



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

NOVEMBER 2014

Montgomery County District 3 Police Commander Marcus Jones will speak at our next

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, November 17, 2014

MEETING LOCATION IS THE HISTORIC B&O TRAIN STATION

8100 Georgia Avenue, just south of the Fire Station

NEW MEETING TIME: Third Monday of every other month (Sept - May) Doors open 6:45PM, Meeting starts 7:00PM

JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastsilverspringcivic>

(Include your name and street name when you send your "join request")

VISIT ESSCA'S NEW WEBSITE: www.eastsilverspring.org EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

NEW VENUE FOR SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER MEETINGS

We will hold our first two meetings this year at a new (old) venue: The historic B&O Station just south of the Fire Station on Georgia Avenue. We also intend to start meetings a little sooner than we have in the past: doors will open at 6:45 and meetings will begin at 7:00. This is a wonderful venue and we hope will join us on. Who knows, you may even be able to work in a little train spotting while you are there.

DISTRICT 3 POLICE COMMANDER MARCUS JONES AT OUR NOVEMBER 17TH MEETING

Our old Police Station on Sligo Avenue was closed and relocated to a new facility in White Oak this past May. The community will continue to be served by the new station as well as a substation in the Fire Station on Georgia Avenue. Please join us at our next meeting and hear from Commander Jones, who will talk to us on what we can expect from this new service arrangement as well as his thoughts, advice and philosophy on how to keep our neighborhood safe. It will of course be an opportunity to for the community to ask questions and provide input and feedback. We hope to see you there!

REPORT ON PROGRESS PLACE FROM OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING

At our first meeting of the new season back in September we heard from Greg Ossont and Ms. Ronnie Warner, Deputy Director and Redevelopment Manager respectively, of Montgomery County General Services Administration. Mr. Ossont and Ms. Warner gave us an update on plans for the new facility for Progress Place, currently located downtown, west of Georgia Avenue on Colonial Lane. Progress Place provides food, clothing and counseling services to the

area's homeless population. There is a plan underway to construct a new facility behind the Fire Station on Georgia Ave.

Background: In the fall of 2011 the County Executive issued an RFP to solicit proposals to build a new facility for Progress Place and in exchange would receive the old site on which the facility currently sits and would be allowed to redevelop it in accordance with the county master plan for the site. The old facility is in need of extensive renovations and the rationale behind this public-private endeavor was to leverage the value of the old site while getting a developer to build a replacement facility at no cost to the county. Washington Property Company, the developer of the high rise Solaire apartment building just north of the current Progress Place won the solicitation process.

Overview: Progress Place will continue operating at its current capacity in the new facility. The only component that will be added to the current program will be space dedicated to a winter shelter (the dining hall does double duty as a winter shelter in the existing facility). The new facility will be a 4 story building with Progress Place occupying levels 1, 2 and 3 and Personal Living Quarters (see below) housed on level 4. The building will sit partially on open area and partially on the surface parking lot behind the Fire Station at 8110 Georgia Avenue.

Personal Living Quarters Added: While the above process began to move forward, in 2012 the County Council passed a resolution allowing it to have review and oversight of all county-controlled development projects that include social services, such as daycare, housing or services for the homeless. The Progress Place project fell into this category,

and citing and need and exercising its new authority, the council requested that a housing component be incorporated into the project. Specifically, they requested personal living quarters (PLQ's) that can serve as transitional housing for those coming out of homelessness be added to the project. This will take the form of 21 PLQ's located on the top floor of the new Progress Place Building. The residents will be different from the clientele served by Progress Place and will accommodate single men and women in individual units, sized at approximately 200 square feet each and outfitted much like hotel rooms. The PLQ facility will include communal cooking facilities as well as 24 hour managerial staff. Because the PLQ's were added to the program after an agreement was reached with the private developer, the Council earmarked additional funds totaling \$3.75 million to cover the cost of their inclusion in the project.

The Stakeholders: In addition to the local homeless community Progress Place serves, additional Stakeholders impacted by the project include the adjacent B&O Railroad Station Museum to the south owned and operated by the non-profit Montgomery Preservation Inc. (MPI), the Metropolitan Branch Bike Trail (MBT) which will eventually continue north and run next to Progress Place parallel to the Metro & CSX tracks, the Silver Spring Urban District which currently uses some of the open space for storing equipment and supplies for its maintenance and upkeep tasks, the Fire, Rescue and Police Substation housed in the nearby fire station building fronting Georgia Avenue. Mr. Ossont acknowledged the site is very tight and that there will be several opportunities for stakeholder input to mitigate any negative impacts of relocating Progress Place to the new site. Some particular concerns noted during the meeting include:

- Developing an agreement with MPI to accommodate parking needs for when the B&O Station is used for events
- Reconfiguring the existing surface parking lot by maximizing the space available such that no parking spaces are lost
- Segregating ingress and egress to/from the site such that police, fire and rescue traffic are kept separate from Progress Place PLQ residents, staff and clientele as well as B&O Station visitors
- Screening and segregating MBT bike traffic
- Mitigating the negative impacts of Progress Place clientele when cueing for meals

On the last point Mr. Ossont stated that Progress Place will likely have a number of operational issues to consider, such as serving meals in shifts, such that cueing and waiting for meals does not lead to large groups of people loitering outside the facility, the entrance for which will directly face the B&O Station. Mr. Ossont said another mitigation possibility will be to accommodate waiting and cueing inside the facility.

