

IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
"Community Commitment since 1947" October 2012

Mayhem in Idlewylde

Around 9:30 PM on Wednesday, Sept. 19, a neighbor was walking near the intersection of Beechwood and St. Albans. Police say an altercation occurred between our neighbor and four occupants of a car, who physically assaulted him, resulting in his hospitalization.

The next morning, police officers and detectives from the Towson precinct canvassed the neighborhood searching for suspects and vehicle information. They met a community member who had reported a suspicious car in the 900 block of Overbrook Rd the previous week. The resident gave the license plate number to the officers, who identified it as a stolen vehicle.

Detectives watched the vehicle. When four people entered it, officers approached the vehicle and made several arrests. The car matched the description given by the assault victim, and it was determined that these were the subjects responsible for the assault. Case solved in under 18 hours thanks to great police work by Towson precinct and an observant ICA member who called 911 on a hunch.

* * *

A few points. When the car was stolen from Loch Raven Village, it had been left unlocked with the keys inside. *Always lock your doors* and never leave your keys (not even a valet key) in the car.

If you see *anything* suspicious, *call 9-1-1*. The police are constantly asking us as community leaders to "Please encourage your residents to call 9-1-1." **9-1-1 is not just for emergencies any longer; it is a well-staffed centralized dispatch center.** It takes just minutes for an officer to run the license plate number of a suspicious vehicle in order to determine if it has been reported stolen or is otherwise "in the system". It makes the Police Department's job much easier if we assist them by giving them leads. If they investigate a lead that turns out to be nothing, it's no big deal to them – it's all in a day's work.

What is "suspicious"? Well, it's anything that makes you feel even the least bit uncomfortable. A few examples:

- A teenager walking around the neighborhood during school hours with an empty backpack.
- A person with a shopping bag following a delivery truck.
- A person or group of people who seem to be looking

at every house as they walk down the street.

- Someone who knocks on your door and asks for a person who does not live there.
- A car parked on your block that doesn't belong to your neighbors.
- A car parked on your block that appears to have been abandoned.
- Several different people making short visits to a house.

In the case of the resident who reported the suspicious vehicle on Overbrook, it began as an annoyance on his way home from work. One day the car was parked on an angle: half on the sidewalk, half in the street. Another day it was stopped in the middle of Overbrook and when it left, the driver turned right onto Beechwood. Even though this does not seem suspicious, the resident later realized that most Idlewylde residents would have continued down Overbrook or turned left toward Register Ave.

Another day the same car was again stopped in the middle of Overbrook Road. A young male came out of a house, handed something to the driver, the car left and again turned right onto Beechwood.

Some neighborhoods have a reputation as easy targets. Let's make sure Idlewylde isn't one of them. Lock your house, cars, windows, sheds ... everything. Call 9-1-1 for anything that makes you feel uneasy. If there is no apparent response to your report, contact an ICA board member and we will follow up. Our experience has been that the Baltimore County Police Department is very responsive.

* * *

Other tidbits of info. In Baltimore County it is illegal for more than two unrelated adults to reside in an owner-occupied dwelling. Also, any absentee-owned dwelling rented to more than two unrelated adults must be registered with the County. If you think a residence is in breach of either regulation, please report it to Baltimore County Code Enforcement: 410-887-3351 or paienforce@baltimorecountymd.gov.

You can also report other situations that detract from our community, such as overgrown grass or weeds, abandoned vehicles, and commercial vehicles illegally parked in a residential area. For more information: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/codeinspections.html>.

– Tom Lattanzi

Idlewylde Real Estate Values

In this age of technology, the factors that go into real estate values are not always accurate. As well as actual facts, perceptions – and misperceptions – affect real estate values.

Even though Idlewylde is just across the City line, it is in fact in Baltimore County. We enjoy County services and have the benefit of the County's wonderful schools – a key factor in real estate values.

