

## **News From Highland View**

Amber Khan, PTA President

### **Highland View Save the Date!**

- Feb 2 PTA Meeting at 7:15 PM in the Media Center
- Feb 12 Valentine's Day Heart Healthy Dance from 7 9 PM
- Feb 16 PTA Leadership Meeting at 7 PM
- Feb 17 Family Dinner Night Out at McGinty's Irish Pub
- Feb 24 Open House for Prospective Families
- Feb 25 Science Night—Festival at HVES at 6:30 PM

EDITOR'S NOTE: Joyce Stocker has indicated that she would be glad to report burned out street lights to PEPCO. Send an email to comit89@aol.com.

## Stay Informed: HVES PTA Paying Attention to the Budget Process

We began the New Year with a well-attended PTA meeting on January 5th that focused on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget for FY2011, reviewing the process and potential impact on Highland View as well as others in the Down County Consortium (DCC). Unfortunately, many of the proposed cuts (if the budget is not fully funded) disproportionately impact our neighborhood and cluster schools in the DCC.

continued on page 8

## 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			

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.

### **SSIMS Jumping Jaguars Host the Harlem Wizards**

### Stephanie Helsing

the Harlem Wizards for a fun filled night of basketball. More than 500 people watched a 2-hour game/show full of tricks, some hoops and lots of laughs.

Many, many thanks to ALL of the volunteers who helped to make this event possible. Volunteers got up early to sell tickets before school started, survived lunch time chaos, sold food and concessions to hungry kids, and sat freezing by the entry to the gym on game night. We made about \$1000. YEAH!

### SSI Arts Night and Silent Auction

Calling All 5th graders and their Parents! On Friday, March 5, 2010, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Media Center an Arts Night and Silent Auction will help SSI celebrate the importance of the arts to our students and community while raising funds for in-school visual and performing arts programs. Come see a small part of the wonderful arts enrichment that you can take advantage of next year when you attend SSIMS.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As mentioned last month, we will be including interviews with notable members of our community. We would welcome suggestions for further persons to be interviewed; please send to thausner@gmail.com, or call him at 301-587-6943. We would also love to have students serve as reporters for student service credits.

Meet the Winter-Spring 2010 Artists-in-Residence

- Arturo Ho—multimedia mural
- Pyramid Atlantic—art club
- Ed Garner—jaguar mural
- Shakespeare Theatre Co.
- ReACT residency
- Sue Fierston sonnet workshop

Donate and/or Bid to Win Great Auction Items:
(Dine Out and In \* Getaways \* Outdoor Adventures)
Make Something!! Hands-On Activities for All
Ages INCLUDING: Face painting, Jewelry Making,
Jaguar Mural, Vegetable Block Printing!

Come and Enjoy the Food, Arts Displays, Raffle more!

All proceeds will directly support Arts and Enrichment programs at SSI

For questions contact Lisa Gabriel at (301) 593-4358 or Leslie Bowie at LBowie Afdic.gov. \*\*

ANNOUNCEMENTS (This section is for announcements about new neighbors, births, deaths, weddings, graduations, etc. Send announcements to thausner@gmail.com).

Peter and Cory Romer-Friedman of Garwood Street recently had a baby boy named Elon. Congratulations!

### **ISCA Officers**

PRESIDENT
Walter Gottlieb
president@iscaonline.com

•

VP, SOCIAL COMMITTEE Celeste Raker-Dillen

VP, CIVIC AFFAIRS

Eileen Fisher

SECRETARY Allegra Tasaki TREASURER Elizabeth Magin

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CHAIR

Tony Hausner

AGING IN PLACE CHAIR

Bob Tiller

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NEWSLETTER MANAGER Tony Hausner

LAYOUT COORDINATORS Ali Breen Audrey Cowgill



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"Working with Rhonda was a great experience. Rhonda's strengths are her energy level, knowledge of the neighborhood and focus." ~ Kelly

"We strongly recommend Rhonda as both a buyer's and seller's agent. She and her team worked together to make selling our house flawless." ~ Mike & Tara

















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## "Painless" Fundraising for Local Schools

