



2008 Holiday Celebration
(See complete picture on page 9.)

Jan.-Feb. '09
800+ Homes

www.iscaonline.com

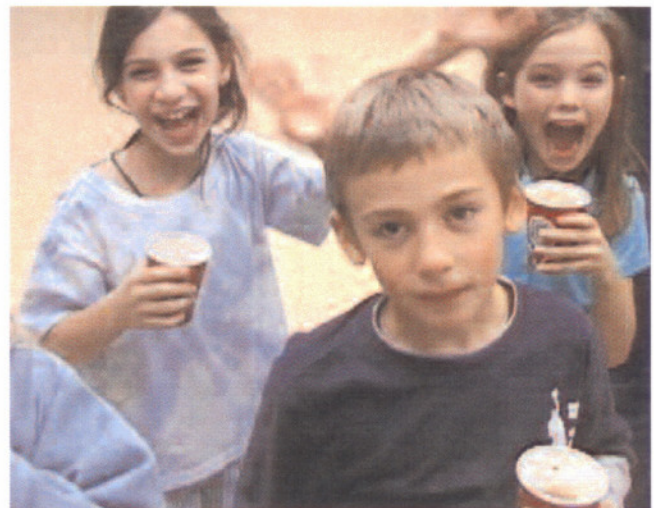
Indian Spring News

Meeting with Councilmember Ervin—Feb. 9

Take Back the Neighborhood Rally

By Allegra Tasaki

I**N RESPONSE TO THE RECENT INCREASE IN CRIME** in our neighborhood, ISCA held a “Take Back the Neighborhood Rally” on Sunday, November 16th, fostering a heightened awareness about our community’s situation. Friends and neighbors gathered on this crisp and cool night in support for all who have suffered from crimes committed upon them personally or around their property. Over 80 of us participated in this rally, making it a fun and momentous family event. We started the rally at Leighton and Colesville, site of the shooting last July. We then proceeded through the neighborhood and ended up at the Rec Center. We took advantage of the hot chocolate, snacks, and time to discuss safety, prevention, what constitutes a 911 emergency call, and to answer specific questions, through brief talks with Walter Gottlieb, our ISCA president, and Tony Hausner, our neighborhood watch organizer. A few photos are in this newsletter and many more photos and a video can be seen on our iscaonline.com web site, see photo and video galleries.



Can young activists help effect change? Yes they can! (Mike Nolan photo)

Photos taken by Toba Hausner and Mike Nolan, video by Mike Nolan

continued on page 7

To all ISCA Members!

By Phyllis Zusman

I**T HAS BEEN MANY, MANY YEARS** since the dues for ISCA membership has been raised. No one seems to know when the last time was. As we all know, costs are going up: The cost of the Recreation Center; postage and the Post Office Box; the web page; and the largest cost is the printing of the newsletter.

The Board at its last meeting voted to propose an increase in dues to \$15.00 per family. This is a REAL bargain, with all the things that we do at no additional cost to you—The Fall Fest, Taste of Indian Spring, 4th

of July parade, and so forth. So we are talking about \$1.25 a month, less than a cup of coffee. At the February general meeting, a vote will be taken of all ISCA members in attendance.

Congratulations to Ali Breen, one of our newsletter layout coordinators, and Sean Breen on the birth of their daughter, Molly Elizabeth, on New Years day.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By **Walter J. Gottlieb**

January, 2009

ISCA Officers

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Walter Gottlieb
president@iscaonline.com

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Celeste Raker-Dillen

Vice President Civic Affairs

Elizabeth Magin

Secretary

Allegra Tasaki

Treasurer

Phyllis Zusman

Neighborhood Watch

Organizer

Tony Hausner

Website Organizer

Tony Hausner
Matt Stocker

Newsletter Editor

Elizabeth Magin

Newsletter Coordinators

Ali Breen
Audrey Cowgill

THINK I MAY NOT BE ALONE in approaching the New Year with a mixture of hope and apprehension. Hope for the new administration and the economy, apprehension about how quickly—or not—things will get better.

