

Light rail car in Portland Oregon
model for proposed Purple Line

February 2008
800+ Homes

Indian Spring News

www.iscaonline.com

Save the Date: April 14: Taste of Indian Spring!

Resolution on Purple Line

By Tony Hausner

On January 14, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) came to ISCA and presented the status of their plans for the purple line. We had a fairly decent turnout of ISCA residents. In May, MTA will release its key document: a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) report. There will only be a short time to respond to that report which leads to final decisions on alternatives. In preparation for this report, we feel it would be best if ISCA takes a preliminary position on this project. If time permits this spring or summer, we can take a revised position after the report is released, but our guess is that we already have most of the information we need.

The ISCA board has decided to proceed with a resolution through a two step process to maximize our neighborhood's involvement in this decision. In this first step below, we will offer a resolution for the residents' comments. After receiving input,

we will provide a final resolution to be voted upon. Both the comments and the vote will take place by email and/or mail.

Draft Resolution

The ISCA board proposes the following resolution for your consideration. **ISCA strongly supports the building of the purple line from New Carrollton to Bethesda. We prefer the light rail option over the bus rapid transit option as it provides better travel times and ridership projections. We favor the purple line as the first major step forward toward developing transit solutions to our transportation needs in preference to highway solutions and we continue to oppose Beltway widening.**

Please submit comments on this resolution by February 25. You can submit comments via email to Allegra Tasaki at tasaking@verizon.net or by mail to her at 201 Granville Dr., SS, 20901. You can also call Tony Hausner at 301-587-6943 to discuss.

(continued on page 3)

INDIAN SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Membership Application and Renewal

Dues are \$10 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)

Name(s): _____ Phone: () - Date: / /

Street Address: _____ Silver Spring, MD, 20901

Email: _____

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.

SAVE THE DATE

April 14

TASTE OF INDIAN SPRING

Contact: Celeste
Raker-Dillen
dillensl@aol.com

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Walter J. Gottlieb

The ISCA Board wants to express its deep appreciation to several of our volunteers who have made major contributions to our newsletter over the past year. (See accompanying photos) Starting in May, Audrey Cowgill and Ali Breen have been taking turns as layout editors for the newsletter. As you many of you have observed, they have done a fantastic job of the layout. They have shown a great deal of creativity in their efforts, have produced beautiful looking issues, and have been very timely with production. We also want to thank Laura Auerbach, our editor, for her important contributions to the newsletters.

We also are very grateful to Randy Shay who took over as coordinator of newsletter delivery this fall. Randy has done a great job in organizing all the routes and made sure that replacements were found where there were several holes in the distribution routes and has ensured timely newsletter delivery. We are further indebted to the 6 district captains and the individual deliverers for their efforts in getting the newsletters out. We will acknowledge them in a subsequent issue of the newsletter. However, we wanted to express our special thanks to Audrey, Ali, Laura, and Randy for their amazing contributions.

I want to call your attention to the article about the purple line. It is very important that ISCA residents express their opinions this month on this issue critical to our neighborhood and participate in next month's vote on a final resolution.



Resolution on Purple Line

(continued from page 1)

We will then present via the newsletter and listserv, **a final resolution to be voted on by March 25** and the vote will also be conducted by email and/or mail.

Background

I would like to provide some background to this project. I represent ISCA and Prezco (Presidents' Council of Silver Spring Civic Associations) on the Planning Board's Purple Line Master Plan Advisory Committee. For more information about the Planning Board's role go to:

<http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/transportation/projects/bicounty.shtm>

The plan for the purple line is to build either a light rail system or a bus rapid transit line from New Carrollton to College Park to Silver Spring and then to Bethesda.

As discussed in the last issue of the newsletter, building of the Purple Line is critical to ISCA's future because it provides an important alternative to the State's plan to widen the Capital Beltway. As indicated in that article, Beltway widening would be a disaster to Indian Spring, both to our homes, to noise and air pollution, and to traffic congestion on all major secondary roads. While the purple line is not a total alternate solution to beltway widening, it moves us in the right direction. Public transit solutions are a much better way to move people than to continue a greater emphasis on highway solutions. Transit is much more cost-effective, and much better for the environment.

