

IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Community Commitment since 1947"

October 2015

ICA Fall General Meeting

The meeting was a very full one, owing to the presence of several guests who spoke and fielded questions. They were Councilman *David Marks*, *Peter Kurtze* of the Maryland Historical Trust, Captain *Jay Landsman* of the County Police, Towson Precinct, and Delegate *Steve Lafferty*. Since there was a certain amount of overlap, their remarks are best reported topically.

Traffic Calming, especially on Regester. This was the main focus of the meeting, drawing animated audience participation. Capt. Landsman has asked the County to look at installing a 4-way stop sign at Regester and Sharon in order to slow traffic in both directions.

There was a certain amount of audience skepticism as to whether signage served any purpose, and particularly whether a stop sign might simply encourage impatient drivers to step on the gas once they had passed it. Some members expressed a preference for physical impediments like the speed humps on Dumbarton and Hatherleigh. Another suggestion was a speed feedback device like those sometimes deployed on Gittings Ave.

One problem is that certain measures are currently ruled out by Regester's current highway classification. Del. Lafferty reported that he has asked the state highway authority to look at reclassifying it.

Meanwhile, Capt. Landsman assured us that Regester is very much on the radar for patrol by his traffic officers. And one thing that keeps it there is complaints from the public. If you have concerns about traffic in Idlewylde, you can use the county Bureau of Traffic Engineering's online contact form at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/-contact/traffic> or email them at trafficeng@-baltimorecountymd.gov.

Zoning. Councilman Marks mentioned that he intends to raise certain local issues for review during the current Comprehensive Zoning Map Process, thereby saving the community the fees payable if we raise them ourselves. These concern the commercial block on Sherwood and the former **Armacost** nursing home up the street.

As Pete Ismay reported later in the meeting, Armacost has been placed the market again by the assisted living specialists who bought it last year. Whether they've done this because they can't make the building work for that purpose, or for some other reason, is unclear, because they haven't been returning phone calls.

Pete also reported an approach from the owner of the lots opposite the Hall. She has been talking to developers who might want to build a Dollar General Store or a strip

mall. On behalf of the ICA, he and Paul Romney reiterated the community's opposition to anything that is out-of-scale and does not serve Idlewylde.

Mosquito spraying. Steve Lafferty told us that he had received no more notice than the rest of us of the state's intention to spray. He has suggested to the state Department of Agriculture that in future they should first contact local representatives, who will be able to issue a timely warning to local community groups.

Historic Idlewylde. Peter Kurtze spoke about the possibility of nominating Idlewylde for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Stoneleigh and Anneslie are already listed, and Idlewylde is older than they are.

Listing on the Register place no burdens on property-owners, but it does entitle them to state tax credits for certain kinds of home maintenance. Preparing the nomination is a lot of work, though. Wealthy neighborhoods hire specialist firms which charge thousands of dollars.

It was suggested that historic listing might benefit homeowners in the 239 zip code, since it would help to distinguish Idlewylde from the rest of the zone.

ICA business. Treasurer Dana Reed reported that hall revenues took a hit this year because the congregation that was our regular Sunday tenant disbanded, costing us \$1200 a month in rent. Upkeep, property tax and other costs make it necessary to rent the hall commercially, and we are looking for additional rentals to offset that loss.

The by-laws were altered to remove the requirement for a costly annual audit and to state specifically that members of the board of directors must be members of the Association.

Idlewylde block party. On account of rain, the party was held a day later than scheduled, but we had a decent turnout and much better weather. Congratulations to chief organizer *Ashleigh Rohm*, who capably held it all together despite the last-minute switch.

John Keenan was once again the indefatigable grill-master. *Cynthia Jabs* and *Mark Bomster* set up a TV, anchored against the breeze, for those who wanted to watch the Ravens game. *Susanna Elliott*, *Denise Supensky* and *Camilla Simms* set up the watermelon eating contest. Most of the above, along with *Frank Simms*, also helped to set up and take down the event.

