

Indian Spring News



SAVE THE DATE
ISCA Member Meeting
 April 19, 2018
 7:00 PM
 Silver Spring YMCA

APRIL
 Thursday
19

7:00 p.m.

Why I Walked Out of Blair to Advocate for My Safety

By Aliza Gottlieb

On the beautiful sunny morning of Feb. 21, the bell at 9:30 a.m. signaled the end of third period at Montgomery Blair High School. At that moment, I

and hundreds of other Blair students swung open the school's doors and walked out to demand our immediate safety from guns. It was seven days

after the fatal shootings of students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. The courageous student survivors

Continued on page 3

Indian Spring Citizens Association

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear ISCA Members:

Spring is in the air! Ever since I can remember, springtime in Indian Spring has been magical. It is as if the entire neighborhood blooms – not just the trees and flowers. I look forward to seeing you out in the parks and (safely) walking the roads.

Springtime is also an important time for your friendly neighborhood association. On April 19, 2018 ISCA will hold our first all-member meeting in some time. During this meeting we will, in compliance with our bylaws, hold an election for the ISCA Board and vote on bylaws changes that have been approved by the Board and are awaiting ratification by the membership. Those bylaws changes can be found on the ISCA Web site under "About ISCA" and will be discussed in detail at the April 19th meeting. Please plan to attend – your input is greatly needed.

The bylaws amendments do include a slight dues increase to get our Association in line with neighboring associations. That makes this the best time ever to renew your membership! Why not lock in the lower rate for two years even? Renew online today at www.iscaonline.com.

Once again, our very own Chris Clark (Social Chair) is planning my favorite event of the year – the ISCA Street Party! This next one will be held the afternoon/evening of June 16th. This is the perfect time to celebrate the end of the school year and the start of summer. Bring your kids, bring your spouse, and don't forget to bring a dish to share. Stop by the membership table when you arrive to make sure your membership is up to date.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ISCA MEMBER MEETING
APRIL 19, 2018 – 7:00 PM
SILVER SPRING YMCA

Sincerely,
Ann Horton
ISCA Board President
iscapres20901@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: The newsletter is printed in black and white to save on costs. A color version is online at iscaonline.com; so if you want to see any photos, ads, etc. in color, I recommend going online.

WEB SITE:

Iscaonline.com (includes services recommendations, and photo albums)

We are also on Facebook under Indian Spring Citizens Association

EMAIL GROUP (LISTSERV):

To subscribe: iscaonline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To send messages: iscaonline@yahoogroups.com



Continued from page 1

at Parkland had started a movement, and we at Blair decided to unite with them and their important cause – because all of our lives are on the line, wherever we attend school.

The police closed off southbound lanes of Colesville Road so we could walk safely to the Silver Spring Metro station. So many students were trying to get into the train station that some gave up swiping their Smart Cards and just went through the gates. We were so unified and excited that we cheered as the trains approached the platform. During the ride downtown, I recognized faces from almost every high school in the Downcounty Consortium.

We marched from Union Station to the U.S. Capitol, where we participated in a gun safety rally featuring our congressman, Jamie Raskin. I joined in chanting, “Hey, hey, ho ho, the NRA has got to go!” and my favorite, “Hey, hey, NRA, you can’t beat the PTA!”

Many students brought handmade signs to the rally. Mine said, “Protect Kids, Not Guns.” One powerful sign read, “One kid is worth all the guns in the world.” Another said, “Why are Kinder Eggs banned in the U.S., but Assault Rifles are Allowed?”



Aliza Gottlieb with the handmade protest sign she made for the impromptu student rally involving Blair HS students advocating for safe schools.

From there, we marched to the White House. Speakers read aloud the names of the casualties from the Parkland shootings. For each name, we observed a moment of silence. This was the same day that President Trump held a listening session with parents and students from schools that experienced shootings. We hoped that as the president listened to them, he also would hear our voices declaring that we will not give up until we feel safe in our own schools.

