

# IDLEWYLDE\*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

“Community Commitment since 1947”

June 2019

## ICA Spring General Meeting

After a warm-up session of board games for young and younger, the meeting on April 7 got down to business.

The meeting heard from State Senator **Chris West**, State Delegate **Steve Lafferty** and County Councilman **David Marks** about current issues facing their respective bodies. Del. Lafferty announced that he had obtained \$75,000 in State bond money for the ICA to use to renovate the community hall.

In accordance with a rule promulgated by the Baltimore County Board of Appeals, the meeting passed a resolution authorizing the current members of the ICA board to testify before the Board in behalf of the Association in zoning matters.

**Bill Felter**, representing the Baltimore County Skateboard Council, made a presentation regarding their proposal to establish a skatepark at Overlook Park. Pete Ismay, president of the Association, reported on the board’s decision to set up a committee to review the physical condition, use and administration of the community hall.

Attendees enjoyed a meal that included pizzas donated by Sherwood Carryout and homemade items from members.

## Idlewylde Hall repair and refurbishment

The ICA is very grateful to Del. Steve Lafferty for helping us obtain \$75,000 in State bond funding to repair and renovate the hall.

Last year the board commissioned a structural inspection of the hall which revealed a number of flaws that need fixing, including the roof. Apart from that, the kitchen and bathrooms need some serious updating after seventy years.

The hall qualifies for state funds because it’s a public asset. Apart from its benefits to Idlewylde, it serves other communities by hosting their community meetings on request, and it serves the public at large by hosting candidates’ forums, Scout activities, and informational meetings on public issues.

Another point in the Bond Initiative application was the hall’s location in an area of known criminal activity. The state funds will be used to install security cameras around the building.

## Hall review committee

As well as applying for state funds, the ICA board has set up a committee to consider the refurbishment, management, and future of the hall.

These are interlinked questions. How much you spend on a roof will be influenced by whether you are more likely to keep or sell the hall. But the decision to keep it will be affected by your ability to run it efficiently and pay for its upkeep.

Most of us are homeowners, so we know the challenges involved in owning and running a building. It’s easy to get behind the curve. We may not think about fixing the roof until the roof starts leaking.

Partly, the problem is that it takes a well-built roof a long time to start leaking. That’s one reason you get a home inspection when you buy a house. You want to know how long you’ve got until the roof starts leaking.

It’s different with the hall. The responsibility for maintaining it changes as people rotate on and off the board. But because the owner doesn’t change, there’s no building inspection. Without a single mind constantly thinking about them, things like maintaining the roof can get forgotten.

That’s one aspect of the problem of running the hall. Another is the volunteer hours it takes. At the moment, this burden falls disproportionately on the ICA treasurer.

If we can figure these problems out, a third one comes into view. It would be really nice to use the hall more as a community gathering place. Ultimately, that comes down to you as members of the community.

The ICA can provide the space. The review committee can maybe suggest ways to run it more efficiently. But the community has to come up with ways of using it.

## CLASSIFIED

Yard help wanted. Mow lawn, rake leaves, etc. Tools on hand. 6513 Banbury Rd. Please call *George Phillips* at 410-377-0081.

## Proposed Towson skate park

At this year's Spring ICA general meeting Bill Felter (who lives in Anneslie) presented a proposal for a new skate park in Baltimore County. Mr. Felter's presentation was very thorough and detailed, but it created some confusion since he presented it as more of a "done deal" than was expected.

This prompted Councilman David Marks to call for an informational meeting where Mr. Felter could clarify his proposal.

The meeting took place at the community hall on April 28. It was attended by members of our own community, as well as skateboard enthusiasts invited by Mr. Felter from the surrounding area. This report is based on the excellent minutes taken by ICA board member **Jessica Brown**, which have been posted online.

\* \* \*

Reviewing the sites he had looked at, Mr. Felter listed five main criteria for evaluating them:

- A central and populous location.
- Accessibility (walkable community, availability of public transportation).
- On-site and nearby parking.
- Amenities (restrooms, seating, shade).
- Proximity to restaurants, gas stations and stores.

Overlook Park came first, and his second choice was the Loch Raven Recreation Center.

One important criterion which Mr. Felter did not list is the proximity of the skate park to residential property. This is of particular concern to some in our community, because in Overlook Park the nearest homes to his proposed facility are considerably less than 100 yards away.

