

# IDLEWYLDE\*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Community Commitment since 1947"

April 2017

## ICA general meeting

A sparse but distinguished gathering was graced with visits from Senator Jim Brochin, Delegate Steve Lafferty, and County Councilman David Marks. We also heard from Steve Prumo about Families for a New Towson High School (*see Aimee Freeman's article*).

\* \* \*

*Sen. Brochin* highlighted his record on environmental issues, including the ban on fracking in Maryland, and his bid to bar developers from making campaign contributions to the municipal politicians who have jurisdiction over their zoning applications. He stated his intention of running for County Executive in 2018.

*Del. Lafferty* devoted most of his presentation to dispelling misconceptions about the HOME Act, of which he is the leading sponsor.

The bill is intended to reduce concentrations of poverty in areas such as Baltimore City and parts of Baltimore County by obliging certain types of landlord to make 15 per cent of their inventory available to renters who receive types of income such as government rent vouchers or alimony. It applies only to property companies and "professional" landlords who own three or more single-family homes or apartment buildings containing six or more units.

It does not apply to individuals, like some of us in Idlewylde, who may wish to rent out rooms in our own home or let an entire home. It doesn't oblige landlords to accept the amount of the voucher instead of the higher rent that they are seeking. Nor does it prevent landlords from rejecting applicants whose history flags them as undesirable tenants. Finally, in urbanized municipalities such as Baltimore City and County, it does not apply in zip codes where 6 per cent or more of that jurisdiction's voucher-holders are already living.

For more information on the bill, go to [http://delegatelafferty.com/p/salsa/web/news/public/?news\\_item\\_KEY=2244](http://delegatelafferty.com/p/salsa/web/news/public/?news_item_KEY=2244).

\* \* \*

*Councilman Marks* turned up late but kindly let us tuck into dinner as he addressed various Towson and neighborhood issues.

He stated that the traffic study commissioned in connection with the planned Starbucks Coffee Exxon at York and Regester had not confirmed the neighboring communities' worst fears and had generated a couple of suggestions which were being incorporated into the design.

He also announced that the former Armacost nursing home building at Regester and Sherwood has a new owner and will be renovated as an assisted living facility in conformity with the zoning exception negotiated by the ICA nearly a decade ago.

David stated his intention to run for a third and, as far as he is concerned, final term in 2018.

– Paul Romney

## Families for a New Towson High School

Towson HS is the most overcrowded high school in the County (currently at 120% capacity and growing), but Baltimore County Public Schools has no plan in place to remedy this impending crisis.

Besides the overcrowding, the building is falling apart. Built in 1949, it has persistent issues such as flooding and failing mechanical systems. These are but a few reasons why it is time to start planning for a new Towson High School.

*Families for a New Towson High School* is a community group dedicated to advocating for this. Their goal is to secure Baltimore County planning money in the FY2019 Capital Budget and construction funding in FY2020 and FY2021.

Their website ([www.thsnewin22.org](http://www.thsnewin22.org)) has more information, including what you can do to support these efforts. You can also follow them on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/THSNewIn22/](http://www.facebook.com/THSNewIn22/)).

– Aimee Freeman

## Community Yard Sale

The Idlewylde community yard sale has been set for Saturday, May 13, with rain date, as always, the next day. ICA board member *Ben Larson* has volunteered to co-ordinate the event this year, so watch out for his bulletins and announcements on our community Yahoo Group and Facebook page.

## Dumpster Day

As you commence your spring cleaning, remember that our annual *Dumpster Day* is less than 8 weeks away on Saturday, May 20.

*John Keenan* has scored 6 dumpsters from the County to provide for disposal of your bulk trash. They will be located in the parking lot at Idlewylde Hall (6301 Sherwood Road).

They are usually in place by 8 a.m., and we will continue to accept trash until midday unless we've filled up the dumpsters before then.

There will also be a *Goodwill* truck on hand from 10 until noon to accept your donations of gently used clothing, toys, furniture (but not upholstered furniture) and operational household items. They'll give you a tax receipt if you want one.

\* \* \*

John, our traditional Dumpster Day master of ceremonies, can't be there this time, so *Ben Larson* has volunteered to take charge. But this can be more than a one-person show, and he will gladly accept a helping hand or two. To help out, please contact him at <[benbrorlarson@yahoo.com](mailto:benbrorlarson@yahoo.com)> or 443-676-5074. Volunteers should bring a pair of work gloves.

\* \* \*

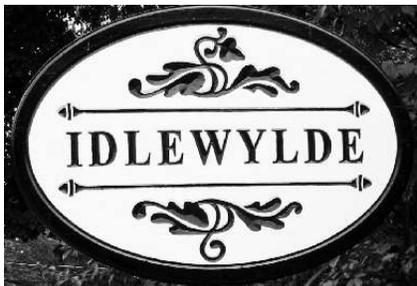
*Please note* that the following items cannot be accepted:

- Large stumps, or wood/logs in excess of 8 inches in diameter or 6 feet long.
- Flammable or hazardous materials and liquids, paint, or pesticides, including batteries and oil.
- Tires or any appliances.
- Electronics or televisions.
- Recyclables (put them out for your weekly recycling pickup).