Metro

Some argue that building the purple line will not solve any transportation problems. I will use an analogy. Even though metro has been built, traffic into downtown Washington is still very congested. However, almost 800,000 persons who ride metro daily and get to work quite effectively, wouldn't be able to if metro hadn't been built. So transit doesn't solve our traffic problems, (continued on page 4)



Ridership & Costs

Purple Line Alternatives Preliminary Travel Demand Forecasts & Cost Estimates				
Alternative	End to End Peak Period Travel Time (minutes)	Ridership (Daily Boardings)	Capital Costs (Millions -2007\$)	Operating & Maintenance Costs (Millions -2007\$)
Alternative 2: TSM	108	N/A	\$105	\$8
BRT				
Alternative 3: Low Investment BRT	73	29,000 - 35000	\$450 - 520	\$9
Alternative 4: Medium Investment BRT	64	38,000 - 41000	\$650 - 750	\$9
Alternative 5: High Investment BRT	57	42,000 - 45000	\$1,170 - 1,340	\$8
LRT				
Alternative 6: Low Investment LRT	59	38,000 - 41,000	\$1,160 - 1,330	\$20
Alternative 7: Medium Investment LRT	52	42,000 - 45,000	\$1,170 - 1,350	\$18
Alternative 8: High Investment LRT	46	44,000 - 47,000	\$1,580 - 1,790	\$17

* Preliminary estimates; subject to change based on possible refinements to the alternatives.

* Note: The Ridership (Daily Boardings) estimates do not yet include expected trips by University of Maryland students and special event visitors. These forecasts are under development.

- The ridership forecast levels compare well with similar projects being implemented around the US.





Resolution on Purple Line

(continued from page 3) but it does solve transportation problems. And it does so much more cost-effectively without as much harm to the environment.

Some have argued that we should build a metro line from New Carrollton to Bethesda instead of light rail. However, the costs of that are prohibitive in today's economic environment and would involve taking a great deal of county residences in the process.

MTA projections

In early December, MTA released projections for ridership and costs. These are critical elements in the decision-making process. I will present mid range figures for one of the most attractive options: medium investment light rail. MTA projects average daily ridership for this option of 43,000 and capital costs of \$1.2 billion. These figures compare favorably with other projects around the U.S. that have been recently approved by the Federal Transit Administration.

Details on the ridership and cost projections come from the following location

http://www.purplelinemd.com/linked_files/open_house_displays/13_ridership_costs2.pdf



Avon Walk

by Michelle Gins

The 2008 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Washington, DC is taking place on May 3-4, 2008. This is an incredible event that raises money and awareness for breast cancer. I walked last year and am walking again this year. The first day is a walk up to 26.2 miles and the second day is a walk up to 13.1 miles. Walkers select the amount they feel comfortable walking. Every walker must raise at least \$1800.00. The money raised supports medical research into the possible causes of and cure for breast cancer, education and early detection programs, and clinical care and support services for women with breast cancer in communities across the country.

If anyone is thinking about signing up for this truly inspiring event, now is a good time to do so. From February 1st to March 1st, you can earn a \$50.00 credit towards your fundraising when you register. If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact me at michelle.gins@gmail.com. I don't have enough good things to say about the walk!



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ISCAONLINE.COM – ISCA’s web site

by Tony Hausner

This article is to introduce you to our web site. This is separate from the listserv, which residents of our neighborhood use to send email messages to each other.

We are looking for 1) persons to contribute materials to the site, such as photos of events; and 2) suggestions for additions to the sites or other improvements. If anyone is interested in helping us load material onto the site, that would be of great help.

The site was designed and is maintained by Kishau Rogers, a former ISCA resident, and her company, Websmith Group, <http://www.websmithgroup.com>, a web hosting and design company.