When the question was raised, Mr. Felter stated that the noise created by the skate park would be no greater than that generated by team sports on the park's soccer pitch. But soccer is played there only for a few hours a week, mainly on weekends. Mr. Felter intends the skate park to be open daily from sunrise till sunset.

\* \* \*

There seems to be some difference of opinion in the community as to whether a skate park is a good thing or a bad thing. But we can all agree that it would be wrong to build one on a site where it would have a negative impact on the quality of life of nearby homeowners. And that is the key issue in this case: *not* whether a skate park in Towson is a good idea or

a bad one, but where it can be built with the least disruption to neighboring homeowners and the community as a whole.

Fortunately, although Overlook Park is Mr. Felter's preferred location, there are other venues that meet most of his criteria at least as well, if not better, and also afford room for a skate park far enough from people's homes not to raise the issue that arises with Overlook Park.

\* \* \*

Councilman Marks has told us to expect another meeting sometime this summer. This next meeting will be to update the progress and to allow our community to offer their concerns regarding the Overlook Park location. If you have an opinion on the matter, you are strongly encouraged to attend that meeting.

## IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 66106, Baltimore, MD 21239

### BOARD (2018-19)

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

### IDLEWYLDE NEWS

P.O. Box 66106, Baltimore, MD 21239

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*Director of Distribution:* Jamie Kass

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 "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](http://idlewylde.org).

## Where neighborhoods meet



*Two tributaries of Herring Run come together just north of Register Ave. The one on the left runs past Towson High School, between Wiltondale and Knollwood, and through the Country Club of Maryland golf course before passing between Idlewylde and Glendale-Glenmont. The one on the right flows through Glendale Park, and then between Glendale-Glenmont and Loch Hill. This photo shows Idlewylde on the left, Glendale-Glenmont in the middle, and Loch Hill on the left.*



*Aerial view of site of proposed Overlook Park skateboarding facility with adjacent homes on Register Ave*

## Remembering Doris

The recent death of Doris Day, with a following flurry of criticism and praise for her work, takes me back to my sweaty and spotty adolescence and my recent joining of the Royal Navy.

In the spring and summer of 1950 I was training as a medic at the Stonehouse Royal Naval Hospital, just over half a mile from the center of Plymouth, England. On our off watches, we trainees would stroll to the center of Plymouth in search of most anything young servicemen were interested in, but usually we passed through the portals of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes. With the acronym NAAFI, pronounced *Naffee*, it was the British equivalent of the USO.

The NAAFI offered drinks, eats, quiet rooms, games rooms and a small dance floor. Overall was piped music through a speaker system. The music was mostly big band sound and vocalists warbling sentimental ballads, Occasionally we'd get Nat King Cole giving his silky rendering of "A Very Precious Love," but Doris Day's voice predominated.

1950 must have been a warm year, because the windows of the NAAFI would be left open, and it seemed to me that every time I came within fifty yards of its collection of Quonset-style buildings Doris's voice would come warbling down the street, wafting the strains of "It's Magic".

Chirpy pin-up pictures of Doris began to grace our clothing lockers, and she was the essence of All-American wholesomeness to our Old World eyes. She even graced our erotic dreams in a skilled New World way. Over the next decade or so I viewed her movies, from musicals to more dramatic renderings, and then she dropped out of sight and mind.

Growing up in Idlewylde, my daughters were reduced to giggles one dinner time as it was revealed that father once had a yen for Doris Day, and I've been teased by them about it through the years.

There are many reasons why I came to the USA, but deep, deep down, maybe, sometime, I thought I might meet Doris. But Doris and I never went on a Sentimental Journey. If we had it would have been magic, but Que Sera Sera.

– Donald Hart

Hearty thanks to  
**SHERWOOD CARRYOUT**  
for donating pizzas  
for the ICA general meeting!



**Jim Craig**

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And Hearty Thanks to



*Mariah Gillis*

for re-painting the Idlewylde sign outside the 7-11.



*Everyone*

who took part in the *business block clean-up*  
on April 13.



*Donald Hart*

for tending the Banbury-Overbrook triangle garden  
and the vacant lot at 802 Overbrook.



*The Hall Review Committee*



*Everyone*

who distributed this newsletter.