



## East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

MARCH 2020

Please join us for the next

**EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING**

**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 16th, 2020 • Doors open 6:45PM, Meeting starts 7:00PM**

**MEETING LOCATION IS THE HISTORIC B&O TRAIN STATION • 8100 Georgia Avenue, just south of the Fire Station**

**JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <https://groups.io/g/eastsilverspringcivic>  
(Include your name and street name when you send your "join request")**

**JOIN ESSCA'S Facebook Group: East Silver Spring Citizens' Association**

**VISIT ESSCA'S WEBSITE: [www.eastsilverspring.org](http://www.eastsilverspring.org) • EMAIL CONTACT: [esscaprez@gmail.com](mailto:esscaprez@gmail.com)**

### LEARN MORE ABOUT KOINER FARM AT OUR NEXT MEETING

Our neighborhood's farm, Koiner Farm, is waking up from the winter! CKC is the Charlie Koiner Center for Urban Farming, the non-profit land trust named in honor of Charlie Koiner that is dedicated to stewarding the property and managing the planting beds. It is located at the corner of Easley and Grove Streets. The staff of CKC will share with us what is planned for this season and ways folks can get involved.

### REPORT FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING: THE SECTOR PLAN REWRITE FOR DOWNTOWN SILVER SPRING

Elsa Hisel-McCoy and Atara Margolies with the Montgomery County Planning Department came to outline the process and expectations for the upcoming rewrite of the Sector Plan for our downtown. Sector Plans are revisited approximately every 20 to 25 years. The last one for our downtown Silver Spring was adopted in 2000. These plans often occur simultaneously with other efforts by the Planning Department, including in our case the 2010 Greenspace Guidelines, 2014 Placemaking Initiative and the 2019 Streetscape Standards. Elsa and Atara shared a few definitions for clarification:

- A General Plan covers the entire County.
- The County is broken into geographic areas for Master Plans (the eastern part of the County is broken into North Silver Spring and West Silver Spring Master Plans, for example).
- Sector Plans cover central business districts (like downtown Silver Spring) and include guidelines and requirements

for building setback criteria, land use criteria and qualitative aspects of a given area (such as sustainability, historic preservation and pedestrian safety).

- Sector Plans also typically include some specific recommendations. For example, the 2000 Sector Plan for our downtown included recommendations for the Fire and Rescue Station on Georgia Avenue, the new library, the Transit Center, Civic Center and some guidelines for pedestrian safety improvements.

The process for the rewrite typically takes 2 to 3 years from start to completion with formal adoption by the County Council and it includes:

- Formation of a Planning Staff team of approximately 12 individuals representing different related components
- Research of all past and existing plans
- A Planning Staff team walking tour of the area
- Draft of a scope of work for study
- Analysis of the area's existing conditions, including the pipeline for approved future projects
- Formation of a community engagement process
- Development of a Draft Plan and presentation to the Planning Board
- Community hearings with public testimony
- Definition set by the Planning Board of the scope of the area to be affected
- Rework of the Draft
- Presentation of the Draft to the County Council

The boundaries of the Sector Plan and the area for (re-)consideration are a topic of particular importance. The current

boundaries for the Downtown Silver Spring Sector Plan are: Spring Street to the north, 16th Street to the west, Fenton St. (south of Wayne) and Cedar (north of Wayne) to the east and the District and Takoma Park lines to the south. An important part of the process involves determining the boundaries of the study area, which may be larger or smaller than the Sector Plan's boundaries.

Regarding community participation, the County takes a high level of interest in hearing the community's likes and dislikes, what they value and what they want and don't want to see in the future. This effort often relies on sharing good examples from our area as well as others to further discuss and clarify the community's desires. Early on in the process the Planning Staff will engage community leaders to help determine how best to reach hard-to-reach constituencies to get their input. We are told this will also include outreach to small and independent businesses.

The ESSCA Board will be in communication with Planning Staff and will assist in notifying the community about the Sector Plan rewrite process as well as community engagement meetings and other participation opportunities.

### PROJECT UPDATE: THE KIDDIE ACADEMY DAYCARE CENTER

This is the project to convert the former veterinary clinic next to the 7 Eleven on Sligo Avenue to a daycare center. Here is the latest on this project from Marco Fuster, Coordinator for Area 1 with the Montgomery County Planning Department:

- The Planning Board hearing is now scheduled for Thursday March 26th (likely in the afternoon).
- The plans have been revised to show the primary access through the alley.
- Access to the site is limited to one-way clockwise circulation with all vehicles entering the Site from Fenton Street via the 20' Public Alley and all vehicles exiting onto Sligo Avenue.
- The alley will be upgraded by the Applicant to the meet DOT standards.
- The staff report will be posted no later than Monday, March 16th.

