

IDLEWYLDE*NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
"Community Commitment since 1947" December 2011

802 Overbrook Rd

Councilman David Marks has announced an agreement with the County Administrative Officer concerning the vacant lot at this address. The County owns the property, which is appraised at \$58,000, and wants to sell it. Councilman Marks contacted the ICA to find out what the community thought.

Several neighbors of 802 Overbrook expressed an interest in keeping it as open space if possible. Others were concerned about something being built that was out of keeping with the neighborhood. ICA President Tom Lattanzi contacted Neighborspace of Baltimore County to ask if they were interested in purchasing the property and preserving it as open space, but they declined.

Zoning allows for one single-family home on the site, and Councilman Marks informs us that he plans to set a limit of 1200 square feet. This is well within the range of other houses on the block.

Come and meet Councilman David Marks

at Idlewylde Hall
Saturday, January 21
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Councilman wants to hear your views and concerns on County-related matters. He has been very attentive to Idlewylde since his election. This is an opportunity for one-on-one conversation.

Join the Idlewylde Community Yahoo Group and keep in touch with your neighbors! Just go to

☛ http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Idlewylde_community/ and click the **Join This Group!** button in the upper right corner of the page. If you have trouble registering, or subsequently have trouble using the site, contact the group's founder, Amy Kimball, at everestgc@yahoo.com or Aaron Haag at aaronmicah00@gmail.com for help.

As we move into this holiday season, let us appreciate the things that bring us together as neighbors.

– Kate Foley

Mending Wall

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
The work of hunters is another thing:
I have come after them and made repair
Where they have left not one stone on a stone,
But they would have the rabbit out of hiding,
To please the yelping dogs. The gaps I mean,
No one has seen them made or heard them made,
But at spring mending-time we find them there.
I let my neighbour know beyond the hill;
And on a day we meet to walk the line
And set the wall between us once again.
We keep the wall between us as we go.
To each the boulders that have fallen to each.
And some are loaves and some so nearly balls
We have to use a spell to make them balance:
"Stay where you are until our backs are turned!"
We wear our fingers rough with handling them.
Oh, just another kind of out-door game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:
There where it is we do not need the wall:
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, "Good fences make good neighbours."
Spring is the mischief in me, and I wonder
If I could put a notion in his head:
"Why do they make good neighbours? Isn't it
Where there are cows? But here there are no cows.
Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
What I was walling in or walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offence.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down." I could say "Elves" to him,
But it's not elves exactly, and I'd rather
He said it for himself. I see him there
Bringing a stone grasped firmly by the top
In each hand, like an old-stone savage armed.
He moves in darkness as it seems to me,
Not of woods only and the shade of trees.
He will not go behind his father's saying,
And he likes having thought of it so well
He says again, "Good fences make good neighbours."

– Robert Frost

CLASSIFIED

ARTS

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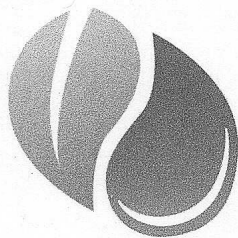
HOME AND GARDEN

Light hauling/towing. Home Depot, landfill, etc.
Dennis Crawford, 410-960-2442.

Babysitting/Pet Sitting/Housesitting. *Cassie Springer* is 16 yrs old, Red Cross certified, responsible, and loves children and animals. Siblings *Jake* (21) and *Morgan* (19) are in college but return home for breaks and can also be available. Please call 410-377-8060 for more information.

Registered Daycare Provider has one opening available for age 2 and above in Jan, 2012, and one opening available for an infant in May, 2012. Registered in Idlewylde since 1990. Loving, learning, spacious, and clean environment. Excellent references. Call *Susan Gourley* at (410) 377-3371 or e-mail *susan083@hotmail.com*.

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HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!

Grab your friends and neighbors, light-up the house, and ignite the fire-pit!



Santa Claus is coming to Idlewylde!



When: December 16th beginning at 7:30pm



How: Santa will be driving throughout the community on a FIRE ENGINE! For those who want a close-up peek of Santa and his fire engine, he will begin at the IDLEWYLDE METHODIST CHURCH for a "meet and greet"!



We're encouraging neighbors to gather together to welcome Santa as he drives through our neighborhood, courtesy of the **Providence Volunteer Fire Company!** Hot chocolate and marshmallows in the front yard, some carolers strolling, holiday cheer for all!



You better watch out – the ICA board will be coming around to award a prize to the most festive house! Awards will be given to:

- *Most beautiful light display (the BGE award)*
- *Most festive front yard group gathering (most rockin' house)*
- *Most playful display (the kids are in the house)*
- *Best theme*



Help us spread the word. Please share this date with friends and neighbors!

Providence Volunteer Fire Company is sponsoring a
Free Child ID Event

at the Fire Station, 1416 Providence Rd on
Saturday, Jan. 14 from 10 am to 1 pm

Join Providence for **Fingerprinting & Photos for Child Identification Cards**. All children will receive an identification card, courtesy of New York Life Insurance Co.

Bring the whole family to the fire station for a day of fun, festivities and free child ID services.

STRIDER'S CORNER

A column on neighborhood issues

Tidewylde Revisited. Tom Lattanzi's article in the last newsletter inspired one reader to take action that was not appreciated. Several neighbors were sent copies of Tom's article, highlighted to point out the ways in which the state of their property fell short of the *anonymous* sender's standards.

