

Indian Spring News

Come Celebrate at ISCA Fall Fest

Saturday, November 16, 2019 – 4:00 PM
Indian Spring Terrace Park

Join us for food, music, and family fun at FALL FEST on Saturday, November 16, from 4-6 pm at the Indian Spring Recreation Center in Indian Spring Terrace Park. There will be a **chili cook-off**, so practice your best recipe and sign up to compete for the coveted "golden ladle" via the link provided to ISCA members in the evite (or email gabitrainor@gmail.com).

Please bring a side dish (salads, cornbread, etc.) and email Gabi if you can bring a dozen cupcakes for children to decorate. Decorating supplies will be provided. We look forward to seeing new and established members of our community - all are welcome!

Who will win this year's Golden Ladle?



Indian Spring Terrace Park

Indian Spring Citizens Association - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL
Dues are \$20 per household per year – Send Check to ISCA P.O. Box 3724, Silver Spring, MD 20918-3724

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***Please note, membership
now runs January 1 –
December 31 each year.
Renew online at
www.iscaonline.com or
using the form on the***

Dear ISCA Community,

Welcome to Fall! We are happy to share with you this latest issue of the ISCA Newsletter, with special thanks to our Communications Chair, Andy Stager. We are excited to announce our upcoming Fall Fest – so mark your calendars for Saturday, November 16 and get out your old family chili recipe to compete for the coveted Golden Ladle!

As you know, your ISCA board has been working on important civic issues like pedestrian safety on 29, the Granville/29 intersection, getting the path cleared so our neighborhood kids can walk safely to Blair, and monitoring transportation, development and other important activities that impact our wonderful community. Please keep the lines of communication open, and let us know how we can serve you better.

I hope you enjoy the Fall and that we see you on November 16!

Ann Horton
ISCA Board President

Snider's Receipts Needed for Fundraiser for Northwood HS

Indian Spring residents can support the PTSA at Northwood High School by collecting their receipts from shopping for groceries at Snider's Super Foods, located at 1936 Seminary Road in Silver Spring.

PTSA secretary Jenn Sawin, coordinator of the fundraising project at Northwood, is willing to pick up quantities of saved receipts from Snider's (dated Jan. 1 or later) from homeowners in Indian Spring. Once you have at least a small stack, contact her at jennsawin@gmail.com or drop an envelope containing the receipts at her home (9302 Sutton Place), only a block from Snider's. Receipts also can be left at the front office at Northwood before Christmas break.

Snider's provides an annual donation to participating schools' PTSA's that's the equivalent of 1 percent of total purchases in the collected receipts. Sawin hopes Northwood will raise more than \$500 this year, but she will need your help to meet or surpass that goal.

Major Upgrades Set for Our Neighborhood Middle School and High School

By Jay P. Goldman

Comprehensive construction projects are in the offing at both Silver Spring International Middle School and Northwood High School that will require a two-year shutdown of one and the temporary relocation of some classrooms at the other.

The two public schools, which serve the majority of children residing in Indian Spring, have planned renovations that were approved earlier this year by the Montgomery County board of education along with capital funding, according to Michele Moller, who serves as the Northwood cluster coordinator for the Montgomery County Council of PTAs. In this role, she represents the interests of elementary and middle schools that feed students into Northwood.

Meanwhile, planning for a building addition at Highland View Elementary School will begin in 2020, but no timetable for renovations has been set, Moller says.

Here's a summary of what's in store at our neighborhood schools, according to Moller.

Northwood HS: The school, located on University Boulevard at Arcola Avenue, will undergo a major renovation requiring the school's closure beginning in summer 2023. Northwood students and staff will relocate temporarily to the newly renovated Woodward High School for two years. Woodward is located on Old Georgetown Road in Rockville, and students will be transported by bus.

With renovations expected to take two years, Northwood will reopen in fall 2025. The athletic fields behind the high school, though, will not be completed until 2026.

Northwood, which housed a public high school until the mid-1980s before closing its doors owing to enrollment decline, reopened as a high school in fall 2004 with just 9th graders. The building served for more than a decade up to that point as a holding school for other Montgomery County high schools that had to close for major renovations.