When I was deciding whether to walk out, I took into account that I might miss some important classwork, but then I remembered that this was a matter of life and death – and

nothing was more important to me than making sure that we would be safe. Sometimes I feel like what we are doing might not even make a dent in political decisions. But then I realized that what happened to those 17 kids and faculty in Florida could easily happen to me and my friends in Maryland if we don’t continue to advocate for our safety. We should not treat this as something that can be put off until tomorrow because the time for change is now. ♦

Aliza Gottlieb, daughter of Becky Granatstein and Walter Gottlieb of Baden Street, is a freshman at Montgomery Blair High School.)

Tree Lighting

Stephanie Helsing

Happy New Year! Though I already sent out a thank you on the list serve, it is very important to make sure that I take a moment again to thank ALL of you who came to the ISCA Tree and Menorah lighting. Although the weather complicated the Menorah lighting a smidgen, the sentiment and magic of the ritual was still there. As we were setting up for the event and realizing how long we, as a family, have been doing this, my daughter very pointedly asked me why do I do it? Why do I do this ceremony when two of the three of them are in College and since I am no longer a pre-school teacher, I know few of the little ones any longer? In the same vain her next question was when will you stop? Ironically, I did not have to think for very long about the answer.

Every year I stress about this event and whether anyone will come or is interested or cares. Every year I am more than pleasantly surprised at how many people come and enjoy our little ritual. Often, I will be in the middle of a song and I will look up and be amazed at the crowd in front of me. The smiles on everyone's faces and the joy with which people sing reassure me that this small little moment in our lives is still important and worth it. So, I said to my darling daughter, I do it because it helps me remember what this season is about and to share that with others who may also need a bit of boost in such a topsy-turvy world. I do it because it makes me happy and for a few moments I can even pretend that magic still does exist. In response to the second question, my answer was, when no one asks about it and no one comes. My hope and intention is to continue to have this little moment with all of you for a few more years yet and even have new people to help with parts of it next year. Just the thought of it makes me smile.

On top of the magic of the lighting itself, we were able to support people over 1,400 miles from us, who are still feeling the impact of the fall hurricane season. By working with our neighbors at the YMCA Youth & Family Service program, we connected with a branch of YFS that lost its home and was still serving their constituents. Through your

generous support, we were able to donate hundreds of dollars of gift cards to help them continue to support people, while themselves being without a physical location. THANK You!

So, thank you again for sharing the time with me

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Buy Mulch in Support of Northwood

The Northwood Athletics Association is conducting its annual mulch sale on Saturday, April 14. The community can purchase bags of mulch at www.nhsmulch.com for \$5 (if you pick up at the school) or \$6 for delivery within a 5-mile radius of the school on University Boulevard.

All proceeds from the sale support the athletes and coaches at Northwood High School, which is one of the two principal secondary schools serving Indian Spring teenagers.

More mulch sale information is available from Jennifer Chambers (jennifer@hikingalong.com).

The Northwood Athletics Association is now a 501c3 organization. Vicki Kane of Wire Avenue is the president of the association.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ali and Sean Breen and family have recently moved from Indian Spring to the nearby neighborhood of Hillandale. We greatly appreciate all that Ali has done for ISCA including layout of our newsletter, organizing Independence Day events, and more. We wish them well in their new home.

We invite information on new residents and other special occasions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This section for announcements about new neighbors, births, deaths, weddings, graduations, etc. Send announcements to thausner@gmail.com
We invite information on new residents and other special occasions.



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COLLECT YOUR SNIDER'S RECEIPTS

If you shop at Snider's for your groceries, please retain your receipts from purchases as they can be used to support Northwood High School's PTSA. Once you have collected two or more, please contact Indian Spring neighbor Susan Luck at susanluck@comcast.net. She coordinates the painless fundraising initiatives at the school.



