



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

JANUARY 2015

Informal networking and dinner at our next
EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING

MEETING DATE: Monday, January 19, 2015

JANUARY MEETING PLACE: PETE'S NEW HAVEN PIZZA

962 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring MD - (301) 588-7383 - petesapizza.com

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SOMETHING FUN AND DIFFERENT FOR OUR JANUARY MEETING!

Neighborhood Meet and Greet at Pete's New Haven Pizza! We will not have a formal agenda for this meeting. This will be a chance to meet some new neighbors, catch up with old ones and tell us what is on your mind. Why not make a night of it and bring your kids? *Pizza and drinks available for purchase.* We hope to see you there!

**MONDAY JANUARY 19TH, 2014
7:00 TO 9:00 PM - PETE'S PIZZA
962 WAYNE AVENUE, SILVER SPRING**

REPORT ON REMARKS BY THIRD DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER MARCUS JONES FROM OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

We had the opportunity to hear from Captain Marcus Jones, who took the position of Commander for our Third District County Police force a little over 6 months ago. We learned a bit about Captain Jones, who has over 30 years experience with the County Police, some history and helpful information about the 3rd District, its new headquarters in White Oak and what occurs at the District Substation housed in the Fire Station on Georgia Avenue.

The Third District includes the residences and businesses of East Silver Spring and our central business district. It otherwise covers the eastern sliver of the county, abutting the District and Takoma Park to the south, Prince George's County to the east and Howard County to the north. It is the busiest district of the 6 that comprise the County and it has 3

lieutenants and nearly 180 officers. Located on Sligo Avenue for almost 55 years, the station that serves as its headquarters relocated to a new facility more at the district's geographic center at 1002 Milestone Drive near the intersection of Route 29 and New Hampshire Avenue in White Oak this past May. Captain Jones explained that all 180 officers are permanently assigned to the Third District and that they are either assigned to specific beats (where a balance is struck between keeping them on the same beat to gain familiarity with the community and reassignments as needed to maintain appropriate staff levels) or they are assigned to other units responsible for particular issues, such as the Traffic Squad or the Special Projects Group, which handles issues such as crowd control for special events.

The Third District has an East Silver Spring Sub-Station housed above the Fire Station on Georgia Avenue near Sligo. The Sub-Station has no signage visible to the public and it is not regularly staffed, currently only providing office space when needed by officers on patrol for breaks, conducting interviews and writing reports. Captain Jones has a vision to more fully staff the Sub-Station on a regular basis with a dedicated lieutenant and a couple of full time civil aides who can staff the front desk to handle walk-ins, inquiries and other functions. Many in the community agree a more serviceable and accessible Sub-Station is needed in East Silver Spring, one of the most populated areas of the County.

Crime in the area has seen some recent trends on which Captain Jones reported. Severe offenses (such as murder and sexual assault)

are down in the area. Furthermore, robberies, or the direct taking of property from a person (and not to be confused with burglary) is also down. Burglaries as well as thefts from cars in or near downtown are unfortunately up. Captain Jones noted, however, that arrests of individuals responsible for several of these have been made recently. He furthermore stated that oftentimes there are trends where individuals can be responsible for a noticeable uptick in crime activity with repeated offenses in the same area. This is especially true with burglaries, where individuals will spend time casing a neighborhood for repeat opportunities. By way of examples, there was an increase in burglaries on or near Flower Avenue between this past June and November as well as a recent increase in thefts from cars parked in downtown parking garages. In both instances arrests of individuals suspected of being responsible (in one instance the individuals were caught in the act) and a noticeable drop in activity occurred immediately after in both instances. Captain Jones noted there has been no change in crime activity since the station relocated earlier this year. He also noted that the County publishes crime statistics once a year in January/February. Furthermore, the police can prepare statistics for specific neighborhoods on request. Officer Joy Patill serves as the Third District Community Service Officer and is available as a point of contact for the community. The non-emergency number for the police is 240-773-6800.

A few of those attending the meeting had questions and concerns regarding reporting local crime activity to the community. Specifically, requesting that police do a better

job of reporting what goes on so that we can be better prepared to prevent future occurrences. Captain Jones responded that he and his force would like to improve on sharing information with the community, but that they, and in particular Officer Patill, are overstretched in this area and need help. He also stated that he has plans to hire an additional dedicated crime analyst, who will hopefully be able to help in this area.