Here is the top part of our home page:

Our most popular features are the Services Recommendations which lists services recommended by residents in our neighborhood, and our photo gallery with photos from events for the past 15 months. Each month, Elizabeth Magin has been updating the Services Recommendations file. Please send any additional recommendations to Elizabeth at e.magin@verizon.net. Elizabeth has compiled this list from recommendations posted to the listserv or supplied by listserv members. Please note that many of the photos in the photo gallery have captions in the upper left of the photo screen, but we are missing quite a few and would appreciate receiving information for the remaining captions.

The ISCA in the press is a new section and has several recent newspaper articles and TV interviews featuring ISCA residents. The What’s New section indicates all the major additions to the web site according to the most recent dates of addition. We have past issues in a color version of the newsletter in the newsletter section and we plan to add a paypal link very soon to allow residents to pay dues for ISCA membership.

Interest in the site is growing as we had 387 visits in October and 467 visits in January.

The screenshot shows the ISCAONLINE.COM website. At the top left is the Indian Spring Citizens Association logo. To its right is a banner image of a sign that says 'INDIAN SPRING'. Further right is contact information: P.O. BOX 3724, SILVER SPRING, MD 20910, president@iscaonline.com, and www.iscaonline.com. Below the banner is a navigation bar with 'HOME' and 'CONTACT US' links. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'GENERAL INFO' with links to 'About ISCA', 'What's New', 'Join ISCA', 'ISCA Officers', 'Community Map', and 'ISCA in the Press'; 'COMMITTEES' with links to 'Social Committee', 'Neighborhood Watch', and 'Newsletter'; 'MEMBER AREA' with links to 'Calendar of Events', 'Volunteers Needed', 'Photo Gallery', and 'Join the Email List'; 'MEMBER RESOURCES' with links to 'Membership Application', 'Service Recommendations', and 'Advertising Policy'; 'COUNTY INFO' with links to 'Montgomery County' and 'County Libraries'; and 'BELTWAY EXPANSION' with a link to 'Independence Day Photos'. There is also a 'HAPPY NEW YEAR ISCA! JANUARY 2008' section with a 'Remember!' sticky note and a list of upcoming events: 'JANUARY 14, 2008, 7:30PM: MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION ON THE PURPLE LINE (JANUARY 28, 2008: SNOW DATE)'. A 'Happy New Year!' message is also present. There are several promotional links: 'Click to Read What's New on ISCAONLINE.COM!', 'January Newsletter!', 'Join the Listserv', 'Contribute to the Newsletter', 'Visit ISCA President Walter Gottlieb's Blog', and 'Gazette article on Pedestrian Safety in Indian Spring'. A search bar is located above two images: a crowd of people and a coffee cup. Below the crowd image is a 'COMMUNITY EVENTS' section with links to 'National Night Out', 'ISCA Camping Trip', 'Fall Fest', 'Neighborhood Watch', and 'Beltway Expansion'. Below the coffee cup image is a 'JOIN THE EMAIL LISTSERV' section with text: 'Communicate with hundreds of your neighbors via email! Need a recommendation on home improvement contractors? Need to know about the traffic backup on Colesville Road? Would you like on-demand information regarding community news, events and town meetings? The iscaonline.com'.

Highland View

By Jill Ortmann-Fouse

It is hard to believe we are already half way through the school year! We have had a lot of fun and educational activities and events at Highland View Elementary School this year with many more planned. We thank the Indian Spring community for its support of our fundraisers and PTA that make these opportunities available for our kids.

Many thanks to all the HVES staff, families and ISCA neighbors that came out to McGinty's Night. Special thanks to McGinty's manager Debbie Lea (HVES mom and neighbor) and Brian Dolthin (neighbor and co-owner) for accommodating us and supporting Highland View. Everyone had a great time, the food was delicious, and the dance floor and stage provided a perfect area for the kids to run around and hang out with each other (while the adults were actually able to visit and eat their food!). For future reference, McGinty's Public House has a full range of fun events from live music to Sunday brunch, swing dancing to monthly Kid's Music Sessions. Check out their Web site at mcgintyspublichouse.com.

