



Facepainting, one of the fun activities of FallFest 2012. Photo by Toba Hausner.

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# Indian Spring News

General Meeting, December 3, 2012

## FallFest 2012:

A Golden Ladle dished out for best chili recipe, golden weather, and golden opportunities for fun and neighborhood comraderie. Photo by Toba Hausner.



## Minutes of ISCA Meeting 2012/10/15

The fall meeting of ISCA was held on October 15th. The special guest was Delegate Tom Hucker who was invited to provide insights into the way Pepco handles power outages in the county.

This was the first meeting with our new president, Evan Glass and the last one as secretary for Suresh Srinivasan, who will be resigning his post due to other commitments. If anyone is interested in serving the

community in that role, please contact Evan at [president@iscaonline.com](mailto:president@iscaonline.com).

The meeting began with introductions and some housekeeping. According to Phyllis Zusman, there are currently 192 paid-up members. With the power outage from the derecho storm in June still fresh in our memory, there was an item on the agenda to discuss

*continued on page 4*

## Indian Spring Citizens Association

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If you are not sure of your membership status you can e-mail Phyllis, [fzman@erols.com](mailto:fzman@erols.com) or call, 301-587-9063, and she will give you the answer.

# SAVE THE DATE!

General Meeting • December 3  
7:30 p.m., Indian Spring Recreation Center

## FallFest 2012:

Photos by Toba Hausner.



## ISCA Officers

### President

Evan Glass  
president@iscaonline.com

### Vice President, Social Committee

Christina Taylor

### Vice President, Civic Affairs

Eileen Fisher

### Secretary

VACANT

### Treasurer

Elizabeth Magin

### Neighborhood Watch Organizers

Tony Hausner  
Joyce Stocker

### Website Organizers

Tony Hausner  
Elfaalem Alemu

### Membership Chair

Phyllis Zusman

### Newsletter Coordinator

Tony Hausner  
thausner@gmail.com

### Layout Coordinators

Ali Breen  
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## ISCA Meeting Minutes, *continued from page 1*

what we can do as a community to look out for each other, especially the vulnerable in our midst.

Julio Orellana, the executive director of the Y introduced his new associate executive director (formerly the aquatic director) and talked about scholarship opportunities to study at the University of Phoenix. There are forms available at the Y; the deadline for application is November 1st. The Y is making many changes for the better with new equipment and facility improvements. There was even a donation to help improve the soccer field.

The discussion then turned to what the Maryland General Assembly (GA) is doing to help make Pepco more accountable. After the storms of 2010/2011, the GA passed a law to establish reliability standards for all utilities. Delegate Brian Feldman, along with Tom Hucker and others, wrote the bill (with help from

Montgomery Council member Roger Berliner) and worked to push it through the GA in spite of spirited opposition. There are now formal expectations of reliability and process with a \$25,000/day fine. Pepco is still not where everyone wants them to be. The county council does not have legal authority over Pepco, but there is some discussion to see if the county can purchase Pepco and run it as a public utility (See <http://mocopublicpower.org>). While many jurisdictions have some form of public power, they are all much smaller than Montgomery County would be. Tom's opinion was that this would be far-fetched politically since 13 votes would be needed in the legislative committee on which he serves.

The council wants to improve Pepco's communication with first responders, the medical community and

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the population in the affected communities. Tom is very happy to entertain ideas about Pepco and make the system work for us, tighten reliability regulations (Contact info: <http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/msa14620.html>)

Governor O'Malley commissioned a grid reliability and resiliency task force with about 50 people charged with reporting back to the Governor regarding recommended legislative changes, regulatory reforms, and other executive branch actions. This group has recently released its final report (<http://www.governor.maryland.gov/documents/GridResiliencyTaskForceReport.pdf>)

There is a recognition that the current level of reliability and resiliency during major storms is not acceptable. A lot of the infrastructure is very old, especially in the inner beltway communities. But Pepco has also skimmed on maintenance. The 131 page report couched in industry jargon; considers a variety of solutions including undergrounding, tree trimming, etc.

Someone commented about how confusing it was to differentiate between energy suppliers and distributors and who is responsible for what. More information about suppliers of energy can be found here: <http://www.opc.state.md.us/ConsumerCorner/RetailSuppliers.aspx>.