ISCA itself has not been immune to the ups and downs of the economy. The Board reviewed ISCA's budget situation, and it is clear that while our costs have been rising, revenues have not kept pace. This is not for lack of trying. We have aggressively pursued advertising for the newsletter and taken several

steps (including online registration) to increase membership.

Whether it's \$10 or \$15 or even a little more, ISCA membership is still a bargain.

As the front page of this newsletter indicates, no one remembers the last time that ISCA dues were raised. They have been set at \$10.00 per family for many years. In order to ensure ISCA's financial well being, the Board proposes to

raise dues by \$5/per family to \$15.00 per year. We believe that this amount, which is only \$1.25 per month (and which, our treasurer notes, is less than the price of a cup of coffee) is reasonable and will have minimal impact on ISCA families.

The Board agreed to review ISCA's finances at the end of 2009 to evaluate whether to propose an additional increase for 2010.

Whether it's \$10 or \$15 or even a little more, ISCA membership is still a bargain. ISCA provides all of the events we look forward to—the Fall Fest, Taste of Indian Spring, Fourth of July parade—for no additional charge.

ISCA members will have an opportunity to vote on the dues increase at our General Meeting on Monday, February 9th at the Rec Center. Only those present at the meeting will be able to cast a vote.

It should be a meeting well worth attending. Our representative on the County Council, Valerie Ervin, will be our special guest. Council member Ervin will discuss the issues that are on our minds—from crime to the County budget to the Purple Line—and take questions from the community. As always, I hope to see you there.

I enjoyed seeing our Indian Spring neighbors at the ISCA holiday celebration and tree lighting last month. I wish everyone health and happiness for the New Year!

Indian Spring Citizens Association

Membership Application and Renewal

Dues are \$15 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

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.

Purple Line Testimony

By Tony Hausner

WALTER GOTTlieb, ISCA President, and I testified at the Maryland Transit Administration hearing on November 22, 2008. Our testimony is copied below. Prior to the hearing, I participated in a press conference organized by Purple Line Now, and I will also testify on January 8, 2009, before the County Planning Board. See photos from the hearing and press conference courtesy of Toba Hausner and Mike Nolan and a video thanks to Mike Nolan on iscaonline.com (go to photo and video galleries).

In the meantime, both the Washington Post and Gazette have endorsed light rail for the Purple Line, and the planning board staff has issued its recommendations for light rail at grade on Wayne Ave.

I would like you all to continue to provide support for this project, which is vital to our community in many ways. We still have quite a battle to succeed in getting elected officials to support this project. Please go to purplelinenow.com and sign their petition (even

if you have signed other petitions) as that gets delivered to elected officials; also go to their website and make a donation to support their efforts. Finally, send your own letter of support to the following:
 purpleline@mtamaryland.com,
 Gov. O'Malley—governor@gov.state.md.us,
 County Executive mail—ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov,
 County Council—county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov,
 Del. Sheila Hixson—
 sheila.hixson@house.state.md.us,
 Del. Tom Hucker—tom.hucker@house.state.md.us,
 Sen. Jamie Raskin—
 Jamie.Raskin@senate.state.md.us,
 Del. Heather Mizeur—
 Heather.Mizeur@house.state.md.us,
 Rep. Donna Edwards—4mddistrict@mail.house.gov
 and please copy me. There is still a long process to go

continued on page 4

You're Invited to the
Takoma Park/Silver Spring

Inaugural Ball


Tuesday, January 20 - 7 PM - 1 AM **Adults only after 9 PM**

★ *Live Dance Music — J.P. McDermott & Western Boy*

★ *Attire: Dress Up* ★ *Hors d'Ouvres — Cash Bar*

Where:
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911 Ellsworth Dr, Silver Spring

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 Dr/Dan Aibel, 227 Park, TP 20912 (301) 270-0538, daibel@yahoo.com
 Dr/Howard Kohn, 16 Jefferson Ave, TP 20912 (240) 461-6321, kohn@erols.com

Include e-mail address — tickets issued via e-mail

Sponsors: TP/SS Inaugural Ball Committee
Greater Silver Spring Democratic Club

Lucia's to Host Northwood Baseball Fundraiser

By Jay P. Goldman

THE NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM will hold a fundraiser at Lucia's Italian Deli and Restaurant in Wheaton from Jan. 23-25.