Silver Spring International MS: The start date for major reconstruction has not been set in stone, but renovation work will likely begin in 2021. The front of the school on Wayne Avenue will be demolished, and a three-story addition will be built in its place. It will include a full-size gymnasium, a performance stage, new music instruction rooms, new office space and new science classrooms. The current fieldhouse at SSIMS, which is disconnected from the remainder of the building, will no longer be used.

During the facility work, SSIMS classes will shift around the school, and it is expected that K-2 classes at adjacent Sligo Creek Elementary School will move to a holding school so SSIMS temporarily can use some classrooms in the connected elementary school, Moller says.

The project includes some renovations to Sligo Creek Elementary School, adjacent to the middle school.

It will take approximately two years to complete the renovations at the two schools.

The building that houses SSIMS and Sligo Creek ES originally served as the longtime home of Montgomery Blair HS before its relocation to a new building at Four Corners more than 20 years ago. Following modest renovations, the middle school opened in the former Blair building in August 1999 with just 6th graders attending.

(Jay P. Goldman, a longtime Indian Spring resident, is an adjunct professor of journalism at University of Maryland.)

Kids – Free Access to Ride On Buses

From the Office of Montgomery County Council Member and Local ISCA Resident Evan Glass:

ISCA students and families, take note of the Kids Ride Free program, which allows Montgomery County residents under age 18 (and high school students over 18) to use Ride On buses any time of day and any day of the week **for free!** Beginning October 1, students will need a YouthCruiser SmartTrip card, available at no cost in Montgomery County libraries, to take advantage of the program.

More information available here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-transit/kidsridefree/index.html>



KIDS RIDE FREE!

BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDER

Want to ride the bus for free?

- 1 get your Youth Cruiser card at school or a county library
- 2 flash your Youth Cruiser card
- 3 hop on any Ride On or Metro Bus in Montgomery County!


COUNCILMEMBER EVAN GLASS



Latest Update from CABE (Citizens Against Beltway Expansion):

There are fresh signs that widespread, grassroots opposition to Beltway Luxury Lanes is having an impact and forcing pro-sprawl champions of high-priced tollways to adopt new tactics, like calling tolls "single occupancy vehicle fees".

As it stands today, MDOT's \$11+ billion plan to expand the Beltway and I-270 for four private-profit Luxury Lanes, like the ones that can cost Northern Virginia drivers as much as \$48 during rush hour, has drawn [opposition](#) from many state and county groups. What's more, 70% of those polled by the Washington Post doubted for-profit toll lanes will relieve congestion or be affordable. (Did we mention persistent opposition from citizens and civic groups across the region?)

In response, the pro-Lexus Lane contingent is changing the way it talks about tolls and tollways. But don't be fooled. What they call a "fee for single occupant vehicles" is just another name for a toll.

What's important to remember is the core Luxury Lane arguments that private-profit tollways reduce congestion at no-taxpayer expense hasn't changed and isn't supported by experience in other states. Recent reports from the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#), [DOT's Inspector General](#), and [others](#) found Public-Private Partnership monetize and depend on taxpayer support via grants, loans, and/or subsidies woven into contracts or bond covenants.

Bottom Line(s):

- Opposition from citizens, local governments, state and (perhaps) federal agencies is having an impact.
- Watch out for new jargon for old arguments. A "fee" by any other name is still a toll.
- Keep the pressure on our elected officials to demand greater transparency and MDOT collaboration with local officials for commuter options that better protect taxpayers, communities, and the environment. ([Use our contact list](#) to let them know where you stand.)

Ed. note: If reading the printed version, links from the articles can be found on the digital copy of the newsletter at ISCAonline.com



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Blair-Northwood Rivalry Revs Up on the Playing Fields

By Jay P. Goldman

With two large high schools serving families in Indian Spring, the "Battle of the Boulevard" is always a spirited series of competition stretching from the fall to spring seasons.

Montgomery Blair HS and Northwood HS, with addresses on University Boulevard, go head-to-head in a variety of varsity and junior varsity sports. This sometimes means students in Indian Spring face off on opposite sides of the playing field or find themselves on opposite sides of the cheering sections.

The greatest attention each fall centers on the varsity football game, which this year will be hosted by Northwood's Gladiators at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25. Blair has owned major bragging rights the past three years, defeating Northwood by a lopsided 133-0 aggregate over that time.

