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Referral service links contractors, clients

Written by Staff Reports
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Wouldn't it be great if it only took one phone call to find the right plumber, roofer or drywall for that job you keep putting off? Now it really can be that easy.

Wismer Contractor Referral LLC maintains a list of contractors who have been thoroughly vetted and approved—who are licensed and insured, have submitted to criminal background checks and have provided a list of references. Contractors cannot buy their way onto the list, and the service is free to clients.

Forty-two contractors have cleared the process and are available for jobs, said Don Wismer, who began offering the referral service in November 2009. About eight more are undergoing the requisite checks.

Here's how it works. Clients call Wismer and describe a particular job they want to have completed. Wismer determines which contractor in the network is best suited to the job. Wismer calls the contractor, who then delivers a bid to the client. If the client accepts the bid, the contractor does the work. If the client does not accept the bid, Wismer starts the process again. He is paid a pre-determined fee by the contractor after the work has been satisfactorily completed and the contractor has been paid by the client.

Wismer has a background in construction and has worked with many of the contractors who are currently on the list. His dad was a homebuilder and building inspector in Allen County for many years, and his brother is an architect. Wismer is retired from the Fort Wayne Police Department and currently serves as an associate pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Getz Road. His wife Mimi is a captain with the Fort Wayne Fire Department.

The referral service is not limited to home repair and improvement contractors, but is open to any kind of service that could be performed at a client's home, from computer repair to lawn mowing to pet care.

"Sometimes when you have a need you wonder who to call," Mimi said. "This is a launching point."

Wismer said contractors who want to be considered for the referral list should apply via the Web site at www.wismercr.com. He plans to limit the number of choices in each category.

"We can't promote anyone exclusively and we don't want to water it down," he said. "We want to offer two to three choices in each category."

Wismer relies heavily on social media to promote his referral service. Potential clients can find him on Facebook, Twitter, a blog and his Web site.

Images



Don Wismer Photo by Sue Reeves

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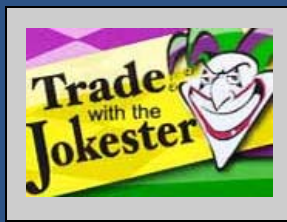
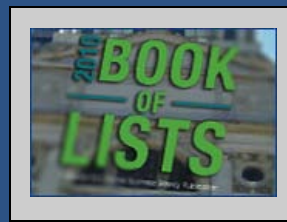
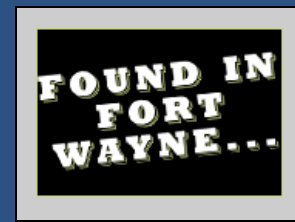
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