and a website that includes updates on incentives. They did my installation almost three years ago. www.standardsolar.com. Jean Mammen jemammen@bellatlantic.net May 2009

Our information is that you can install solar panels on a slate roof, but it involves replacing some of the slates with more flexible faux slate, which is what our project proposes. A benefit is the shade provided by the solar panels actually protects the roofing material and extends the life of the roof. There is another approach, which is to replace the slate with solar slates, special technology that combines roofing material and collector in one product. There is a house on Fessenden done with solar slate. These are more expensive than the racks, but since you will be buying roofing anyway, it might actually be a superior option- just guessing, not an expert on solar. Before forging ahead on your own, it might be worthwhile to talk to Kirk Renaud of Common Cents Solar. They have a brilliant approach that involves group buying, which saves a great deal of the cost, includes information without the sales pressure/bias, and gives the advantage of bargaining as a group instead of a one-time job. Common Cents Solar, 4330 East West Hwy., Bethesda, MD 20814. (301) 961-5940, (301) 961-5943 fax. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net May 2009

Having just gone through this process (well, last November) and gotten estimate from several companies including Common Cents Solar, I have a few hints and recommendations: First - get three or more estimates (most estimates are free, the only company that charged us for an estimate was Common Cents. They called it an evaluation, but it produced the same report as the other three companies did for no charge; however, Common Cents will apply the fee to your system if you buy from them.) Second - Do your homework before the companies come out so you understand what you are getting. Every company sells different size panels and the panels are of different efficiencies. The most efficient system generates the most electricity. This was very important to us as we had limited space on our roof, so we wanted the most efficient system that we could get. If you have unlimited space, that might not be as important, but you should know this before you waste your time looking at lower efficiency panels. There is also a price difference as you move up in efficiency. Third - Ask questions on the phone before the contractor comes out so you know what the company sells and whether it suits your needs. Again - how important is efficiency to you and how much room do you have? Another question is what to do with your RECs (these are renewable energy credits that you can sell). Find out if the company will broker your RECs and what is their fee. Decide if you even want to sell your RECs (we don't at this time.) Fourth - Do your own homework on the incentive programs. Just google "solar incentives Washington DC" (or where ever you are). You will find a wealth of information about incentives. Call the numbers associated with the incentive programs and find out if they still have money to give away. DC has a great program, but I don't know if it still has money to give away. The money goes pretty fast. The Montgomery County property tax incentive has run out of money and isn't going to be re-funded for solar. Fifth - go to a site like Solar-estimator.org or pvwatts.org. Solar estimator lists contractors and rates them. Both sites have a wealth of information about all things solar. Some of these things I did and some I wished I had done. I definitely wasted a lot of my time and contractor's time because I didn't understand how the system worked. One contractor told me that he could put panels all over my roof - 18 in all; however the other three I had out told me that "no, it wasn't possible to put so many up because my dormers shaded the roof for significant periods of time." Once I understood how the system worked, it was clear that 18 panels would be a waste of my money. I was also misled by contractors about the incentives. They were not as up-to-date with the funding as they could be. Only one contractor told me that Montgomery County had run out of money (which was true as I verified with the county). The other contractors told me that the county would give me \$5,000 tax credit. That would have made my system almost free! Too good to be true? Yes unfortunately it was! We ended using Capital Sun - they are a local company (Cabin John) and have been in the business for 30 years or so. Early pioneers. We have 2kW and we are very happy with the whole thing (actually, almost

giddy!). Unfortunately, we are now weather obsessed and all this rain is so much the worse because we can't make any electricity! Sarah Morse morsekathan@gmail.com May 2009

TAILORS & SEAMSTRESSES –

The seamstress at President Valet (on Wisconsin between Davenport and Ellicott, across from the Volvo dealer) is excellent. She has made many repairs for us, including reweaving to fix a moth hole in a sport coat -- a job so good we can't even tell where the hole had been! Shari Pfleeger shari@pfleeger.com April 2008