Jay Goldman

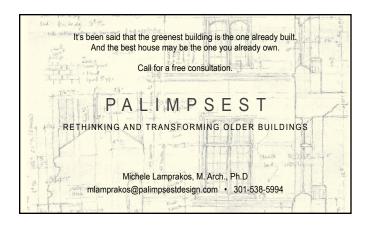
ISCA residents in the school's "painless" fundraising program in 2009–10. You can help when you do your grocery shopping each week through these three ways:

- 1) Snider's receipts. Round up your receipts, put them in an envelope and get in touch with Northwood fund-raising chair Carol Smalls at carols@sprintmail.com for pickup of your receipts.
- 2) Safeway's Customer Service line (1-877-SAFEWAY). Call to obtain your Safeway card number if you don't know it (you need your card number to register for Safeway's school program thru eScrip). You also can call to update your Safeway profile—such as if you

had moved/changed your phone number after getting your Safeway card. Then you'll be able to use your current phone number at the store if you don't have your card. After you get your card number, Carol Smalls can sign you up for the school program. Or simply register your card at www.escrip.com.

3) BonusCard for Giant's A+ BonusBucks program. Register at www.giantfood.com/ aplus (Northwood's school code is 04641; you can select up to three schools). Annual card registration is required. If you want Giant to register your card, call 877-ASK-APLUS

So far this school year, the Giant and eScrip programs have raised over \$7,000 for Northwood. \*\*





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## "Next Stop: Silver Spring" Receives Award!

documentary, "Next Stop: Silver Spring" has been awarded "Best Outside DC Documentary" by Washington's Our City Film Festival.

The film, about the history and restoration of the Silver Spring Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Station, will screen at the Our City Festival along with one of Gottlieb's other films, "Shepherd Park: Past and Present" at the Goethe Institute in Washington, DC on Sunday, February 14th.

The festival, sponsored by the nonprofit Yachad organization, celebrates D.C. and aims to instill a sense of pride in the city through film. **Ticket info at ourcityfilmfestival.com or 202-296-8563.** 

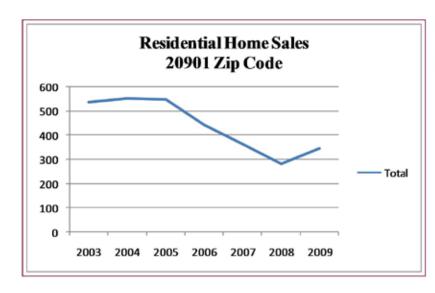
Kudos to ISCA President, Walter Gottlieb! \*



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### Close-In Silver Spring Sales Increase in 2009 but Prices Continue to Decline

Existing residential home sales in the close-in Silver Spring neighborhoods witnessed positive growth last year for the first time since 2004 but average and median sales prices continued to decline for the third straight year.

The total number of units sold in the 20901 zip code increased by 20.49% in 2009 over the previous year's sales and average days on market was down by almost 21%. However, the average price for existinghome sales - including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops - fell again last year by 7.54% and the median list price (for units sold) also decreased by over 5%.

Many agents and analysts are attributing the increased buyer activity to the stimulus package's First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit that is due to expire this year. The original tax credit of up to \$8,000 was limited to first time home buyers but the new credit also includes a provision for up to \$6,500 for move-up buyers. The new tax credit applies for contracts signed before April 30, 2010 with settlement occurring before June 30, 2010.

Currently, the inventory of available homes for sale is at near record lows and buyer activity remains strong. These factors alone indicate that we're in for a strong 2010 Spring Market!

Silver Spring - 20901			
	2008	2009	% Change
Total Units Sold	288	347	20.49%
Average List Price	\$406,713	\$376,065	-7.54%
Average Sold Price	\$393,851	\$365,761	-7.13%
Median Sold Price	\$385,000	\$365,000	-5.19%
Average Days on Market	105	83	-20.95%
Average Sale Price as a percentage of Avg. List Price	96.84%	97.26%	

"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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1% of my commission is donated to Habitat for Humanity!



## **Energy Audits**

Joyce Stocker

In November, I hired an Energy Audit Company. The auditor came prepared with a lot of equipment to assess our house. But the first thing he did was examine a year's worth of my utility bills. He then thoroughly examined the house, inside and out, from the basement and garage to the attic. He explained that leaves caught in the "valley"s of the roof would become wet with rain, and eventually freeze possibly lifting up the roof tiles. He examined the landscaping and found areas where moss is growing on the house indicating that moisture needed to be drained away from the foundation. I knew my attic needed insulation, but I hadn't thought about insulating my water heater. He discovered many airleaks around plumbing and light switches. I wasn't aware that a basement window wasn't locking completely because ivy vines had become caught in the frame. He even suggested that perhaps I didn't need my big freezer in the basement any more. After inspecting the furnace, he suggested that I start saving for a replacement. Sure enough, the furnace "died" a few weeks ago, after 24 years of faithful service—but during the coldest days I can recall in this area!