Ashleigh wants to thank them all and also *Jamie Kass*, who sponsored the wonderful face painter.

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IDLEWYLDE NEWS

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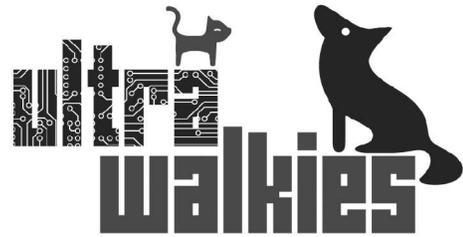
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Idlewylde's Fuzzy Boundaries, Part 2

As I said in June, Idlewylde's western boundary actually runs through the 700 blocks of Regester, Anneslie and Overbrook, although people have sometimes supposed that the Anneslie neighborhood extends as far as Banbury Rd. (Our Jamie Kass was once surprised to be awarded Anneslie's prize for Christmas decorations.) I also noted that 721 Regester, officially part of Anneslie, has always been listed in Idlewylde directories.

Anomalies like this aren't just accidents. The Anneslie community didn't exist until the 1920s, but 721 Regester was built in 1914, a western outlier of the community that was springing up around Sherwood and Regester – a community called Idlewylde. Neighborly ties were reinforced in the 1920s by the development of Idlewylde west of Sherwood Rd, while Anneslie didn't reach us until the later 1930s. The layout of the property conforms to Idlewylde rather than Anneslie, and it does not appear in the Anneslie plat, so the assignment of 721 to Anneslie may just be a clerical error.

Likewise, the notion that Anneslie extends to Banbury Rd may have arisen partly because Anneslie Rd extends that far and partly because Banbury is the border between the 212 and 239 zip codes.

But the idea also has a historical basis, since Banbury was in fact Idlewylde's original western boundary. The westward extension occurred about 1920 – partly, perhaps, to establish road access to Walker Ave.

South of Overbrook the fuzziness continues. After passing between 733 and 735 Overbrook, the boundary runs along the east side of 724 Walker and then along Walker to the City limit. The City limit is a straight line. Here, surely, clarity should reign.

But no: the straight line runs through properties and even houses. Officially, only the 800 block of Walker belongs to Idlewylde. But the three homes of the 1000 block, and even a couple of homes in the 1100 block, qualify as part of Idlewylde because the properties straddle the line. (There is no 900 block).

Moreover, looking west, the 700 block of Walker appears in ICA directories going back to 1972, and in 2010 the ICA amended its by-laws to admit the single-family homes in the County part of the 600 block.

Why not? Every neighborhood needs an effective community association, and the road link established more than 90 years ago makes Idlewylde a natural focus for

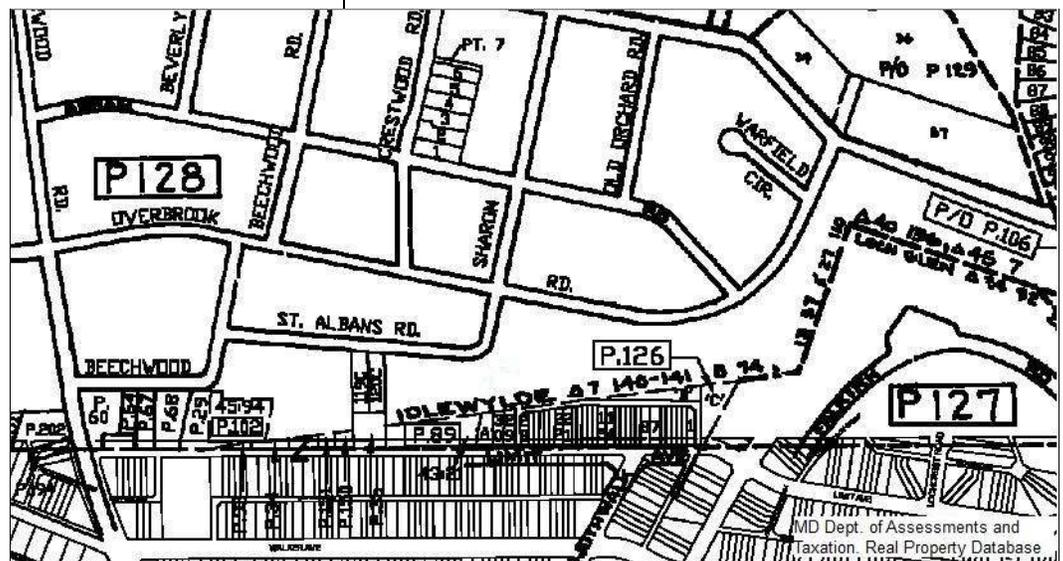
homes in the 700 block.

