

# Indian Spring News

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**Submit your neighborhood photos to have them added to the stream**

It is ironic that so many of us are spending more time than we ever have previously in the Indian Spring neighborhood, yet we also feel more disconnected than ever from our close friends and neighbors as we practice social distancing in our new Covid-19 world.

In order to try and rekindle the sense of community we all appreciate about our lovely neighborhood, an ISCA Instagram account has been launched to showcase the beauty of our hamlet. The best part of this account is that all residents are invited to contribute!

Please send your pictures of the neighborhood to [pics@iscaonline.com](mailto:pics@iscaonline.com). It is the most beautiful time of the year in Indian Spring, so capture all of your May flowers and send them along. All subjects are welcome – pets, landscape, interior design, family – but know that images will be released to the general public (at the discretion of the account manager).

Thank you in advance for your contribution, and please follow us [@iscaonline!](https://www.instagram.com/iscaonline/)



### 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**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

## ISCA OFFICERS

### President

Melanie Stickle  
iscapres20901@gmail.com

### Vice President

Rob Levy

### Secretary

Micah McCutchen

### Treasurer

Pam Wertz

### Membership Chairs

Phil Scott and  
Mary Schaefer

### Communications Chair

Andy Stager

### Social Chairs

Gabi Trainor and  
Mary Schaefer

### Civic Issues

Romel Lira and  
Lisa Silverman

### Delegate

Phil Scott

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor: Andy Stager  
Assistant Editors: Jay  
Goldman, Courtney Connor,  
Circulation Manager: Jeff  
Reese

**Please note, membership  
now runs January 1 –  
December 31 each year.  
Renew online at  
[www.iscaonline.com](http://www.iscaonline.com) or  
using the form on the  
reverse side.**

Dear ISCA Community,

Spring and Summer are always my favorite times of the year. I just love the warmer weather, blooming flowers, and the opportunity to see more of our neighbors (and their dogs) walking the streets and sidewalks. However, Spring/Summer 2020 has proven to be one like no other.

I know we are all struggling to make sense of what is going on in our world, while working hard to keep our jobs (or find a new one), keep our kids safe, and do our best to stay healthy. There have been loads of heartbreaks – distance from our beloved family members, the unexpected disappointments of canceled year-end school activities, devastating losses of family members, and more. We are ALL seeking comfort and reassurance, and mostly having to find it for ourselves.

There are some bright spots to these troubling times that bring us hope and joy, though. One of the things I have noticed is all of the people walking during the day. I have said “hi” to SO many new faces (to the great annoyance of my kids) and have chuckled when we pass each other multiple times on different streets during the walk. Another bright spot is our *brave ISCA essential workers*, who have continued to report to duty in healthcare, food service, grocery stores, and more. I know we are all so grateful for their fearless service and dedication.

Finally, this quote really touched me, and is something I am keeping close as I reflect on this experience...

***“Every test successfully met is rewarded by some growth  
in intuitive knowledge, strengthening of character, or  
initiation into a higher consciousness.”***

*Paul Brunton*

Let’s all remember to be kind to each other and always seek out those opportunities to smile.

Ann Horton

Immediate Past ISCA Board President

# New ISCA Board is Elected for 2020-2021 Term

The 2020-2021 executive board election survey took place from June 15-19. A record number of participants - 67 individuals voted. The slate was approved as presented:

- **President:** Melanie Stickle
- **Vice President:** Rob Levy
- **Treasurer:** Pam Wertz
- **Secretary:** Micah McCutchan

Terms begin July 1, 2020 and go until June 30, 2021.

This will be Melanie's first term as president and first term on the executive board, after serving as the membership chair for the past two years. All other board members are serving an additional term in their same positions. Congratulations to Melanie and the rest of the board. The neighborhood is fortunate to have an active community of volunteers.

Outgoing current president, Ann Kirwan Horton, will transition to Immediate Past President. She has served as ISCA president since September 2017. The board and officers are especially grateful for her leadership. Thank you, Ann!

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## Note from new ISCA President, Melanie Stickle

Dear ISCA,

I hope you all will join me in thanking and congratulating Ann Horton for leading our civic group over the past three years. Her shoes will be hard to fill, and it is reassuring that she will be assisting and guiding the new Executive Board members in the coming year. Thank you, Ann, for your dedication and the countless hours you have invested over the years.

This neighborhood is a really special place, and the challenges we face are large. From the pandemic to the beltway expansion, to whatever new crisis comes our way, the ISCA board will do our best according to our bylaws to foster a vibrant and cohesive neighborhood. Thank you to those that remain active, have supported neighborhood activities in the past, and for those that are thinking about getting more involved. Your participation and volunteering keep our neighborhood great. If you have ideas on what you would like to see the Board organize or would like to volunteer your time or skillset, please do reach out.

All the best,

Melanie Stickle

Hastings Dr.