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Recycling in Montgomery County

Joyce Stocker

Montgomery County is very progressive in its approach and efforts to improve recycling in the county. The county's goal is that 70% of the waste stream will be recycled by 2020. To that end, the county has built a state of the art recycling facility at the Shady Grove station in Derwood, Maryland, an area of Rockville. Residents of Montgomery County can drive through the area to drop off various items such as small

appliances, computers, keyboards, dried paint cans and hazardous waste. Also on the grounds is the Recycling Center. The center, built in 1991, has been visited by thousands of school children on field trips. Various displays show how to recycle household items and what they can become once recycled. On the second floor, visitors can watch as gowned, masked and gloved workers sort the comingled recyclables which

are passed by them on conveyors belts. Guided tours are available by appointment, but self guided tours can be taken any time the facility is open. The center has a very informative website which can be accessed through the Montgomery County website. It is located at 16105 Frederick Rd, Derwood, Md about 25 minutes from our neighborhood

What can the Indian Spring community do to improve its recycling habits?

Residents are supplied with two blue containers...one for paper and cardboard and the other for comingled items such as glass, plastic and metal. Obviously, newspapers, magazines, phone books, cardboard boxes etc can be put in the paper bin. Spiral bound notebooks, stapled paper items and paperclips can also be put in the bin. Toilet paper and paper towel rolls are also accepted as are waxed drink and milk cartons, even the ones with plastic spouts. Pizza boxes not coated with residue or oil can also be put in the bin. Often, at least half of the box is clean enough to recycle. Metal ringed cardboard coffee cans can be placed in the paper bin. Padded envelopes, the ones lined with bubble

Montgomery County Recycles!

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Mixed Paper	Papel Mixto	 Cardboard & paperboard <i>Cartón y cartoncillo</i>	 Unwanted mail & envelopes <i>Correo y sobres no deseados</i>	 Hardback, paperback & telephone books <i>Libros de tapas duras y blandas y guías telefónicas</i>	 Magazines & catalogs <i>Revistas y catálogos</i>	 Wax-coated & paper-coated cartons/boxes <i>Cartones/cajas cubiertas con cera o papel</i>	 Newspaper & inserts <i>Periódicos y anuncios intercalados</i>	 All clean, dry paper <i>Todo tipo de papel limpio y seco</i>
Comingled Materials	Envases Combinados	 #1 PET packaging such as clamshell containers, trays, deli containers, lids, domes & cups <i>Plásticos # 1 PET, tales como envases descartables, bandejas, bases y tapas para pastel y vasos</i>	 Plastic flower pots, buckets, jars, containers & lids <i>Macetas, cubos, frascos y envases de plástico</i>	 Plastic bottles <i>Botellas de plástico</i>	 Glass bottles & jars <i>Botellas y envases de vidrio</i>	 Non-hazardous aerosol cans <i>Envases de aerosoles no peligrosos</i>	 Aluminum cans & foil products <i>Latas y papel de aluminio</i>	 Steel/tin cans <i>Latas de acero/hojalata</i>
Yard Trim	Recortes de Jardín	 Christmas Trees <i>Árboles de Navidad</i>	 Grass, leaves, & brush <i>Grama, hojas y maleza</i>	Scrap Metal	Chatarra	 Appliances & household metal items <i>Aparatos electrodomésticos y artículos del hogar metálicos</i>	 Ask your property manager for a recycling bin to make recycling easier. Pida un contenedor de reciclaje a su administrador de la propiedad para facilitar su reciclaje.	

Phone: 3-1-1 • Fax: (240) 777-6465 • TTY: (301) 251-4850 • www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling

Continue in page 3

wrap, are not recyclable. Consider removing the address labels and offering on Freecycle.

In the comingled bin, plastic and glass bottles and jars, take out containers, salad bar and produce containers, tubs and lids and metal cans can be tossed. The county asks that all containers be rinsed with water before being placed in the bins.

Even clean used aluminum foil and SOLO cups can be recycled.

The website states that revenue generated by recycling exceeds operating costs.

If you are unsure whether or not an item can be recycled, go to the website where one can search in the area where you fill in the item, "I want to dispose of _____"

GreenFest

GreenFest is the largest, annual environmental festival in Montgomery County, MD. A free event, GreenFest is a chance for residents, businesses, nonprofits and neighbors, to come together, share ideas and learn. Plus GreenFest has tons of fun activities for the whole family from kids tree-climbing to music and exhibitors. The event is on May 5. More information can be found at: <https://montgomerycountygreenfest.org/sessions/greenfest-2018/>

Montgomery County has a very efficient, state of the art Recycling Facility about 25 minutes from Indian Spring.

