



MARCH 2022

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QUICK LINKS

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

ESSCA March 21 meeting @7pm - [registration is required via Zoom](#)

MARCH MEETING - SLIGO AVE SAFETY

At our next ESSCA meeting on March 21, we're going to talk about Sligo Avenue. In many ways, Sligo Avenue is the "Main Street" of East Silver Spring: it runs roughly through the center of the neighborhood; it's a major Ride On bus route; it's home to several local businesses and community organizations; and is a key walking route for students at East Silver Spring Elementary and Takoma Park Middle. The street is also home to several new or future developments, including Artspace, the new daycare center, and proposed apartments at 713-719 Sligo and 850 Sligo.

However, it isn't always a safe or comfortable place to get around, especially if you're walking, riding a bike or scooter, or using a mobility device like a wheelchair. The road is signed for 30 miles per hour, though some drivers travel much faster. According to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, between 2015 and 2019, there have been over 20 crashes along Sligo Avenue between Georgia Avenue and Piney Branch Road, five of which involved someone walking or riding a bicycle.

How can we make Sligo Avenue a safer place to get around? In the long term, Montgomery County DOT needs to do a traffic study and

identify changes that could both improve safety and calm traffic. This can include many things, like wider sidewalks, high-visibility crosswalks, and curb extensions. But first, we need to understand how people use Sligo Avenue, and what works or doesn't work for them. That's the information the ESSCA board hopes to collect over the next several months, beginning with our meeting next Monday. [You can also fill out our five-minute survey here.](#) (en Español). Later this year, we hope to host a "walk audit," where community members walk the street and identify potential safety issues.

We'll see you at the meeting - unless we see you on Sligo Avenue first!

JANUARY WEEK OF SERVICE RECAP

Our week of service inspired by MLK Jr. Day, was a huge success, in part because we worked collaboratively with a number of organizations including East Silver Spring ES PTA, Girl Scouts, Shepherd's Table, and more.

Here's the impact of MLK Week of service by the numbers:

- We collected more than 20 bags of trash throughout the community.
- Made more than 100 cards for seniors living in nursing homes to show that we care and are all connected.
- Gathered more than four SUVs full of donated clothes, dozens of furniture items, and more than 50 bags of household goods for newly-arrived

families from Afghanistan and others in transitional housing.

- Helped raise money for families impacted by the fire at the Flower Branch Apartments.
- Helped offer dozens of meals for families in our community.
- Reflected thoughtfully on community service and the ways large and small we can continue to serve throughout the year by volunteering, reading more about important issues, and working with our community on important causes.

The week's show of community was beautiful. Thank you to the amazing members of our community who participated in and volunteered during the MLK Week of Service.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR BOARD POSITIONS

Shape the destiny of your community! We are looking for leaders from East Silver Spring to play the critical roles of ESSCA board members. The five roles, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary are integral to ensuring all neighbors have a voice in our neighborhood, and the neighborhood has a voice in Montgomery County.

If you are an inspired individual with vision and a thirst for civic life, **please contact the Nomination Coordinator, Pete Tan, through call/text at 813-240-3887 or email**

at petetan@silverspringinc.com. Send in your nomination by the **April 16 deadline**. Early candidates will be announced at the March 21 meeting. The final nomination list will be included in the ESSCA newsletter one week prior to our May 16 meeting and election.

After several years of service, Treasurer Steve Knight does not intend to seek reelection. If you are interested in learning more about what this position entails, please feel free to email Steve at ESSCATreasurer@gmail.com. President Tim Haverland is also not seeking reelection after four years of service in this position. If you're interested in what the President position is all about, please contact Tim at esscaprez@gmail.com.

Candidates for Board positions must have been a member during the prior year (2020-2021) or any previous year. If you are new to ESSCA this year (2021-2022) we welcome your service! We have three great committees (Welcoming, Planning, Environment) for you to serve on. Please let us know how you can help by [filling out our Committee Interest Form](#).

No matter how long you've been an ESSCA member, you will be welcomed as a valuable contributor and part of the ESSCA team.

