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## East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

NOVEMBER 2018

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](mailto:esscaprez@gmail.com)

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### PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING AT THE SALVADORAN CONSULATE AT 7PM ON NOVEMBER 19TH

The Consulate of El Salvador at 926 Philadelphia Ave has graciously offered to host our next ESSCA meeting. The Consul Generals of El Salvador and Guatemala will tell us about their missions, and we'll discuss how we can become better neighbors. We'll also have updates from the neighborhood. Coffee and sweets will be served. We will also give updates from the neighborhood:

- Progress Place: a coalition of community, business, law enforcement, and County government leaders are trying to achieve a more harmonious environment at and around Progress Place on Georgia Ave.
- Development updates on ArtSpace, Thayer/Silver Spring Ave. Apts., and the current County moratorium on residential building projects in our area.
- The status of Grove and Fenton Streets in the County's Bike Master Plan.

For those driving, there is some on street parking as well as parking nearby in County Lot Eighteen at the intersection of Selim Road and

Philadelphia Avenue.

### OUR SEPTEMBER SOCIAL MEETING

We had a great start to ESSCA's 2018-19 year with a gathering at Kaldi's in Fenton Village. Dubbed ESSCAFÉ, our September meeting was an opportunity to come together to socialize and chat about issues in the community. We were pleased to see a lot of new faces that we haven't seen before. Thanks to owner Tsega Haile for hosting!

### NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS & PROGRESS PLACE

A cross-organizational group has come together to humanely tackle issues in and around Progress Place. This group has been convening at least monthly since Spring 2018 and consists of leaders throughout the Downtown Silver Spring community, including Shepherd's Table, InterfaithWorks, ESSCA, Montgomery Preservation (B&O), South Silver Spring Neighborhood Association, Silver Spring Urban District (Red Shirts) and Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Congress with advice from Montgomery County Police, Liquor Commission and Civil Servants.

Doreen Cantor Paster, ESSCA member and Shepherd's Table Board member, responded to an ESSCA Facebook

post regarding an increase in assaults near Progress Place and under the CSX Georgia Avenue Bridge. Doreen got the initial collective together and has led the group to work on a lot of issues, but ultimately, it's about safety for those that live in the area, partake in Progress Place's services, work at Progress Place, and the businesses in the DTSS area. We understand that this is a slow-moving massive project but have made some positive headway.

On October 11th, the group plus a dozen affected businesses sent a letter to our Montgomery County representatives to request supplemental budget for 24/7 security inside and outside of Progress Place. Currently there is only security detail at dinner time; as a result, employees and participants are unsafe at times. You can find the letter on the ESSCA website. Unfortunately, we have heard very little response from our County representatives.

CSX has agreed to update the lighting under the Georgia Avenue Bridge. This will include brighter lights and should be completed by the end of November.

Other items we will be tackling include requesting a designated safe smoking area is placed between the building and train tracks (if appropriate security and security cameras are placed around the facility). We will also be canvassing

local beer and wine stores to request they stop selling single cans of beer, stop giving store credit and not allow folks to work for beer.

Obviously, there are larger issues such as affordable housing and mental healthcare that we would love to be able to address. Our primary and immediate concern, however, is safety of residents, business owners and patrons and Progress Place clients.

### DEVELOPMENT & UTILITY CONSTRUCTION UPDATES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

**850 Sligo Avenue:** The development team held a public meeting on October 4th to show changes before they file their project plan. Background: 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 spring. The project will transform the existing structure into apartments and construct a new mid-rise apartment building and parking structure on the existing surface parking lot.

In the last newsletter we mentioned there is currently a moratorium on new development applications for projects due to the lack of additional school capacity in our school cluster. We understand the County Council and Planning Board will be addressing this

matter in the spring. Affected projects that we are aware of include 850 Sligo and we understand the developer intends to go ahead and submit their Site Plan application for approval from the Board with the caveat that they cannot obtain a building permit until the moratorium is lifted.

**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. Instead of working one block at a time from north to south as we understood and stated before, PEPCO is working on several blocks simultaneously in our neighborhood, currently from Wayne Avenue to Bonifant, at Sligo Avenue and starting soon at Montgomery College.

**Studio Plaza:** We understand the underground public parking garage is nearly ready, awaiting completion of the access drive, which the County is trying to expedite. We do not have a firm date for an opening at this time. Background: This multi-story building is on the site of the former county Parking Lot Number 3 in the block bounded by Fenton Street, Georgia, Silver Spring and Thayer Avenues. It will contain 400+ rental units and we understand negotiations are underway to locate the permanent home of the local Post Office on the ground level.

### 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](http://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 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-deductable. Thank you!*

### SILVER SPRING THANKSGIVING PARADE 2018

Don't forget about the annual parade in downtown Silver Spring!

Saturday November 17th  
10 AM to Noon

The parade begins at Ellsworth Drive and Veterans Place and proceeds South on Georgia Avenue, ending at Silver Spring Avenue

To learn more visit:  
<http://www.silverspringdowntown.com/montgomery-county-thanksgiving-parade>