CRIME REPORT

From Joyce Stocker

The following crimes were reported to Montgomery County Police November 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018:

10 Thefts from Vehicles

Advice: Make sure you lock your car and do not leave anything in your car



EDITOR'S NOTE: Joyce Stocker has indicated that she would be glad to facilitate the reporting of burned out street lights to PEPCO. She also wants to report lights that are on during the day....there is almost always a light on continuously. Send an email to comit89@aol.com

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, 301-587-6943 and we would love to have students to serve as reporters for student service credits.

INDIAN SPRING NEIGHBORS THAT DIDN'T INTERVIEW JEFFREY REESE



Jeffrey has sold \$300k to multi-million dollar properties. All of his seller clients agree and his results confirm: he over-delivers. Jeffrey's commitment to Indian Spring runs deep; in his free time he even helps deliver this newsletter.

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Resident Redskins in Our Neighborhood

by Jay P. Goldman

In the 1960s, two active members of the Washington Redskins and their families lived in Indian Spring with both families residing on Shorey Road. The players were Pat Richter, a punter and wide receiver, and Jim Steffen, a defensive back.

Long-time Indian Spring resident Cathy Balmer, whose family has owned a home on Shorey Road since 1940, recounts that between 1963 and 1965 the two players would warm up in the street early most mornings with any interested neighbors by passing the football back and forth the length of the one-block-long street.

“It was a lovely time with a very friendly mix of residents who socialized over Shorey Road cookouts on our tiny street,” Balmer recalls.

Richter played eight seasons for the Redskins from 1963 through 1970 after being selected as the team’s No. 1 choice out of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the National Football League’s 1963 college player draft. He

was said to have been one of legendary quarterback Sonny Jurgensen’s top pass receiving targets..

Richter and his wife, Renee, had their first child while living on Shorey Road, Balmer says.

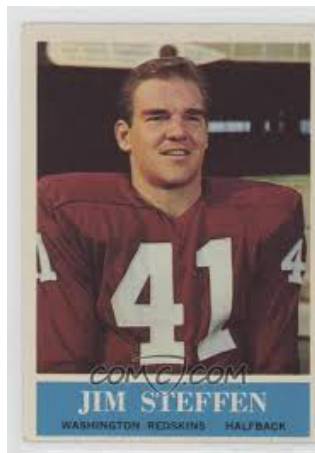
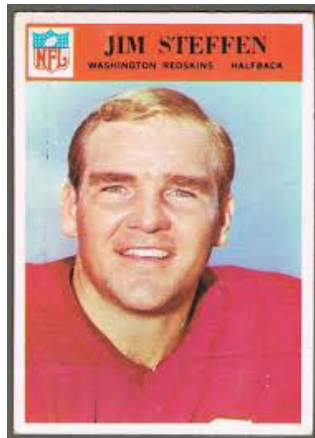
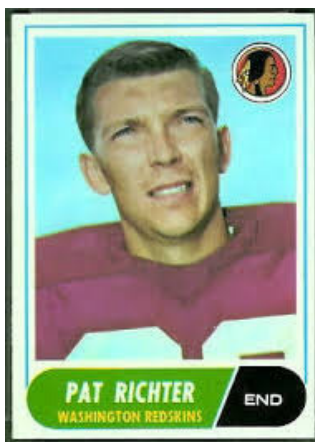
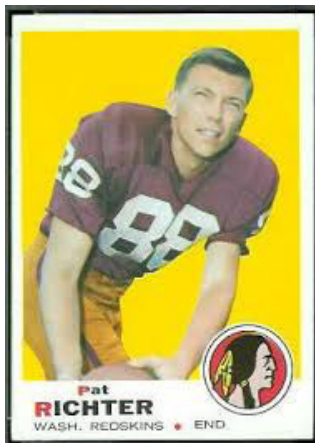
The player’s tenure with the Washington football team came to an abrupt end during a game in 1970 when Richter was taken to the emergency room of a local hospital for treatment of what would become a career-ending injury. The emergency room nurses carefully cut off his playing jersey and kept the fabric, Balmer reports, with the nurses later sewing the pieces of fabric together in order to present the Richters with a tiny jersey for the couple’s infant son, Scott.