I use a woman named Oh at the dry cleaners next to York Flowers. She fixes everything for me. Marjorie Dick Stuart mdickstuart@hagner.com December 2008

Jennifer Kim at Uptown Cleaners is the best seamstress I have ever been to. She is located across from the Uptown Theater close to the Cleveland Park metro. Her work is perfect and the price is comparable to others in the area (she may cost a dollar or a bit more per piece but it is totally worth it). Julia Pergola Julia_pergola@yahoo.com December 2008

I highly recommend the seamstress (as well as the cleaners) at Presidential Valet cleaners on Wisconsin Ave in our neighborhood, right next to the demolished movie theater. I never had good luck with the Zips cleaners on Connecticut. Beth Haile Elizabeth_haile@hotmail.com December 2008

Teresa Campanaro on Connecticut right near the Zips Cleaners is reliable, reasonable and fast. No appointment necessary. Don't know if she does curtains, but she's good at the basic stuff. 4444 Connecticut Avenue, entrance on Albemarle. 244-8669 Her husband, Tony, has a one-man barber shop in front, she's in back. Dianne Fiumara Dianne@mindspring.com December 2008

They keep a list of local seamstresses at G Street Fabrics. Suggest you contact them. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net December 2008

TAX PREPARERS –

I highly recommend Bradley Ralph. He's excellent! You can reach him at 301/980-2852. Bari Biern Sedar biernmail@aol.com February 2009

I highly recommend Harvey Reich for tax preparation. He has handled our taxes for several years now, with many complicating factors including rental property income and depreciation, business income and deductions, home office accounting, multiple sources of income, living in multiple locations, investments, dependents, student loans, trusts, household employees (including all above-board tax, FICA, and unemployment reporting), and many deductions including charitable giving and mortgage interest. He has comprehensive knowledge on all of these issues and is incredibly accurate - I know this because the IRS has independently reviewed our taxes and their expectations of adjusted gross income and tax owed was exactly the same as what Harvey submitted. Finally, he is easy to contact and will readily provide tax advice throughout the year - I talk with him several times per year regarding tax advice and have yet to be charged for this. He can be contacted at Paul-cpa@erols.com or 301-340-3340. Ross rwfilice@gmail.com October 2012

TILE WORK –

I would like to recommend Joe Castle of Castle Home Improvements for any tile work; bathroom or kitchen remodels. He also does larger and more complex projects finishing off basements or adding additions. He is very reasonable and a craftsman. He is local, honest and a very hard working family man. He did work for both my mother in VA and my home in DC. His number is 240-620-8884. Jeff Phelps geekxport@gmail.com October 2009

I used Silva Tile and Floors when we installed new tile in all three of our bathrooms. I found them meticulous, nice to deal with and reasonably priced. The co-owners name is Carlos Silva and the number is 240-375-9299. Cheers, Allyson diyfilms@gmail.com October 2009

I'd like to recommend Holland Tile Premier Tile Installers to those who may be looking to have tile work done. In addition to new tile installation they also do restoration, cleaning and repair of old tile. Holland is on the expensive side, but worth it for areas where you really want a first class job. They were a subcontractor on a renovation we had done on our AU Park house last year and we were extremely pleased with their work. It bordered more on artistry than simple installation. (You can see examples of their work at www.hollandtile.com, or I can email pics of the new tile they installed in our kitchen and bath if anyone is interested.) Contacts for Holland Tile are Dave at 240-372-0513 and davis@hollandtile.com, or Daisy Holland Anderson at 301-926-6788 and daisy@hollandtile.com. Emil Skodon skodon@yahoo.com July 2010

I can highly recommend my contractor, Mike Smith. He has done some very nice tile work for me in the past. His number is 301-807-5240. Mike is pleasant, skilled, focused, and a real craftsman in many areas. Please feel free to use my name. Lynne Heneson lheneson@aol.com July 2010

Our tile guy, Dean, is a master and very reasonably priced. He did an excellent job for us. Please tell him we sent you. Dean: 240.483.9648 Amanda Bowker amandazbowker@mac.com July 2010

