



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

JANUARY 2020

Please join us for the next
EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING
MEETING DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 27th, 2020

MEETING LOCATION IS THE HISTORIC B&O TRAIN STATION • 8100 Georgia Avenue, just south of the Fire Station

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

VISIT ESSCA'S NEW WEBSITE: <https://eastsilverspring.org/> EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

HEAR ABOUT THE UPCOMING EAST SILVER SPRING MASTERPLAN REVISION PROCESS AT OUR NEXT MEETING

This spring the Montgomery County Planning will begin the year(s) long process of updating the Silver Spring Master Plan. Master Plans are updated approximately every 20 years. If you would like to understand what to expect when a master plan is opened for review and updating, what parts of the Silver Spring Plan will be opened and how you can participate in this process, come to our meeting. Atara Margolies, RA, LEED AP and Planner Coordinator for Area One (the area within the Capital Beltway), will review the upcoming master plan process and explain the opportunities for community participation.

PLANS FOR THREE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY PROJECTS

On Tuesday January 21st there will be a long-awaited meeting to learn about three pedestrian/biking studies and projects that concern Fenton and Grove Streets. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation will describe their studies for a protected bike lane on Fenton Street, a "neighborhood greenway" on Grove Street, and a pedestrian safety improvement project at the intersection of Fenton Street, Burlington and Philadelphia Avenues. This meeting will take place at East Silver Spring Elementary at 631 Silver Spring Avenue and run from 7 to 9 PM on the 21st. If you are not able to make it to this meeting or you received our newsletter after the fact, please join us at the ESSCA meeting for a recap of

issues, questions and concerns raised at the presentation.

A POEM

We thought a nice way to start the New Year would be with a poem by East Silver Spring resident Clara B. Jones, inspired by Koiner Urban Farm:

Eggplant

*It caught me by surprise—
my time lineated like a poem,
old age unsettling
like finding a large, beige bone near
the eggplant, garden's loam burial
ground for secrets exposed
by wind and rain or time
truncated as surely as Fall was
shortened last year by the
early chill that froze the pond
near Sligo but not enough to skate.*

*It caught me by surprise—
recalling a regret or two, but
what did I expect
after so many apologies felt
rather than spoken, so many
beginnings imagined but not realized—
like eggplant withering in cold air
rather than in a pot of ratatouille simmering
like chances lost, close enough to touch?*

WE HEARD FROM COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER EVAN GLASS AT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

Elected in 2018, At-Large Council Member Evan Glass was on hand for a general introduction, discussion of

issues he has been working on and to answer questions about those issues. Mr. Glass serves on the Transportation and Environment Committee and on the Health and Human Services Committee where he is the group's point person on homeless and vulnerable communities. Mr. Glass represents the Council on the Regional Council of Governments Transportation Caucus and he is our representative to the National Association of Counties on their transportation committee and also serves on their large and urban county caucus.

Evan's staff is comprised of a majority of women of color. He has worked to omit questions about salary history from the County employment hiring process because they are found to perpetuate pay gaps and inequities amongst historically disenfranchised groups. The Montgomery County Equity Pay Act was his first piece of legislation passed by the Council.

Evan has an interest in public transportation, having been part of a one car household all the way up to running for the Council. He helped expand RideOn Bus's Kids Ride Free program, which previously allowed students to ride buses free on weekday afternoons from 2 to 8 PM only. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget was increased so students can now ride free anytime to help cover their transportation for after school programs.

A primary focus for Mr. Glass this year is the Housing Impact Fairness Act, which he introduced to the Council in October with co-sponsorship by Council Member Will Jawando. Planning officials have stated that the Washington region will need to

build 300,000 new housing units in the next 10 years to keep pace with projected growth. In Montgomery County schools are overcrowded and 4 clusters currently have a moratorium in place calling for no new housing units until those conditions are eased. These clusters include Blair and Einstein High Schools. In 1986 the County introduced impact fees on new multi-family residential developments to help fund schools and transportation; however, individual single-family homes (not part of large development projects) and tear downs were exempt.

The typical tear down project in Montgomery County for the last 10 years has involved tearing down an existing post-war house averaging 1,700 square feet at a value of \$700,000 and replacing it with one averaging 4,200 square feet at a cost of \$1.75 million. Approximately half of these projects are in Bethesda and the remainder scattered evenly in Rockville, Kensington, Chevy Chase, Silver Spring and other areas in the County. Mr. Glass stated these types of projects add much more to student generation rates than multi-family projects. It is estimated that approximately 225 homes are torn down and replaced each year in Montgomery County and that an impact fee would generate approximately \$10 million annually for schools and the County's affordable housing fund. Mr. Glass added that the County has pledged to add \$100 million to the affordable housing fund and to date this is the only proposal put forth to help meet that goal. Mr. Glass noted the two things that would trigger this impact fee on tear downs would be a demolition permit and a project that demolishes more than 50% of an existing structure. There would be no such fee levied on additions and significant home renovation projects. A hearing on the Housing Impact Fairness Act took place on December 3rd and has been sent back to the Government Operations Committee for further consideration.

When asked about plans to address the current building moratorium, Mr. Glass reminded us of the work-around amendment that was passed last year allowing work on blighted properties and projects that would add significantly to the affordable housing supply to proceed. The project to turn the office building at the corner of Sligo Avenue and Fenton Street is an example.

Mr. Glass mentioned the recent appointment of Marcus Jones as Police Chief who has been charged with stepping up community policing. Mr. Glass noted that in the District officers are assigned to community and neighborhood list serves and would like to see that happen here.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

- **The Kiddie Academy** is working with Planning Staff to make tweaks to their proposed project. Plans to turn the vacant former veterinary clinic on Sligo Avenue into a daycare center are still in process.
- **Quality Time**, the daycare center at the corner of Georgia and Sligo Avenues, is proposing to make a 3-story addition in the parking lot beside their building. The proposal would include a rooftop play area and would expand their capacity by 140 children.
- **Studio Plaza II** plans are in the works. This will be the second phase of the multi-family project in the block bounded by Fenton St., Georgia, Thayer and Silver Spring Avenues. The proposed multi-story building will primarily occupy the middle of the block with wings reaching out to front on Silver Spring and Fenton and will comprise approximately 400 apartments and some street level retail.
- **Nolte Park Community Garden** is moving forward. The old park building was torn down last year to make way for a wheelchair-accessible garden and we understand County Parks is targeting this spring for opening. We will post updates to the list serve when we learn more about how those interested can sign up for a space. We hear spaces are available at the Fenton/Burlington community garden as well.
- **We are working with Progress Place** on scheduling a tour and meal with clients this winter. Please keep an eye on our Facebook feed and List Serve for more information.
- **The County's regulations on Accessory Dwelling Units** go into effect this year. To learn more please visit <https://buff.ly/39RiRGJ> or call 311.
- **The 2020 US Census** will be underway this spring. Local officials are undertaking a big effort to get the word out on the value of participating in the census. An accurate count means an increased share of federal funds for important programs in our community. It is estimated that Silver Spring is about

25% undercounted. If you are interested in helping ensure everyone in our community is counted you can volunteer by contacting the Silver Spring Regional Service Center. See the link below for details.

• **The Montgomery County Point in Time Homeless Count** takes place on January 22nd and 23rd. This is an annual count of people experiencing homelessness in sheltered and unsheltered environments. If interested in helping you must register by January 20th. Please contact HHSPIT@montgomerycountymd.gov or check out <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness/> to learn more.

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/

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-deductible.
Thank you!*