

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BANNER! SEE DETAILS BELOW

East Silver Spring Citizens' Association

MAY 2021

Please join us for the next East Silver Spring Citizens' Association (ESSCA) meeting on Monday, May 17, 2021, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

The meeting will be held online. Please register in advance - details provided below.

JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <https://groups.io/g/eastsilverspringcivic>

JOIN ESSCA'S Facebook Group: [East Silver Spring Citizens' Association](#)

VISIT ESSCA'S WEBSITE: www.eastsilverspring.org • EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

ESSCA MAY MEETING AGENDA

ESSCA Constitution Amendment Discussion! This will be an important meeting and we encourage all members to attend. We'll be discussing parts of our ESSCA Constitution and whether they should be kept or changed. First is a clause that requires a person to be a member for one year before they can hold office; second, mandatory dues for membership, and third, the name of the Association. At the end of the meeting the results of voting will be announced.

To participate in the meeting, [Registration for the Zoom meeting is required in advance.](#)

FULL SLATE OF CANDIDATES TO APPEAR ON ESSCA BALLOT

Candidates for ESSCA Officer Positions are:

- For President: Tim Haverland
- For Vice-President: Dan Reed
- For Treasurer: Steve Knight
- For Recording Secretary: May Piekarski
- For Corresponding Secretary: Gray Kimbrough

While candidates Dan Reed and May Piekarski have only been members for 8 months and 5 months respectively, President

Tim Haverland made the executive decision to include these candidates on the ballot. Said Mr. Haverland: "This is an all-hands-on-deck moment for ESSCA. We are still in an active pandemic and in the middle of a planning cycle with decisions being made that can affect the future of our community. Dan Reed and May Piekarski are committed to this community and ready to serve. I will be including them on the upcoming ESSCA election ballot."

ESSCA BALLOT VOTING OPEN THROUGH MAY 17

This year we'll be voting on two amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws, and our officer election. [Please see the official ballot for the amendment text and the ESSCA Board's reasoning for the change.](#)

Eligibility to vote: All ESSCA members in good standing are eligible to vote. To be a member in good standing, you have to be 18 years or older, be a resident living within the ESSCA neighborhood boundary, and have paid your dues for the 2020-2021 year (currently \$10 per household). All eligible household members may submit a vote. Please visit our [Join Us](#) page for dues payment methods (paypal, check). If you're not sure about your membership status, please contact our Treasurer, Steve Knight, at silverspring.steve@yahoo.com.

Means of voting:

Physical contactless voting: You may print out [the ballot](#) or pick up copies at our welcoming contactless voting location at 743 Silver Spring Ave. Each voter should fill out the ballot, provide their name, address, and email or phone number, and deposit the completed ballot in a drop-off box at 743 Silver Spring Ave.

Electronic voting: Members may fill out and save the [PDF ballot](#), or print, fill out and scan the ballot, and email the PDF to the ESSCA election email address esscavoting@gmail.com. Please use the email address you have on file with your membership.

Voting tabulator: Hannah McCann has been appointed by the ESSCA Board to be the voting tabulator. Hannah will be the owner of the election email address, and will tabulate both electronic and paper ballots.

Timeline:

By May 16: [Neighbors become members or renew their membership](#) to be eligible to vote. Note that voters must be members one day prior to the election so we can prepare the voter roll.

May 1-May 17: Voting will be open during this time. Ballots must be received by 7pm EDT on May 17 (our regular meeting date/time).

May 17, 7pm: ballots received by 7pm will be counted by the voting tabulator and the results announced at our regular May Zoom meeting.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact the voting tabulator at esscavoting@gmail.com.

REPORT FROM OUR MARCH 2021 MEETING

Revisiting ESSCA Committees: Tim Haverland presented a review of the current list of ESSCA committees as outlined in the [ESSCA By-Laws](#). The current committee structure has been in place for quite some time with only one of them being active. The presentation was couched in terms of which committees should be kept, which should be shelved and which should be created. Current committees include:

- Program and Publicity
- Environmental Improvement
- Beautification
- Planning, Zoning & Public Works
- Hospitality and Membership
- Historic Research Committee

Tim shared some suggestions plus a few comments from those assembled for our virtual meeting, including:

- Keeping Program & Publicity as well as Planning, Zoning & Public Works
- Omitting Beautification and Historic Research
- Rewriting the description for Environmental Improvement
- Addressing the themes of diversity and belonging by either revising an existing committee description or forming a new one

