



East Silver Spring Civic Association

NOVEMBER 2021

Please join us for the next East Silver Spring Civic Association (ESSCA) meeting on Saturday, November 13, 2021, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM

This is an outdoor social meeting. Please see the details below.

JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <https://groups.io/g/eastsilverspringcivic>

JOIN ESSCA'S Facebook Group: [East Silver Spring Citizens' Association](#)

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

QUICK LINKS

[Join ESSCA as a member or renew your membership. It's free!](#)

ESSCA OUTDOOR SOCIAL MEETING IS SATURDAY NOV 13!

Join us for our November meeting at a special time and location: Saturday, November 13, from 3:00 to 4:30 in the public plaza in front of 801 Sligo Ave. Guests include Jacob Newman, the new Director of the Silver Spring Regional Services Center, and a representative from the soon-to-open Kiddie Academy on Sligo Ave. We also hope to welcome new neighbors, including those who have moved into the Artspace building and adjacent townhouses. There will be snacks and hot drinks--bring your own mug!

In the event of rain on Saturday, we will communicate via the ESSCA listserv and facebook and hold the meeting on Sunday, November 14 from 3:00 to 4:30.

ESSCA MEMBERSHIP IS NOW FREE!

The recent change to the ESSCA Constitution approved by membership

means mandatory payment of dues is no longer a requirement for ESSCA membership. Because we will continue to be a membership-based organization folks will need to register each year to be considered active members. All other aspects of membership will remain the same:

- An active membership in ESSCA entitles all adults aged 18 years and older residing in the ESSCA neighborhood a vote in ESSCA elections and on special issues that may arise from time to time.

- Membership is not required to attend meetings, receive ESSCA communications and notices or to participate in ESSCA-sponsored events and programs.

You can join ESSCA by [visiting our Join Us page](#) (those who joined in September are already current members; all other members should sign up now). Once you sign up and are approved, you'll automatically get a free membership that will last one year from your first login. We'll send you a reminder when your membership needs to be renewed.

While there is no cost for ESSCA membership, we welcome modest contributions to cover our expenses for in-person and virtual meetings, printed and

email communications, website maintenance and fun programs like ESSCAfest. [The suggested contribution is \\$10 per household per year but any amount is welcome.](#)

MEMBERSHIP LENGTH REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDING OFFICE RETAINED

In our September voting, the one-year membership requirement for holding office was retained. With this requirement in place it's more important than ever to [become a member today \(it's free!\)](#).

JOIN ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES

Attention all champions of East Silver Spring. We need your brilliance! The chairs of our three committees could use your creativity, effort and love of East Silver Spring to continue to shape our neighborhood. We have three committees with three Chairs looking for your support.

Lima Abdullah, chair of the Welcoming Committee, is looking for 5-8 people who love helping build a sense of community through diverse and inclusive events, recruitment efforts of new ESSCA members,

and forging important connections between all residents of East Silver Spring. [To let Lima know you can contribute to the Welcoming Committee, fill out our interest form here.](#)

Luke Jones, chair of the Environment Committee, is looking for 3-5 nature lovers to help the committee with cleanup events, greening our local businesses, maintaining public green spaces and waterways, promoting green infrastructure investments, increasing awareness of local environmental issues, and helping achieve environmentally friendly legal and policy changes! We have an ambitious agenda to encourage individual and collective action that makes our community a more resilient, beautiful, healthy, enriching, and civically active place to live now and in the future. [To let Luke know you can contribute to the Environment Committee fill our interest form here.](#)

Dan Reed, chair of the Planning Committee, is looking for 2-3 team members who can monitor county policy and communicate needs, plans and opportunities around our built environment, keeping East Silver Spring a place that is safe, easy to navigate and inclusive. [To let Dan know you can contribute to the Planning Committee fill out our interest form here.](#)

Committee Chairs will staff their committees from those expressing interest. We want to keep the committee teams small and manageable, and make sure members have enough work to make their participation worthwhile.

This ESSCA year is a great time to build the connections in our neighborhood, strengthen our community voices and get involved. Reach out to the committee chairs and [join a committee today.](#)

REPORT FROM OUR SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING

At our September meeting we heard from the development team behind 713-719 Sligo

Avenue, which revealed their latest design for a building that would have 98 one, two, and three-bedroom apartments for low-income households. Their next step is getting a zoning text amendment (see below in Planning Notes)

Hannah McCann, ESSCA's voting tabulator (Thanks, Hannah!), presented results of the two constitution/by-laws amendments. A two-thirds majority is required to pass amendments.

Question 1: Should any current member be allowed to hold an ESSCA Board position, regardless of length of membership?

For: 72 (63%) Against: 42 (27%)

The amendment did not pass and the membership length requirement is retained.

Question 2: Should membership in ESSCA be free?

For: 85 (75%) Against: 29 (25%)

The amendment passed. Membership in ESSCA is now free!

PLANNING NOTES

Last month, county planners presented their recommendations for the Silver Spring Downtown Plan, which would guide how the area grows and changes over the next 20 years. Some of their recommendations include: redeveloping existing parking garages to provide homes, open space, and some parking; encouraging small-scale retail; allowing duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes between Fenton and Grove streets where some already exist today; and creating more places to walk and bike safely.

You can give your feedback at a public hearing (online or in person) on December 2. To learn more or sign up, [visit the Planning Department's website.](#)

In other news: Earlier this month, the Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed zoning text amendment 21-07, that

would allow all-affordable housing developments to be a little bigger and taller than otherwise allowed in that area. One of the sites this would impact is 713-719 Sligo Avenue, which today could not be built as tall as the 6-story apartment buildings next door and across the street. [The Planning Board recommended](#) that the County Council vote to approve it.

How much is community worth to you?

Membership in ESSCA is now free so we will rely on your voluntary contributions to fund our events and outreach. Your community can be improved with just a \$10 donation. Seriously, that's it! Your \$10 enables ESSCA to maintain a website, and host 5 public meetings a year. And don't forget ESSCA Fest and other events.

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. Send a check payable to ESSCA to Steve Knight at 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!

ESSCA Officers:

President: Tim Haverland

Vice President: Dan Reed

Treasurer: Steve Knight

Recording Secretary: May Piekarski

Corresponding Secretary:
Gray Kimbrough

Welcoming Chair: Lima Abdullah
Planning Chair: Dan Reed

Environment Chair: Luke Jones

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Food Assistance - Seniors, call the County's Aging and Disability Services at 240-777-3000 or call 311.

Adventist Community Services - Located at 501 Sligo Ave, our local food pantry is available to provide food assistance to all. They also welcome donations at all times of shelf-stable foods (no glass) with their outside collection bin near the entrance. Ken Flemmer, Director of the food bank, is grateful to the community for cash donations as well. They can be reached 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

Rental Assistance – Call 311 or visit the [County Dept. of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Rent Relief Program Phase 2](#)

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