



Hummingbird as seen in ISCA backyard. Photo taken by Suresh Srinivansan. For more of Suresh's photos, see <http://www.iscaonline.com/>

October '08
800+ Homes

www.iscaonline.com

Indian Spring News

Family Fun at ISCA FALLFEST 2008

By Celeste Raker-Dillen

COME JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS on Saturday, October 25th from 3:00 until 6:00 pm at the Indian Spring Recreation Center for an afternoon of fun and food at the 2008 Indian Spring FallFest and Chili Cook-off. Make a batch of your favorite chili and compete for the coveted "Golden Ladle" award. See if you can out-cook your friends and neighbors! If chili cooking is not your thing, then bring a side dish, dessert or cornbread to share. Families with last names beginning with A-N should bring a side dish or cornbread; those whose last names begin with O-Z should bring a dessert.

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Addressing our Crime Problems

By Tony Hausner and Allegra Tasaki

On October 20th, Commander Johnson and Lt. Burnett from the 3rd District Police Station will be speaking at our general meeting at the Rec Center. Time will be 7:30 pm. The focus of the meeting will be on the shooting incident in August and the significantly increased crime in our neighborhood, all of which was discussed in the September issue of the newsletter. See <http://www.iscaonline.com/> for a copy of that issue.

In preparation for that meeting, we would like to put together a list of questions to share with Commander Johnson and Lt. Burnett. We will start this discussion off on the listserv, but welcome your input via email to Allegra at tasaking@verizon.net, phone 301-565-8377, and Tony Hausner, thausner@gmail.com, phone 301-587-6943. Please let us know by October 14 of any questions that you want to submit in advance.

Here are a few strategies that we are considering.

- Hold a rally with a focus on Leighton Avenue and a march to the Rec Center.

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Let's Make the Purple Line a Reality

By Tony Hausner

For over 20 years, environmental, civic, business, and activist groups have been fighting to add a Purple Line to the region's Metrorail system. For this to become a reality, we must act now. This light rail project would run from Bethesda to New Carrollton, with stops in Chevy Chase, College Park, Silver Spring, Takoma/Langley, and more. More importantly, in the midst of growing concern about our climate, unceasing traffic congestion, long commutes, and a looming recession impacted by high gas prices, the Purple Line would encourage environmentally responsible development, take 20,000 cars off the road, shorten commutes and improve our economy. The Purple Line provides a better alternative to transportation than accommodating more cars, such as by widening the Capital Beltway. There are several actions you can take to make this Light Rail Transit Line a reality.

1. Participate in the public hearings.

continued on page 3

October 8—Drive Safe, Walk Safe
October 20—General Meeting • October 25—FallFest

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Walter J. Gottlieb

SEVERAL OF MY RECENT COLUMNS HAVE BEEN DOMINATED BY ONE SUBJECT—**CRIME**. I'd like to be able to change the subject, but ongoing concern about crime in our neighborhood compels me to keep focused on it. On October 20, 7:30 pm, we will have an ISCA general meeting about crime at the Rec Center. We'll be joined by two top-ranking officers from the Montgomery County Police, Silver Spring district. We're also inviting our representatives from the County Council—though their attendance is not guaranteed at this moment.

Although it will be our second general meeting on crime in less than a year, I think the recent rash of car break-ins, attempted home break-ins, and this summer's disturbing shooting make the meeting imperative. Your ISCA board has been putting pressure on the police to step up patrols and accelerate the investigation into the shooting, which as far as we know, has not yet been solved. More than ever, it is critically important that you show up to this meeting and make your voices heard. We need the police to understand how seriously we take the issue.

That isn't to say that there isn't more we can do on our own. After the police leave the meeting, we'll have time to discuss crime as a community and explore various solutions—making it even more important that you attend.

Let's put it this way: I'd love to see the Rec Center filled to capacity.

Meanwhile, please keep on the lookout for suspicious persons or activity. If you're home during the day, the police suggest taking a look out the window or up and down the street periodically. If you're up in the middle of the night, peek out at the street outside and see if you see anyone testing car doors or rifling through cars. If you see something suspicious, call the police right away. We recently did, and they responded right away. They did not act as if we were a nuisance; they appreciated the call.

