

IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Community Commitment since 1947"

August 2014

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 5

Hello neighbors!

Please come out to support **National Night Out** and Idlewylde's **Citizens on Patrol**.

A convoy of police, fire, and Greater Towson Area COP vehicles will be traveling down Register Ave between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Please turn out to wave and cheer them on.

Also, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm, our own Idlewylde Citizens on Patrol program will be holding a get-together at the Idlewylde Community Hall on Sherwood. We'll be serving soft drinks, hot dogs, and other goodies. Sign up for a COP patrol at the event and get a **free tee-shirt!**

COP volunteers will have **engravers** on hand, so bring any bikes and valuables you'd like to have engraved with identifying information.

A great evening to meet neighbors and learn about crime prevention in our community.

Questions? Please contact:

MaryBeth Collins: mbcollins03@gmail.com

Jim DeBesse: jamesedebesse@yahoo.com

Idlewylde Community Association FALL GENERAL MEETING



Tuesday, September 23 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 2014-15 and conduct any other business.



This meeting is for members of the ICA only. If you aren't currently a member, you'll be able to join or renew at the door.

What does the ICA do?

The Idlewylde Community Association is dedicated to protecting and improving the community. As mandated by its by-laws, its purposes include:

- *Maintaining and running the **community hall**;
- *Promoting our **welfare** and **quality of life**;
- *Maintaining the **appearance** of the community;
- *Protecting and improving residential **property values**;
- *Expressing members' views on **community issues**;
- *Promoting **educational, recreational, and social activities**;
- *Disseminating **useful information**;
- *Proposing **legislation** and **zoning ordinances**, and maintaining the observance of **zoning** and other **laws and regulations** affecting Idlewylde.

There's a lot of overlap there – both no. 2 and no. 4 include pretty much everything else – but how do they translate into action?

Building the *community hall* was the first thing the ICA did – they took community really seriously back in the 1940s. I like to think it was due to the Great Depression and the War. The hall puts gas in our tank. It gives us a place to hold public meetings and social events, but it also generates the revenue that helps Idlewylde to punch beyond its weight.

Appearance of the community – That can be anything from making sure that absentee landlords maintain their property to staging an annual Dumpster Day. A major success a dozen or so years ago was improving the look of the business block by getting the ornamental street lights and bump-outs installed. Of course, the bump-outs aren't just decorative – they also slow down traffic.

Expressing members' views – Our ability to stage public meetings allows us to focus and channel the views not just of members but the community as a whole. Apart from that, the ICA board is

constantly in touch with Councilman Marks, the Police, and the County administration on issues like zoning and crime. We are in effect a communications conduit between the County and Idlewyld.

Educational, recreational and social activities – Dances, block parties, Hallowe'en parties, Valentine's Day parties, St. Patrick's Day parties. Santa's Ride. Yup. And getting the County to buy the Overlook Park site and turn it into a recreational space was a big success. As for *educational*, we recently hosted some talks on legal topics. And I recall we once hosted a rainbarrel-making event ...

Useful info – This newsletter! Our website! Etc.

Legislation and zoning ordinances – That's a wide-ranging mandate. Any development-related issue has a zoning component. For instance, we worked with the previous owners of the old nursing home building on the corner of Regester and Sherwood to get authorization for a use that was acceptable to the neighbors. Right now we're in touch with the agent who's listing the building for auction

to help him get the details right. And we've given him the name of a potential buyer.

Currently the ICA is taking care that the construction at the Stoneleigh Woods site conforms to the provisions laid out in the settlement agreement. And of course the Family Dollar proposal isn't dead yet, although not much seems to be happening just now. It's about 15 years since the ICA secured the downzoning of the lots where they've applied to build the store. That's certainly helped us fight the proposal.

As I said at the beginning, *welfare, quality of life* and *property values* includes just about everything. That means it includes some very important things that don't fall into any other category. So last but not least, let's not forget our Citizens on Patrol program and the ICA's role in marshaling the community's response to the school redistricting issue.

Have I forgotten anything really important? Probably. But that'll do to go on with.

– Paul Romney



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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.

