

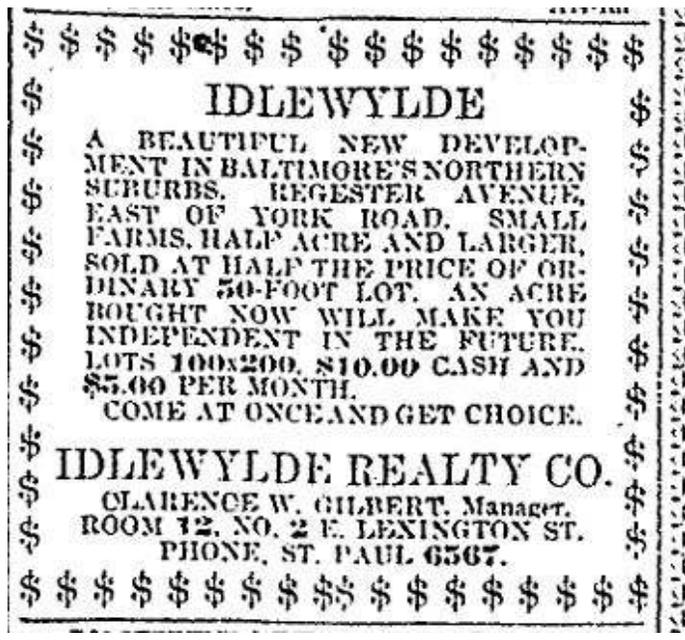
IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Community Commitment since 1947"

December 2017

The first quarter-century



The Sun, May 10, 1913

The original layout was much more ambitious than the Idlewylde we now know. Roads called Gainsborough and Athlone swept across the Herring Run into that northeasterly corner of the Regester estate now known as Glendale-Glenmont. The Run itself, though shown, doesn't merit a label on the grand plan of the Idlewylde Realty Co. Instead, we see "Center Line of New Electric Railroad."

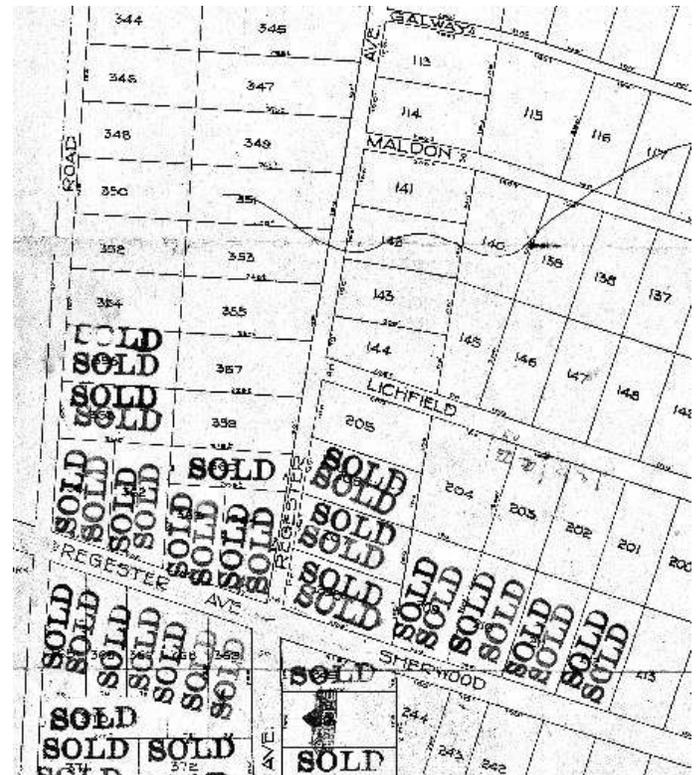
That's probably what it was all about: a commuter railroad to carry residents of Towson, Idlewylde and who knows where else to their jobs at the southern end of the line. Time to cash in on the suburbanization of Baltimore.

The 1913 plat looks solid enough on paper, but it's a bit odd. "Regester Ave" is shown extending in *three* directions from the present-day intersection of Regester and Sherwood:

- West towards York Rd, as it did then and still does.
 - Southerly, as it did then, along what today is called Sherwood Rd.
 - Northerly along today's Sherwood Rd.
- Meanwhile, "Sherwood Rd" is the name given to the

projected easterly extension of Regester.

Another quirk is the way Maldon Rd extends to Sherwood Rd in blithe disregard of the steep gorge that separates them.



A second plat, drawn eight years later, shows a coming down to earth. There's no planned electric railroad, no Herring Run, no streets sweeping into the north-east quadrant. Everything east of the line of Old Orchard Rd has become a blue blank.

However, a block has been added south of Regester down to the line of Anneslie Rd, allowing for the addition of Maplewood Ave and the range of lots on the west side of Banbury. And other north-south streets make an appearance: Beverly, Beechwood, and the rest – although Crestwood only extends to Arran.

And Idlewylde has a railway, although it's not shown on the plat.

... Continued on page 4

NEW TREASURER WANTED

The Idlewylde Community Association is looking for a community volunteer to serve as its treasurer.

The treasurer is an officer of the association board and is responsible for its financial affairs, including financial transactions related to rentals of the community hall which are an important source of income funding community activities.

Duties include paying bills, keeping financial records, and preparing reports using Quickbooks. Some experience in bookkeeping or financial record-keeping would be helpful, though no prior experience with Quickbooks is necessary.

If you are interested in volunteering, or if you would like more information about what the position involves, please contact Dana Reed, the current treasurer, at danareed802@gmail.com.

