



JANUARY, 2022

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

VISIT ESSCA'S WEBSITE: [www.eastsilverspring.org](http://www.eastsilverspring.org) • EMAIL CONTACT: [esscaprez@gmail.com](mailto:esscaprez@gmail.com)

## QUICK LINKS

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

## WEEK OF SERVICE PLANNED FOR JANUARY 16-22

As we look forward to celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this month, ESSCA invites you to please reflect on his call to give of ourselves and our time: "Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

We look forward to serving through our partnership with community groups for the MLK Week of Service Jan 16th-Jan. 22nd and beyond. *Social distancing and masking required for all in-person events.*

### **Sunday, January 16, 10am-noon**

Neighborhood cleanup. Meet at the East Silver Spring Elementary Parking lot. Trash bags provided.

### **Monday, January 17, 10am-noon**

Join the ESS PTA, ESSCA, local Girl Scout troops, and others at the park next to East Silver Spring Elementary school in making donations of new, unused household items such as pots, plates, cutlery, pillows, sheets, towels, and more to families in need--including families newly arriving to our community from Afghanistan.

### **Tuesday, January 18**

Help families displaced by fire at the Flower Branch Apartments. [You can make a donation here.](#)

### **Wednesday, January 19**

Bagged Lunch and Casserole drive to benefit Shepherd's Table. Please deliver donations to 737 Silver Spring Ave by 3pm and we'll deliver to Shepherd's Table. [Instructions for bagged lunches and suggested casserole recipes are here.](#)

### **Thursday, January 20**

ESSCA Environment Committee meeting. Find out how you can contribute to keeping our public areas beautiful and healthy. [Please register to receive a meeting Zoom link.](#)

### **Friday, January 21**

Reading List Day. Recommend a book, article, or website about building community, the spirit of public service, or anti-racism. Watch for details on our listserv and Facebook group.

Looking for other ways to serve? There are many other opportunities to volunteer available on the [County's volunteer site.](#)

## **NOVEMBER NEW NEIGHBOR SOCIAL WARMED UP CHILLY DAY**

For our November meeting we had a "Welcome New Neighbors" social in the public plaza in front of the ArtSpace community. Dozens of people showed up to

enjoy the sunny but windy day and enjoy some hot beverages as the sun went down. We met several new neighbors from the ArtSpace apartments and townhouses, and had longtime residents in attendance as well. It was great to see so many people show up to welcome our new neighbors.

Want to help out with ESSCA events like this that build community? [Please consider signing up for the Welcoming Committee.](#)

## **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.](#)

## JOIN ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES

Attention all champions of East Silver Spring. We need your brilliance! The chairs of our three committees could use your creativity, effort and love of East Silver Spring to continue to shape our neighborhood. We have three committees with three Chairs looking for your support.

**Lima Abdullah, chair of the Welcoming Committee**, is looking for 5-8 people who love helping build a sense of community through diverse and inclusive events, recruitment efforts of new ESSCA members, and forging important connections between all residents of East Silver Spring. [To let Lima know you can contribute to the Welcoming Committee, fill out our interest form here.](#)

**Luke Jones, chair of the Environment Committee**, is looking for 3-5 nature lovers to help the committee with cleanup events, greening our local businesses, maintaining public green spaces and waterways, promoting green infrastructure investments, increasing awareness of local environmental issues, and helping achieve environmentally friendly legal and policy changes! We have an ambitious agenda to encourage individual and collective action that makes our community a more resilient, beautiful, healthy, enriching, and civically active place to live now and in the future. [To let Luke know you can contribute to the Environment Committee fill our interest form here.](#)

**Dan Reed, chair of the Planning Committee**, is looking for 2-3 team members who can monitor county policy and communicate needs, plans and opportunities around our built environment, keeping East Silver Spring a place that is safe, easy to navigate and inclusive. [To let](#)

[Dan know you can contribute to the Planning Committee fill out our interest form here.](#)

Committee Chairs will staff their committees from those expressing interest. We want to keep the committee teams small and manageable, and make sure members have enough work to make their participation worthwhile.

This ESSCA year is a great time to build the connections in our neighborhood, strengthen our community voices and get involved. Reach out to the committee chairs and [join a committee today.](#)

## PLANNING NOTES

It's been a busy winter for development and transportation issues in East Silver Spring so far!

**Fenton Street:** Montgomery County is [moving forward with a redesign of Fenton Street](#). Starting this summer, reconstruction will start on Fenton Street between Gist Avenue and King Street, which will add bike lanes and remove the "slip lanes" at Philadelphia Avenue that encourage drivers to speed. Meanwhile, design work is continuing on Fenton between Cameron Street and Gist Avenue, which will also add bike lanes and northbound turn lanes, while removing a small number of parking spaces. The county anticipates that construction for this section will happen in 2023-2024.

**Grove Street:** You've probably seen the new speed bumps and "walking lane" along Grove Street between Bonifant and Sligo, which are part of an ongoing trial of different ways to calm traffic and make it safer to walk and bike there. Montgomery County is studying how this impacts the street, and will try installing a different configuration at some point next year. These efforts will ultimately inform a long-term redesign of the street. For more info, visit [the Department of Transportation website.](#)

**Silver Spring Downtown Plan:** County planners [have also released their](#)

[recommendations](#) for the Silver Spring Downtown Plan, which will shape the future of the business district and surrounding areas for the next 20 years. This plan covers a portion of East Silver Spring between Georgia Avenue and Grove Street, and from Bonifant Street down to the train tracks. Some of their recommendations include:

- Redeveloping Parking Garage 4 (at Silver Spring Avenue and Fenton Street) with a mix of residential and commercial uses and a new park.
- Extending the new street between Silver Spring and Thayer avenues as a pedestrian link north to Bonifant Street, and south to Sligo Avenue.
- Expanding the park at Fenton Street and Burlington Avenue.
- Allowing more kinds of homes, like duplexes, triplexes, and small apartment buildings, between Fenton and Grove streets, similar in scale to what's there today.

Community members gave their feedback on these recommendations at a public hearing last month. Next up, the Planning Board will review these recommendations before voting to send it to the County Council, which will likely schedule another public hearing this spring.

### 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

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.

**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