The Richters moved away soon after his playing days ended, returning to their native Wisconsin where Pat became the athletic director at his alma mater and earned a law degree. He later established an executive search consulting business.

Steffen was a defensive back for the Redskins from 1961



Cathy Balmer relished living on the same street in Indian Spring as members of Washington’s professional football team.



Football player trading cards for two prominent residents of Shorey Road during their days as Washington professionals.

to 1965 after playing collegiately at UCLA. Once his professional football career ended, he moved to Prince George’s County, where he established a business. He died in 2015.

As for the Richter house on Shorey, Balmer says it was sold to Joe Blair, who served as the publicity director for the Redskins at that time. As a bachelor without family in the area, Blair rented out rooms in the house to Redskins players who would come into town to play for a season or two.. As such, Shorey Road continued its

Redskins connection for several years through the decade..

Blair, now deceased, later left the Redskins and went back to being the publicity director for intercollegiate athletics at the University of Maryland.

“It was a lot of fun living on Shorey Road during the Redskins days!” Balmer reports. ♦

Jay P. Goldman is a magazine editor and frequent contributor to the ISCA newsletter.

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Making a Difference in Jamaica

By Jennifer Whalen



Hard at work. What a team.

In these turbulent times, one can easily feel like one's individual contributions don't matter. Every day, we are bombarded by news that we can't control or impact. Over Presidents' Day Weekend, Indian Spring residents pulled together to prove that we CAN make a difference. If we work together, we can accomplish great things and change lives.

My son Devin and I were fortunate enough to be part of a mission trip with Food for the Poor. We, along with 45 other extraordinary citizens (accountants, teachers, bankers, students, landscapers, retirees, writers, mothers, and dads, etc.), traveled to Trelawny, Jamaica, where during two days we built a 12-room preschool, or basic school, as they say in Jamaica. We carried with us more than 70 pounds of school and

art supplies donated by our generous neighbors here in Indian Spring:

- Pam, Matt, and Gabriel Anderson
- Arlene Montemarano
- Cati Blais
- Audrey Cowgill
- Karen Ravitz
- Joyce Stocker

We arrived in Kingston on Friday around lunchtime. Before embarking on our journey to the northern part of the island, we first visited a Mustard Seed Community for the severely physically and mentally disabled, and for children affected by HIV. More than 100 people live in the Kingston community, from newborns to the elderly. Most were abandoned at the door due to their families' inability to care for them or afford their medications.

We gave and received lots of love and hugs as we toured the community. Those who are able help tend the gardens, tilapia ponds, and chicken coops, which provide 1,000 eggs a day for Mustard Seed to use and sell for income.

Feeding 350,000 People a Month

After a prolonged goodbye, we continued on to the nearby Food for the Poor warehouse. The organization feeds 350,000 people a month in Jamaica. The warehouse stores everything from rice and beans to toilet paper to wheelchairs. Food for the Poor partners with organizations such as schools, churches, and shelters to distribute the aid. Each week, these organizations come to the warehouse to pick up the donations and distribute it to those in need.

The warehouse also holds all the building materials, including plywood, tools, septic and water tanks, roofing, doors, windows, solar panels, etc., needed for numerous building projects. Nearly all of the donations come from the United States.

Inspired to be part of this network of generosity and hope, we continued on to Trelawny, eager to begin our building project. Saturday morning dawned, breezy and cloudy, and we were off to the job site. We arrived at 8:00 a.m., and our Jamaican Food for the Poor contractors divided us into teams: carpentry, painting, masonry, window assembly, etc.

The contracting team had poured the concrete foundation, built the frame, and installed the metal roof



Jennifer and Devin Whalen: Tired but happy.



St. Michael's students and their new basic school.

before we arrived. On our first day, we added the exterior walls, installed more than 1,000 hurricane braces (metal brackets that attached the studs to the floor and roof and require 10 nails each), added cross braces to the railings, primed every outer wall surface, primed all the window frames, and plastered the foundation.