[iscapres20901@gmail.com](mailto:iscapres20901@gmail.com)

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Cell: 202-590-5523

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# MD SHA Presents Options for Future of Hastings/Colesville Intersection

On Thursday, January 30, 2020, about 30 residents from Indian Springs (IS) and North Hills of Sligo Creek (NH) met with representatives of Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) at the Christ Congregational Church. The topic was a possible traffic signal at the intersection of Hastings Drive and Colesville Road (U.S. Route 29), proposed due to concerns about the safety of pedestrians (crossing Colesville) and automobiles (left turns in and out of IS and NH. Mr. Derek Gunn (Assistant District Engineer for Traffic, SHA District 3) presented a 15 slide PowerPoint, summarizing the history, current status, and details of two options for improving the intersection.

A previous community meeting was held in March 2019, and Mr. Gunn noted that since then, SHA had performed an impact study. This included sending out community surveys (128 responses), expanding a traffic modeling exercise to include the future (now operational) signal at Lanark Drive, and assessing the 'weave' from I-495 inner loop onto southbound (SB) Colesville and into IS at Hastings. The basic conclusions of the traffic study were that a Hastings traffic light would have minimal impacts on the larger Colesville corridor (between Sligo Creek Parkway and MD193/University Blvd) and on queuing backups at Hastings, while helping traffic in and out of IS and NH.



*Options A and B for proposed improvements at Hastings and Colesville (U.S. 29). Option A has a crosswalk on the north side (only) of the intersection, whereas Option B has a crosswalk on both north and south. Option A generally retains the concrete and greenery of the current intersection, including the on-off 'ramps' from Hastings. Option B removes the 'ramps' in order to have a safe crosswalk on the southside. The arrows represent the positions of the signals.*

The figures represent Options A and B for the proposed improvements. Essentially the main differences are that Option A has only one crosswalk across Colesville (north side), whereas Option B has two (North and South). Option A would require minimal upgrades to the existing geometry, such that the wide 'ramp' entrances into Hastings would be retained. Construction could start as early as fall 2020 and be completed by early 2021. Option B on the other hand, involves modifying the geometry so that it 'squares' off and reduces the footprint of Hastings. There would likely be conflicts with trees/shrubs, and construction would create challenges with storm water management. The design and construction would take an additional 6-12 months.

The community discussion was extremely lively. While residents of IS were almost unanimously in favor of either improvement option, the residents of NH were concerned about weaving traffic for either option, and storm water issues for Option B. In addition, a question was why to create a crosswalk at Hastings when there was already one at Indian Spring (in front of CCC). Mr. Dunn reminded us that even if a 'pedestrian signal' was added at the current intersection, the sightlines would remain poor. Most residents preferred option B for its crosswalk on the southside – farther from the I-495 ramp and closer to the existing bus stops and more of our residents. Although Option B was more invasive, residents suggested a two-tiered approach such that Option A could be done immediately as the more detailed impact study for Option B could be performed. Additional suggestions included pedestrian-activated crosswalks as well as automobile-activated left turn arrows. Improvements to street lighting was suggested.

There were some outstanding issues. No determination was made regarding the 1) weaving from I-495 ramp onto SB Colesville on Hastings, 2) options for changing the geometry of the ramp, 3) possibility of U-turns at the intersection (currently prohibited), 4) right turns (currently prohibited) from SB Colesville into NH, and 5) enforcing/changing the existing 35 mph speed limits on SB Colesville.

Stay tuned for updates this Summer!

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A scene from the 2006 ISCA 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

A small reminder of our great community coming together and hoping we can all gather for a neighborhood celebration soon



# Update from CABA (Citizens Against Beltway Expansion)

People focused on Governor Hogan's \$11 billion plan for a public-private partnership (P3) to widen I-495 and I-270 for for-profit tollways should pay attention to the following developments.

1. Mark your calendar for July 10. That's when the I-495/I270 draft environmental impact statement is expected to be released by MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The DEIS will cover the entire project – from the Wilson to the American Legion Bridge and up I-270 to Frederick and is expected to run at least 200 pages and include thousands of technical documents. The public comment period could be as little as 45 days.

That's not nearly enough to determine if the DEIS has it right with regard to the impacts on parks, wetlands, air pollution, stormwater runoff and other environmental issues and get our comments on the record.

That's why we strongly encourage all civic organizations to join CABA and sign on to the letter demanding a minimum 90-day DEIS comment period written by the Sierra Club Maryland and the Rock Creek Conservancy.

2. The slow-motion blowup of the \$2 billion Purple Line over \$775 million in unexpected costs is a real-time lesson on the taxpayer risks of modern P3s and the critical importance of due diligence and absolute transparency for the \$11 billion I-495/I-270 P3 tollway plan.

"We definitely can't find ourselves in a similar situation in seven years with this project," said Delegate Marc Korman (D-16), who sent a June 22 letter with other House transportation leaders to MDOT demanding answers and assurances from MDOT that the same thing won't happen if there's a Beltway P3. (Check out Maryland Matters for more on the Purple Line.)

Do you agree? Then let your state and local leaders, especially pivotal Board of Public Works' members Comptroller Peter Franchot and State Treasurer Nancy Kopp, know you are concerned Maryland doesn't have the information or the legal protections in place to stop the proposed I-495/I-270 Luxury Lane P3 from turning into an unaffordable repeat of what is happening with the Purple Line.

Stay tuned.

For more information, sign-up for updates from Citizens Against Beltway Expansion.

Editor's Note: This newsletter is all digital. Printed newsletters will return post-Covid.