Most of all, make sure to lock your cars and try not to leave valuables (including GPS systems) inside. Secure your house with adequate lighting, keep the bushes trimmed to deny burglars hiding places, and make sure your locks are up to date. Explore the possibility of a home security system if that makes sense.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but I feel most of this bears repeating until we can reduce the level of crime. As the police are quick to point out, we still live in a relatively safe neighborhood. But there are too many reports of vehicle break-ins and other disturbing activity on the listserv every month—and in conversations between neighbors. Do what you can. And please join us at the Rec Center on Monday, October 20th at 7:30 pm.

Indian Spring Citizens Association

Membership Application and Renewal

Dues are \$10 per household • Please Join or Renew Now • Dues cover 12 months from receipt

Send Check to ISCA • P.O. Box 3724 • Silver Spring, MD 20918-3724

Or drop off at 200 East Indian Spring Drive (c/o Phyllis Zusman, Treasurer) or **use Paypal at iscaonline.com**

Name(s): _____ Phone: (____) _____ Date: ____/____/____

Street Address: _____ Silver Spring, MD 20901

Email: _____

If you are not sure of your membership status you can e-mail Phyllis, fzusman@erols.com or call, 301-587-9063, and she will give you the answer.

Addressing Crime, continued from page 1

- Participate and help organize a crime summit in Silver Spring led by Prezco (Presidents' Council of Silver Spring Civic Associations) in conjunction with the new Police 3rd District Adon at night.
 - Ensure enough police resources, and review resource allocation across districts.
 - Examine the use of community patrols.
 - Increase communication from the police as to arrests, disposition of persons arrested, investigations, and use of patrols.
 - Strengthen neighborhood watch, e.g., more meetings, training, additional block captains, ensure expansion of activities, more monitoring and reporting, provide more resources, etc.
 - Have police conduct more home safety inspections.
- Please let us know your thoughts, comments and suggestions on these strategies.

Purple Line, continued from page 1

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) will hold public hearings probably in November. These hearings involve comments testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to be released probably near the end of September. We suggest as many organization leaders or individuals from different organizations to speak at these hearings. Please let me know if you are willing to do so. It is critical for you to encourage as many persons from your organization to attend this hearing. Politicians pay attention to who and how many attend the hearings.

2. Sign our On-Line petition TODAY: Help us reach our goal of 5,000 signatures—a small percentage of the 1.5 million daily transit riders in our region. Go to: <http://purplelinenow.com/> for a direct link to the petition. There is also a link to request one of our new "Purple Line / Greener Future" lawn signs at this page.

3. Put up a lawn sign or hand out flyers to neighbors. Contact purplecampaign@yahoo.com to help.

4. Finally, Purple Line NOW! is committed to ensuring that our transportation future is not dictated by the wealthy members of the Columbia Country Club or Town of Chevy Chase. If you can help defer the cost of printing or conducting this grassroots campaign, PLN will appreciate any donation—be it \$25, \$250 or \$2,500. Send a check today to: Purple Line NOW!, P.O. Box 7074, Silver Spring, MD 20907-7074 or you may click-and-pledge your donation on their website: <http://purplelinenow.com/>.

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Save the Date!

Wednesday, October 8

- **Drive Safe, Walk Safe Day**

Monday, October 20

- **General Meeting with Police Commander**

Saturday, October 25

- **FallFest**

November date to be announced

- **Public Hearing on Purple Line**

Sunday, December 7

- **Holiday Lights**

Donate Goods at This Year's FallFest

Celebrate Montgomery County's 22nd Annual Community Service Day by donating to Crossway Community, a nonprofit in Kensington that offers single-parent families education, career development, and a safe and supportive place to live. Bring any of the following items to FallFest, Saturday, October 25, 3:00 until 6:00 pm. at the Indian Spring Recreation Center. Donations can also be dropped off at 9613 Hastings Drive, the week prior to FallFest. For more info about Crossway Community, log on to: <http://www.crossway-community.org/>.

Suggested items for donation:

- Office Equipment (computers, fax machines, paper)
- Home Furniture
- Dry Goods (paper products, plastic utensils)
- Personal Items (soap, shampoo)
- Baby Items (diapers, wipes)
- Cleaning Supplies (dishwashing liquid, bleach, laundry detergent)
- School Supplies (notebooks, pencils, arts and crafts materials)

Purple Line

Greener

Future

www.PurpleLineNOW.com

BENEFITS

The Purple Line is a light rail addition to the region's rail system, that would run from Bethesda to New Carrollton -- with stops in Chevy Chase, College Park, Silver Spring, Long Branch, Takoma-Langley and more. In the midst of growing concern about our climate, unceasing traffic congestion, long commutes, and a looming recession impacted by high gas prices -- the Purple Line would take 20,000 cars off the road, shorten commutes and improve our economy.