The ICA's by-laws say that one of its purposes is "To maintain the appearance of, and protect and improve residential property values in, Idlewylde." Tom's article was in the spirit of that by-law. When he suggested sending a copy to an offending neighbor, he did *not* advise sending it anonymously!

*

Two board members posted responses to the anonymous sender on the Idlewylde Community Yahoo Group. Kate Foley opined that one of the best things about Idlewylde is the "live and let live" attitude and eclectic lifestyle of our community. We are not a neighborhood governed by strict covenants and restrictions. The ICA exists to promote and protect our community, not to enforce a code. Kate called on the community to focus on ways we can make Idlewylde better for all of us by collaborating with and supporting each other rather than "build walls that will separate us and cause hurt feelings."

I asked Kate to write something for the newsletter to develop the ideas in her post, and she decided that Robert Frost's poem on page 1 expresses her thoughts about

being a good neighbor better than she could. Oddly enough, it's about – not "building walls" – but mending a wall.

Building walls is bad, but mending walls is good. Breaking down barriers is good – but mending fences is also good. It sounds complicated, but it's not really. "Good fences make good neighbors" is not about keeping people (or their pets) apart – it's about respecting each other's space. Walls must be built, and barriers broken down, by mutual agreement. If you send your neighbor anonymous communications, you can't achieve mutual agreement – you can only give offense.

*

Ironically, another recent Group posting complained that the ICA had done too little to help neighbors with the problem of 802 Overbrook, where the resident was unable to maintain the property and was at odds with his neighbors. This was a difficult problem because the resident was the homeowner and had lived there since childhood – generally speaking, the "problem" houses in Idlewylde have absentee owners.

Still, the board should maybe have taken a firmer line with the County on this issue. It probably would have done so if the neighbors had pressed harder.

And this brings up another point. The ICA is a volunteer organization. It is run by people who take time out of their busy lives. Some of them may find it fun; all of them find it rewarding. But it's *work*, and at least some of them do it not for kicks but because it needs doing for the good

(Continued on page 4)

Nancy L. Hofmann,
ABR, CRS

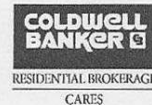
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"I grew up in Idlewylde and have been assisting buyers and sellers in the neighborhood for more than 23 years. My continued support for the neighborhood includes a donation to the Idlewylde Community Association for every home I sell."



Join My Facebook Fan Page at "Your Towson Realtor – Nancy Hofmann"



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Your Neighborhood Expert

STRIDER'S CORNER (from page 3)

of the community. That's why every year you'll find the board appealing for *volunteers* to help out with the work – even to serve on the board. If you feel the ICA ought to be doing something, get involved! You don't even have to be on the board: every monthly board meeting is announced with an invitation to ICA members to come and join in! (See next column.)

Right now, we're looking for someone to take over as Membership Director (see Marcia Ferguson's report below). The Treasurer could probably use some help too. Believe me, you won't be turned away.

– Paul Romney

From the Membership Director

At last count the Idlewylde Community Association has 223 ICA member households. This amounts to **31%** of all households in Idlewylde.

The ICA is an important part of our great neighborhood. It is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of Idlewylde residents. Recent accomplishments include installing our new community signs and supporting the successful Stoneleigh United campaign for the renovation and expansion of Stoneleigh Elementary School. The ICA speaks for the community on development issues in Idlewylde. It runs the community hall, maintains the *idlewylde.net* web site, and puts out this newsletter. The list goes on.

If you have questions about your membership status or need a renewal form, please call me at 410-377-0887 or email me at *ferguso@comcast.net*.

Please note that I will be moving on from this position at the end of the year (Fall 2012) and we are **actively seeking a new Membership Director**. I have found this role very rewarding and it has provided me the opportunity to meet many neighbors. Please contact me if you would like more information about this position.

– Marcia Ferguson

IDLEWYLDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 66106, Baltimore, MD 21239, *www.idlewylde.net*. Dues are \$20 for 1-year membership, or \$30 for 2-year membership. Please contact Membership Director.

BOARD (2011-12): Tom Lattanzi, *President* 410-377-9172; Ben Mentzer, *Vice-President* 410-812-6908; John Keenan, *Treasurer* 410-377-0563; Cynthia Jabs, *Secretary* 410-377-7252; Karen Bracken, 410-377-8811; Kim Deinlein, 443-834-5183; Kate Foley, 443-676-7220; Aaron Haag, 443-939-2233; Martin Saylor, 410-377-2357. **The Board usually meets at the Community Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. All ICA members are welcome, but please contact a board member to confirm time and place.**

OTHER OFFICERS: *Membership Director*: Marcia Ferguson, 410-377-0887; *Webmaster*, Dori Stickles, 410-377-0455.

IDLEWYLDE NEWS, (P.O. Box 66106, Baltimore, MD 21239; *Editor*: Paul Romney, 410-377-0748; *Distributor*: Jamie Kass, 410-377-6728) is the newsletter of the Idlewylde Community Association. **Advertising rates:** ¼ **page**: \$25 members, \$50 non-members; ½ **page**: \$35 members, \$75 non-members; full-page insert: (one-sided) \$150 members, \$250 non-members, (two-sided) \$200 members, \$300 non-members. Classified listings free for members of ICA. Send check to ICA at PO Box above.

Idlewylde News is the newsletter of the Idlewylde Community Association. 755 copies of each issue are printed.