True, the 600 block is connected to Anneslie by Holly Lane, but it's cut off from that community by apartment blocks. Maybe folk there feel part of the City's Lake-Walker community, but their kids qualify for Stoneleigh Elementary. Idlewylde is an inclusive community.

East of Sherwood there's a street that's called Limit Ave because it runs along the City limits. Surely here that straight line gets in sync with reality? The homes on the north side are in the County, and those on the south side are in the City. What could be simpler?

But no: here the reality is still fuzzy. There's another line, visible on this map. It diverges from Limit Ave behind 1005 St Albans and cuts through 1264 and 1262 Limit (a duplex numbered the wrong way round) and 1266 Limit. Then it runs behind the properties on the south side of St Albans, Overbrook, and finally Regester, all the way to the Herring Run.

This line separates Idlewylde, as laid out in the 1920s, from the Denmead and Garrett estates. Between it and the city limits lie the north side of the 1300 block of Limit Ave, which is tagged in the state database as *Lochaven*, and the northerly extremes of Falkirk Rd and Loch Crest



Rd, which are called *Loch Glen*.

This part of Limit Avenue remained undeveloped until the 1950s, when the City community of Idlewood was built. Because of the City line established in 1918, the homes built on the north side of Limit are in the County. Here again Idlewylde showed its inclusiveness and gathered in the isolated fringe: the homes in the County part of Limit Ave and Falkirk Rd appear in the directories as far back as 1972. Those on Loch Crest, still more isolated from historic Idlewylde, finally made it in 2006.

– Paul Romney

Next time: Why Fuzzy?

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Warren Leroy Dorfler

We sadly note the passing of our neighbor Roy Dorfler, aged 95. Born in 1920, Roy grew up at 809 Regester, where his daughter Darlene Glaudemans and her husband Paul now live. He was young enough to attend Stoneleigh Elementary School when it opened in 1930, and graduated from Towson High in 1938. During World War II he served as a mechanic in the Army Air Force

In recent decades Roy and his wife Evie have lived on Sherwood, around the corner from his boyhood home. They have always been regulars at ICA meetings, and served as block captains, delivering the *Idlewylde News* in the neighborhood, until a few years ago, when that beat was taken over by grandson Tim Glaudemans and his wife Sarah.

HALLOWE'EN PARTY, ANYONE?

We need someone to take charge of the kids' Halloween party this year. If your kids have enjoyed this event, and you'd like to help it continue, please contact Ashleigh Rohm at Ashleighrohm@gmail.com.

IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP

There are vacancies on the board of directors.

If you're community-minded and value the work the Association does for Idlewylde, contact our President, Pete Ismay, at pcismay@hotmail.com or 410.459.6638 to volunteer or learn more.

BOARD (2015-16)

Pete Ismay, *President*, 410-459-6638, pcismay@hotmail.com

John Keenan, *Vice-President* 410-377-0563, jkeen@WallaceMontgomery.com

Dana Reed, *Treasurer*, 443-869-3670 daanrd@comcast.net

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Ashleigh Rohm, 443-465-3824 smash426@hotmail.com

All members of the ICA are welcome at monthly board meetings, but please contact a board member to confirm time and place.