The Purple Line Means:

- Faster Commutes
- Less Pollution
- Better Hiker/Biker Trails
- More Jobs
- Higher Property Values
- Stronger Communities

ACT NOW

For over 20 years, environmental, civic, business, and activist groups have been fighting to add a Purple Line to the region's rail system. But for this to become a reality, we must act now.

Attend a Hearing: The state will hold four hearings to hear community input on the Purple Line: 11/15 New Carrollton, 11/18 Bethesda, 11/19 College Park & 11/22 Takoma Park. For info on locations & times or to RSVP, contact: purplecampaign@yahoo.com.

Sign Our Petition & Take Action: Please sign our petition at www.PurpleLineNOW.com. We will deliver this to MTA and elected officials. At our site, you will also be able to request a lawnsign and read about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Write a Letter: Let the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) know you support the Purple Line. Simply send an email to testimony@purpleline.info and it will be forwarded to MTA and key officials. Include "Purple Line DEIS" in the subject line. You can also mail comments to: Michael Madden, Project Manager Maryland Transit Administration - 6 St. Paul Street Baltimore, MD 21202

Support Purple Line NOW! Donate at PurpleLineNOW.com or by check to: Purple Line NOW! - P.O. Box 7074 - Silver Spring, MD 20907.

Purple Line, continued from page 3

Here is a copy of the letter we sent to the County Council and Executive on April 17, 2008.

To: Michael Knapp, President
Montgomery County Council
Dear Mr. Knapp:

The Indian Spring Citizens Association consists of 800 homes. This letter is to inform you of our Association's views on the Purple Line.

Recently, our association took a vote on the purple line. The vote was 70 in favor and 3 opposed to the following resolution which states: ISCA supports the building of the purple line from New Carrollton to Bethesda. We prefer the light rail option over the bus rapid transit option as it provides better travel times and ridership projections. We favor the purple line as the first major step forward toward developing transit solutions to our transportation needs in preference to highway solutions and we continue to oppose Beltway widening.

Our reasons for supporting the purple line are that we believe transit is a much more cost-effective way to address our transportation needs compared to highway solutions with a far better impact on the environment. With the rate of growth in this county, transit solutions are essential to address these needs. We believe the purple line is the first step in a series of transit related solutions to transportation needs. In addition to a comprehensive set of light rail lines, we also believe that our bus system needs many improvements.

As indicated in our resolution, we support light rail for the purple line over bus rapid transit. We support this position because the Maryland Transit Administration studies show that light rail has better ridership figures and better travel times compared to bus rapid transit. We believe the additional cost of light rail over bus rapid transit is worth it.

In contrast, we oppose Beltway widening as it will:

- Have a negative impact on our neighborhood and other neighborhoods adjacent to the Beltway as dozens of homes will be taken. Residents who do not lose their homes will suffer even more due to the increased noise and air pollution
- Severely damage the environment and increase noise pollution for all
- Result in more congestion on major secondary roads, such as Georgia Ave.
- Have a negative impact on parks, such as Rock Creek Park

For all these reasons, we strongly support a light rail Purple Line and are pleased to see the support of the County Council to date.

Sincerely
Walter Gottlieb
President, ISCA
Cc: County Executive, MTA

Calling all Chili Chefs!

Go for the "Golden Ladle" award and the \$50 gift certificate from Hard Times Café by entering your chili in the Annual Chili Contest held during the ISCA FallFest, Saturday October 25. Contact Eileen Fisher for details at eileenfisher@yahoo.com

ISCA extends gratitude to:

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Friends and Neighbors,

2008 has been a difficult real estate market nationwide. Despite the continued interest in Silver Spring, our market remains a great opportunity for buyers. This presents challenges but not barriers for homeowners that need to make a change or want to move up!