The restaurant will donate a portion of proceeds all weekend whenever a customer mentions Northwood upon ordering. The baseball team will use the funds for off-season training programs and some new equipment. Several boys living in Indian Spring will be playing for the Northwood team this spring.

Lucia's is located at 2409 University Blvd. in Wheaton. The web address is www.wheatonnet.com/lucias.

Please consider supporting the team by enjoying a delicious meal.

Further information:

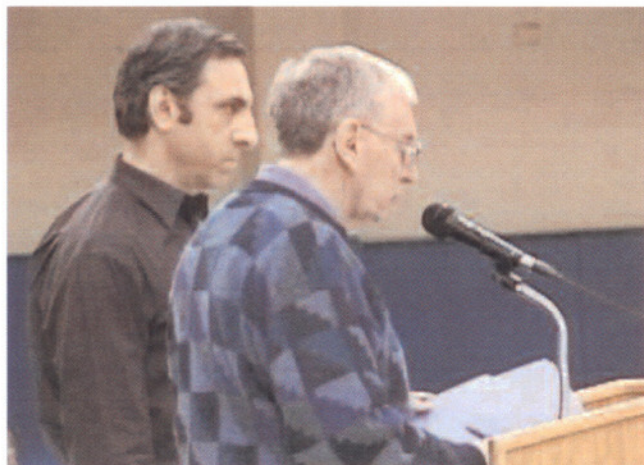
Jay P. Goldman

Jgoldman@aasa.org

301-565-2506

Purple Line, *continued from page 3*

on this project and your support is needed. After the Planning Board makes a recommendation, the County Executives and County Councils make their recommendations, and finally the Governor makes a decision in the next couple of months. There are additional steps, but if all goes well construction would start in 4 years and take 4 years to complete.



Dedicated ISCA activists Hausner and Gottlieb hope their testimony helps bring about Maryland transport changes. (Mike Nolan photo)

TESTIMONY OF TONY HAUSNER AND WALTER GOTTLIEB, INDIAN SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION MTA HEARING, NOVEMBER 22, 2008

I am Tony Hausner, a board member of the Indian Spring Citizens Association and a member of a Bicounty Task Force established by the two County Executives, and a member of the Planning Board's Purple Line Master Plan Advisory Group.

I am Walter Gottlieb, President of the Indian Spring Citizens Association. The Indian Spring Citizens Association consists of 800 homes and we live right next to the beltway off of Colesville road. This testimony is to inform you of our Association's views on the Purple Line.

Last spring, 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. (see flyer on Beltway Widening, <http://www.nobeltwayexpansion.com/beltway/cabeflyer.pdf>)

I would like to briefly compare Light Rail (LRT) vs Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

I will focus on the medium investment LRT and BRT as these are the best options for these two alternatives.

Light rail (LRT) is significantly better than bus rapid transit (BRT) on:

- Travel times
- Ridership
- Converting automobile drivers to transit riders
- Pollution
- Noise levels
- Economic development
- Property values
- Jobs for low income populations

BRT has significant limitations in capacity which will be exceeded shortly after 2030.

continued on page 7

Friends & Neighbors....

Happy New Year!

My team and I wish you a healthy, prosperous New Year. Starting fresh in 2009 we're hopeful for positive changes in the local and national economy.

If you're thinking of buying a home, it's a great time. Interest rates are very low! Or, if you're planning to sell your home The Rhonda Mortensen Group can help you make the most of your sale. The real estate market is challenging but Silver Spring remains a more sought-after area than most nationwide. My team has been consistently busy helping buyers and sellers. As your friend and neighbor, I have the track record to get you results...

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Long & Foster Top 100 Realtor, 2006, 2007, 2008
Top Producer, Greater Capital Association of Realtors, 2002-2007
Rookie of the Year, Long & Foster, 2001
Founders Club, Long & Foster*

*** Since '01 I've listed more than 86 homes and represented 70+ buyers in Silver Spring alone!

*** In Silver Spring since '01 my average listing price was \$454,312 and my sellers got 99% of the original price! During this time, my listings were on the market an average of just 30 days.