The audit took about 6 hours, after which the auditor sat with me to review his findings and make sug-

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gestions. He left me with a handwritten list of items to consider.

I felt that the price paid for the audit was well worth the money. I'm working away slowly on making the needed repairs.

To find a certified energy auditor, the US Dept of Energy recommends the Residential Energy Services Network's Certified Rater Director (www.natresnet.org/directory/raters.aspx).

If you'd like a DIY audit, go to www.energy-star.gov or pepco.com. \*

#### **CRIME REPORT:** Joyce Stocker

The following crimes were reported to the Montgomery County Police Department from the Indian Spring neighborhood:

1/22/10 Theft from Vehicle 100 block East Indian Spring 1/22/10 Theft from Vehicle 100 block East Indian Spring 1/18/10 Theft from Vehicle 9500 block Worth Ave

A third car break-in was reported on East Indian Spring Drive on 1/22 on the ISCA listserv, but was not listed in crimereports.com.



Tina Slater 301-585-5038 slater.tina@gmail.com

### WEB SITE: iscaonline.com (includes

services recommendations as well as photo albums)

### **EMAIL GROUP (LISTSERV):**

To subscribe: iscaonline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To send messages: iscaonline@yahoogroups.com







### It's a Seller's market in MY Sweet Silver Spring!

### **JUNDER CONTRACT!**

### 2 Offers!

### 9508 Seminole Drive





Even after 2 months on the market, skillful negotiations led to a contract price that was over asking price, no seller subsidies and with most contingencies removed or shortened.

### **UNDER CONTRACT!** 3 Offers in 7 days

### 10402 Amherst Avenue





Strategic negotiations enabled us to sell this house for top dollar and top terms—Sellers get to stay in the home post-settlement until their new construction is completed!











7 Offers in 4 days AS-IS! 2410 Hayden



**SELLERS** —Need I say more? Contact me today for a complimentary consultation on what I can do for you. Expert staging, strategic market positioning, and skillful negotiations equal an average of 36 days on market and listings that sell for 96% of list price.

**BUYERS**—Moving within the area? The Tamara Kucik Team can streamline your move. We offer expert buyer agency services at no charge to you. Call us today for a test drive!





#1 Silver Spring Agent - over \$35m sold in 2009 HGTV's Silver Spring real estate expert #1 WC & AN Miller TEAM 2010 #14 Long and Foster's 14,000 Agents 2010 301-580-5002 cell 202-966-1400 office



This is not meant to solicit property if it is listed with another broker. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

### Highland View, continued from page 1

### Raising Awareness: View Action Alert and Watch Parent Video on YOU TUBE

To ensure that our community is engaged and our concerns heard by elected leaders, the Highland View PTA is encouraging all parents and community members to contact the Board of Education with personal stories and appeals during their budget planning sessions. To better understand our community, watch the Advocacy Video at www.hvespta.com and download the Action Alert on the front page.

## Write Letters: Share Your Experience with Board of Education Members—Email: BOE@ MCPSMD.ORG

In addition to testifying and personal outreach, the Highland View PTA is calling on all members of the community to write letters to elected leaders, cautioning against making classroom cuts that would further impact the ability of staff to meet the needs of all students. Keeping our neighborhood schools strong benefits our neighborhoods and community whether or not your children are in the public schools.

Joseph E. Frew, D.D.S.

9604 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Imaaine havina...

- \* a confident and comfortable smile
- \* fresh breath
- \* healthy, strong teeth and gums

"Every tooth in a man's head is more valuable than a diamond." -

Miguel deCervantes, DonQuixote 1605

Please call (301) 585-3800 to schedule an appointment with one of the Washington area's "TOP DENTISTS".