A website many home buyers rely upon to determine home values is *zillow.com*. Zillow determines an estimate ("Zestimate") for a house based on a range of publicly available information, including sales of comparable houses in a neighborhood, in our case 21239. Zestimate does not take into consideration home-specific factors like recent remodeling, although there is an option to update the information for a particular home.

The accuracy of the Zestimate varies by location depending on the available information, but Zillow allows users to check the accuracy of Zestimates in their own region against actual sales.

We recently checked some addresses in Idlewylde and found that the schools listed were Leith Walk Elementary, Loch Raven Tech Middle School, and Reginald F. Lewis High School – City schools! – rather than the correct Stoneleigh ES, Dumbarton MS, and Towson HS. This could be a major deterrent to people thinking of buying a home in Idlewylde.

While we will try to address this with Zillow.com, you can help too. Just visit their site, type in your address, click on "Detail", "Claim Your Home" and correct any misinformation contained in your listing. You may also wish to check a similar site, *trulia.com*.

– Submitted without byline

Know where you live? Zillow doesn't!

Go to *zillow.com* and look for homes in "Idlewylde, MD." Each listing has the same info at the bottom. Wait for it ...

"This home is located in Baltimore in zip code 21239. Belair/Edison and Brooklyn are nearby neighborhoods. The closest ZIP codes are 21093 and 21206."

See what's missing? The closest zip codes, for a start! 21212 and 21286 – part of Idlewylde is in 212, for goodness' sake! As for the "nearby neighborhoods," they're miles away in the City – don't even bother to look. And heaven forbid Zillow should say we're in the County, not the City.

As the saying goes: *Location, location, location!* We need the real estate companies and web sites to get our location right – and the schools that go with it. So

do what the previous article advises. Go to the web sites it mentions and check the info for your home. Correct it if necessary.

As the article says, part of the problem is technology. All sorts of real estate-related web sites have sprung up which are very hazy on the details. They don't know Idlewylde from Idlewood. What they do know is zip codes. And 239 is four-fifths or more in the City. So if you're in 239, you must be in a City school district – right?

But it's not just the technology, it's the stupidity. For some reason the Postal Service started assigning random names to neighborhoods based on the Postal Stations that serve them. Suddenly we stopped being "Baltimore, MD" and became "Northwood, MD." Northwood is in the southern part of 239 – mostly in 218, in fact – but no matter. The 239 post office is called "Northwood," so we were too. That's why we had to fight to be "Idlewylde, MD" in the first place. And some companies still haven't noticed – Comcast, for one.

The ICA has decided to do something about this. So whenever you run into this sort of error – which costs us as residents of Idlewylde, MD 21239 – let the board know.

– Paul Romney

CLASSIFIED

ARTS

Piano lessons are available in Idlewylde. Children and adults are welcome. 20+ years teaching experience. For more information contact *Carolyn Weglein* at *littlelway@aol.com* or 410-377-5323.

Art Lessons. Beginning to advanced. Drawing and painting, watercolors, oils and pastels for children and adults, College professor with BFA and MA degrees. Please call *Bonnie Printz* at 410-377-9342.

HOME AND GARDEN

Babysitting/Pet Sitting/Housesitting. *Cassie Springer* is 17 yrs old, Red Cross certified, responsible, and loves children and animals. Siblings *Jake* (22) and *Morgan* (20) are in college but return home for breaks and can also be available. Please call 410-377-8060 for more information.

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Idlewyld Community Association

At this year's fall General Meeting, held on Wednesday, September 19, a new Board of Directors was elected:

Tom Lattanzi, *President*

Jamie Kass, *Vice-President – Newsletter Distribution Director*

Cynthia Jabs, *Secretary*

John Keenan, *Treasurer*

Derald Dudley, *At Large – COP Program Director*

Susanna Elliott, *At Large – Webmaster*

Ashleigh Rohm, *At Large*

Paul Romney, *At Large – Newsletter Editor*

Contact information for the Board is printed in each newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact any Board member should you have a community concern.