Since 2001 I've listed 86 homes and represented 70 buyers in Silver Spring alone. I know this market inside and out. Call me to see how my top-notch team can help you! ~Rhonda

Indian Spring Homes Sold Since August 2008 *

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Style	BR	FB	HB
9624 Flower Avenue	\$550,000	\$530,000	Colonial	4	1	1
119 Indian Spring Drive	\$550,000	\$540,000	Colonial	3	1	2

Partial List of Indian Spring Homes Currently Under Contract/Active *

Address	List Price	Status	Style	BR	FB	HB
9613 Clearview Place	\$509,000	Contract	Colonial	3	1	1
My Listing 9706 Lawson Place	\$559,000	Contract	Colonial	3	2	
My Listing 125 Normandy Drive	\$449,000	Active	Colonial	3	1	
9411 Flower Avenue	\$539,999	Active	Cape Cod	5	2	1
9614 Lawndale Court	\$459,500	Active	Colonial	3	2	1
9615 Evergreen Street	\$479,900	Active	Colonial	4	1	2
9618 Evergreen Street	\$489,000	Active	Colonial	3	1	2
309 University Boulevard E	\$390,000	Active	Colonial	6	3	
9602 Garwood Street	\$479,000	Active	Colonial	3	1	1

* The information above was provided by MRIS. These lists include only those homes listed in the MRIS system and does not include homes for sale by owner. Information is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed.

Check Out A Few of My Silver Spring Listings – More on www.helpmerhondarealestate.com!



9706 Lawson Place
3 BR, 2 FB, \$559,000



125 Normandy Drive
3 BR, 1 FB, \$449,000



109 Melbourne Avenue
3 BR, 1 FB, \$359,900



406 Leighton Avenue
4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB, \$550,000



Proudly Provided by Indian Spring's Top Realtor, Rhonda Mortensen
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FAMILY FUN AT FALLFEST, continued from page 1

ISCA will provide hotdogs, ice cream floats, a moon bounce, arts and crafts activities, and plenty of games for the young and old! The renowned raffle will also be a part of the day's festivities. Win fabulous prizes and gift certificates donated by our local businesses and restaurants. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase (one ticket for \$1 or six for \$5) during the FallFest. Winners do not have to be present to win.

Unique to this year, the ISCA FallFest coincides with Montgomery County's 22nd Annual Community Service Day. In order to observe this county event, we are adding a service component to benefit Crossway Community, a local nonprofit dedicated to developing strong family communities. Please bring the following items to donate to Crossway: school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, and art supplies; and personal and baby items such as shampoo and diaper wipes. For more information about Crossway Community, please log on to www.crossway-community.org. To check out other County community service projects, log on to: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer/>.

Don't miss the Fall Fest Raffle!

Tickets are available to purchase at the annual ISCA Fall Fest on Saturday, October 25th starting at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are one for \$1 or six for \$5. Proceeds go towards covering the costs of the ISCA events hosted throughout the year. Oh, and bring those extra address labels that you get in the mail so that you can quickly, easily and legibly place your contact information on the backs of the tickets. You do not need to be present to win, we just need to be able to contact you.

What?! Not going to be able to partake in the food and fun? Well, you can still participate in the raffle. Send or drop off your cash or check addressed to ISCA along with your address labels to Celeste Raker Dillen, ISCA Raffle Coordinator, 9613 Hastings Drive, Silver Spring, MD and your name will be entered into the raffle pool.

Thanks to our local business community who have already donated items. Please expect more to come!

And to further celebrate the Community Service Day, please lend a hand before, during and after FallFest. VOLUNTEERS are needed to make this day a big success. Please help set-up and clean-up, run the moon bounce, serve ice cream floats, grill hot dogs, and/or provide tables and chairs. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering or being a chili chef, please contact Celeste Raker-Dillen at 301-585-8446 or at dillensl@aol.com

**Mark Your Calendars
and Join the Fun
ISCA FALLFEST 2008
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th
3:00-6:00 P.M.
INDIAN SPRING RECREATION
CENTER
(intersection of Fairway and Lawndale)**