HOME AND GARDEN

Babysitter. *Lily O'Mara*, age 13, Red Cross Certified in Babysitter Training. Available nights and week-ends. Cell phone: 443-791-8230.

SAVE THE DATE !!

Another ...

Great ...

IDLEWYLDE BLOCK PARTY !!

Saturday , SEPTEMBER 20, 3 – 6 PM

Where: LITCHFIELD AT REGISTER
NEXT TO OVERBROOK PARK PLAY LOT
(SAME AS LAST YEAR)

MUSIC! GAMES! MOONBOUNCE!

The ICA will provide the main menu as usual, but please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share.

ASHLEIGH ROHM is heading up the organizing and would LOVE some extra help! If you can help out, please contact her at
<ASHLEIGHROHM1@GMAIL.COM>.

Help the ICA help Idlewylde

All that good stuff the ICA does for Idlewylde ... it only gets done because people step up and do it. If no one stepped up, it wouldn't get done.

You could be one of the few, the happy few, who do.

Getting elected to the ICA board isn't a *House of Cards* deal. You don't need to stab anyone in the back – in fact, we strongly discourage it. Seriously. If you want to be on the board that badly, we don't want you. But if you don't want it that badly, you could end up being president. Unlike in Washington.

The ideal board member is someone who has other things to do with their life but realizes that the ICA does important – no, *essential* – work and it's worth the commitment.

You don't even have to be on the board. True, the ICA has by-laws that require it to elect a board of 7 to 9 individuals, including certain officers. Sometimes we have to scramble to fill the roster.

But any member of the Association can attend board meetings and join in the discussion. And you don't have to be on the board to run the COP, keep the membership records, or edit or distribute this newsletter.

Really – if you think it might be fun to edit the *Idlewylde News*, by all means step up. You won't have to arm-wrestle me.

And to help Ashleigh Rohm with the block party you don't even have to join the ICA.

So, to sum up, helping out with the ICA is about midway in that very wide happy space between Washington politics (*House of Cards*) and lining up for a lifeboat on the Titanic (*Titanic*). No way you'll have to fight for your life. Guaranteed.

We'll be re-arranging the deckchairs in September. If you're interested in helping the ICA help the community, give any board member a call or drop them an email (see back page).

Now, about giving Ashleigh a hand with the block party ...

– Paul Romney

Save our bees, save our gardens (1)

It was recently reported in the *Sun* and elsewhere that the leaves of commercially grown garden plants are frequently impregnated with neocotinoids, a type of pesticide lethal to bees and other essential pollinators. This toxin remains active once the plants are in the garden. Some retailers are taking steps to source unpolluted plants and ensure that affected plants carry a warning label.

– Paul Romney

Stephen W. Converse, Realtor

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My family and I have been living in Idlewylde for the last 25+ years, so I know the local neighborhoods well. I assist buyers and sellers and welcome the opportunity to meet with you for your FREE consultation.

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Office: 410-583-5700

Email: **Stephen.Converse@LNF.com**

Web: www.Stephen-Converse.com



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Dawn Converse, cSMM

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Save our bees, save our gardens (2)

Recently I pleaded on the community Yahoo Group for neighbors to think about the long-term effects of mosquito spraying in their yards. Modern pesticides and herbicides represent a serious threat to the common pollinators (bees, butterflies, moths).

Commercial sprayers assure us that they spray at times when those critters are not in flight. Maybe.

There are ways of dealing with mosquitos that pose no threat to bees and other friends of nature. For tips, visit the excellent Baltimore County Mosquito Control Program website:

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/education/mosquitocontrol.html

– Donald Hart

Idlewylde Community Association

BOARD (2013-14)

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Mike Snyder, mel@michaelsnyder.me

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

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Mary Beth Collins, mbcollins03@gmail.com

www.idlewylde.org

Webmaster: Mike Snyder

IDLEWYLDE NEWS

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

Advertising Rates

- ¼ page: \$25 members, \$50 non-members
- ½ page: \$35 members, \$75 non-members
- Full-page insert: one-sided: \$200, 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.

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