Towards the end of this meeting segment Tim proposed 1) making a survey available for everyone to share their views on the existing committees and some of the proposed changes and 2) forming a Committee on Committees to work through community comments and recommend revisions. This Committee was subsequently

formed and comprised of Tim Haverland, Amy Bernath, Luke Jones, Dan Reed, and Pete Tan. Their recommendations reworked the list and descriptions into three committees: Welcoming, Planning and Environment. Their recommendations were then submitted to the board who in turn made a few minor changes. Because this rework is a change to the ESSCA Bi-Laws, a vote is required by membership to approve it. These proposed changes are now part of the ballot currently up for a membership vote. We will report the results of that vote at our May meeting.

The COVID Vaccine Game: We heard from Mary Anderson, Public Information Officer for Montgomery County Health and Human Services. While Mary's presentation was less than two months ago, much has changed with the vaccine roll out since then, most notably an increase in vaccine supply, vaccine eligibility opening for all adults over the age of 16, and the opening of state-organized mass-vaccination sites. What follows is a report highlighting parts of Mary's presentation as well as more current information.

Mary noted each county receives a weekly allotment of vaccine doses, and as of mid-March Montgomery was receiving between 4,600 and 8,600 doses a week. By mid-March the state was just moving to allow all people in category 1 (front line health and emergency workers, individuals 65 and older, other essential workers and those with health conditions making them more vulnerable). As of mid-March, Mary reported that 228,000 county residents (22%) had received a first dose of vaccine and of those 118,000 (11%) were fully vaccinated. As of this writing over 578,000 (55%) of county residents have received a first dose of the vaccine, and of those, 423,000 (40%) are fully vaccinated.

There are several online places where one can go to pre-register to receive the vaccine, including the county, the state and retailers like Giant, Safeway, CVS and certain health care providers. The county is operating vaccination clinics at the Silver Spring Civic Building, Wheaton Community Recreation

Center, White Oak Community Recreation Center, and the Mid-County Community Recreation Center. There is also a state-run site at Montgomery College, Germantown Campus. Both the Pfizer and Moderna 2-dose vaccines are being administered, with availability of each varying by day, time and location. Clinic locations, operating hours and links to pre-register are available at [COVID-19 Vaccine - Montgomery County, MD \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COVID-19-Vaccine-Montgomery-County-MD). The county also has a pre-registration help-line open 7 days a week at 240-777-2982. Once you are pre-registered and a vaccine is available for you, you will be contacted to set up an appointment to get your first dose of vaccine. An invitation to make the second dose appointment will be set up automatically. Anyone can pre-register using the county system and you will not be "kicked out" because you are not in one of the currently eligible categories. As of this writing the state-run sites are accepting walk-ins without an appointment during select hours.

Grove Eats Food Trucks: Our neighbor Enza Barbato gave a report on the wonderful program of food trucks she's organized on Grove Street. Enza and her family have lived in the area for 4 years and she lived in South Silver Spring before that. She started by organizing an ice cream truck to come to Grove back in the summer. When she saw other neighborhoods doing food trucks, she decided to expand in that direction. Enza said the response has been great and the arrangement is a win-win for the neighborhood and the small independent food truck operators. Enza balances a busy schedule working full time while also raising her two children ages 2 and 5. She says the food trucks have been fun for kids and a great way for everyone to engage in the neighborhood. She posts updates on food truck selection and schedule weekly on Facebook and [Instagram](#) on Mondays and again the same day the food truck is due to be on Grove. Enza asked folks to feel free to share her posts on other neighborhood Facebook feeds, including those for local apartment buildings. She added that the best thing we can each do to support the venture

and keep it going is to spread the word and most importantly to show up and patronize the food trucks. Enza, the ESSCA community is very grateful to you for sharing your creative energy and for helping to make our neighborhood such a fun place to live!

FARM TUNES AND FOOD TRUCKS A BIG SUCCESS!

We had a great time at the Farm Tunes and Food Trucks event on May 1. Our local urban farm, Koiner Farm, hosted the event and there was a lot of room to spread out and enjoy the music, beautiful weather, and the beauty and productivity of the Farm. ESSCA arranged for the musical acts and provided snacks and drinks, and neighbors enjoyed food from the Astro Chicken and Donut truck, an ice cream truck, and neighborhood restaurants.