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“Drive Safe, Walk Safe” Set for October 8

by Jennifer Chambers

The President’s Council of Silver Spring (Prezco) has organized a pedestrian safety campaign to educate and encourage motorists and pedestrians to “Drive Safe” and “Walk Safe.” This campaign is scheduled for Wednesday October 8, to coincide with National Walk to School Day. During the morning of October 8th, twelve civic associations involved in Prezco will educate motorists and walking children and adults in their neighborhood on how to drive and walk cautiously and safely at dangerous intersections and streets. Education will include: “Drive Safe, Walk Safe” yard signs; articles in neighborhood newsletters, list-serves, and websites; published neighborhood school bus stop times and locations; hand-made signs and citizen presence at dangerous intersections and streets; letters to organizations or businesses asking their members and patrons to drive and walk safely in their neighborhoods; and cooperation with each neighborhood’s elementary school to help organize Walk to School Day events. For example, parents in the Indian Spring neighborhood will organize and participate in the “Walking School Bus” to Highland View Elementary School during the morning of October 8th. National Walk to School day encourages children to walk to school to promote healthy living—personally

and environmentally—and educates them about safe practices for walking on streets.

Prezco is a coalition of twelve civic associations in Silver Spring that advocate for the concerns and needs of their residents. In early 2007, Prezco made it a priority to advocate for increased pedestrian safety on the streets in Silver Spring. Each civic association contributed to a list of unfriendly pedestrian roads, intersections, and situations in their neighborhoods. Eighty pedestrian safety problems were identified and included in a chart that organized the roads by their primary, secondary, and jurisdictional status; roads were also coded as hot-button issues or as problems that could be easily fixed, such as restriping a crosswalk. In September 2007, Prezco submitted this chart to the Montgomery County Executive, County Council, and the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT). All three were very receptive and responsive to Prezco’s advocacy on this issue. In particular, DPWT has worked well with Prezco to alleviate the unfriendly pedestrian situations in our neighborhoods. Since June of this year, eighty percent of the pedestrian safety problems identified by Prezco have either been resolved or the projects have been completed. When County Executive Ike Leggett and Councilmember Valerie Ervin announced Montgomery County’s Pedestrian Safety Initiative last December, they credited Prezco’s plan as its inspiration.

PAID POLITICAL AD

LOCAL ELECTION DAY EVENTS FOR BARACK OBAMA

Metro to the Polls

Volunteers are needed on Election Day (November 4), during morning rush hours, to offer Metro passengers rides to the polls after work. The volunteers would stand near the entrances to the Metro stations and offer the rides. To volunteer or help out in other ways on this project, please contact Tony Hausner, 301-587-6943 or thausner@gmail.com

Northwood High School Update

By Jay P. Goldman

Northwood High School, which is the assigned high school for the Indian Spring neighborhood, will hold its Homecoming on Saturday, October 25 with a varsity football game (versus Wheaton) at 2:30 pm on the newly sodded gridiron behind the school. A Homecoming dance that evening will be the culmination of Spirit Week 2008.

The school will hold a silent auction to support the school’s after-prom next May on Saturday, November 8 in the Northwood cafeteria. The auction will feature restaurant gift certificates and a hundred other prizes.

These events and others are open to the public. Complete details will be available on the school’s recently redesigned website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/northwoodhs/>

News from Highland View PTA

By Amber Khan, HVES PTA President

The school year has been busy at Highland View Elementary School—with record-breaking attendance at our Open House, Ice Cream Social, PTA meeting, and Back to School Night, our students are fortunate to have great community engagement and parent volunteers supporting our school.

Family and community participation helps our school leadership effectively advocate for our students and addresses important needs and emerging issues. If you haven't renewed your PTA membership, it's not too late! Regular updates and school news can be found on our website, <http://www.hvespta.org/>, along with membership forms and flyers about upcoming events.

This October our focus is building community spirit and encouraging community service. The HVES PTA invites all ISCA neighbors to support a number of upcoming projects and activities taking place this fall.

Saturday, October 4th—Join Us For Community Service Day and Get Your Mums!

Pick up the beautiful mums you ordered in advance and pitch in to help with our community service projects at Highland View Elementary School. Working together to keep our school grounds in order is a great service activity for the whole family. Don't forget that we'll have the Red Cross onsite running a blood drive in the All Purpose Room—indeed, we're offering many ways to give this year! If you are interested in learning more about the blood drive, please contact Ingrid Pipher at 301-589-7519.

Tuesday, October 7th—Get Your Flu Vaccine Without Getting in Your Car!