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ESSCA BOARD POSITIONS

We are now taking nominations for board positions. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. If you are interested please contact Mark Paster who has agreed to serve as Nomination Coordinator. Mark can be reached by phone at 301-585-3726 or by email at [mark@sunnydoor.net](mailto:mark@sunnydoor.net). Per the ESSCA Constitution we will be open for nominations from now through April 15th and all candidates must be included in our next newsletter to be printed prior to our final meeting of the season on May 18th, at which time we will have elections for officers. The outreach and advocacy efforts of your civic association will only be as effective as those who serve in these leadership positions.

Not up for an official position with the ESSCA Board? No problem! We have lots of ways you can contribute to the community: Organize park cleanups - Fight invasive vines and plants - Be an anti-mosquito warrior! Make contacts with apartment communities - Recruit musical acts for our annual ESSCAFest local music festival - Plan neighborhood playdates - Learn about Planning and Zoning - Organize cultural exchange projects - Revise our Constitution and By-Laws to be more gender-inclusive - volunteer at Shepherd's Table - be a liaison with East Silver Spring Elementary or Sligo Creek Elementary schools - Help us manage our website and listserv - volunteer to deliver the newsletter on your block - Write an article for our website about our neighborhood or neighborhood issue - Help us design a new logo for our newsletter that reflects our neighborhood diversity. Can you

help? Have other ideas? Please contact Tim Haverland at [esscaprez@gmail.com](mailto:esscaprez@gmail.com).

### CENSUS 2020: EVERYONE COUNTS! !TODOS CONTAMOS!

Did you know that in the 2010 US Census over 10,000 people weren't counted in Downtown and East Silver Spring? Let's make sure everyone is counted! It's completely confidential and you can respond securely online.

Census data is used to plan schools, new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.

Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census will arrive in households starting on March 12. Keep an eye out for this invitation - it will contain a unique ID identifying your household. Once you receive this invitation via mail, you may respond to the 2020 Census online. You will also have the option to respond via phone or paper questionnaire. Instructions on how to respond to the census will be included in this mailing. All households should respond to the 2020 Census by April 1 (Census Day).



### TASTE THE WORLD OF FENTON VILLAGE

The successful neighborhood restaurant crawl celebrating the many independent restaurants of Fenton Village will be back for the tenth year on Sunday May 17th from noon to 5:00 PM. The event will again feature live music, drawing for a door prize at 5:30 and other entertainment. In recognition of the tenth anniversary, County Executive Marc Elrich will be on hand from 2 to 3 PM to hold a special rally in support of small businesses. More information will follow soon on the ESSCA Listserv and in the next edition of The Advocate.

### ESSCAFEST RETURNS!

The sixth installment of our annual community block party featuring local

musicians will be back on Saturday, May 2nd. We are finalizing the time and location of this year's Fest—stay tuned to the list serve for further details. As we have done in the past we will close the chosen street for the afternoon for festivities, including music, dancing and refreshments. Our appreciation again goes to Tim Haverland for spearheading and organizing this fun event. We hope you can come by, sample some of our local talent and get to meet your neighbors!

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### FROM REEMBERTO RODRIGUEZ, SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA DIRECTOR FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

If you are interested in what is going on in our broader Silver Spring Regional Area (including Takoma Park) you are invited to subscribe to the Regional Area's eNewsletter from the link at [www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SilverSpring](http://www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SilverSpring)

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### PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH ESSCA!

#### How much is community worth to you?

ESSCA has calculated community can be improved with just \$10 per household per year. Seriously that's it! Your \$10 enables ESSCA to print and distribute The Advocate newsletter, maintain a website, and host 5 public meetings a year. And don't forget ESSCA Fest, our annual block party with free music and refreshments! If everyone chips in, we can do even more together! We have an amazing community and if you invest in it, together we can become even more effective!!!

#### Give to ESSCA in any of these 3 ways:

1. Give at the ESSCA Meeting
2. Go to the website at: <https://eastsilverspring.org/> and pay via PayPal
3. Write a check payable to ESSCA and send it to:  
Steve Knight  
808 Violet Place  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

*Please note that ESSCA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation and that member dues are not tax-deductible.  
Thank you!*