

IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Community Commitment since 1947"

August 2013

Schools Update

Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) is working to address overcrowding in the elementary schools in the central "corridor" along York Road. It is estimated that an additional 1,200 seats are needed to meet current enrollment. A new elementary school being constructed in Mays Chapel will provide 700 seats. The location of the remaining 500 seats is yet to be determined but may include a new elementary school in the Towson area.

BCPS has hired an architectural consulting firm to develop recommendations as to which schools can be renovated to alleviate overcrowding. BCPS held two public meetings earlier this summer to gather input from the community on potential solutions. The consultant's report is to be completed no later than November 2013.

How might this affect Idlewylde?

While as yet no proposals have been announced, BCPS has stated that they will include re-zoning school district boundaries somewhere in the county. Stoneleigh Elementary School re-opens in August with a 200-seat addition, but the school will still be over 100 per cent capacity when our children return. Moreover, the overcrowding issue reaches beyond elementary schools, since Towson High School enrollment is also significantly above capacity.

The zone to the east of us includes Halstead Academy Elementary School, Loch Raven Academy Middle School, and Parkville High School. All are under capacity, but they are chronically under-performing schools with low test scores.

Our neighborhood is close to the boundary of these school zones, and we fear that we, along with our neighbors in Loch Hill, could be re-zoned to these schools. We want to stay in our current schools to give our kids the best possible education and protect our property values.

Idlewylde and Loch Hill United!

Accordingly, we and Loch Hill have joined together to head off any threat to our school zoning. A committee of 12 has been set up and is working to develop our response. On July 9, more than 70 people from our two neighborhoods attended a Board of Education meeting to let them know how we feel. Most were wearing blue T-Shirts bearing the words "Idlewylde and Loch Hill United." We got the Board's attention and that of the *Baltimore Sun*.

How can you get involved?

- Purchase an *Idlewylde and Loch Hill United* T-shirt for \$5 and wear it often to raise awareness of our concerns. Contact *Priya Iyer* at piyerbelgi@gmail.com or 410-905-6959 to get your shirt.
- Take our community survey, which will help us gather information that could be relevant to our discussions with BCPS as the redistricting study moves forward. You can find it online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FMQBSB6>.
- Come to Board of Education meetings *wearing your ILHU T-shirt*. The next one is scheduled for Aug. 6. Future meetings are scheduled for Sept. 10, Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, and Dec. 17. Our intention is to show the School Board by our presence that we are committed to seeing this process to its conclusion and that *we are paying attention!*

We won 9 of the 10 speaking slots during the public comment section at the July board meeting. Whenever a member of Idlewylde or Loch Hill speaks for our communities, we stood in support of the speaker and it was noted in the minutes. Our message was clearly heard.

We don't feel the need to speak at the next meeting. We don't want to be annoying by repeating ourselves too many times. After all, we're not there to nag or oppose – we're there to help.

But when the time is right, we will be asking community members to write letters. ***We will be timing our letter writing campaign, so please participate when asked for the greatest impact.*** Sample letters are being prepared and will be shared soon.

– *Jamie Kass and the ILHU Committee*

OH YEAH

ANOTHER GREAT IDLEWYLDE BLOCK PARTY

IS IN THE WORKS!

SEE ANNOUNCEMENT ON P. 2

The ILHU Committee

The Committee has been selected and their work has already begun! The *Idlewylde* members are Vera Case, Barbara Cherry, Jim Ferrens, Aimee Freeman, Kimberly Graham, Priya Iyer, Peter Ismay, Duncan Keir, Katie McCabe.

The *Loch Hill* members are Kerrie Brooks, Becky Ceraul, Allysha Lorber.

We thank the committee for volunteering to lead our communities in this important endeavor.

Please join us at the Idlewylde Community Hall on Monday, August 19 at 7:00 pm for a brief update on the process and the planned response from our communities.

After formal remarks, Idlewylde and Loch Hill neighbors will be able to speak with committee members on an individual basis.

CLASSIFIED

ARTS

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.

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.

DAYCARE

Registered Daycare Provider has (1) one full time infant opening available immediately, and (1) full time/part time/or before and after school opening for ages 2 and up available immediately. Loving, learn-ing, fun, spacious, and clean environment. Registered in Idlewylde since 1990. Excellent references. *Susan Gourley*, 410-377-3371, *susan083@hotmail.com*.

HOME AND GARDEN

Babysitter for hire! *Lily O'Mara* – American Red Cross Certified in Babysitter Training and member of the Stoneleigh Pool – available days and evenings, Cell: 443-791-8230. Email: *omarali19@ndpblazers.com*.

Light hauling/towing. Home Depot, landfill, etc. *Dennis Crawford*, 410-960-2442.

ANOTHER GREAT IDLEWYLDE BLOCK PARTY !!

Saturday, OCTOBER 5th

SAVE THE DATE !!

Location T.B.D

Hot Dogs and drinks will be provided, but please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share.

Games: YES !!

Nancy L. Hofmann,
ABR, CRS

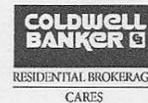
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

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"

United for What? A Perspective on the Schools Issue

The primary issue is *access to quality public education*. Stoneleigh, Dumbarton and Towson High are excellent schools, which provide many opportunities for our children. Many or most of us moved to Idlewylde for the sake of its schools. Their excellence expresses the values of our community. We must guard against any proposal to shift us into under performing schools outside our neighborhood.

