



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

MAY 2018

Representatives from MCDOT will come talk to us at our next

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING • MEETING DATE: MONDAY, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 PM

MAY MEETING PLACE - IS THE HISTORIC B&O TRAIN STATION

8100 Georgia Avenue, just south of the Fire Station

NEW REGULAR MEETING TIME: Third Monday of every other month (Sept - May) Doors open 6:45 PM, Meeting starts 7:00 PM

JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastsilverspringcivic>

(Include your name and street name when you send your "join request")

JOIN ESSCA'S Facebook Group: East Silver Spring Citizens' Association

VISIT ESSCA'S NEW WEBSITE: <https://eastsilverspring.org/> EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

HEAR ABOUT PLANS FOR BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) AT OUR MAY 21ST MEETING

Corey Pitts with Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will be at our meeting to tell us more about plans for the proposed BRT project. The first route planned will serve our area, connecting downtown Silver Spring and Burtonsville, running on US 29 (Georgia Avenue and Columbia Pike). This will be an opportunity to learn more about the planned service, including schedules, frequency and the design of bus shelters.

RENOVATION PLANS FOR SILVER SPRING INTERMEDIATE PARK

The Montgomery County Parks Department is working on plans to renovate and improve the public park bounded by Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston Avenues. The playground, tennis and basketball courts of this 3.62 acre park are well-used and the open grassy areas are popular with children, dog owners and soccer, baseball, football, and volleyball players. The Parks Department is planning a 3 year effort to upgrade the park to make it more accessible for persons with disabilities and to address storm drainage issues. Parks representatives hosted an informational meeting last month that was well-attended by the community. Parks presented two optional design plans that, in addition to the upgrades already mentioned, included other features such

as picnic shelters, more facilities for exercising dogs, improved entrances and adjustments to the parking lot to optimize the open grassy areas for playing fields. The sidewalk along Philadelphia Avenue is to be improved with the cooperation of the City of Takoma Park, which will necessitate the removal of some trees. The tennis courts, playground and basketball courts (already improved with new painting and fences last year) will remain. There was much discussion on the merits and problems with the additional features proposed in the two options and comments from the community included:

- Do not remove any of the parking; it is well-used, especially on the weekends when organized games occur and parking spills over onto the adjacent residential streets.
- While making the park more accessible to persons with disabilities is important, improvements for this should be as simple and non-invasive as possible.
- Please save as many of the existing mature trees as possible.
- The proposal for a more visible pedestrian entrance at the corner of Chicago and Philadelphia was questioned, primarily because it would mean the removal of mature trees.
- Picnic shelters and dog exercise equipment/paths are not necessary.
- Please retain as much open, non-programmed grassy area as possible; i.e., less is more.

Parks representatives also reviewed the

proposed schedule for improvements, which is estimated at approximately three years, with construction work occurring in phases. Details are as follows:

- Summer 2018: finalize design
- Late fall of 2018: Planning Board approval
- First half of 2019: Finalize and document design for construction
- Late fall of 2019: Start construction

The presentation presented to the community can be viewed here: https://www.montgomeryparks.org/uploads/2018/03/20180418_Community-Meeting.pdf

You may also submit comments in writing to the Project Manager, Wen Huang, at wen.huang@montgomeryparks.org and by posting on the Parks Forum Page by May 25th.

ALSO AT OUR MAY MEETING: ESSCA BOARD ELECTIONS

Tim Haverland (current Acting President) has been nominated for President, Mark Paster has been nominated for Recording Secretary. Also nominated, incumbents Steve Knight and Tracy Vandenbroek for Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, respectively. All are running unopposed. There are no nominations for Vice President.

Nancy Gurganus, who has served ESSCA well as Recording Secretary for many years, will be stepping down this year. Nancy will continue to assist with the

Advocate, our newsletter. Please join us in thanking Nancy for all she has done and will continue to do for ESSCA!

UPDATES ON DEVELOPMENT & UTILITY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

850 Sligo Avenue: the Sketch Plan for the project to adaptively-reuse the existing 8 story office building at the corner of Sligo and Fenton was approved by the Planning Board last month. The project will transform the existing structure into apartments and a new mid-rise building, also housing apartments plus structured parking, will be constructed on the surface parking lot. The project still has to navigate through the Site Plan and Building Permit approval processes.

715-719 Sligo Avenue: The developer gave a community presentation last month and will be submitting for Sketch Plan later this month. They plan to construct multi-family housing on this mostly vacant site on the north side of Sligo Avenue near the intersection with Chicago.

Utility Work on Fenton Street, Thayer and Silver Spring Avenues: We have previously reported on the plans to construct a major high voltage electrical line under Fenton Street. This work is already underway north of Colesville and PEPCO will be working their way south into Fenton Village in the coming months. Also, you may have noticed utility construction work in the 900 blocks of Thayer and Silver Spring Avenues. This is associated with the two multi-family residential projects on construction in the block bounded by both streets, Studio Plaza and 900 Thayer.

Artspace: The project to turn the former police station on Sligo Avenue into studios is working its way through the building permit review and approval process. Construction on the project is targeted to start towards the end of the year. The project will include housing, work and gallery space for artists as well as townhouses facing Grove Street.

OUR MARCH MEETING AT PETE'S PIZZA WAS A HIT!

Over thirty of our friends and neighbors turned out for our second annual social meeting. It was a great time to catch up with neighbors new and old and to learn more about issues and current events in the area. Stay tuned for future ESSCA-sponsored opportunities to mix and mingle with your neighbors!

ESSCAFEST VI WAS A SUCCESS!

The sixth installment of our hyper-local annual community block party featuring neighborhood musicians was a huge success. Thank you to Tim Haverland for organizing and volunteer Brent Ache for helping with set up and sound. We also want to extend our appreciation to our wonderful hosts, Peter and Suzanna Banwell for their gracious hospitality in sharing their home. And of course thank you to all of the wonderful musicians who turned out to perform this year! The line-up included: Moe Nelson, Maya & Marike, IK, 7 Door Sedan, Rick Kanton, Poli-rama and Quinn Kirk.



TASTE THE WORLD IN FENTON VILLAGE

The successful neighborhood restaurant crawl celebrating the many independent restaurants of Fenton Village will be back for the eighth year on Sunday May 20th from 1 to 5 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.

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/SilverSpring

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PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH ESSCA!

How much is community worth to you?

ESSCA has calculated our 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!!!

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Give to ESSCA in any of these three ways:

1. Give at the ESSCA Meeting
2. Go to the website at: <https://eastsilverspring.org/> and pay via PayPal
3. Write a check payable to ESSCA and send it to:
Steve Knight
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!