

IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Community Commitment since 1947"

October 2016

Safety matters

Idlewylde has seen quite a bit of excitement in the last few months! On August 30, the FBI conducted an early-morning raid on the New Sherwood Market in our business district. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland revealed a \$16 million scam and sought a federal indictment for "food stamp trafficking".

Over 20 locations were raided that morning all over the Baltimore region after a 14-month investigation. The two operators of the New Sherwood Market were charged and their bank accounts seized by federal authorities. Authorities charge that they obtained more than \$3,550,662 in payments for food sales that never occurred.

They now face Federal felony charges, and the State Gaming Commission immediately suspended their gaming/lottery license for 90 days.

This has been an enormous stroke of luck for our community, which has been fighting against the Market for years. As a result, trash seems to have diminished as well as other nuisance behaviors.

Unfortunately, our neighbors on Limit Avenue and over in Idlewood are still struggling with drug dealing, loitering, and drinking alcohol in front of the Idlewylde Hall. The ICA recently installed "No Trespassing" signs at the Hall to hopefully discourage loitering and drinking at that location.

County Councilman David Marks, State Senator Jim Brochin, and Delegate Steve Lafferty have been very helpful in dealing with the Market. In consultation with the ICA board, Councilman Marks recently downzoned the Market and certain other properties on the Sherwood Road business block.

I also want to give a shout out to former ICA president Tom Lattanzi, who has worked feverishly behind the scenes, and to current president Pete Ismay for always stepping up when needed. I am also grateful to Cheryl Frazier-Trusty, president of the Idlewood Community Association south of the City-County line, who has reached out to me countless times to coordinate crime-fighting efforts.

I also appreciate our neighbors who continuously look out for one other and keep Idlewylde clean.

Lastly, *formal Citizen on Patrol patrols have dropped off tremendously*. Please let me know if you're interested in volunteering to do even one patrol. I'm sure you've read about the crushing opioid epidemic and it is imperative we work to keep the dealers away. Just for context, county police arrested a juvenile selling heroin in front of the Market just the Friday before the FBI raid.

Keep being vigilant, Idlewylde, and remember to lock up cars, sheds, and any valuables that may be easy targets. Thanks to all, and enjoy this beautiful Fall weather!

Katie McCabe
Director Idlewylde C.O.P.

ICA general meeting

The meeting on Sept. 14 had an unusually high attendance and a packed agenda. Our guests included State Delegate Steve Lafferty, County Councilman David Marks, and Idlewood Community Association president Cheryl Frazier-Trusty, who all reported on different aspects of the struggle to protect our neighborhood from crime.

Delegate Lafferty undertook to keep the community informed of any effort by the New Sherwood Market to re-activate its lottery license.

The Treasurer's report for FY 2015-16 showed a surplus of \$9,453.13 on revenues of \$49,769.39. The Treasurer noted the excellent work of the hall manager, Frances Anderson, in promoting the venue.

Dana Reed also reported that we have now found a research assistant to help us with our application to have Idlewylde placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cynthia Jabs reported on zoning issues, including the recent downzoning of properties on the west side of the Sherwood Rd business block. The vacant lots opposite the community hall have been re-zoned for residential construction, and the New Sherwood Market to Community Business, which is more restrictive than the old Business Local designation. See Cynthia's full report on page 4.

A board was elected for 2016-17 (see page 4).

– Paul Romney

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IDLEWYLDE NEWS

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Editor: Paul Romney

Director of Distribution: Jamie Kass

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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.

Idlewylde News is the newsletter of the Idlewylde Community Association. 755 copies of each issue are printed for door-to-door distribution and each issue is posted on idlewylde.org the website of the Association.

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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.

Rezoning in Idlewyld

Only residential development will be permitted on Sherwood Road opposite the community hall by order of Baltimore County. The property was one of several in Idlewyld to be re-zoned in the county's recently approved Comprehensive Zoning Map Process.

The County government reviews zoning throughout the county once every four years. In the current cycle, hundreds of properties were reviewed, including several in Idlewyld. County Councilman David Marks proposed rezoning hundreds of acres in his district, more than any other council member. The Idlewyld Community Association board worked closely with Marks to address several zoning issues.

The property opposite the community hall was a top priority. The ICA has been eager to prevent commercial development there after fighting off plans to build a big dollar store. After several meetings with Councilman Marks, the property owner and a prospective developer, an agreement was reached to change the zoning of the property from commercial

to residential. The density (10.5 homes per acre) would allow up to 9 row homes on the site.

The neighboring commercial properties were also down-zoned. All of the commercial district on the West side of Sherwood Road was re-zoned to Community Business zoning. This is a slightly more restrictive commercial zoning designation which allows only small business that caters to the local community. A large dollar store, for instance, would not be permitted.

A new open space designation was given to two parcels in Idlewyld: Overlook Park and the open areas around the new Stoneleigh Woods housing development. This sets up extra hoops involving community input before anything could be built on these open spaces.

The new institutional zoning was created by Councilman Marks and was given to numerous other properties in the County in order to preserve existing open space.

Baltimore County's website makes it easy to look up zoning by address. To check the website for more information about specific zoning rules for these or any other properties, go to baltimorecountymd.gov/ and search under "zoning". Or search "my neighborhood" to bring up the My Neighborhood Interactive Mapping Tool, which is very informative and a lot of fun.

Armacost update. Neighbors watching the Armacost property (the former nursing-home at the north-west corner of Register and Sherwood) may have noticed that the 'For Sale' sign has disappeared. The current owners have taken it off the market as they work out details of the break-up of their business partnership.

A developer is poised to purchase the property for development as private residences. Another prospective buyer wants to develop it as a small assisted living facility.

The property is designated for residential development, but the ICA's agreement with prior owners to create an assisted living facility for up to 16 residents is transferable to any new owner. Any other proposed use of the property would require approval by the county - and the ICA.

The board has helped the owners connect with prospective developers and will continue to monitor the situation.

– Cynthia Jabs