This year the PTA is excited to host a flu clinic at Highland View Elementary School on October 7th from 4:00-8:00 pm. Staffed by health professionals, the clinic will offer vaccines for individuals who are four years and older. Each vaccine will cost \$30.00 and can be paid by check, cash or credit card. Please note that Medicaid and Medicare Part B will be accepted with proof of coverage and a photo id. The clinic is a walk-in—no reservations are needed. For fact sheets or more information, please visit <http://www.hvespta.org/>. If you have questions or are a health professional and would like to volunteer time to help out, please contact Lynne Harris at 240-462-1483.

Tuesday, October 7th—PTA Meeting at 7:00 pm at Highland View Elementary School.

If you only attend one meeting this year, don't miss this opportunity to share your ideas, concerns or thoughts about ways we can strengthen our school. Using a consensogram model, our October meeting will focus on breaking into small groups to discuss and identify key priorities and issues that parents would like to focus on for the year. Free babysitting for potty-trained kids, translators, and light snacks will be available.

Friday, October 10th—Last Day for our Penny Drive to Buy Hot Water Bottles!

We are running a Penny Drive to raise funds to buy hot water bottles for Afghani children living in refugee camps. These hot water bottles will be shipped to Afghanistan before the end of the month to help keep small bodies warm during the brutal winter. Every classroom at Highland View has a milk jug designated to collect change and donations. Our goal is to raise \$500.00 to purchase 100 hot water bottles. In addition to money, students and families are invited to send cards and letters to our troops stationed in Afghanistan. At the end of the month we will share pictures of the families who receive the hot water bottles so that our community can see how our change made a difference. If you would like to make a donation or have questions, please contact Cherry Kreutzer at 301-792-7312.

Tuesday, October 14th—Family Dinner Night at McGinty's Public House 5:00-10:00 pm. Take the night off and have dinner at McGinty's Pub—a favorite downtown Silver Spring traditional Irish pub and restaurant. Last year's event was fun for families and neighbors and helped raise money to support our scholarship fund for after-school programs, assist in reducing costs for school field trips, and help bring cultural assemblies to the school. If you have questions or would like more details, please contact Debbie Lea at 301-587-1270.

Friday, October 31st—Halloween Parties and Parade—Costumes Needed.

Every year we have students in need of a costume so they can participate in the community parade around Highland View. If you have Halloween costumes that would be appropriate for elementary school kids that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the main office at 9010 Providence Avenue by Thursday, October 30th.

Volunteers Wanted at Highland View Elementary School

by Heather Powers Sauter

Highland View Elementary School has a strong community of parents and guardians who volunteered over 2,200 hours last year to provide an environment in which all of its students could succeed. This year, we hope to exceed that number by promoting the “Three 4 Me” volunteer program where parents and guardians are encouraged to give as little as three hours of service to Highland View over the course of the entire school year. Members of the community who do not have children at Highland View are invited and encouraged to volunteer, too, as community involvement is an important indicator of school success.

Anyone can volunteer, as it requires no special skills other than your desire to help and follow directions. No long-term commitments are required, either, so if you have only an hour, we’d still love to have you! And, volunteers are eligible to open accounts with the Montgomery County Teachers Credit Union and use

Volunteers Needed

Highland View Front Office. Two hours a day, two days per week (more or less). Light clerical work, mostly filing, some copying. Due to the confidential nature of the work, this person must NOT be related to a student. Sense of humor appreciated. Spanish speaking would be very helpful, but not as important as ability to follow instructions in English.

Reading Department. Volunteers may either assist with a one-time “gig” by participating in one of our reading events—Family Reading night (Fall or Spring) or Dr. Seuss’s Read Across America Day in March—or help in an ongoing basis by helping students learn to read, either individually or in small groups. Training provided. Examples of activities include:

- Letter Formation
- Letter Identification Intervention
- Reading to children and having literary conversations
- Shared Reading of poems, songs, or books. Basically, this is a read-along. The adult and the students read the same text simultaneously
- Sound and Spelling Explorations: Small group

the school bus as transportation to your volunteer commitment. For more information on the benefits and a list of Frequently Asked Questions about volunteering, please visit the HVES PTA website.

<http://www.hvespta.org/projects/2008-2009/>

Currently, assistance is needed in the following areas, with training provided:

- Perform light clerical work in HVES front office;
- Help children open milk bottles, condiment packets and other containers in the lunchroom;
- Get some fresh air and help monitor the children on the playground;
- Help students learn to read, either individually or in small groups.

