



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

MAY 2020

Please join us for the next
EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING
MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MAY 18th, 2020
7:00 – 8:30 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ONLINE (please register in advance - details provided below)

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 • EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

MAY ESSCA MEETING WILL BE HELD ONLINE

Our May meeting will be held online via Zoom on Monday, May 18 at 7pm.
Agenda topics include:

Pandemic Response: We'll discuss how the neighborhood has been faring during the pandemic and brainstorm ideas for getting us through a possible several more weeks of stay-at-home orders.

Housing in our Neighborhood: We'll discuss the state of housing in our neighborhood, and the recent proposal by the Montgomery Planning Board to expand the Silver Spring Central Business District (CBD) plan area, with the goal of encouraging new housing types in our neighborhood like duplexes, triplexes and bungalow courts (see topic on the plan boundary below).

And all the **Neighborhood News** (that's fit to discuss)!

To participate in the meeting, please register in advance at:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlc-mqqTgsHdbnlo0TKXTruLkNqOZIK-Oe>.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Food Assistance - Seniors, call the

County's Aging and Disability Services at 240-777-3000 or call 311. Non-seniors please call our local food pantry, Adventist Community Services, at 301-585-6556.

Grocery Shopping, Delivery - Seniors, call Senior Connections MC at 301-962-0820. Non-seniors please call the Silver Spring Rotary at 240-781-6586.

Check-ins - Seniors, call Senior Connections MC at 301-962-0820

Mental Health Services - Need someone to talk to? Call 240-777-4000

Still need help? Call 311 to talk with the Montgomery County Service Center, or call ESSCA President Tim Haverland at 240-429-2506.

What is ESSCA been doing to help? ESSCA has been helping through improved neighborhood communications, food and volunteer drives, and lifting spirits. Early in the pandemic we established a network of over 60 block-level contacts. We've used this network of contacts to distribute information via local email listserves and groups, and to open lines of communications from the blocks back to ESSCA. We still need contacts on the following blocks: BONAIRE CT, CEDAR ST, 800 BLOCK EASLEY, 800

BLOCK PHILADELPHIA, 500-600 BLOCK THAYER, PINEY BRANCH RD, 7900 BLOCK WOODBURY and nearly all of the apartment/condo buildings in the neighborhood. Can you help? Please call Tim Haverland at 240-429-2506 or email at esscaprez@gmail.com.

Our food drive in March for our local food bank, Adventist Community Services at 501 Sligo Ave, netted over 600 lbs of food. The food bank has a collection bin out at all times, so please continue to drop off shelf-stable foods (no glass) if you can. Ken Flemmer, Director of the food bank, is grateful to the community for cash donations as well.

ESSCAFEST!

ESSCA's also been lifting neighborhood spirits by holding our hyper-local music festival online this year via Zoom on Saturday, May 2. Applause and cheering could be heard throughout the neighborhood. Visit the ESSCAFest page on our website: <https://www.eastsilverspring.org/essca-fest>. Many thanks to our performers: Heidi and Roger Coleman, David and Ella Schneider, Matt Kittell, Milo Rector, Mark Sylvester, The Witte Family, Elliot Levine, Kevin Snider, and Jules Bland.

ESSCA OFFICER ELECTIONS - POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Due to the pandemic, we will postpone our Board officer elections until September. All current Board members will continue in their positions in an acting capacity. During the next few months, ESSCA will develop an electronic voting procedure, which will allow members to vote by email, text, or phone message. As of the writing of this newsletter, the following candidates have been nominated for ESSCA Board officer positions. All positions are unopposed:

- President: Tim Haverland
- Vice-President: no nomination
- Treasurer: Steve Knight
- Recording Secretary: Stevan Lieberman
- Corresponding Secretary: Gray Kimbrough

SILVER SPRING CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD) MASTER PLAN BOUNDARY CHANGE PROPOSAL

Montgomery Planning is currently in the process of updating its Master Plan for the Silver Spring Central Business District (CBD), which currently extends into the neighborhood on the east to the mid-800 blocks of Silver Spring Ave, Thayer Ave, and Easley St. The CBD Master Plan is the visioning process for the future of the CBD, and includes an analysis of many factors such as transportation, environment, housing, schools, population and business growth with the goal of guiding land use for the next 20 years. The original work plan for the Master Plan was to make a small adjustment to the CBD Master Plan boundary to include the St. Michael's school property on the south side of Wayne Ave in the CBD. However, at its March 26 meeting, the County Planning Board requested that Planning staff provide options to examine "missing middle" housing within walking distance to the Silver Spring Metro Station and Purple Line library station. This expansion in scope could include much

of the ESSCA neighborhood.

"Missing middle" housing is typically thought of as smaller unit housing (duplexes, triplexes, townhouses, etc.) that diversifies the choices for households of different age, size, and income and is of a similar form to single-family housing. These housing types already exist in the neighborhood, but building more units is difficult due to zoning limitations and financial risk for the small operation developers who might build them.