In other head-to-head varsity competition this fall:

Varsity boys soccer: Hosted at Blair at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 10

Varsity girls soccer: Hosted by Northwood at 7:15 p.m. on Oct. 10

Varsity field hockey: Blair defeated Northwood, 8-0, on Sept. 18.

In the winter, the two schools will compete in boys and girls basketball on both the varsity and jv levels.

Montgomery Blair is one of the largest high schools in Maryland with about 3,300 students. Northwood is roughly half the size with 1,730 students. However, both schools compete in Class 4A, the biggest of four competition classes managed by the state body governing interscholastic athletics.



New School Year for Highland View Students

By Taylor Stager, HVES PTA President

Fall brings a return of students to Highland View Elementary School (HVES), our welcoming and diverse neighborhood elementary school with just over 400 students, K-5. Neighborhood children and families are enjoying the same warm community that HVES has always fostered, and HVES' wonderful fall traditions such as the first day of school Kiss and Cry Coffee, ice cream social, and Fall Festival continue.

This school year, students and families will feel an emphasis on making healthy food and activity choices at Parent Teacher Association (PTA) events, thanks to a grant from the Action for Healthy Kids Foundation. HVES had a new, more secure entrance built this summer, and a temporary storm water diversion installation at the top of the stairs to the upper playground to help with extreme runoff during rain storms.

The HVES community plans to support a Capital Improvement Plan request in November to the Montgomery County Schools Board of Education for a permanent solution to the storm water runoff issues, which we hope includes renovation of the field on the upper playground that is in terrible condition and contributes to the storm water issues. ISCA neighbors can always learn more about what's going on by visiting the HVES PTA website at www.hves-pta.org.

INDIAN SPRING NEIGHBORS THAT DIDN'T INTERVIEW JEFFREY REESE

LEFT MONEY ON THE TABLE



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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To Improve or Not!

By Jeff Reese

Marion and I lived on Shorey Road near the YMCA for almost two decades. We found the neighborhood to be community centric, loving, and accepting. We also found the geographic location to be highly desirable. When we moved three years ago, we did so because we needed a single level home that would accommodate my mother in law. For our personal situation, moving was the only option but we did so with heavy hearts!

Many people that live in Indian Spring tell me they are "stuck" in deciding whether to make improvements to their home because of the fear of diminished values should the Beltway widening occur. While this is a reasonable consideration, I suggest to people to think about how the improvements will increase their quality of life and not just as a positive financial return. If someone believes that they will live another 20 years in the house regardless of what happens, then by all means put in that new kitchen. If there is uncertainty about the future, knowing which improvements make sense is worth investigating.

Buying or selling a home is generally based on personal life experiences and needs more than any market condition. While we hope that our life events coincide with low-interest rates and undervalued properties, that is not usually the case. Often, work or life dictates the time to move more than rate cuts or hikes decided by the chairman of the fed. We hope that our house will be a great investment, but usually, somewhere in the process we come to choose the place that will make us happy over a slightly better financial return. The community, the conveniences, and the commute often tip the scales on where and what to buy. Living in Montgomery Country has historically been a good place to buy, sell, and live. It regularly tops the charts on best places live and new investment is constantly coming into the metro area. As we march into fall, the average sales price in August of 2019 was \$580,942, a 5.8 percent increase over the August 2018 average of \$549,035. The number of new listings that came on the market in August is 6.5 percent less than last August's mark. This can be good news if you are looking to sell.

While the spring market receives the most attention in the real estate industry, fall can also be just as active. Summer is over, people have a more consistent schedule, and house hunting can often top the list of popular weekend activities. It's also a time where people are focused on the routine of their lives and the best place to be living their lives.

One of my favorite statistics to look at is sales price to original list price. This means, what did the Sellers list the price to sell versus what it ultimately sold for. In August, sellers received 97.9 percent of their original list price on average, up from last August (97.6 percent). Half of August sellers received at least 99.0 percent of their original asking price, a slightly higher ratio than in August 2018 (98.6 percent).

All in all, these are very good numbers that should make any prospective Seller, Buyer or those "Staying Put" feel good if they are thinking about entering into the market or loving their new kitchen for the next 20 years.

Happy Fall,

Jeff

Jeffrey S. Reese

Real Estate Advisor with Dogwood Living

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- Ideas or article suggestions for the next newsletter?
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 - Comments or concerns?
- Please reach out!
Andy Stager, Communications Chair, ISCA
andystager@gmail.com