Just to add to the list, our contractor (who did both our kitchen and bathroom at different times), did a phenomenal job for us, and was open to new ideas for creativity by us. More to the point, he has also helped a friend of mine - who had a sub-par contractor that did a miserable job on tiling - redo the tiling in his bathroom to fix it and bring it up to code. He then went on to do lots of other tiling and assorted custom work for my friend as well. The contractor's name is Luis Fuenzalida and he owns Bath & Kitchen, LLC. His email is luis@bathandkitchenllc.com and his phone is (301)674-5680. PresJMS@aol.com July 2010

TRAVEL AGENTS –

We used Lindblad about 5 years ago. The response, arrangements, travel, sights, guides, ship, and fellow guests were outstanding. We also took the extension to Manchu Picchu which was equally great. Jack and Sylvia Benoit benoit@atlantech.net March 2008

TREE SERVICES –

I recently needed some tree work done, so I asked Barbara Balman, a local professional landscaper, for a recommendation. She enthusiastically recommended Schflitt's, a family-run operation. They came with a crew and did an excellent job. I met the son, who gave me the estimate. His father and a granddaughter brought the rest of the crew on the day of the trimming and the older Mr. Schflitt supervised as well as worked along with them. His daughter handles the office phones. The work was good and the price very reasonable. I really liked them. Phone # for Schflitt's : 301-948-5554. Barbara Balman can be reached at: bbalman@verizon.net. Thank you, Barbara. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net June 2010

We have used the Shifflet company for several years and they are excellent indeed! Two weeks ago they took down 15 old cypresses that died under the weight of the snow last winter. They were extremely reasonable. And of course, they were recommended by our wonderful landscape architect, Barbara Balman! So thank you also, Barbara! Laura Garcés Fischer laura.garces@verizon.net June 2010

For more than 10 years I have used Bonifant Tree Service with complete satisfaction. Their prices are reasonable and they know what they're doing. They are based in Montgomery County and can be reached through a DC number--(202) 362-7890--or a Maryland number--(301) 942-7890. Elinor Stillman ElinorHS@aol.com August 2010

We just had some tree pruning/trimming done on our massive two trees in our backyard and cannot be happier with the service provided by Ricky Tyree of Tyree Tree Services. Mr. Tyree was very professional, punctual and reasonable with over 20 years experience with trees. His number is (540) 717-7784. Elizabeth Tang ecudzil@yahoo.com October 2010

I hired a man to remove brush (some small limbs included) and I later discovered that he had merely moved them down the ally and left them behind someone else's house. The company is Cubbage Tree Service. It seems to me that people should not hire them. I live on the 4400 block of Garrison St. Francesca fradams@rcn.com November 2010

I would recommend against any dealings with a tree and landscape service named Michael Stringfellow, which has returned to this area. He drives a truck with his name on it in large letters and bright colors. If you wish clarification, you can contact me by e-mail or at 202-363-6052. Rice Odell ohrice77@yahoo.com May 2011

If it (tree) may have to come down, you might as well just start with the DC arborist; he would have to give you a permit for removal eventually. I have had good experiences with DC forestry. Aside from that, Woodacres is an old firm that is widely used around here. (It always amuses me that their arborist is named Forest!) --Jo on Brandywine jombturner@gmail.com September 2012

I have used an excellent arborist a number of times - Bob Blakely of Northern Woods Tree Service, 703-528-2056. He has bucket trucks, climbers, and all excellent people working for him and he himself is a real expert, friendly, wise, a gentleman, and terribly cute to boot! If you call him, please tell him that I recommended him to you. Barbara Dinsmore brbaradinsmore@msn.com September 2012

TUTORS –

Here is a great recommendation for a tutor. Does your student need help with math, reading, study skills, homework and more? Certified teacher with Masters in Education can help. Full Time classroom teacher working with children who have learning disabilities. Travel included in cost of tutoring. \$40.00 an hour. Call Colleen at 202-399-0041. Jennifer Rose jenrose1@yahoo.com