*** In '07-08, I had 25+ listings and 50% of these sold in less than 30 days! That's impressive in a buyers market with lots of home inventory available!

Hear directly from my satisfied clients, check out my listings and learn about my marketing strategies at www.helpmerhondarealestate.com!



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125 Normandy Drive
3 BR, 1 FB, \$439,000



109 Melbourne Avenue
3 BR, 1 FB, \$309,000



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219 Normandy Drive

Welcome to this sophisticated and expanded 4 bedroom, 2 bath Tudor-style Colonial featuring a new Chef's kitchen with granite counters, new cabinets, stainless steel appliances & ceramic tile floor, a main level in-law / au pair suite, an attached garage, plus beautiful hardwood floors and designer paint colors throughout! Step inside to discover the bright and expansive living room with gleaming hardwood floors and continue into the large dining room, open to the fabulous new kitchen. The au pair / in-law suite boasts new carpet, a full bath, a large bedroom and closet space galore! The upper level offers three generously sized bedrooms plus an updated full bath. Don't miss the lower level featuring a large family room with new carpet plus a quarter bath and a large utility/storage/laundry room providing plenty of additional storage space.

Indian Spring

On the Market with Tom



9312 Caroline Ave.
Silver Spring
2-3 br / 1 ba cottage
\$330,000



6700 Gude Ave.
Takoma Park
3 br / 2 ba cottage
\$425,000



2120 Vermont Ave #617
Washington, DC
2 br / 2 level Loft Condo
\$464,000

Tom's Recent Sales

10617 S. Dunmoor Drive Full Price!	\$460,000
9924 Markham St. 21 Days on Market!	\$422,000
10619 S. Dunmoor Dr. 15 Days on Market!	\$425,000
1716 Cody Dr. 12 Days on Market!	\$440,000
10007 Brookmoor Dr. 9 Days on Market!	\$500,000
132 Fleetwood Ter. \$10,000 Over List	\$440,000 8 Days on Market!

**Tom's Average Days on Market in
2008 = 30 Days!**

Thank you Tom for all the work you did getting our house on the market and sold quickly. And a special thanks to your team for their professionalism, get it done attitude and all the time they spent getting our house staged for sale. It was a pleasure working with them and you.

Hank & Marty Weigle

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You went above and beyond what I would expect of any realtor. You can be sure that I would recommend you highly at any opportunity possible.

Mary Blaber



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Purple Line, *continued from page 4*

While LRT costs more, these advantages more than pay for themselves over time.

I will now give a more detailed statement on these points. Many of the statements in this overview are based on estimates for the year 2030 in the DEIS. Beyond 2030, the advantages for LRT increase.

LRT takes significantly less time to travel between stations, e.g., from Bethesda to Silver Spring 9 minutes vs. 19 minutes.

LRT has significantly more riders than BRT, 62,600 vs. 51,800

LRT results in significantly more auto drivers switching to transit than BRT, 19,200 vs. 15,300.

With higher gas prices, Purple Line ridership will be even higher, which argues even more for a rail solution. BRT has limited capacity and will have difficulty in handling significant future increases in ridership. This is a critical limitation.

Using typical growth rates for transportation systems, the advantages of LRT over BRT become even greater after 2030.

Total capital costs for LRT are \$1.22 billion, which are significantly more than BRT at \$580 million. However, the advantages of LRT significantly outweigh the costs.

BRT is more cost-effective than LRT, but both are significantly under the FTA threshold, which is the key criteria. Beyond 2030, both are likely to become more cost-efficient, with LRT becoming more efficient at a faster rate. Further, we believe that the estimates for BRT may be too low.

LRT will reduce air pollution significantly more than BRT because it emits less air pollution and it removes more air-polluting cars

LRT outperforms BRT on noise levels

LRT takes more trees than BRT along the Capital Crescent Trail. MTA is required to replace those trees at the nearest suitable location.