This was also a fundraiser for CKC Farming, the nonprofit that manages the farm. The event yielded over \$700 in donations!

Thanks to CKC Farming's Hannah Sholder and Kate Medina, sound guys Dan Farrow and Brent Ache, and Enza Barbato, David Weinreich and many others for setting up the snacks and drinks, and our musical acts Philip LoPiccolo, The Spring Peepers, Juels Bland, and Elliot Levine.

PICK YOUR FAVORITE ESSCA NEWSLETTER BANNER

We received three entries for our ESSCA Newsletter banner contest. Thanks to Sienna Long, Isaac McCoy, and Haley Spencer for their design entries.

[You can pick your favorite banner by visiting this form.](#)

TASTE THE WORLD RETURNS!

After the COVID-19 health crisis in Spring 2020 limited the Taste the World in Fenton Village, the 11th annual celebration of the

diverse restaurants in Fenton Village returns in a big way from **Sunday, May 16th through Saturday, May 22nd**. Those who support the approximately 50 participating restaurants that were severely impacted by the health crisis will have an opportunity to **win prizes up to \$500**.

Fenton Village is known for its varied dining cuisines in the southern section of downtown Silver Spring. The area is bounded by Wayne, Sligo, and Georgia Avenues and Fenton Street. Local and independently owned restaurants participating in Taste the World offer cuisines that include Burmese, Cuban, Ethiopian, Greek, Thai, traditional American and many more. The area also includes an independent brewery and specialty shops.

Montgomery County is currently allowing outdoor or patio seating, with indoor dining limited to 50 percent of capacity. Some restaurants offer extended outdoor seating with portions of the street or sidewalk available.

Taste the World provides diners with the opportunity to win cash prizes while supporting the Fenton Village participating restaurants during this special week. Diners who visit three or more restaurants during the week—whether by dining at the restaurants, getting takeout or via delivery—will become eligible for a **raffle drawing of cash prizes of \$500, \$250 or \$100. Diners can enter the drawing by submitting their receipts.** [Go here](#) to learn more information on Taste the World, including details on how to enter the raffle and to see the list of participating restaurants.

Big Changes for 900 Block of Silver Spring Avenue

The 900 block of Silver Spring Avenue (that's between Georgia and Fenton) could look very different in the next few years. Earlier this year, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved plans for Urby Silver Spring, a 400-unit apartment complex at 905 Silver Spring Avenue. It'll replace the existing parking lot and wrap around the

building where Lesaac Cafe and Wesenyelesh Market are today.

Urby will consist of three towers, the tallest of which will be 12 stories. One of the buildings will face Fenton Street, where it'll step down to five stories. It'll have a little bit of ground-floor retail along Fenton, and extend the Mayor's Promenade to Fenton Street as a little plaza. We don't have a construction date yet, but once it's announced we'll let you know.

In the meantime, plans will be submitted soon for a proposed building across the street, at 904 Silver Spring Avenue. 904 is on the south side of Silver Spring Avenue and is the vacant lot next to Maryland Dental Center (at the corner of Silver Spring and Fenton), where until recently there was a small brown house.

This building would be four stories tall and have retail on the ground floor and six apartments above. While the ground floor (with retail) would come up to the street, the three stories above would be set back, and the apartments would have balconies. The applicant is Raztec Associates, Inc., which appears to be the firm laying out the site but is not the developer. As the plan moves forward we'll learn other details, like how the building will look.

Work on the Silver Spring Downtown Plan Continues

This summer, we'll finally get to see a draft of the Silver Spring Downtown Plan, a vision for how the area should grow and change over the next 20-30 years. Before that happens, there are several opportunities to learn about the plan and give feedback to county staff. During the month of May, the Planning Department will host several "Chats with a Planner" on different topics, including environmental sustainability (May 18), affordable housing (May 25), and Veterans Plaza and Ellsworth Drive (May 27). All of these meetings will be held virtually, and you can find out more or RSVP [at the Planning Department website](#).

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/Silver Spring/](http://www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SilverSpring/)

How much is community worth to you?

Your 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. 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: Vacant

Treasurer: Steve Knight

Recording Secretary: Stevan Lieberman

Corresponding Secretary:
Gray Kimbrough

Chair for Planning, Zoning & Public Works Committee: Dan Reed

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.