If anyone in the community is in need of a terrific tutor for their child, I would highly recommend Krayna Feinberg. She is an accomplished special-ed teacher who is available for tutoring sessions with kids in K-3 who are having difficulty keeping up in the classroom or who need a little more guidance outside the classroom. She has a Master's degree in special education, and has used a variety of reading programs, including Phono-Graphix and Orton-Gillingham. She will tailor reading and math programs to the individual needs of the child and can work with your child's teacher/school to address specific issues. Krayna sees students during the school year and can do intensive summer work as well. Her contact info is kraynaf@gmail.com. Carol Lynn Calomiris ccalomiris@calomirislaw.com May 2008

I thoroughly recommend this Math Tutor for: Elementary School Arithmetic; H.S. through Freshman College Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Trigonometry; Test Preparation including SAT's, GRE's, etc. Makes house calls. Reasonable rates. Call Mick 301-946-8469, or e-mail < Mickclns@mac.com. Alec McRae admcrac@rcn.com April 2010

UPHOLSTERS –

I recommend Rod Parson's Upholstery. 202-364-8522. He does a great job. Jenrose1@yahoo.com April 2009

I strongly recommend Yi's in Rockville for upholstery. They've done a number of chairs for me and I am very pleased with their work. They have an impressive selection of fabrics. Their phone number is 301-770-3687. They'll also pick up and deliver. Kathy Smith ksmith1804@starpower.net April 2009

I have also used Rod for a challenging upholstery job using two fabrics and he did a fabulous job! He wasn't fast, but he was meticulous, a real craftsman. Kate McLynn kdmclynn@starpower.net May 2009

We have used Yi Upholstery in Rockville for an antique couch. The only other experience I have had with re-upholstery was in Philadelphia and the people did a terrible job. It wasn't done on time and I had to send it back. No problems like this with Yi. Sarah Morse morsekathan@gmail.com May 2009

We used Rod Parson a few years ago. We very pleased. he is very good and very professional. Good luck. Britton and Alfred Chahine chahine1@mac.com May 2009

I saw a fellow list member mentioned Yi's, and I wanted to give another perspective. I used Yi's and although some of their work was good, they do not make it right when they make a mistake. When chair cushions they made were to the wrong size (they simply removed some of the stuffing to "fix" it, which did not work.) Also, they did not return cushions I provided as an example of the size/style I wanted in a different fabric, even though we specifically said we needed the cushions back. They became irate when I asked them to replace the missing cushions and, without provocation, basically said to sue them. I would never use them again - their work is uneven and they do not stand behind their work. – Elizabeth girlxdc@yahoo.com May 2009

I too, had a very bad experience with Yi's....but didn't respond last week b/c of the old phrase, "if you can't say anything good, then don't say anything at all". However, since Elizabeth has weighed in, I felt I should also do so. I brought 4 antique dining chairs to Yi's about 2 years ago, for re-upholstery of the seats and backs. They gouged and scratched the wood all over when they stapled in the new fabric. When I complained, they were quite harsh and accusatory with me, saying the chair scratches were there to begin with. When I showed them pictures that I had taken from the auction (when I bought them) without the scratches, this still did not persuade them, and they wanted another \$200 per chair to refinish them. Nothing seemed to convince them to "make this right". I'm in the design field, so fellow designer recommended "Spicer's" in Alexandria. They touched up all the scratches, for less than Yi's price, and my chairs now look great. My recourse was to give Yi's a scathingly bad review in "checkbook.org" and vow never to use them again. S. Aaron

svia1111@yahoo.com May 2009

My white couch looks terrific after being cleaned by "Heavens Best" a carpet and upholstery cleaner located in College Park, 301 470 4433. I had been thinking I would need to reupholster as previously no cleaning service did a good job. In the Washington Checkbook "Heavens Best" was listed as excellent. I had to look under the carpet cleaning category to find the listing as there is no upholstery cleaning category. Gloria Buckberg gloriabuckberg@yahoo.com August 2010