## Building Relationships: PTA Testifies at Hearing and Meets with Elected Leaders

On January 19th, the HVES PTA invited County Council Member Marc Elrich to its leadership meeting to express concerns as well as hear perspectives on the budget crisis facing Montgomery County. The following night, HVES PTA President testified at the Board of Education hearing along with Northwood Cluster representative Jennifer Chambers. Their testimony can be found online at www.hvespta.com.

## Supporting Community: Contribute to the "Dollar Drive" for Earthquake Victims

The month was not all about budgets. Unfortunately the earthquake directly impacted a Haitian family from Highland View. To offer support, the school has kicked off a "Dollar Drive" for the American Red Cross Haitian Relief Fund. The fund drive was launched at the evening Winter Concert program featuring the Highland View Chorus. Donations are welcome and can be dropped off in the Main Office at 9010 Providence Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901.

The Winter Concert was not only an opportunity to give, it reminds all of the importance of art and music education and how lucky we are to have both choral and instrumental music instruction at HVES!

## Promoting Health: Don't Miss the Heart Healthy Dance on February 12th

Staying healthy and active is a priority for Highland View families. This year the PTA's Health and Wellness Committee is organizing the Second Annual Heart Healthy Dance on Friday, February 12th in the All Purpose Room from 7–9pm. The evening will feature fun 'get you moving' music, a number of kid-tested "heart healthy recipes," and valentines decorations from our classrooms. Volunteers are needed to assist, for more information and event details, contact Lynne Harris at 240-462-1483.

continued on page 9

### Highland View, continued from page 8

## Building Community: Dinner Night at McGinty's Irish Pub on February 17th

Don't miss another great family outing for the HVES Community on February 17th. A portion of all dinner proceeds will support the PTA programs including our scholarship fund, field trips and cultural arts programming. The evening is a great way to have a night out while supporting Highland View. Special thanks to Deb Lea for organizing!

### Reaching Out: Prospective Students Open House on February 24th at HVES

If you have a child that will be attending Highland View in the fall don't miss the Open House. The event is a great opportunity to learn more about the dedicated staff, MCPS programs and opportunities for parent involvement. In addition to a tour of the campus, the Open House provides prospective parents a small group setting to meet the staff leadership team including HVES Principal Anne Dardarian. For more details, please contact Ms. Hyder at 301-650-6426.

## Experiment with Fun: Attend Science Night at HVES on February 25th at 6:30pm.

This year the PTA will host the first Science Night on February 25th starting at 6:30pm. Parent volunteers will host experiment stations for students, featuring age-appropriate lessons and demonstrations that underscore the fun in science learning. To learn more or to volunteer to support this program, contact Celeste Dillen-Raker at 240-601-9147.

## Make Your Grocery Count: Register Bonus Bucks and Clip Box Tops

The Box Tops Drive Continues in February—the small coupons are redeemed by the school for money that directly supports the staff and students. The funds are invaluable—last year the school was able to purchase a heavy duty indoor mat with the HVES logo as well as additional printer cartridges.

This is also a great time to make sure that Highland View is designated to receive your Bonus Bucks when you shop. To learn how to sign up, visit www.hvespta. com or contact Ingrid Pipher @ 301-589-7519.

Thanks to all who help in big and small ways to make Highland View a wonderful neighborhood school. To get involved or learn more, please contact the school at 301-650-6426 or visit www.hvespta.com. \*\*



Garden globe in snow. Photo by Lolan O'Rourke.

### Calendar for Downtown Silver Spring

### February 2010

**13** Silver Spring Farmers Market 9am – 1pm

**13** Valentine's Gone Lunar 2:30 – 5:30pm

**20** Silver Spring Farmers Market 9am – 1pm

**27** Silver Spring Farmers Market 9am – 1pm

### March 2010

Silver Spring Farmers Market9am – 1pm

**12** Silver Spring's St. Patrick's Day Kick-Off, 4pm – 2am

**13** Silver Spring Farmers Market 9am – 1pm

**20** Silver Spring Farmers Market 9am – 1pm

27 Silver Spring Farmers Market9am – 1pm

### **Downtown Silver Spring Regional Center**

Information: 301-565-7300

ALL MEETINGS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

#### **February 17**

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

**CED Committee** 

Silver Spring Regional Center 8435 Georgia Avenue

#### **February 18**

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee Urban District Office 8110 Georgia Avenue