With undergrounding, even in a limited and targeted area, cost is an issue and this needs to be prioritized.

Would the public have the stomach for a rate increase for such an activity? Part of the problem is that Pepco seems to be short staffed and generally has to import contractors from other jurisdictions. Someone asked if it would be feasible to build and train a neighborhood response team that can quickly swing into action after an outage. Pepco has a well-staffed lobbying arm. The Public Services Commission members are appointed by the Governor (not elected) and have staggered 4 year terms.

Evan brought the discussion back around to the neighborhood. How to best cope when the power does go off and what we can do as an association to get help to those that need it? For example, access to first responders, paramedics, cooling centers, generators, etc. The Pepco outage map and online reporting system did not seem to be very reliable. Emailing or texting Tom can result in a faster response in some cases given his contact with the lobbyists.

Can we identify people in the neighborhood who might be vulnerable when the power goes out?

Can the neighborhood watch and block captains be used for this purpose? Information about the watch and block captains are on the website: <http://iscaonline.com>. Some in the audience expressed concern about

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## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Ann Horton plans to write up restaurant reviews for the newsletter. She welcomes recommendations. Please contact her at [ahorton@collcomm.org](mailto:ahorton@collcomm.org).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *As noted previously, we will be including interviews with noted members of our community. We would welcome suggestions for further persons to be interviewed; please send to [thausner@gmail.com](mailto:thausner@gmail.com), 301-587-6943. And we would love to have students serve as reporters for student service credits.*



*Beckham, our beloved beagle*

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# ISCA Meeting Minutes, *continued from page 5*

privacy—opt-in versus opt-out—it should be voluntary. Other issues raised were: can people get to the community center if that was the designated shelter? Should the association invest in a generator for the community center? What are other neighborhoods doing about this? Best practices? Winters are generally harder with more mobility issues like after a snowstorm. Tony Hausner will check with the block captains to see if they are willing to do it.

Finally, there is a group in our neighborhood that seeks to petition the school superintendent and the Board of Education to restore continuous Pre-K through grade 5. More information is available on their website: <http://www.pk5nsi.com>

The meeting adjourned with everyone expressing gratitude on the quick implementation of traffic calming measures on Franklin Avenue. Everyone agreed that the changes are noticeable and for the better. \*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The newsletter is printed in black and white to save on costs. A color pdf is online at [iscaonline.com](http://iscaonline.com). So if you want to see any photos, ads, etc. in color, I recommend going online. Additional photos from the ISCA events can be found in our online photo gallery.

## SAVE THE DATE!

General Meeting • December 3  
7:30 p.m., Indian Spring Recreation Center

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** This section for announcements about new neighbors, births, deaths, weddings, graduations, etc. Send announcements to [thausner@gmail.com](mailto:thausner@gmail.com).

Our deepest sympathies to Suresh Srinivasan on the death of his father.

**WEB SITE:** [Iscaonline.com](http://iscaonline.com) (includes services recommendations, and photo albums). We are also on Facebook under Indian Spring Citizens Association.

## CRIME REPORT

From Joyce Stocker

The following crimes were reported to the Montgomery County Police Department from the Indian Spring community from 10/1–26/12

10/1/12	TFV	9400 block Biltmore Ave
10/7/12	B&E	200 E Franklin Ave
10/15/12	TFV	9800 block Hastings Rd
10/16/12	Theft	100 block Normandy
10/25/12	TFV	9500 Saginaw St

**Please report all crimes, no matter how minor, to the police and to the listserv.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Joyce Stocker has indicated that she would be glad to facilitate the reporting of burned out street lights to PEPCO. Send an email to [comit89@aol.com](mailto:comit89@aol.com).

### EMAIL GROUP (LISTSERV)

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And the timing couldn't be better. Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and simultaneously we're seeing a healthy improvement in the real estate market. So if you were looking for something to be thankful for, I've got a few options for you.

- National median home prices recorded their 7th back-to-back monthly increase from a year earlier according to the National Association of Realtors.
- Interest rates remain at record lows, down to a record low of 3.47 percent in September.
- Housing inventory is currently at a 5.9 month supply, down 20% from a year ago.
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