We also offer our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Board members who have offered their time and talents to our neighborhood (some for several years.) Their efforts have contributed significantly in making Idlewyld a strong and vibrant community. The outgoing Board Members are *Karen Bracken, Kim Deinlein, Kate Foley, Ben Mentzer* and *Martin Saylor*.

In addition to changes on the Board, other volunteer positions have changed hands this year. *Dori Stickles* supported the community for several years as Webmaster of the Idlewyld Community Association website. She has moved out west and we wish her the best of luck in her

new endeavors.

Another significant transition is with the position of Membership Director. *Marcia Ferguson*, who has provided this service to our neighborhood for years, has passed the baton to *Vivian Kreller*. Marcia not only kept track of our ICA members but also worked to produce the Idlewyld Directory. Many thanks to Marcia for a job well done and a big thanks to Vivian for taking on this important job.

There are many people in our neighborhood who volunteer formally (like our Block Captains and Newsletter Distributors as well as our COP patrollers) . Others give their time on an informal basis (helping out a neighbor in need, picking up trash, etc.) *Thanks to all for your time and energy spent on the betterment of our neighborhood.*

– *Jamie Kass*

A VERY Special Thank You to KIM DEINLEIN, the head of the committee who planned such a successful block party on Sunday, Sept 23rd. It was wonderful to see so many neighbors come out and have fun. THANK YOU!

– *Susanna Elliott*

Nancy L. Hofmann,
ABR, CRS

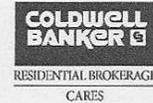
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

7402 York Road, Towson, MD 21204
410-823-2323 (office), 410-459-4445 (cell)

Email: Nancy@NancyHofmann.com
Web: www.NancyHofmann.com



"I grew up in Idlewylde and have been assisting buyers and sellers in the neighborhood for more than 23 years. My continued support for the neighborhood includes a donation to the Idlewylde Community Association for every home I sell."



Join My Facebook Fan Page at "Your Towson Realtor – Nancy Hofmann"

Coffee, anyone ?

It seems one can accumulate coffee mugs without a lot of effort. They arrive from friends, relatives and other well-meaning folks, and the number of donations varies with one's age and station in life. Ours rolled in, irresistibly, during our twenties to forties and then started to taper off through middle to old age.

The better quality ones succumb to vertical cracks, usually behind the handle, while the cheaper ones chip and chip away all the available edges. These well-meaning ceramics must jostle each other in dark corners during the night hours and breed, because we have hybrids that have both vertical cracks and chips.

I do have one mug in almost pristine condition. It was proudly bought at the time I started my third and longest job. I had visions of sitting at my desk, slowly going through important papers with a steaming mug of coffee at my right elbow. I think I drank out of it twice at work, as the only coffee I can remember drinking on the job was grabbed in the cafeteria or from the communal urn at committee meetings. My daughters each took a liking to this particular mug and I had to steal it back from their apartments after they stole it from me.

My current favorite mug bears a picture of my eldest grand daughter. Wearing a hat that is fifty years too old for her, she stares straight at the camera and looks like the young Tatum O'Neal in *Paper Moon*.

Occasionally I move out coffee mugs from where they

have collected on some dusty shelf in the basement. These are really tacky and often have some obscenity printed on them. I did find a good-looking one in this collection the other day - it had a vertical crack behind the handle - and decided to put it back into circulation. It bears a Pre-Raphaelite picture of young maidens and lily pads, and I have my own off-color name for it.

On brave occasions the old and dusty mugs are sent off to some thrift organization. Perhaps weeks later I'll be browsing the shelves of some thrift shop and will take a fancy to a lonely-looking mug. On the way to the service desk I'll note it has a long-known and recognizable vertical crack and chip and, reluctantly, will return it to the shelf.