A second concern is the effect of such a move on our property values. This issue too is very relevant to our character as a community that values education. Many of us are people of modest means who have paid a substantial premium for modest homes because of the excellence of the neighborhood schools. In all likelihood, a greater proportion of the value of our homes is bound up with the quality of our neighborhood schools than in the communities with which we share those schools.

These are real concerns, but we must keep a sense of proportion. As our leading article notes, as yet no proposals of any sort have been made by the BCPS. Obviously the creation of 1200 new elementary school seats will necessitate re-zoning, but this is no big deal. The creation of new seats inside the overcrowded York Rd Corridor is a good thing for us, because it relieves the pressure.

Our concern is with what a BCPS questionnaire circulated at the first public consultation calls “mid and long-term relief strategies” for the Corridor. Located as we are at the extreme south-east point of the Corridor, our worry is a continuing build-up of development-generated pressure to the north and west of us that might expel our children into substandard schools east of MD-542, a.k.a. Loch Raven Blvd. The questionnaire mentions, as one possible remedy, “*appropriate use of available school capacity to meet the needs of the children.*” That certainly sounds like bureaucratise for re-zoning.

Still, we mustn't assume that, just because this is possible, it is something BCPS would want to do. For one thing, it would mean reducing access to quality education in the County, and that is surely *not* their goal. The very excellence of our neighborhood schools testifies to the Board's historic commitment to quality education.

And note the word *appropriate*. BCPS would have a hard time justifying the relocation of our kids to seriously inferior schools as *appropriate*, and as meeting the needs of our children!

The concern is that the shift is something that BCPS might feel pressured into, whether they want to or not. The school board has no power to raise funds. It gets its money from the County. We need BCPS to spend money on seats in the York Rd Corridor, but we also need the County to give them that money.

Our task is to make BCPS and the County feel our need. To that end, Idlewylde and Loch Hill have United for Access to Quality Education.

– Paul Romney

Your Community—

Your Community Association

Many of you attended that packed meeting on June 17 to launch Idlewylde's campaign (in collaboration with Loch Hill) to protect our access to quality education. At such times one's sense of Idlewylde *as a community* is very strong.

It's at times like this that the Idlewylde Community Association comes into its own, helping to focus community energies.

After learning in May that BCPS was holding public consultations on the overcrowding issue, ICA board members attended them to get a sense of what it meant for Idlewylde.

When the second consultation raised concerns about re-zoning, it was *your* ICA that called a community meeting, got the fliers printed and distributed, and bought the roadside signs advertising the action meeting.

And it was *your* ICA that provided the space for the meeting.

Since then *your* ICA has fronted the money for the ILH United tee-shirts and paid for more street signs to flag upcoming School Board meetings. ICA board members continue to collaborate with the ILHU committee to coordinate our response to the developing situation.

The ICA is *your* community association – but only if you join it.

Please use the dues form included with this newsletter and **JOIN THE ICA!**

Idlewylde Community Association FALL GENERAL MEETING



Wednesday, September 18 at 7:30 PM

Idlewylde Hall, 6301 Sherwood Rd



**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!
OLD MEMBERS WELCOME BACK!**



Household membership \$20 for one year



We will elect officers for 2013-14 and conduct any other business.



This meeting is for members of the ICA only. If you are not currently a member you will be able to join or renew at the door.

Volunteers Wanted!

Your Community Association Needs You!

What if no one volunteered?

Ultimately, it all comes down to people stepping up to do stuff.

The ICA needs people who are committed to protecting and improving our neighborhood to step up in three areas:

- **Citizens on Patrol.** Idlewylde is a low-crime neighborhood, and neighbors keeping an eye on what's going on help to keep it that way. We need someone to coordinate this operation by organizing the patrol roster and liaising with the Towson police to arrange occasional training dates for new volunteers.
- **Webmaster.** Our current webmaster has volunteered to take over the Treasurer's duties, and would like to hand over the web site (www.idlewylde.net) to someone else. If you have some expertise and are willing to help, please contact Susanna at susannaelliott@hotmail.com to find out more.
- **Board member.** Any thriving community association relies on members being willing to step up and take their turn at the wheel. The main qualifications are an interest in community affairs and a willingness to respond promptly to emails. And of course you need to be a paid-up member of the ICA. (But we'll take your money any time.)

We'd love to hear from you. Contact Jamie Kass or any board member.

I.C.A. BOARD (2012-13)

Jamie Kass, *President* 410-377-6728 jamiemandhenry@yahoo.com

John Keenan, *Treasurer* 410-377-0563 jkeenan@WallaceMontgomery.com

Cynthia Jabs, *Secretary* 410-377-7252

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At-large members:

Susanna Elliott 443-791-8583

susannaelliott@hotmail.com

Ashleigh Rohm 443-465-3824

smash426@hotmail.com

Paul Romney 410-377-0748

paulromney03@aim.com

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.

CITIZENS ON PATROL

Director:

www.idlewylde.com

Webmaster: Susanna Elliott

*** IDLEWYLDE NEWS ***

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

Advertising rates

- ¼ page: \$25 members, \$50 non-members
- ½ page: \$35 members, \$75 non-members
- Full-page insert (no member discount):
 - o one-sided: \$200
 - o two-sided: \$250

Classified listings are free for members of the ICA.

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

Idlewylde News is the newsletter of the Idlewylde Community Association. 755 copies of each issue are printed for distribution.

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your home OR a list of the sold comps in the
neighborhood!*

Kristin Edelman, Realtor

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