Project Timeline & How to Learn More:

Since the County completed the agreement with Washington Properties in July, the private developer has contracted with The Preston Partnership as architect to design the new home for Progress Place. We had an opportunity to see an illustrated presentation during our meeting and this included a concept design site plan and exterior elevations. The order of operations will be for the developer to first design and construct the new Progress Place facility and have it ready for occupancy at which time they can then tear down the old facility and construct a new high rise apartment building in its place, which is currently being called Ripley II. Design for Progress Place is currently ongoing and permitting is expected to occur in the spring and summer of 2015 with construction from late 2015 to completion in early 2017. You can learn more about the new project for Progress Place, including a look at the concept design, by visiting: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DGS-BDC/SS/601401.html>

THANK YOU TO BOB COLVIN, ESSCA PRESIDENT FROM 1982 TO 2014

We gave a fitting tribute to outgoing ESSCA President Bob Colvin during our September meeting. Thank you, Bob, for your many years of service and advocacy on behalf of East Silver Spring! Bob provided a few remarks looking back at his tenure and cited his involvement with the creation of Bullis and Gateway Parks, fighting the proposed consolidation of Fire Stations 1 & 2 as well

as the proposed relocation of the Greyhound/Peter Pan Bus Station from its current corner lot to a lay-by lane on Fenton Street as some of his most significant accomplishments. In addition to his time as President, Bob has volunteered as a safety patrol officer for the Parks Department and served on the Silver Spring, Urban District and Police advisory boards. Bob said he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Jean at their farm in Virginia. Recognition also included remarks by President Megan Moriarty, a State Senate Proclamation recognizing Bob that was written and presented by Senator Jamie Raskin, and a wonderful ceramic plaque created and presented by local artisan Shelley of Shel's Studio Pottery.



BEST OF FENTON VILLAGE IS BACK!

Show your support for the small and independently owned businesses of Fenton Village. Vote for your favorite businesses in each of several categories from Saturday November 29th to December 31st 2014. Winners will be announced in early 2015. In addition to ESSCA, co-sponsors include the Silver Spring Regional Center, Taste the World of Fenton Village and Buy Local Silver Spring. Thanks to Karen Burditt for her efforts in coordinating Best of Fenton. You can vote online after November 29th at www.bestof.fentonvillage.org

GATEWAY PARK ART REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The reviewing committee has met and requested proposals from three artists to replace the now-removed Criss Cross sculpture that stood in Gateway Park at the intersection of Fenton, Burlington and Philadelphia. ESSCA has provided information about the community and its history for inclusion in the proposal packet. Proposals will be due November 28th and a public meeting to review the artist submissions will be December 4th in the evening at the Civic Building (room and time TBD—keep an eye on the list serve for details). Megan Moriarty and Nancy Gurganus continue to be involved and represent ESSCA in this process.

OUR NEW ESSCA WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING!

One of Megan's priorities for ESSCA was to bring us into the 21st century with a website. While we have been well-served and will continue to employ the popular YahooGroups Listserve, we needed a central place to collect

and navigate information on the neighborhood. If you haven't already, please check out the website at www.eastsilverspring.org. It includes basic information on board member profiles, membership, ESSCA boundaries and meetings, copies of our constitution and by-laws as well as an archive for our newsletters. Other items under development include a calendar for community activities, web links to county services, Silver Spring Advisory Board and Regional Center, as well as a map and information on local development projects. Long time residents and ESSCA members Mark Paster and Tim Haverland have graciously volunteered their time developing the website. Please take a look and keep in mind, this is a work in progress. Your ideas, suggestions and feedback will be greatly appreciated!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER NEWSLETTER

Thank you to Betsy Taylor for her years of service in coordinating the volunteer delivery program for The Advocate. After nearly 20 years seeing that over 1,100 copies of our newsletter is distributed to a handful of volunteers who in turn see that it makes its way to every single family home within ESSCA boundaries Betsy and husband Al are stepping back from the coordination position this fall. Betsy, we truly appreciate your many hours of selfless service on behalf of the residents of ESSCA and we wish you and Al the best as you pursue other interests in your new-found spare time! The above said, we of course now find ourselves in need of volunteers to help deliver The Advocate. If you are able to help lend an hour or two every other month to deliver the newsletter please contact Nancy Gurganus at 301-585-3726.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING ESSCA!

We Are Your Civic Association. Membership dues allow us to print and deliver this newsletter, beautify our neighborhood and our parks, work on other issues beneficial to the community, including working with local developers for better projects, parking permits and monitoring neighborhood crime and safety issues.

WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP WE COULD IMPROVE ON THESE EFFORTS & DO A LOT MORE.

Annual ESSCA dues are \$10/family. Dues cover each meeting season, from September to May. Please pay at our next meeting, or send a check (payable to ESSCA) to Steve Knight, ESSCA Treasurer, 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!