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**East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.**

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January 2013

**Joey Lampl with Montgomery County Department of Parks  
will speak at our next**

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

**MEETING DATE: MONDAY, January 21, 2013**

**REGULAR MEETING PLACE--SLIGO URBAN RECREATION BUILDING**

500 Sligo Avenue, at corner of Piney Branch Road; parking lot entrance is on Valley Street

**REGULAR MEETING DATE: Third Monday of month (September – May)**

Doors open 7:00 pm—Meeting starts 7:30 pm

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

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

**MS. JOEY LAMPL WITH MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS** will speak at our January meeting. An architectural historian, Ms. Lampl is the Cultural Resources Manager in the Planning and Stewardship Division. She will give a presentation on the Parks Department program to protect, maintain and interpret county historical park resources. If you want to learn more about these resources, please join us. Of particular interest to some may be learning more about the currently vacant historic *Moorings Mansion* located in the middle of Jesup Blair Park at Georgia Avenue and the DC boundary line.

**AGENDA FOR JAN. 15 MEETING:** 7:30-7:45: introductions/news items; 7:45-8:30: Joey Lampl with Montgomery County Department of Parks, followed by questions/answers; 8:30-8:45: new business/issues; 8:45: adjournment.

**LAST MONTH WE HEARD ABOUT CRIME PREVENTION** in the ESSCA area. Our speakers were Lt. Hattenburg and Officer Joy Patil from the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Police Station on Sligo Avenue. Some of the issues they spoke to were various strategies protecting against the criminal activity in our neighborhoods.

**Theft from vehicles.** Very often this is opportunistic. People just walking through the neighborhood, checking car door handles and looking inside. Most often they will NOT break into a vehicle unless they see something of supposed value. BUT they will rummage a vehicle if the door is left unlocked and take whatever they find. A DC officer explained theft from vehicles like a stray cat. If you keep feeding it, the cat will keep coming back. Same with theft from vehicles. If a criminal finds the area an easy target, they'll keep coming back. Lock the doors! Remove items of value from visibility! Take GPS mounts down and hide other accessory items as well.

**Burglary.** We did see a pattern of burglary spike before Christmas. The detectives do have suspects for at least some of the burglaries, as they may not have been the same group, rather overlapping groups in the Silver Spring area. Search warrants and arrest warrants are pending, so until then I am unable to disclose more information. As a reminder, we do offer free home security surveys to look for vulnerable points in your home. You can email: [Joy.Patil@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Joy.Patil@montgomerycountymd.gov) to get a security survey scheduled.

**Staffing.** Currently we do have our allotted number of officers, but staffing levels can fluctuate,

PRESIDENT: BOB COLVIN, VICE PRESIDENT: RUSSELL SHEW, TREASURER: STEVE KNIGHT,  
RECORDING SECRETARY: NANCY GURGANUS, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: JANE GORBATY,  
CHAIR FOR PLANNING, ZONING & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: KAREN ROPER

which is why we rely on residents to notify us when suspicious situations occur. Please call the non-emergency number when you feel police response is needed. 301-279-8000.

To check local crime activity, go to: **crimereport.com** and put in your address.

**Definitions:**

- a. Robbery – a confrontation with another person who threatens or forcibly takes your property. (usually thought of as a street robbery)
- b. Burglary – an unoccupied home/apartment that a criminal breaks into (either by force or by crossing the threshold) to take property with no confrontation. (Typical daytime burglary scenario.)
- c. Home Invasion Robbery – a criminal breaks into a home and commits a robbery of the person(s) in the home. (Much less common, usually nighttime, and usually committed if they know illegal or valuable items are in the home.)
- d. Occupied Burglary – a criminal breaks into a home, steals items and never has an interaction or a confrontation with a person. (Much less common, usually nighttime, and usually entry is made through open/unlocked doors or windows.)

**REGARDING NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNITY**, we have a few updates from our September newsletter. Specifically, we had community meetings for three of the development projects in the community in December. Here are brief updates:

- **900 Thayer Avenue**, formerly **The Adele**, is located at the corner of Thayer Ave. and Fenton St. The developers and design team gave a presentation the evening of December 6th. They are revising the original 8-story office/residential/retail building with amendments to the original project and site plans previously submitted. The new project will be 6 stories with a substantial setback for the uppermost floor fronting Fenton St. The building will have 125 rental apartment units, 5,700 square feet of retail on the ground level. There will also be 68 underground parking spaces and covered loading accessed from the alley opening onto Fenton Street.
- **Studio Plaza** is located in the County Parking Lot 3 block, bounded by Thayer, Silver Spring and Georgia Aves. and Fenton St. The developer and design team gave a design update to the community on Dec. 13th. The massing, disposition on the site, courtyard and number of units remain the same. The U-shaped building will be 11 stories tall, run the entire length of the block from Silver Spring to Thayer Aves. and frame a courtyard facing east in the middle of the block. This is part one of a phased project and will include 415 rental apartments and some retail fronting Thayer Ave. Pedestrian and vehicular access for residents will be from Silver Spring Ave. and access to below grade public parking will be on the south side of the courtyard. Minor changes were made to the exterior facades since the last iteration. A public hearing with the Planning Board will take place in early February.
- **The Bonifant Street senior housing** will be adjacent to the new Library site and will front both Bonifant St. and an open area on the corner of Fenton & Bonifant Sts. We heard from the development team and designers at a community meeting on December 17th. The open area on the corner is there primarily for the planned Purple Line right-of-way and will include a landscaped plaza to be contiguous with the Library plaza. This project will be 11 stories tall and will contain approximately 130 moderately priced apartments, primarily for senior citizens. There will be ground level retail fronting both the plaza and Bonifant St. plus about 35 below grade parking spaces. The parking plus an alley to service and loading areas in the rear will be accessed from Bonifant St. They have filed their final site plan and a hearing should be within the next 2 months.
- **The Baptist Church site** on Fenton St. between Bonifant St. and Wayne Ave. will be the site of a mixed used project with rental apartment housing and ground level retail. The developer filed for final site plan approval and there should be a hearing in the next couple of months.

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ESSCA DUES?** If not or if you are unsure if you are up to date, please contact our Treasurer, Steve Knight. Dues are \$10 per household per membership year, which runs from September through the summer. Payment can be mailed to 808 Violet Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910.