CLASSIFIED

COMPUTER SERVICES

"Maryland Mac Help." I specialize in helping people to get the most out of their new and not so new Macintosh computers, iPhones and iPads. If you are a novice or an intermediate user, you are my most likely client. If you have a nagging problem or simply want help upgrading your computer, I am the person you need to speak to. I can help with installing and optimizing WiFi at your home, school, or business, upgrade RAM or hard drive, sort out iCloud problems, or integrate Apple computers and devices into your existing network. Call 410-615-9394 or visit www.marylandmachelp.com.

HOME AND GARDEN

If you need small jobs around the house done, inside or outside, I can do them!! If you need help with an elder, I can help them! *Deborah "Spice" Kleinmann*, 410-828-4070, 443-465-1660.

MUSIC-MAKING

If you need to start a new musical hobby, I can teach guitar! If you need music for a pre-school or a pre-school birthday party, I can provide that! Please be in touch! Thanks so much!!! *Deborah "Spice" Kleinmann*
410-828-4070, 443-465-1660.

SANTA'S WYLDE RIDE

Friday, Dec. 16

See *Jamie Kass's* insert for details

Save a life, anyone?

Darwin Ray, a Red Cross Instructor with nearly 15 years of experience, would like to offer fellow Idlewylde community members an opportunity to gain official Red Cross Certification at a low cost. Darwin can give certification to anyone who is interested for any combination of CPR, AED, and First Aid.

Darwin would also like to offer a certification class for our younger community members in Babysitting.

If you are interested in getting certified for either CPR/AED/First Aid or for Babysitting, please contact *Tanya Ray* at 443-589-4513 or rayyt66@gmail.com for details.

❖ COCOA & CAROLS PARTY ❖



Idlewylde Hall



❖ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 4PM ❖



Join us at Idlewylde Hall for a family holiday caroling party! We'll meet up for cocoa, treats, and festive kids' crafts, then bundle up to sing a few favorite seasonal songs to our neighbors in Idlewylde and Idlewood (and be home in time for dinner).



All traditions are welcome! If you'd like to share a special song, story, treat, or craft, let us know at:

idlewyldeparty@gmail.com

Towson Winterfest

FIRE & ICE NIGHT & CHRISTMAS TREE JUDGING

Friday, December 8, 6-9pm (Rain date: Dec. 15)

View the ice sculptures located around downtown Towson! There will be street performers & free s'mores.

Locations at towsonchamber.com



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www.idlewylde.org

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Membership Secretary

Paul Romney, 410-377-0748 paulromney03@aim.com

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

**388a—Idlewylde Ry. Co. — Office,
2 East Lexington St. (Operates from
York Road to Idlewylde Park and con-
nects with Towson & Catonsville Line
of The United Rys. & Elec. Co. of Bal-
timore.)**
Pres. & Gen. Mgr.
Harry E. Gilbert.....Baltimore
Sec. Frank S. Gilbert "
Treas. John C. Paterson..... "
.98 miles; 5-4½ g; service supplied
through agreement by The United Rys.
& Elec. Co. 59

McGraw's Transit Directory, 1921, p. 62

Yes! Here it is, all ought point ninety-eight miles of it, nestled right below no. 388, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (the *Directory* lists railroads alphabetically by state). It ran along Regester between Sharon and York Rds.

It will be noted that it was a Gilbert family enterprise, installed to promote and facilitate their new development. According to Blanche Dorfler, who moved here about 1913, it operated between 1916 and 1921.

* * *

The 1921 plat was even shorter-lived than the railroad. The next year, the Idlewylde Realty Co. transferred ownership of the development to the CityCo Realty Co. I don't know why, since CityCo was another Gilbert concern. In any case, a new plat was registered two years later, probably in response to the sale of the Anneslie and Stoneleigh estates for development in 1922.

The 1924 plat is divided into two sections, with Regester as the dividing line. The southern section is laid out much as we see it today, although Crestwood still ends at Arran. The most important change is the advent of Anneslie Rd and the acquisition of the land south of it, affording a road link to Walker Ave. But the northern section is sheer fantasy – a fantasy authored by the Olmsted firm of landscape architects.

It involves twin streets called Idlewylde Drive and Idlewylde Terrace curving along the contours of the Herring Run and the gorge north of Litchfield (pardon me: Lichfield) and Maldon. The Drive turns southward into Lichfield midway between Maldon and Sherwood, and the Terrace curves northward into

what would soon become the Country Club of Maryland. Another road, "Hillendale," runs diagonally off Regester behind the Church and heads into today's Glendale-Glenmont, now fully re-platted.

If this was the Gilberts' response to the impending development of Stoneleigh as an upscale suburb, the stock market crash of 1929 put an end to the dream.

A revised plat of 1938 illustrates the new reality. Glendale-Glenmont is empty again. "Hillendale Rd" has become a storm sewer. Where the Olmsteds had imagined Idlewylde Drive and Idlewylde Terrace, there's space for a horticultural nursery and a cement plant.

And Lichfield Rd has acquired its T.

– Paul Romney

Citizen on Patrol

I recently visited Blanche Dorfler's daughter-in-law, our longtime neighbor Evelyn Dorfler, who's now living a brisk walk away on Charles St. She recalls hearing of a man called William Adolph who would tour the streets of Idlewylde at night and, for 25 cents a week, check twice a night on the security of your property. Mr. Adolph had ten children.

Evvie is trying to track down an oral history interview that Steve Lafferty did with Blanche about 30 years ago. Steve says he gave the tape to Mary Kearney to help with her history of Idlewylde. Evvie thinks it passed into the possession of the ICA, but we can't find it. If anyone out there knows where it might be, please help us track it down.

Steve also made a tape with another longtime resident, Ruth Jacob.

– PR

IDLEWYLDE NEWS

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Director of Distribution: Jamie Kass

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.

Idlewylde News is the newsletter of the ICA.. 755 copies are printed bi-monthly for door-to-door distribution, and each issue is posted on idlewylde.org