Whether you’re looking to keep your skills sharp or want to give back to your community, Highland View has a place for you in its volunteer corps. All volunteer contributions will be formally recognized. To learn more about these and other opportunities please contact Heather Sauter, HVES Volunteer Coordinator, hpowers@realia.com or 301-565-4013 and request your volunteer application.

Lunchroom & Playground Assistance. Help children open milk bottles, condiment packets and other containers in the lunchroom or rediscover your youth and play with children on the playground.

To learn more about these and other opportunities contact Heather Sauter, HVES Volunteer Coordinator, hpowers@realia.com or 301-565-4013, and fill out an application to volunteer.

Tips on How to “Drive Safe, Walk Safe”

By Eileen Fisher

October 8th is National Walk to School Day, which provides a great opportunity to mention some safety tips that will make roadways safer for all users, as well as some of the many benefits of walking.

First, some tips for drivers. There are morning and afternoon school bus stops in our neighborhood, particularly along Indian Spring Drive, Caroline Avenue and Worth Avenue. Please watch carefully for children standing at the bus stops, as well as those who are racing to catch the bus.,

The speed limit in our neighborhood is 25 miles per hour, but it is always good to go below that. Here’s why: a pedestrian’s chance of death if hit by a motor vehicle traveling at 20 miles per hour is 15 percent. This rises to 45 percent when the vehicle is traveling 30 miles per hour, and 85 percent when the vehicle is traveling 40 miles per hour. (source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

Our neighborhood streets are often crowded by moving cars, parked cars, bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages. Remember to scan the road and sides of the road for pedestrians, and look in all directions before making a turn. Always yield to pedestrians at crosswalks, both marked and unmarked, and do not block or park in crosswalks. Finally, come to a complete stop at stop signs, and be prepared to stop for pedestrians in the neighborhood and near schools.

Pedestrians also need to do their part. Make yourself visible to drivers by wearing bright, light, or reflective clothing. Reflective materials can make pedestrians visible from up to 500 feet away. Carry a flashlight at night and don’t wear headphones. Make sure you’re visible to drivers and not obstructed by fences, trees or hedges.

Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic (but cycle with traffic). Be on the lookout for cars reversing in parking lots and near on-street parking areas. Cross the street at marked crosswalks or intersections whenever possible. Obey traffic signals such as ‘walk’ and ‘don’t walk’ signals, but also look left, right, behind you and left again before crossing a street or stepping into traffic.

Watch for turning vehicles—make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.

Here are some great reasons to walk:

- It’s cheaper to walk: there are many costs associated with driving, including cost of the vehicle, insurance, inspection, registration, parking fees, maintenance, and (forefront in many people’s minds) gas.
- Walking is good for the environment: unlike driving, walking does not contribute to air, noise, or water pollution;
- Walking can reduce the demand for existing and new roadways: many streets carry more traffic than they were designed to handle, resulting in gridlock, wasted time and energy, and pollution. Providing opportunities to walk can help more people out of frustrating traffic congestion;
- Walking can improve people’s health: regular walking can aid in weight loss; lower blood pressure; improve cholesterol, blood sugar, and immune system function; prevent bone loss; reduce risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, and other chronic disease; and improve mood and mental performance;
- Walking improves the quality of our lives: walking provides personal benefits such as a sense of independence and freedom of choice, as well as social benefits such as opportunities to interact with others, build community closeness, and keep more eyes on the street, perhaps making the neighborhood safer;

(adapted from Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center, <http://www.walkinginfo.org/>).



HGTV WANTS YOUR HOME ON TV!



Home and Garden Television (HGTV) has returned to the area seeking homeowners for filming new episodes of two of their top-rated programs.

My House is Worth What? Homeowners who have recently made improvements or renovations to their home (and you don't have to be selling your home), can get an expert assessment from HGTV's Kendra Todd and Tamara Kucik, on the true value of the improvements you've made, as well as advice on how to further increase the market value of your home. **Filming begins in November.**



Get it Sold! Homeowners who have been unable to sell their home will receive a thorough evaluation by HGTV's Sabrina Soto and Tamara Kucik, who will provide expert staging advice and staging! At no cost to you, your home will be lightly updated and staged — you get to keep it all. And, you will be compensated for your time. **Filming now!**

Contact Tamara Kucik at tamara@tamara4homes.com for additional information and details on how to apply.

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