Many thanks to neighbors and HVES parents Kendra Laduca and Sue Luck for planning our wonderful cultural arts assemblies like "Sing to the Heart of the Earth" – featuring interactive music on caring for the environment – and "History Alive! Good Queen Bess," where "Queen Elizabeth" taught about life in the 1500s.

We are also grateful to our neighbors/HVES parents who coordinate our family nights. Sue and Dave Wilson's Movie Nights, and pizza and bingo evenings with Jimmy "Bingo" Hoskinson are always crowd pleasers. Our PTA meetings continue to be well attended with active participation from our parents. We were pleased to have Silver Spring International Middle School Principal Vicky Parcan speak at our November meeting to share about the exciting activities at SSIMS, including its International Baccalaureate program. Dr. Heath Morrison, our community superintendent, spoke at our February meeting about the county's support of our school and plans for next year.

We appreciate all our parents who contribute to or help out with our parties (Halloween, Holiday and Valentine's) and attend school events like the beautiful and moving Winter Choral Concert.

This spring, we are looking forward to a host of fun after-school classes including karate, drama, Creative Adventures, Spanish and Girls on the Run (a fitness program).

For any incoming kindergartner families, we are excited about having you join the Highland View family and are always happy to answer any of your questions. Heather Sauter and Celeste Dillen are coordinating a neighborhood playgroup for children and parents to get to know one another prior to the first day of school. Plans are to hold a coffee with Ms. Dardarian, HVES Principal, and possibly tour the school. Email Heather Sauter at hpowers@realia.com to get on the email loop. The Kindergarten Open House will be held in February, date to be determined.

We are looking forward to the many activities that our PTA leadership is planning for the rest of the school year. Thank you for your continued support.

Joseph E. Frew, D.D.S.

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Indian Spring Real Estate Market Report

Provided by

Rhonda Mortensen, Licensed MD & DC
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Be Ready For The
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Homes Sold Since November 2007 *

Address	List Price	Close Price	Style	BR	FB	HB
216 Baden Street	\$495,000	\$493,000	Colonial	3	1	1

Partial List of Homes Currently on the Market/Under Contract *

Address	List Price	Status	Style	BR	FB	HB
202 Indian Spring Drive E	\$499,900	Active	Colonial	3	1	1
9404 Ocala Street	\$530,000	Active	Rambler	3	3	
9520 Biltmore Drive	\$459,000	Active	Colonial	3	1	1
9506 Evergreen Street	\$379,000	Active	Cape Cod	3	2	
9405 Seminole Street	\$499,999	Active	Colonial	3	2	1
9935 Moss Avenue	\$479,000	Active	Cape Cod	3	2	
9704 Hastings Drive	\$565,500	Active	Colonial	4	3	1
9412 Garwood Street	\$465,900	Active	Cape Cod	4	2	
301 Franklin Avenue E	\$349,500	Active	Cape Cod	2	1	
213 Brewster Avenue E	\$399,900	Active	Rambler	3	2	
9711 Lawndale Drive	\$585,000	Active	Colonial	4	2	1
235 University Boulevard E	\$475,000	Active	Colonial	5	2	1
321 University Boulevard E	\$2,250	Rent	Colonial	3	2	1

* The information above was provided by MRIS. These lists include only those homes listed in the MRIS system and does not include homes for sale by owner. Information is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed.

Check Out Just A Few of My Listings – More on www.helpmerhondarealestate.com!



120 University Blvd E Silver Spring
 4 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB \$469,000



10803 Lorain Ave Silver Spring
 4 BR, 2 FB \$535,000



9520 Biltmore Dr Silver Spring
 3 BR, 1 FB, 1 HB \$459,000

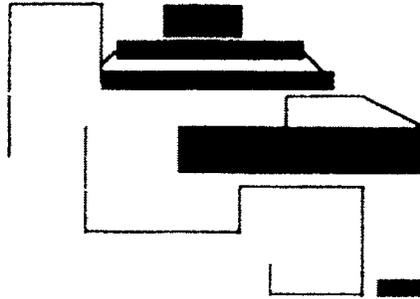


Rhonda Mortensen

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