Re: couch cushions. I recently had Cannon Upholstery, 4901 Hampden Lane, Bethesda , a small place, put new foam in my couch cushion covers. I like very firm foam and they were good on figuring out the hardness I wanted. The number there is 301-654 0090. Gloria Buckberg albuckberg@aol.com July 2012

WATER TREATMENT –

I would strongly recommend John Wolford, who can be reached at jhwolford@betterwatertreatments.com . John is extremely knowledgeable, very pleasant to deal with, and reasonable in his pricing. He very efficiently handles a large array of different water treatment gear in our residence, and I never have had the occasion to complain. You may call me for more information, if you wish. Ed Kane 237-5594. ermk@aol.com April 2010

WET BASEMENTS –

We've been in our house in Tenleytown for 23 years. 20 years ago we hired B-Dry to help us with a wet basement and it has been dry ever since. They installed a French drain system, put in a new sump pump as I recall and guaranteed the work for the life of the company which is still going strong. We would hire them again if necessary, but so far it hasn't been. You can check them out online under B-Dry Systems or Basement Waterproofing systems. Kay Springwater rspringwater@starpower.net July 2009

I "discovered" Scott Madison of Madison Home Inspection in both Angie's List and Checkbook: 301-762-2808. He spends up to 3 hours analyzing the situation, then explains the problem clearly and makes logical and cost-effective recommendations for solutions. The cost is \$325 per consultation but IMO is well worth the expense. Scott is a licensed home inspector and soils engineer. He is unbiased and does NOT recommend anyone to do the work but can steer you away from the biggest crooks and help you avoid unnecessary and expensive "solutions". In our case, he tested the downspout drains running off the roof and showed me that half of them (3/6) were totally or partially blocked. Just taking care of this might in and of itself solve our wet basement problem. He also emphasizes proper drainage away from the house in general, and the proper use of sump pumps and other engineering solutions. squasher@starpower.net August 2010

On Saturday, 3/19/11, I had an appointment with Mr. William Patton who owns Turf Center Lawns in Maryland (301 384.9300). I found the company on the "Communit-E List of Service Providers" submitted by Kathy Smith under the category Wet Basements. The owner I was trying to help had exterior water issues; nothing inside. Mr. Patton was prompt even after two earlier appointments and on his way to a birthday party for his mother-in-law. He quickly became engrossed in the problem at hand. When I later talked to one of our community landscapers, who had agreed to also take a look at the problem, she told me that he clearly had a passion for his work. He came up with one possible solution after another and in the end, dismissed all but the one which was the least expensive. If you have had water issues around your house or water penetrating your basement and want an honest, efficient, very talented master water-problem-solver, please give Mr. Patton, or his thoroughly trained assistant, Mary Ellen (I believe), a call. As an aside he has been in business for a very long time and he is often asked to provide expert testimony in court. Linda Hughes lindahughes3@verizon.net March 2011

Mr. Patton from Turf Center Lawns came out today. We had already gotten an estimate of \$4000 to do all kinds of work. Mr. Patton told us that we didn't need to do anything. Considering he could have told us anything and we probably would have listened, it's nice to know that there are still some honest people out there. His phone is 301-384-9300. Phyllis Papkin Phyllis@papkin.com November 2011

WINDOW REPAIR & REPLACEMENT -

I can HIGHLY recommend All Four Seasons. They replaced all our windows and also did the siding and shutters on our house. The price was great and the work was excellent. The gentleman who handled our contract is Phil Zlotnick. His number is 301-580-9399. Please give him a call. You won't be disappointed. Bari Sedar biernmail@aol.com May 2009

I had my 1926 windows replaced by Anderson Renewal about 4 years ago and they are great. Wood, like Pella, eventually warps. Vinyl, like Pepco, look and are cheap. Anderson renewal are made of a wood composite that looks like wood and can be drilled and painted like wood. Hope this helps. Don Vater dvater4547@aol.com August 2009

Storm Windows: Wheaton Window and Door 866.736.1722. Randy Hill cicada17@starpower.net September 2010