– Donald Hart

Idlewylde Hall

Please consider the Hall for parties and events such as birthdays, receptions, and bridal and baby showers. Anyone can rent the Hall, but ICA members receive a 50% discount off regular weekend prices and a preferred rate during the week.

For details, or to schedule your event, contact the Hall Manager at 410-377-9247 or ica.activity@gmail.com.



IDLEWYLDE: TALKING TO EACH OTHER

The Idlewylde Community Yahoo! Group is a site where residents can post notices (including crime alerts), ask for contractor recommendations, advertise giveaways or stuff for sale, and raise issues for discussion. It is also the first stop for ICA announcements.

How to join:

- go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Idlewylde_community.
- click on the blue "Join This Group" button and follow the instructions.

You'll have to set up a yahoo.com e-mail address, but you don't ever have to use it. Once you've joined, you can simply substitute another address for Group messages.

Privacy note. When you set up a Yahoo ID, you are asked for certain personal information: name, gender, and birthday. This info appears in the Group members list on the website. *However*, you have the option of keeping it confidential.

Questions? Contact Amy at everestgc@yahoo.com or Paul at paulromney03@aim.com.

STRIDER'S CORNER

A column on neighborhood issues

Putting Our Best Foot Forward. Last month two events within a few days testified to the vitality of our community. One was the ICA's fall general meeting, which was notable for the number of new faces in attendance.

John Keenan tastefully decked the tables in pastel shades of Orioles orange and Ravens purple, and the drinks and snacks made at least one participant wish he'd missed dinner. There are three new faces on the board, while *Jamie Kass* returns after two or three years' absence.

Then, four days later, the 1100 block of Overbrook Rd was the venue of a positively magical neighborhood block party. I don't know if a good time was had by all, but I've certainly never seen so many kids having so much fun. That helped their attendant adults to enjoy themselves too.

In between, unfortunately, came the fracas *Tom Lattanzi* mentions on the front page, when a neighbor who had been helping at the general meeting exchanged words with the occupants of a car he thought was driving too fast on one of our narrowest streets. Luckily, the police made swift arrests with the help of an observant neighbor.

Citizens on Patrol. Idlewylde is a low-crime neighborhood, but for the past year we have had to do without a COP presence. Now *Derald Dudley* has stepped up to revive the operation and get some observing eyes patrolling the neighborhood at times when the police are else-

where. By the time you read this, two training sessions will have been held.

Sgt Fink, Towson Precinct, urges us all to secure all property, lock our car doors and all sheds, garages or other outbuildings on our property. He says: "We all have an active role in reducing crime in Towson, and by properly locking and securing all property you are taking a major step to that goal. *Notifying the Police when you see criminal or suspected criminal activity is another big step to that same goal.*"

– Paul Romney

Local mail boxes

Idlewylde is a community of two zip codes, two voting precincts, and (until January) two Congressmen. But zero mail boxes. Here is a short list of nearby mail boxes.

Southwest:

- Holly Lane and Windwood Rd
- Giant shopping center on York Rd
- Anneslie Shopping Center

West:

- Register and York
- Murdock and York

Northwest:

- Wardman and Stoneleigh
- Wardman and Hatherleigh

Southeast

- Walker Ave. and Leith Walk

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Real Estate Agent of Idlewylde

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Real Estate Professionals, Inc.

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The Board usually meets at the Community Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. All members of the ICA are welcome, but please contact a board member to confirm time and place.

*** CITIZENS ON PATROL ***

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*** IDLEWYLDE NEWS ***

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*Submit articles, ads, etc. to the editor at
idlewylDENews@yahoo.com or contact editor by phone.*

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- ¼ page: \$25 members, \$50 non-members
- ½ page: \$35 members, \$75 non-members
- Full-page insert:
 - one-sided: \$100 members, \$200 non-members
 - two-sided: \$125 members, \$250 non-members

Classified listings are free for members of ICA

Payment. Send check payable to "Idlewylde Community Association" to ICA at PO Box above.

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