Also, please don't bring yard waste that can be put put for the bi-weekly yard waste pickup.

Lawn mowers and other powered items must be completely empty of gasoline.

– ICA Board



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Typical 1920s Idlewylde cottage on Maplewood

## Food stamp fraud conspirator sentenced

Our neighbor Tom Lattanzi reports that Federal Judge Richard Bennett has sentenced Muhammad Sarmad to 18 months in prison after Sarmad pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit food stamp fraud and wire fraud in connection with a scheme to illegally redeem food stamp benefits at the New Sherwood Market. Judge Bennett also ordered restitution of more than \$3.5 million in fraudulent gains.

Sarmad's lawyer had asked for probation, but the judge cited the many letters from the community and County Councilman David Marks (who was present in court) as evidence that a custodial sentence was required. In sentencing Sarmad, he repeatedly praised the community for their letters telling how the New Sherwood Market had harmed Idlewylde. He read aloud the names of the dozens of Idlewylde residents who had written to him.

"I have been educated as to what is happening in the degradation of a community more so than in any of the other food stamp fraud cases in which I have presided," said the Judge. He alluded to letters which stated that some of those involved in the food stamp fraud would receive their money and then exit the market and buy drugs. He several times called the

Market "a magnet for drug activity."

Sarmad agreed to testify against his relative, Mohammad Irfan, the former owner of the New Sherwood Market, who has also pleaded guilty to food stamp fraud. Irfan is due to be sentenced in May.

"Irfan will face a tougher sentence", said Judge Bennett.

## Woof! Woof!

*Woofwoofwoofwoofwoof ...*

Does anyone really enjoy listening to a dog barking its head off? Even dog-owners tend to hush their pets if they go into a barking fit.

If they are listening, that is.

As the weather warms up, and people open their windows, Idlewylde neighbor Mary Pat Shortt asks you to think about the noise that your dogs may be making in your backyard.

If you don't have your windows open (perhaps you're indoors listening to your TV and your AC, or maybe you're not at home), you may have no idea of the amount of noise your dogs are making.

Dogs can be a great deterrent and help with neighborhood crime, but please be considerate.



## Duncan Scott Keir

### Your lawyer in Idlewylde

Our firm represents individuals and businesses in a wide variety of settings. In the boardroom or the courtroom, we have the experience and knowledge you need.

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Practice areas include: personal injury, contract disputes, family law, real estate transactions and estate planning.

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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.*

*IDLEWYLDE NEWS*

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Submit articles, announcements, ads, etc. to the editor at [idlewyldenews@yahoo.com](mailto: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 "Idlewyldede Community Association" to ICA at PO Box above.

*Idlewyldede News* is the newsletter of the ICA.. 755 copies are printed bi-monthly for door-to-door distribution, and each issue is posted on [idlewyldede.org](http://idlewyldede.org)

**Tiny, diverse Idlewyldede**

Jacques Kelly's 1991 article, reprinted in the last letter, takes us back to the not-so-distant good old days when the Sherwood Market was not "New" and Bill's Hardware would sell you half-a-dozen nails if that's all you needed. It also takes us further back, to a time in the 1940s before Glendale-Glenmont and Loch Hill were built and you could walk fairly directly across country from Sharon and Regester to Taylor and Loch Raven.

A reminiscence of Roy Dorfler, who was born in Idlewyldede in 1920, takes us back 20 years before that. We printed it, as channeled by Donald Hart, back in 2011, but here it is again.

*It is with a degree of humor that Roy Dorfler of Sherwood Road remembers his days growing up at 809 Regester Ave and the delight of having a local swimming hole.*

*During the 1920s our streets were paved with crushed stone, and trolley car tracks could still be seen on Regester. Sherwood Road north of Regester had very few houses on it, and most of these have long gone.*

*At that time the woods stretched north from Regester far beyond the present golf course. On the west they were bounded by Sherwood Road, but they stretched east all the way to Hillen Road. There was no Loch Raven Blvd in those days.*

*Roy remembers that, when he was a toddler, the older boys used to dam the Herring Run tributary in the woods at a point next to what is now Overlook Park. The stream must have had nearly triple the volume of water that it has today, and the dam formed a pool that was up to five feet deep. An old plank served as a diving board.*

*Away to the north, on the high ground above what today is Maxalea, lived a Dr. Bishop, who had two daughters. The young ladies liked to ride their horses through the woods. As was common in those days, Roy and his merry band of urchins swam in the raw. At the sound of muffled hoof beats approaching through the wood, there would be a mad scramble to hide in the bushes or quickly don some clothing.*

*Roy notes that most of the local boys learned to swim in this makeshift swimming pool.*