



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

MAY 2015

Senator Jamie Raskin, our State Senator for District 20, Montgomery County
will come to speak to us

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING • MEETING DATE: MONDAY, May 18, 2015

MEETING LOCATION IS THE HISTORIC B&O TRAIN STATION

8100 Georgia Avenue, just south of the Fire Station

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

AGENDA FOR OUR MAY 18TH MEETING

We will hear from State Senator, Jamie Raskin. He will speak to us about the recent legislative session in Annapolis and be available for Q&A at the beginning of our meeting, so be sure to be in your seat by 7:00. Also on the agenda for our next meeting will be election of ESSCA Board members (all running unopposed) and an update on the Artspace project on Sligo Avenue.

REPORT FROM OUR MARCH MEETING ON THE NEW SILVER SPRING LIBRARY

At our March 16th, meeting we heard from Silver Spring Library Branch Manager Fran Ware about plans for the new Library. The old 13,000 SF library closed its doors this past March. Construction of the new library on the southwest corner of Fenton St. and Wayne Ave. has been ongoing. The new 5-story facility will have approximately 60,000 SF of space on the top 3 levels dedicated to the new library branch plus an additional 30,000 SF of additional space on the lower 2 levels for other, to-be-determined uses. Ms. Ware said it will take approximately 8 weeks for the move, which includes time for cataloging, packing, transporting and shelving the collections, set up of work areas, plus training and orientation of staff for the new facility. The Grand Opening for the new library has been set for June 20th.

Features of the new library include:

- Main entrance on Fenton Street to a lobby featuring escalators and an elevator to the library floors above
- Also in the street level entrance lobby will

be a small coffee shop operated by the owners of Kefa Café

- The library's collection will grow by approximately 50,000 books
- Self-check-out capability
- Several conference rooms available to patrons that can also be reserved online
- One large meeting room that can accommodate up to 140 people (available for rent through the County's Community Use of Public Facilities: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf/info-reservation/Library.html>)
- A digital media lab with 3-D printer
- Equipment for patrons to print and fax
- A personal computer lab with 34 computers available plus a laptop area with laptop computers available for loan

Also of note, the local advocacy group, Friends of the Silver Spring Library, has raised approximately \$150,000, with much of this to be dedicated to a new pre-adult literacy center to be housed in the library. Also, one prominent feature of the old library, the WPA-era mural that was originally housed in the old post office on Georgia Avenue, will be re-installed in the new library after receiving some conservation and refurbishment. Ms. Ware also described the intent to expand the library's programming, including author's programs, activities for children and arts and culture programming, including music and concerts.

New library hours will be 9AM to 9PM
Monday – Friday, 10 to 6 on Saturday and 1
to 5 on Sunday.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: ARTSPACE TO TAKE OVER THE FORMER POLICE STATION ON SLIGO AVENUE

As we reported in our last newsletter the County has made an award to Artspace of Minneapolis to redevelop the old police station on Sligo Avenue with a combination of housing and arts-oriented uses, including exhibition and work space for local artists. In early April representatives from Artspace held their first public meeting on the project, mainly for the benefit of the site's immediate neighbors. During their introduction Artspace talked about their history and track record of numerous projects around the country. Founded as a private non-profit corporation in 1979, Artspace (<http://www.artspace.org>) has completed 37 projects in 15 states and the District, including housing and studio facilities for artists in nearby Brookland in the District and another in Mount Rainier, MD. Also included in the project team are BKV Architecture and JDC Construction, who will serve as owner's representative and project manager.

Artspace presented a site plan for the project, stressing that it is preliminary in nature and that there will be series of meetings on design with the immediate neighbors before presenting to others in the community. The project budget is slated at approximately \$22 million. Initial plans call for adaptive reuse of the existing station to accommodate community space as well as 30 working artist's studios. Also on site will be a new-construction building for approximately 70 apartments fashioned as live-work units for artists. These units will be affordable, with

qualifying residents earning approximately 60% of the area's median annual income. Also included in the project will be 11 market-rate town houses along Grove Street. The plan also includes surface and below-grade parking, a plaza and other landscape open areas. The proposed project schedule includes the remainder of this year dedicated to property transfer and rezoning activities, 2016 dedicated to design and community engagement and then an 18-month period for construction, starting in the spring of 2017.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Our first annual ESSCA-sponsored community yard sale was a success! We had close to a dozen families lined up to

participate and unload their wares at the now-vacant Sligo Avenue Police Station parking lot on a recent Saturday morning. Many thanks go to ESSCA President Megan Moriarty for organizing and managing this event. We look forward to its return next year.

A FIRE, CLOSURE OF RESTAURANTS AND A TEMPORARY NEW HOME FOR ONE...

As many of you know a fire broke out at the northeast corner of Georgia Ave. and Bonifant Street back in late March. Affected businesses included Quarry House, Mandarin Chinese Restaurant, Bombay Gaylord and Kefa Café. All remain closed at this time due to fire, water and smoke damage and initial estimates suggest it may be closed to a year before

repairs are made before businesses reopen, although Kefa anticipates reopening later this month. On a related note, nearby Piratz Tavern on the opposite street corner recently closed and the owners of Quarry House worked out a deal to fill the remainder of the lease at this location, providing a temporary home for this popular bar and restaurant.

ESSCAFEST RETURNS!

The third installment of our annual community block party featuring local musicians will be back on Saturday, May 16th. This year we are taking the party south to Violet Place. The street will be closed from noon to 7PM and festivities will center mid-block. Our appreciation again goes to Nancy Gurganus and Tim Haverland for organizing this fun event. We hope you can come by, sample some of our local talent and get to meet your neighbors!

East Silver Spring Citizens' Association Proudly Presents the Third Annual



**ESSCA
FEST**

Violet Place
(Between Chicago Ave. & Woodbury Dr.)

Saturday, May 16

Rain or Shine!

FREE!

**Live Music and
Entertainment 2-6 PM**

Family Activities! Local Talent!

Snacks and soft beverages provided! BYOB!

Open to all neighbors in the ESSCA community

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH 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.



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS CAN NOW PAY THEIR DUES ONLINE THROUGH PAYPAL!

Visit the ESSCA Website:
<http://eastsilverspring.org/Membership.html>



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!