Storm Windows: Try Hodges a company in Virginia that does just what you want. They did both new windows and triple track storm for us. Just Google Hodges windows and they will appear. tommyt@erols.com September 2010

We take all of our glass work, from making a custom size double glazed window, glass coffee table top & replacement window panes, to Columbia Mirror & Glass, who have been a neighborhood business for years. 202-333-3037. Maybe they will be just the place for repairing your table. Kate McLynn
kdmclynn@starpower.net November 2010

I would just like to add a recommendation for Chevy Chase Window Repair (Fathi Amari) - 301-951-6138 or 240-413-4207 (cell). He fixed two window sashes for us about a year ago (May, 2011) and just repaired a window pane for us today (March, 2012). He is courteous, professional, skilled, and very reasonably priced. He responds to phone calls, even on the weekends, very promptly and will do weekend work - we got our window pane replaced less than 24 hours after it was broken on Friday night. His work is also great - very highly recommended. Ross Filice rwfilice@gmail.com March 2012

I can HIGHLY recommend All Four Seasons Company. They replaced all our ancient windows with new energy-efficient double-hung windows and they did a great job at a sensational price. The house is already warmer and quieter! The gentleman who handled our contract is Phil Zlotnick. His number is 301-580-9399. Please give him a call. You won't be disappointed. Bari Sedar biernmail@gmail.com April 2012

I wanted to recommend Mike Rogers of American Windows and Siding. 703-283-0350 – Cell; 301-962-4150 - Office. Mike replaced the windows on our house. He also replaced windows at a building my husband owns, his previous house, his brother's house and other friends. He just replaced our garage door and we're awaiting the new shutters we've ordered through him. So we've used him many times over the year and he's always been responsive and the products are terrific. He neither up-sells nor down-sells. Just completely straight and happy to work with you on your needs. Connie Rhind Robey c_rhind@yahoo.com April 2012

WINDOW WASHERS –

I've used Old Dominion for many years. They do an excellent job and they're punctual. 703-569-2000 Janet Bachman jbachman47@gmail.com March 2011

I have had several of my clients use Tony's window washer, 301/384-1822. They charge about 6 dollars per window, come out quickly and do an excellent job. Marjorie Dick Stuart May 2010

Window Washers Etc. are excellent. (202) 337-0351. Windowwashersetc.com Joanne Rappaport rappapoi@georgetown.edu May 2010

I highly recommend Windows Only (301-654-0853). This is a small company made up of the owner Seth Fenterstock and two assistants. They do a beautiful job, which always includes removing and cleaning screens as well as windows and storm windows. In my case, the storms may be as old as 50 years, and other companies have had a problem with them. Seth and his men are meticulous and the windows are left sparkling! I have used Windows Only twice. They are not cheap, but when you add up all the services and the care given, they are worth it. Harriett hdwinnell@aol.com October 2010

I used Window Washers, Etc. (tel. 202-337-0351), last summer and they did a great job. They are a local company just next door in Palisades. Stacey Marien samarien@yahoo.com March 2011

I recently used Seth Fensterstock of Windows Only. His work number is 301-654-0853. He may not be the most inexpensive but my windows looked great and I plan to continue using Seth. Sally Cox sscox13@gmail.com March 2011

For many years I have used Mark Haynes of Congressional Window-Gutter Cleaning. He has done an excellent job of window washing. I have never used him for gutter cleaning. 301-294-3353. H. Bogorad hbogorad@comcast.net March 2011

Windows Only is great. I don't have their number handy, but you can Goggle them. I believe they are in Silver Spring. Be forewarned: they are expensive, but they are meticulous and thorough, and very pleasant to deal with. Harriet hdwinnell@aol.com March 2011

My neighbor across Brandywine and I both used Windows Only on the same day. And we both agreed that they were the most thorough, tidy, and altogether satisfactory contractors we'd ever had. As someone else said, you can get a cheaper quote, but probably not better service. A careful cleaning of screens and a lot of attention to difficult hard water marks on my rear picture window impressed me. Jo Turner jombturner@gmail.com March 2011