The Purple Line will improve transportation along the route it serves. It will also better connect people living along this route with key economic resources elsewhere in the region. In addition, it will vastly increase the radius within which people can live and still get to work reliably along the route within what is widely viewed as a reasonable 45 minute commuting time, which is especially important to low-income populations. What this will do is enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of our communities as locations for businesses.

LRT is the model that is preferred over BRT throughout the US and internationally because of the advantages discussed above as evidenced in China.

A Purple Line built as a LRT will contribute greatly to the communities it serves by bolstering economic development, increasing property values, and encouraging re-development of underutilized areas, particularly around the planned station areas. Our assessable tax base will be increased, adding many millions of dollars in future tax revenue to the County (and state), for years to come and without raising tax rates.

The Purple Line can serve as a national model. Right now the Metro system involves travel from suburbs to central city. There are no direct connections between suburbs. When the Purple Line eventually becomes a complete circle, it will connect all major inner suburbs with each other.

The vision of the Purple Line is that it will be a high enough quality to be part of the Metrorail system and displayed on maps. A light rail line has a better chance of accomplishing that.

The business community, Prince George's Elected Officials, and other Purple Line advocates strongly support light rail for the Purple Line. There is a major risk that they will drop their support for the Purple Line if the county chooses BRT.

Save the Date!

Monday, February 9

General Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

with Councilmember

Valerie Ervin

Neighborhood Rally, *continued from page 1*

Our biggest "take home message" from this event is that we live in a very safe neighborhood, but we can make it safer by working with our police force to provide them detailed information (such as descriptions of suspects, license plate numbers, and accurate times and dates) when an incident happens, and by using our best judgment in calling the police when something happens or suspicious circumstances occur. If any of you have questions about this event, or would like further information, please feel free to contact me. Home: (301) 565-8377 or email: tasaking@verizon.net.



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Take Back the Neighborhood Rally



At the Rec Center (Mike Nolan photo).



Prior to the Walk (Toba Hausner photo). "One voice can change the world" (Obama motto). Many voices young and old can change our own neighborhood.



O Christmas Tree

ISCA's annual holiday celebration and tree lighting was held on Sunday, December 14 (Jill Ortmann-Fouse photo).

Special thanks to Dr. King for donating the electricity to light the ISCA tree and to the Social Committee for providing cookies and sweet treats. And many thanks to Celeste Raker-Dillen and Stephanie Helsing for organizing this very successful celebration.



TAMARA KUCIK
READY. SET. SOLD!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR? IT CAN BE!

...though it will be a rough start in 2009. Kiplinger's forecasts a 4% contraction in the market during the first quarter of 2009. Kiplinger's also predicts a small pickup in housing sales in 2009. Overall, there is good reason to be optimistic about 2009 if you're armed with the right tools — e.g. the right Realtor!

The challenge: a million homes are in foreclosure now, & Kiplinger's predicts a million more will be in foreclosure by the end of 2009. The greatest challenge for the 2009 sellers will be getting your home out in front of the crowd. For those aiming to buy in 2009, it's weeding out the gems from the junk. And that's where my expertise comes in to play.

FOR MY SELLERS

Creative and Aggressive Advertising: I spend more advertising dollars on my listings than any of my competitors. My marketing strategy gets your house in front of buyers and apart from the crowd.

Staging: I offer top-notch staging services at no additional cost —from consulting, to loaner furnishings. Your house will show better than your competitors.

Selling: I sold more homes in 2007 and 2008 than any of my competitors, and I sold them well. When the home is packaged better than the rest, it's not hard to negotiate a sale that's better than the rest. Ask for my references!

FOR MY BUYERS

You don't want to kiss a lot of frogs to find your prince. Let someone who knows the market help clear the toads out of the way. From helping you find your dream home, and inspections to walkthrough, you'll have good counsel every step of the way.

So whether you're buying, selling or both, contact me today to find out what I can do for you.

COMING SOON!

JUST A FEW OF MY NEW LISTINGS!



4 CORNERS



INDIAN SPRING



HIGHLAND VIEW



NORTH HILLS

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Getting Set: Fine-tuning, and top-notch staging will make these homes irresistible.

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Top Silver Spring Agent —closed transactions

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