An expansion of the CBD Master Plan Boundary could mean consideration of changes to zoning and other development rules and incentives (e.g. parking, water/sewer connections and financial incentives) that make it easier to build "missing middle" housing. An increase in smaller unit housing forms in our neighborhood could provide more affordable housing options and an alternative to the current trend of tear-downs and rebuilds of 5,000-sqft homes. As a result of more flexible zoning, property owners in the affected areas may find their property values increasing and with that property tax increases, but any changes would be phased in over the course of several years. Impacts on school populations must also be considered, but since it can take decades for zoning changes to make substantive changes in the neighborhood, there should be time to plan for increases in school-age population.

The neighborhood should also be aware of issues with the process and timing of this major planning change. The change in scope of the Silver Spring CBD Master Plan was not requested by the County Council, and could be seen as preempting the County's General Plan update (aka Thrive Montgomery 2050, due to be completed in late 2021). While the goal of the Planning Board's inquiry into "missing middle" housing is consistent with the County's "housing for all" goal in the General Plan update, focusing these changes only around the Silver Spring CBD does not meet the

General Plan's "equity lens." Zoning and housing policy need to be applied equitably throughout the County to meet the housing needs of a diverse population.

The majority of the ESSCA Board also believes the new proposal by the Planning Board is poorly timed. A change of this magnitude and significance would benefit from robust public input, which is difficult during this time of stay-at-home orders and social distancing. We have urged the County Council to delay any action on the CBD Master Plan boundary, and while the Council has not responded directly, the overall timeline for the CBD Master Plan update has been delayed at least 8 months, which should give the public more time to respond. Despite these concerns, the Planning Board's proposal for expanding the CBD planning boundary may be acted on within the next several weeks, so it's important for the neighborhood to be informed and for neighbors to express their opinions on the topic.

ESSCA will keep the neighborhood up-to-date with news as we get it. In the meantime, if you have an opinion about "missing middle" housing types, please let us know via the ESSCA list serve, our Facebook group, or send an email to esscaprez@gmail.com. You can also send your comments to:

- Tom Hucker - councilmember.hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Council President Sidney Katz - Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycounty.md.gov
- Casey Anderson, Chair of Planning Board - MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org
- Gwen Wright, Director of Planning - gwen.wright@mncppc-mc.org

ASK ME ANYTHING SERIES WITH MONTGOMERY PLANNING DIRECTOR GWEN WRIGHT

Have questions about Thrive Montgomery 2050, Montgomery County's general plan that will guide our growth and development in the next 30 years? Housing for All? Transportation? Business

Development? Parks and Environment?
Join Montgomery Planning Director
Gwen Wright for an online discussion at
these dates/times:

- Friday, May 15, 8 to 9 a.m.
- Monday, May 18, Noon to 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 20, 7 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, May 23, 2 to 3 p.m. (Spanish)

Residents can listen to the town halls
live via telephone as well by dialing
301-495-4708 and entering the password
87871111. Residents can also provide
comments at any time online, by sending
an email to [Thrive2050@montgomery-
planning.org](mailto:Thrive2050@montgomery-planning.org) or calling 301-495-4556.

GROVE ST. PEDESTRIAN / BIKING PROJECT UPDATE

The Montgomery County Dept. of
Transportation (MCDOT) is planning
a virtual public meeting for the Grove
Street Neighborhood Greenway Pilot
on Wednesday, July 15, from 7-9PM.
MCDOT will be sending out newsletters
in the near future, including an email
newsletter. If you are not already on the
mailing list please contact Matt Johnson
at Matt.Johnson@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov.

MCDOT is in the process of setting up
a website to host the materials and feed-
back opportunities for the virtual meet-
ing. The meeting materials will be post-
ed at least two weeks before the virtual
public meeting so that people can review
them ahead of time. MCDOT will also
have several feedback tools that will be
open for participation before the meet-
ing.

TASTE THE WORLD OF FENTON VILLAGE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY MAY 17-23

To ensure that community health is pro-
tected, the 10th anniversary of the TT-
WFV will be expanded to a full week,
as a carryout event – Sunday, May
17-Saturday, May 23. Instead of a taste,
patrons check the respective restaurant
websites for hours of operation and or-
der food of their choosing at the regular
price.

Everyone who orders food from a partic-
ipating Fenton Village restaurant during
that week will be eligible for a raffle
ticket to win one of three, \$50 “Fenton
Village Bucks” to use when it is safe to
dine in Fenton Village restaurants. To
enter the raffle, after placing their or-
ders, customers complete an electronic
form for each restaurant visited.

Details on participating restaurants and
raffle entry will be available the week of
May 11th on ESSCA listserv and Face-
book. Now more than ever is the time to
support our local businesses and this is
a great way to do it! You can also check
out the restaurants participating, here:
[Montgomery County Maryland.](#)



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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-deductable.
Thank you!*

President: Tim Haverland • Vice President: Tracy Vandenbroek • Treasurer: Steve Knight •
Recording Secretary: Stevan Lieberman • Corresponding Secretary: Gray Kimbrough •
Chair for Planning, Zoning & Public Works Committee: Karen Roper