It was incredible to see and hear this swarm of people moving over the site. The sound of hammering added a percussive background to the Jamaican music that was broadcasting on the site. Everywhere, people cooperated, pitching in to do whatever job was needed. If your handmade ladder was too short to reach the rafters, someone grabbed some two-by-fours and extended it. The building rose before our eyes. By 4:00 p.m., we had completed the day's work and were off for some well-deserved rest at a beautiful Jamaican beach.

On day two, we completed the interior walls; installed windows, doors, and locks; installed the septic system; added a roof vent; and painted the outer walls in bright blue and yellow and the foundation in a

beautiful rich red. What a colorful and lovely school for the preschoolers to attend. Food for the Poor contractors will finish the inside work (electrical, drywall, etc.), as well as install a playground and landscaping.

Children, Teachers and Parents Grateful for New School

The school is sponsored by St. Michael's church in Charles Town. That afternoon, dignitaries, including a bishop of the Anglican Church, pastor and school chairman, officials from Jamaica's Early Childhood Development agency, principal and teachers, parents, and of course the children came for the dedication ceremony. There was much singing, prayer, and joy as everyone described their previous cramped conditions (30 three-year-olds in a room), lack of playground (the old school sits adjacent to the cemetery), poor kitchen (children receive two meals a day and a snack), and citations from the government for inadequate conditions.

The stars of the event were the children who welcomed us in their blue uniforms and pinafores and sang to us about the beauty of Jamaica and the importance of children as the future. We talked to everyone, took lots of pictures, said goodbyes to our newfound friends, and headed back to our hotel for Mass and dinner. Monday morning dawned with a beautiful full rainbow as we breakfasted on the terrace, and then we headed for the airport and home all of us inspired to do more.

Working together, we can make a difference. There are many worthwhile local organizations in need of support. I encourage you all to go out and volunteer.

If you are interested in learning more about the organizations I described, wish to join a mission trip or donate, please see the links below for more information:

Food for the Poor:
www.foodforthe poor.org
Mustard Seed:
www.mustardseed.com ♦

Highland View Parents Full of Energy and Advocacy

By Siobhan Carroll

The Highland View Elementary School PTA and administration have had a tremendously busy year so far. A key focus for us is advocacy, with our Board of Education representative Ashley Franzel and several ISCA residents/HVES parents spending significant energy on a few key initiatives. These include:

- Capital Improvement Plan: Advocacy on behalf of the Downcounty Consortium means Highland View's HVAC system has been slated for upgrade and an unfinished space on the ground floor will be converted to a useable office/storage room.

We also are advocating for investments in the schools that HVES students will attend during the coming years. Silver Spring International Middle School is slated for major renovation by fall 2022. The construction of the Purple Line station on Wayne Avenue and the age of the facility made clear the need to make improvements there. Meanwhile, Northwood High School is also slated for an addition and renovation, but the timeline for that is not specified. (See related story by Northwood senior Joe Ryan on page 1.)

- Board of Education Budget: The school board's proposed capital improvements budget is subject to additional cuts, but the above renovations were included in the initial pass. The County Council has since been asked to cut another \$79 million, which could negatively impact our neighborhood schools' allocations.
- Potential New Elementary School/Additions: The superintendent's recommendation regarding elementary schools in the DCC, released at the end of February, calls for renovations at Woodlin, Montgomery Knolls, East Silver Spring and Pine Crest to ease overcrowding at the area elementaries.



Highland View Elementary is a foundational part of the Indian Spring community. Our diverse, welcoming school is a major reason why the neighborhood continues to attract young families. You can support our school, children and families in a few key ways:

- Contact Your Elected Representatives. Make your voice heard with Tom Hucker, Hans Riemer and other members of the County Council to ensure our schools receive much-needed funds in this budget cycle and beyond.
- Join the PTA. You don't need to have a child at HVES to join! If you value strong public schools and educational opportunity for all, please consider joining. It is only \$10 annually and the member dues help support our advocacy efforts, cultural arts programs, afterschool activities and more. Visit www.hves.my-pta.org to sign up online.
- Donate/Contribute: You can easily support HVES via Amazon Smile, Giant Rewards, Boxtops for Education and purchases from Mabel's Labels. We also hold several

fundraisers throughout the year, including Dine-Out nights and the Online Auction. Please consider participating in these with your friends and neighbors!

