



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

MARCH 2016

Informal networking and dinner at our next

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, March 21, 2016

MEETING LOCATION: PETE'S NEW HAVEN PIZZA

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

REGULAR 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 DINNER & NETWORKING AT OUR MARCH 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 March 21, 2016, 7:00 to 9:00 PM - Pete's Pizza - 962 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring.*

REPORT FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING WITH DESIGN UPDATE FOR PLANS FOR ARTSPACE

Thanks to all those who ventured out on Monday after our January 23rd weekend snowstorm to attend our ESSCA meeting at the B&O Station. We heard from Stacey Michelson with Artspace and John Maisto with BKV Architects who provided us with some history and vision for the organization as well as a design update for the project, to be located at the Police Station site on Sligo Avenue.

Founded in 1979 in Minneapolis with 37 projects in 15 states and the District, the Artspace (<http://www.artspace.org>) mission is to provide affordable and appropriate housing, exhibit and work space to working artists. Noting a recurring theme in cities across the country where artists are priced out of the neighborhoods they help to make interesting and attractive, the \$22 million project calls for adaptive reuse of the existing station to accommodate artist's studios. The project will include a new-construction apartment

building in the shape of an L to the north and west of the station plus a public park or plaza in front of the Station facing Sligo Avenue and a row of townhouses facing Grove Street. A PDF version of the presentation including site plan and renderings is available on the ESSCA website at www.eastsilverspring.org. Click on the Development tab and click on the link at the bottom of the Former Sligo Avenue Police Station write up, or copy & paste this link into your browser: http://www.eastsilverspring.org/ArtSpacePresentation_1-14-16.pdf.

There will be 7- 3-story market rate and 4 affordable for sale townhouses fronting Grove Street. These will be broken into three clusters with pedestrian walkways in between. The townhouses will feature front facades and porches with massing and details in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood's older homes. The apartment building will be more modern in design and feature 68 live-work style apartments.

The Station will be outfitted with new larger windows and will house non-resident artist studios plus some community gathering / artist exhibition space. While the exhibition space will feature public exhibitions, ArtSpace stressed that this will not be a public tourist destination like the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. Vehicle access will be from Sligo Ave only. Parking and loading will occur internal to the site with garages for the townhouses and underground garage parking for residents of the apartment building.

After a neighbor expressed concern about the plan to connect to a small public plaza in the adjacent mixed use project on Silver Spring Ave, Artspace has agreed to explore options

for the proposed pedestrian walk along the west side of site between the apartment building and veterinarian clinic at least until the project on Silver Spring Ave is complete. The existing unused alley right-of-way will remain in its current natural state and will serve as a buffer with the houses to the north. There are storm water management issues with the current site and surrounding area and these need further study. Neighbors have requested a design update specific to this issue in the near future.

ESSCA voted to support the rezoning at our November meeting and the County Council approved the zoning amendment that was required to allow the new configuration of uses. It will take approximately 18 months for construction, with ground breaking expected in the spring of 2017.

STREET REPAVING

Our District 5 Council Member Tom Hucker has taken note of several streets in our area that are in need of repaving. Stating that it is "ESSCA's turn" for some focused attention from the County D.O.T., he requested input from the community on which streets are in the most need of attention. Mr. Hucker and his staff intend to use this information to advocate on behalf of the community to receive County funding and attention for projects. While many noted that Silver Spring and Thayer Avenues are among the worst, they are already slated for repaving in the County's FY 2017 budget (during the next calendar year). Darian Unger spoke on Hucker's behalf during our January meeting to solicit input residents and it was noted that Grove St., Nolte Ave. and the 700 block of Ritchie Ave. are the worst. We have

furnished this list to Mr. Hucker's office and will be following up with him soon.