### **February 22**

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

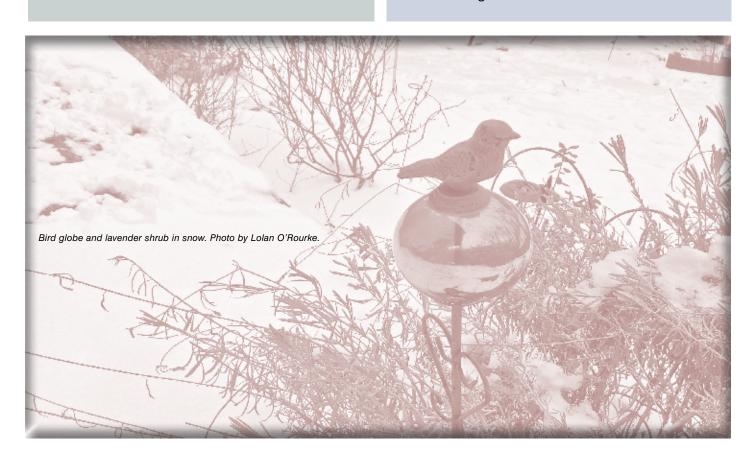
Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Neighborhoods Committee Meeting Silver Spring Regional Center 8435 Georgia Avenue

#### **February 24**

7:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Silver Spring Regional Center 8435 Georgia Avenue



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In '09 the Rhonda Mortensen Team started a **College Scholarship Program** by awarding cash for college to a graduating Silver Spring senior. We learned about some fantastic young adults and awarded the scholarship to Susie Branson ~ a leader in academics, athletics and the community.

We have \$2,000 CASH for College ready so we're again calling out to our Silver Spring seniors! Details below and visit us online to learn more ~ www.helpmerhondarealestate.com!



Susie Branson of Woodmoor & Rhonda Mortensen

### Requirements:

- \* Must be a graduating senior, enrolled full time, living in zip code 20901 or 20910.
- \* Must be accepted to a Junior or Four year college during the 2010-2011 academic year.
- \* Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Please include official high school transcript with application.
- \* 300 word essay on 'Ways I Can Make a Difference' often it is easy to set goals for yourself but what about helping others? Tell us what you are passionate about and how you have or plan to use your skills, experiences and/or interests to make a difference in other people's lives, your community or in the world.
- \* Please include your name, address, phone number, high school and the name of college you plan to attend.
- \* Three letters of recommendation reflecting applicants positive attitude (principal, counselor, teacher, employer, etc.) mailed by letter writer directly to Rhonda Mortensen at the address below.
- \* Application forms along with school transcript, essay and three recommendation letters must be received at the address below by April 16, 2010.
- \* Applications available at www.helpmerhondarealestate.com and via email by request to rhondamortensen@aol.com. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.



The RHONDA MORTENSEN TEAM

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240.331.6339 F Top 1% Nationally, Long & Foster Inc. Bethesda Gateway Office, 4650 East West Hwy, Bethesda, MD 20814

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www.helpmerhondarealestate.com ~ rhondamortensen@aol.com

# FRESHFARM Markets Supporting local farmers and producers from DE, MD, PA, VA and WV



## Silver Spring

Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm Year-round beginning Jan. 9

Location: Ellsworth Drive between Fenton Street and Georgia Avenue

MetroRail: Silver Spring (Red Line)

MetroBus: 8, 9, 22, F4, F6, Z2, Z6,



seasonal flowers, plants and more. Our markets are open rain or shine!

We welcome Food Stamps, WIC and Seniors' Farmers Market Coupons at this market.

## Garden Club Seeks Green Thumbs and Green Thumbs Wannabes

Thumbing through nursery catalogs looking for the latest plants? Wishing you knew what to do with your garden, but weren't sure where to start? If so, come join your neighbors in the Indian Spring Garden Club.

The garden club is an informal group that gathers each month to discuss our gardening challenges and successes. Members host the meetings, and all levels of gardeners are welcome. Past topics have included exchanging and planting seeds, organic pest control, composting, and dividing plants.

If you're interested in receiving e-mails about upcoming meetings, please send your name and e-mail address to Jennifer Whalen at jj.whalen@verizon.net. If there is a topic you'd like to discuss, let us know that as well. Our next meeting is February 23 at 7:30 p.m. E-mail Jennifer for directions and details.



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