

IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Community Commitment since 1947"

February 2016

Protecting Idlewylde

First off, THANK YOU for each neighbor who has stepped up in the last few months to either do a formal C.O.P. shift, walked a few extra blocks to keep an eye on the neighborhood, supported a neighbor who has been victimized, or just kept an extra eye out when driving around. When every single person reading this does just a little extra, we keep the criminals at bay.

So what do we do now? Here are a few suggestions:

- Survey your property. Is it well lit? Are things locked up – sheds, windows, car doors? Are valuable things in plain sight – either in your yard or easily seen through a window?
- Do you know your neighbors? When you see something suspicious, are you likely to call Baltimore County's non-emergency number (410-887-2222)? *Trust your gut. If something seems odd or suspicious, it probably is.*
- Make some simple changes. Buy some outside motion-detector lights (I bought extra solar powered Amir lights from Amazon for our driveway which work well). Buy a "Beware of Dog" sign. Walk around your block once a day or at least look outside. *Always lock up.*
- Volunteer for Citizens on Patrol in some capacity - either formally or informally.
- Let's make our neighborhood nosy and also keep it clean! We'll let criminals know we not only look out, but we take pride in where we live.
- Always call 911 if you need help or witness criminal activity.
- What if you have a hunch, or "think" something strange is going on? For instance, you see men standing outside Idlewylde Hall or Sherwood Market for a long time, or think you see people checking out/casing cars or houses. Call the County's non-emergency number, 410-887-2222.

We are NOT sitting ducks. We can make our neighborhood such a pain in the butt to rob, criminals will look elsewhere. Criminals want easy. Let's not make it easy! If every single household did ONE SHIFT

patrolling this year, we would be like Fort Knox! Think...what can I do? Every single one of us can help out in some capacity. GO IDLEWYLDE!!!

– *Katie McCabe, Idlewylde C.O.P.*

ktmccabe2@gmail.com

301-922-2743 (text is best)

Shining Idlewylde

Kudos to two neighbors for helping to make Idlewylde look good.

- *Donald Hart* kept the little triangle garden at the Overbrook-Banbury intersection looking fresh and lovely again in 2015. He also continued to maintain his bee and butterfly-friendly wild-flower garden on the vacant lot at 802 Overbrook.
- *John Keenan* freshened up the old "Idlewylde" sign at the 7-11, painting it black and white to match our hanging signs.

Draining Idlewylde

In the fall the County was maintaining and upgrading the storm drains in the neighborhood. It's good to know that the system is in prime condition as the snow melts.

Still, even the best-kept storm drain can get clogged, especially at times of the year when stuff falls from the trees. During summer storms this can pose a flooding threat to low-lying homes, and in winter the snow-melt can pool and freeze. A neighbor asks that we pay attention to drains near our homes and clear any blockages that build up.

C L A S S I F I E D

CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Music class. A fun music-filled 30-45 minute class for parents or guardians and babies or toddlers at my house. Weekly or bi-monthly. I am a pre-school music teacher and can provide instruments, songs that will stick in your head and lots of movement. If interested, please call *Spice* at 410-828-4070 or email <*spicearoni@gmail.com*>.

Child care close to home. This summer, *Arranwood Family Learning* will have 5-6 spaces available for school-age child care. This is available on a daily or weekly basis. Please visit our website at *Arranwood.org* for details! *Vivian Kreller, M.Ed.*

Floodlighting Idlewylde

There is a new and powerful street light at the junction of Southwood and Overbrook roads. I miss the old light, which was weak, of yellowish hue, its field barely reaching my sidewalk and it was not working most of the time.

My relationship with bright lights is not good and seems to date from my middle age and gradual loss of hearing. Bright, or passing, light began to wake me at night as if to compensate for my inability to hear the sounds one normally classifies as “things that go bump in the night.”

On my rare travels, and when not camping, I would stay at modestly priced motels whose windows were usually covered in modestly priced curtains which let in bright light. I have been guilty of sneaking through motel doors and unscrewing accessible light bulbs to reduce the immediate outside light level.

This new street light of mine is of a different color spectrum as compared to the old. It is whiter and bluer, like powerful moonlight, and there is a sharp drop-off of visibility at the edge of its light

pool. And yet that light pool reaches the front of my house and sharply penetrates what must be my modestly priced venetian blinds.

– Donald Hart

Isle of Wylde

An old and slightly forgetful friend sent me a Christmas card. In checking the address in her address book and then writing it on the envelope she transposed the name of Idlewylde to that of *Isle of Wylde*. I mused on this name and thought it rather sweet.

I envisioned an Idlewylde that could cloak itself in an idealized mist every several years so that drivers piercing it would see. To their delight, placid and peaceful inhabitants wandering around in stylized rustic garb. I'm thinking *Brigadoon* here, not *Under the Dome*.

At the very least, *Isle of Wylde* sounds like a good name for a pseudo-Celtic ballad or the title to a video game one might actually want to play.

– Donald Hart

* * *

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My family and I have been living in Idlewylde for the last 27 years, so I know the local neighborhoods well. I assist buyers and sellers and welcome the opportunity to meet with you for a FREE consultation.

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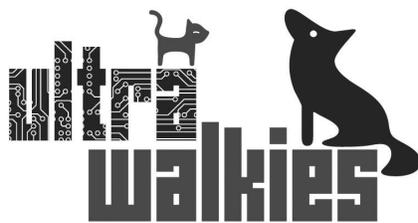
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All members of the ICA are welcome at monthly board meetings, but please contact a board member to confirm time and place.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow ...

... but ice keep away from my door

It seems that Idlewylde was just about the last place in Towson to get plowed out after Storm Jonas, but that's not surprising. After all, we are on the edge of the County and midway between York Rd and Loch Raven Blvd into the bargain. A backwater.

All in all, the County didn't do too badly.

But as Dan Rodricks pointed out in the *Sun* recently, "extreme" weather is the new normal, so they'd better be ready next time.

I think back to the time I moved to these parts. It sticks in my mind because it was the year our son entered 1st grade (which is why we moved to these parts) ...

The winter of 1994 was a winter of ice. Every time it snowed, it seemed, the heavens topped it off with a layer of freezing rain. And when it didn't snow, the heavens deposited a layer of freezing rain on the cold cold ground.

Four years earlier, Baltimore County had been ahead of the curve in turning out the Democrats. We had elected our first Republican executive since Spiro Agnew a generation earlier, and a majority Republican council.

Of course, the party of small government was into saving the people's tax dollars, and one way they chose to do this was by not stockpiling salt. Why stockpile the stuff when you can buy it as needed?

Trouble was, in the Winter of Ice everyone needed salt, and when Baltimore County needed it ...

It was a long, slippery winter in the County, and when election time came the voters did not forget. At a time when just about the whole country swung Republican, Baltimore County elected Dutch Ruppensberger as executive and voted Democrats into 5 of the 7 council seats.

It didn't help that their predecessors had also tried to save the people's tax dollars by shutting 9 of the County's 24 public library branches.

– Paul Romney

Open Mike Night

at Idlewylde Hall

Saturday, Feb. 20

BYOB

All ages welcome

Watch for details online

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.

How to join:

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

You'll have to set up a yahoo.com e-mail address if you don't have one, 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.

IDLEWYLDE NEWS

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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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