REDEVELOPMENT OF SLIGO AVENUE POLICE STATION SITE

We understand the County plans to announce a winning bid in response to the solicitation to redevelop the old Police Station headquarters site at the corner of Sligo Avenue and Grove Street. Requests for proposals to holistically redevelop the site with housing incorporating components that will reinforce the visual arts (with perhaps galleries, classrooms or studios) went to several development firms in the fall and we understand a decision and selection of one proposal will come in late January. ESSCA will provide updates as well as work with the County and the selected developer to create opportunities for community input on this important site bridging the central business district and residential areas.



BEST OF FENTON VILLAGE III

Voting by the community in this third annual contest to show support for our local small independent business community started on National Shop Local Day (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) and ended on December 31st. We are currently compiling the list of winners and an announcement will be made on the listserve soon. Please stay tuned: we will also provide an announcement on the upcoming awards ceremony. Last year's was a very nice gathering hosted by Kefa Café and attendees included Executive Ike Leggett and Council Member Marc Elrich as well as many owners and patrons of the businesses in Fenton Village, which number well over 200.

GATEWAY PARK ART REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Three artists were selected to present in early December to the reviewing committee their proposals for replacing the now-removed Criss Cross sculpture that stood in Gateway Park at the intersection of Fenton, Burlington

and Philadelphia. The artist selected is Michael Enn Sirvet and his winning entry will be an installation inspired by the agricultural roots of the area by evoking the lacy canopies of trees in an apple orchard. "Red Orchard Wall" will interpret this concept in a manner also complimentary of modern Silver Spring with a smooth perforated, curvilinear, serpentine painted metal wall approximately 7' tall and 20' long. We generally expect for the piece to be completed and installed this coming spring, but will continue to communicate with County officials and will provide updates as they become available. Thanks to Megan Moriarty and Nancy Gurganus for following this closely for well over a year and for serving on the selection committee.

THE PURPLE LINE

As most of you know Governor-Elect Hogan has stated he will not take a position on whether or not to support the Purple Line until he takes office in January. At the time of our writing this newsletter, no such position has been made clear to us. ESSCA is continuing its advocacy and negotiations with the County, State and MTA to make sure that the building of the Purple Line is state of the art and equitable to all communities, in particular doing what we can to mitigate negative impacts to the homes and businesses that will be directly affected by the project, both during construction and after completion. We have, accordingly, written a letter to the Hogan-Rutherford Transition Team outlining a series of impacts that we feel have gotten scant attention in the debate so far. Issues include:

- Ensuring transparency and community-wide equity on how the projected \$58 million annual maintenance budget will be funded
- Ensuring the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) includes mitigation of noise, traffic, visual obstructions, pedestrian safety and environmental impacts in affected communities east of 16th Street in the solicitation to project bidders, much as it has to communities west of 16th Street
- Finding ways to address the financial losses many businesses will face during and after construction, most notably the nearly two dozen small and independent businesses on Bonifant Street east of Georgia Avenue

BAPTIST CHURCH PROJECT UPDATE

When we last reported on progress for this mixed use multi-family project planned for the east side of Fenton Street between Wayne and Bonifant we were told demolition of the church and other existing structures would likely start in October of 2014. We understand now that negotiations with the effected parish

communities has taken longer than expected, but that work will hopefully commence in early 2015. There is some other activity currently, including consultants doing survey work for the demolition work as well as proposed utility improvements.

5K BENEFIT FUN RUN ANNOUNCED

Leo's Run, a 5k run/walk in downtown Silver Spring, has been set up to honor the stillborn son of Caroline Joyce and Mike Mowery, and will take place on February 1, 2015. The run will begin and end at East Silver Spring Elementary School (631 Silver Spring Ave). Proceeds from the 5k will go to Leo's Garden, a non-profit whose aspirations include starting a scholarship for children whose parents have experienced pre-natal loss (i.e. the recipient will have lost a sibling), and supporting and sponsoring creative and artistic activities or therapies such as yoga, art, and outdoor education as a means of promoting the well-being of families who have suffered still birth or other tragic loss. More information is available at the following website: www.leosrun.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER NEWSLETTER

We are still 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 or if you would be interested in helping us coordinate the distribution to our volunteers, please contact Nancy Gurganus by phone at 301-585-3726 or by email at nancy.gurganus@gmail.com.

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!