ESSCAFest May 7

Our annual neighborhood party celebrating Spring and the creativity of our community will be on Saturday, May 7. Mark your calendars, and if you have a talent you'd like to share with your neighbors, please contact Tim Haverland at esscaprez@gmail.com. Dance, music, poetry, stand-up comedy ... every talent is welcome from all ages.

We also could use some volunteers to help with planning, setup, and cleanup. Thanks!



PLANNING NOTES

Plans are moving forward for a new apartment building at 713-719 Sligo Avenue, and representatives from the developer shared them with community members at a meeting March 2.

The building would replace what is currently a junkyard near the intersection of Sligo and Ritchie avenues. It would have 98 one, two, and three-bedroom apartments, all of which are set aside for households making half the area's median income (or roughly \$50,000/year). There will be one floor of underground parking, and the developers worked with the county on a traffic and parking study to assess the necessary number of parking spaces. It'll also include a community meeting space that will be available for local groups to use (including ESSCA). In front of the building along Sligo Avenue there will be a new, wider sidewalk.

Throughout the property there will be landscaping with native plants designed to do active stormwater management, collecting and filtering water so it does not run down to Silver Spring as happens today. The development team is also working to preserve a large hickory tree at the rear of the property.

This project was originally proposed in 2018. Over the past several months, members of the ESSCA board as well as immediate neighbors have met with the developers to help them refine and improve the building's design. Next up, the developers will submit plans to the Planning Department for review and approval.

For more information, you can see [the slides from the meeting](#) or contact Heather Dlhopsky at hdlhopolsky@wiregill.com or 301/263-6275.

ENVIRONMENT NOTES

ESSCA Environment Committee - VINE PATROL

Do you have [English ivy](#) growing on any trees in your yard? Because it is winter and English ivy is evergreen, you can easily see if it's growing on one of your trees. It forms a thick green wrap around the tree starting from the base and climbing up the trunk, sometimes all the way to the top! It might even be lurking in your back yard or in the alley behind your house.

If you have English ivy on your trees, you have a potential BIG HEADACHE on your hands! Left unchecked, the ivy will kill the tree, you will lose its shade, and you may have a big bill to pay to take it down when it dies.

The GOOD NEWS is you can prevent this by [removing the English Ivy](#) from the tree, and it is easy to do!

The East Silver Spring Civic Association Environment Committee organizes vine removals throughout our community - [join our committee for invites!](#)

[English ivy](#) is an evergreen, perennial woody vine that can grow up to 100 feet tall and currently threatens trees on private property and our public natural areas. And you likely have it growing in your own yard because it has been, and continues to be, sold as a "low-maintenance" groundcover across the United States. As an invasive groundcover, English ivy outcompetes other [native groundcovers](#) that would support [essential pollinators](#) and [insects that feed birds and other wildlife](#). It also [harbors lots of mosquitos](#).

English ivy becomes even more hazardous and invasive when it climbs trees and other structures. The mature ivy will eventually smother your tree, leading to the big bill to remove it and the loss of its shade. As it matures, it produces berries which the birds then spread into natural areas where other trees can be killed and food sources and habitat for birds and insects are eliminated. It will easily spread to your neighbor's trees, your neighbor's garden, your neighborhood park, and virtually anywhere a bird will fly.

ESSCA Environment Committee organizes volunteer weed warriors into a vine patrol. Our most recent effort was to liberate a ~100-foot-tall Sycamore tree on Thayer Ave. – look for our pictures on the ESSCA Facebook group, and join us on one of our upcoming outdoor service projects!

Trees are our most valuable ecological resource and we do not want them harmed by English ivy or other invasive vines. If you are interested in removing English ivy from a tree or another part of your property, contact the ESSCA Environment Committee – we can help!

- ESSCA.Environment@gmail.com

PLEASE JOIN US! IT'S FREE!

Your membership in ESSCA is important. All members new and old must use our new easy-to-use membership system. Simply [visit our Join Us page](#).

Once you sign up and are approved, you'll automatically get a free membership that will last one year from your first login. Our new system will send you a reminder when your membership needs to be renewed.

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. You'll also get a subscription for our monthly email newsletter.

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

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.](#)

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.