Visit www.hves.my-pta.org for updates and more information on our upcoming activities or contact me at president@hves-pta.org. ♦

Siobhan Carroll is PTA president of the Highland View Elementary School. A resident of Normandy Drive, she has a 4th-grader and a 2nd-grader at HVES with a kindergarten pupil entering in September.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HIGHLAND VIEW ES

Thursday, March 22	Science Night
Tuesday, April 3	PTA General Meeting
Thursday, April 12	Parent-Teacher Basketball Game @ SSIMS
Thursday, April 19	International Night
Tuesday, May 1	PTA General Meeting
Week of May 7	Teacher Appreciation Week
Week of May 13	Online Auction Live!
Friday, May 18	Spring Concert
Saturday, May 19	HVES Annual Spring Carnival
Tuesday, June 5	PTA General Meeting
Monday, June 11th	5th Grade Promotion
Wednesday, June 13	Last Day of School



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Joe Ryan, who lives in Indian Spring, is a senior at Northwood HS, where is a staff member of the school newspaper and yearbook.

Northwood Renovation Plans Await Fate of Funding Decisions

By Joe Ryan

For most kids in Indian Spring planning to start high school in 2018-19, Northwood High School is the likely place they will find themselves come September. And Northwood High School is a good school, with award-winning dance performances and drumline and some of the best athletes in the state competing in track and field. In February, we learned that our principal, Mildred Charley-Greene, was named Maryland's 2018 High School Principal of the Year.

However, the increasing population of students has begun to raise questions about how the school building will be able to handle the growing enrollment.

I'm a senior at Northwood, so I know the school well. My involvement in the school newspaper, yearbook and morning broadcast show over the last four years has led

me to learn even the most minute trivia, such as how the classroom where I take my yearbook and newspaper classes is the exact same room that served as the television studio for Northwood students in the 1950s when the school first opened.

Up until recently, I never really had the motivation to go to the county's board of education headquarters in Rockville to demand a better school and a better education. Luckily though, someone else has done so. In my junior year, I tagged along with Michele Moller, a mom of a current student and possibly future students, as she toured the most inadequate parts of Northwood High School (which reopened in 2005 after being used as a holding school for many years). She did this so she could submit a report to MCPS about the condition of the school.

Brian Kramer and Daniel Perez, both of whom had explored running for the county school board as the elected student member in 2018-19, are the founders of the Northwood Representation Program, which brings public attention to the school's condition in front of the school board to argue for funds for a renovation in the near future. Seven students, including Kramer and Perez, testified in November on the school's condition before the board and again in January on the operating budget, Their testimony contributed to funds being appropriated for renovation plans for the school.

Last November, Superintendent Jack Smith recommended a \$1.8 billion six-year construction plan for county schools, which included an expansion to Northwood's facility to accommodate a 2,700-student capacity, nearly double its current capacity. Over six years, Smith wanted to dedicate \$123 million to upgrading Northwood facilities and building expansion, adding 16 new classrooms. His proposed budget was submitted to the County Council and County Executive

Ike Leggett, who reduced the superintendent's request by nearly \$88 million.

The reduction in the capital improvements budget by the county executive may impact the timeline or extent of the Northwood renovations, but we don't know that for sure yet.

By 2024, all five high schools in the Downcounty Consortium are expected to exceed student capacity, and this facilities budget isn't entirely final, so kids at any school in the DCC in the next six years may find themselves encountering the same problems that Northwood faces now, with overcrowded classrooms and packed hallways. The fate of Northwood's renovation plans doesn't just lie in the hands of the County Council members and those on the board of education, but also in those who speak up at the hearings and meetings.

Joe Ryan, son of Katie and Leo Ryan of Granville Drive, is a senior at Northwood High School.

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