B & O TRAIN STATION MUSEUM & MBT BIKE TRAIL UPDATE

We heard an update from ESSCA resident and Montgomery Preservation Inc. (MPI) board member Karen Burditt regarding ongoing negotiations between MPI and the County for the next leg of the Metropolitan Branch Bike Trail (MBT) planned to connect the Silver Spring Transit Center and Montgomery College. The concept calls for the trail to run from the Transit Center south along the Metro tracks, behind Progress Place and the Fire/Rescue Station cut across the B&O Station property, cross Georgia Avenue on a newly-constructed trail bridge, run along Slim Road, cross Burlington Avenue, continue behind the self storage warehouse and then turn out to Fenton to join the existing trail heading south along the Montgomery College campus. ESSCA voted on and generally approved this concept a number of years ago, but the interface between Trail and Station was never satisfactorily resolved in a manner

that wouldn't negatively impact the B&O and its function as a Museum and event facility. In particular, the trail was originally intended to run under the platform canopy, but this was not allowed due to CSX right-of-way requirements and landmark status of the building. Ms. Burditt noted that revised plans now call for the Trail to run in front of the Station, with the existing surface parking reconfigured and landscaping incorporated into a safe visually-friendly site design, but there will be significant loss of surface parking. Details for this revision are currently being tweaked and finalized and Ms. Burditt requested those who value the Station and its mission let the County Council know. Construction on this next leg of the MBT is supposedly scheduled to start in the next fiscal year.

TASTE THE WORLD OF FENTON VILLAGE VI

While we are on the subject of restaurants, the successful neighborhood restaurant crawl celebrating the many independent restaurants of Fenton Village will be back for the fifth year on Sunday May 15th from 1 to 6 PM.

Plans are still in the works and the event will again feature live music, a raffle and other entertainment. More information will follow soon on the ESSCA Listserve and in the next edition of The Advocate.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ESSCA BOARD POSITIONS

We are now taking nominations for board positions. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. Megan Moriarty will not be running for President next year as she will be relocating out of the area and the Corresponding Secretary position is currently vacant. If you are interested please contact Nancy Gurganus who has agreed to serve as Nomination Coordinator. Nancy can be reached by phone at 301-585-3726 or by email at nancy.gurganus@gmail.com. Per the ESSCA Constitution we will be open for nominations from now through April 15th and all candidates must be included in our next newsletter to be printed prior to our final meeting of the season on May 16th, at which time we will have elections for officers. The outreach and advocacy efforts of your civic association will only be as effective as those who serve in these leadership positions.

ESSCAFEST RETURNS!

The fourth installment of our annual community block party featuring local musicians will be back on Saturday, May 7th. This year we are taking the party south to Potomac Avenue (location tentative upon confirmation). 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!

BEST OF FENTON VILLAGE 2015



Please join us in thanking this year's winners for Best of Fenton! This annual contest has grown into a wonderful way for East Silver Spring residents and customers to share our appreciation for the many small independent businesses in Fenton Village. This year we had a special awards ceremony graciously hosted by Urban Winery on Bonifant Street.

The February 29th event was well attended and included presentations by County Executive Ike Leggett and other local officials. Many thanks to Karen Burditt and her committee for their continued hard work in organizing this event and thanks to all of you who participated by casting your votes as well! Here is the list of the first- and second-place winners for this year:

Winners

Automotive: Latino Auto Tech/Murray's Auto Clinic
Bank/Loans: Capital One Bank
Bars/Taverns: Quarry House Tavern
Cafes: Kaldi's
Food Shops: Thai Market
Beauty Salons/Barber Shops: Spa Mesu
Dance/Fitness/Sport: Our Space Acupuncture
Dry Cleaners/Alterations: Weller's Dry Cleaners
Education/Non Profit: Create Art Center
Media/Web Publishing: Lucky Dog Films
Music/Art/Books: Plaza Art
Professional Services: Rapp Funeral Services
Restaurants: Mandalay
Services & Repairs: Moren Watch Repair
Specialty Shops: Pennyworth

Second Place

Automotive: Fenton Citgo
Bank/Loans: Best Pawn
Bars/Taverns: Sidebar/Urban Winery
Cafes: Fenton Kefa Cafe
Food Shops: Safeway
Beauty Salons/Barber Shops: Shelton's Hair Salon
Dance/Fitness/Sport: Sky House Yoga
Dry Cleaners/Alterations: Tailoring and Alteration Ctr
Education/Non Profit: The Highwood Theater
Media/Web Publishing: FoGo Motion Films
Music/Art/Books: Pyramid Atlantic/Silver Spring
Professional Services: Ashton Rehab
Restaurants: Pacci's Pizzeria
Services & Repairs: Arina's Shoe and Leather Repair
Specialty Shops: Alliance Comics

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH ESSCA!

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-deductable.

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

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

President: Megan Moriarty • Vice President: Darian Unger • Treasurer: Steve Knight • Recording Secretary: Nancy Gurganus • Chair for Planning, Zoning & Public Works Committee: Karen Roper