



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2018

SEPTEMBER MEETING PLACE - IS KALDI'S SOCIAL HOUSE

918 Silver Spring Avenue

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: tim.haverland@gmail.com

JOIN US AT KALDI'S SOCIAL HOUSE AT 7PM ON SEPTEMBER 17TH FOR OUR FIRST ESSCAFÉ

We're starting off this year's meeting season with something different - a social event at Kaldi's! Come meet your neighbors, share summer stories and enjoy coffee and snacks provided by Kaldi's and ESSCA. Kaldi's Social House is located at 918 Silver Spring Ave.

ESSCA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

ESSCA Board members Tim Haverland, Tracy Vandebroek and Mark Paster have redesigned the ESSCA website, giving it a new look and additional features. Please be sure to take a look: <https://eastsilverspring.org>. It contains information on development in the community, current events, contact information for ESSCA, past issues of our newsletter, and much more coming soon.

ESSCA BOARD ELECTIONS

A motion was passed with unanimous support of those attending to elect the following slate to the ESSCA Board: Tim Haverland, President; Steve Knight, Treasurer; Tracy Vandebroek, Corresponding Secretary; Mark Paster, Recording Secretary.

A MESSAGE FROM ESSCA PRESIDENT TIM HAVERLAND

Hi neighbors! Welcome back to a new season for ESSCA! I'm really energized to be your new ESSCA President. In the coming year, I'd like to use these "watch words" to guide us: Fun, Diversity, and Dialogue.

For the "Fun," in addition to our spring ESSCAFest local music festival and our winter Pizza Party, I hope you'll join us for our newest fun event ... the ESSCafé ... to be held at one of our favorite local gathering spots, Kaldi's. Also stay tuned to the ESSCA listserve and

Facebook page for announcements about great entertainment and educational opportunities in and around the neighborhood.

We live in one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Montgomery County and I'd like to celebrate this by reaching out to neighbors of all economic, lifestyle and ethnic backgrounds. At our meetings we rarely see neighbors from the dozens of apartment complexes here in East Silver Spring, so I'd like to identify a liaison from each apartment building. We also have the Guatemalan and Salvadoran Consulates right here in the neighborhood, so I'd like to make connections with staff and see how we can welcome those who come to the Consulates for services. Finally, I'd like to use events like the ESSCAFest local music festival to explore the many musical styles of our community.

My final watch word is "dialogue." We've made great strides to communicate better with the community, including a presence on Facebook and our new website at eastsilverspring.org. We'll continue to use these communication channels in addition to our listserve to keep the neighborhood informed and to foster discussion on issues and events important to the community. I'd also like to have our Advocate newsletter translated into Spanish and Amharic and post to our website. Finally we need to continue our conversation on how we make it safe for walkers, bikers, and drivers to all coexist on our neighborhood streets.

I will need your help in realizing these goals. Please consider volunteering your time as a writer for the website, or to help reach out to and understand the needs of our diverse community. If you can help, please contact me at tim.haverland@gmail.com.

SILVER SPRING, 20910

Our US Post Office has moved to temporary quarters in the ground level of the Library at

the corner of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street. Hours are Monday – Friday from 9 to 5 PM and 9 to 3 PM Saturdays. See Development Updates & Utility Construction Updates on page 2 for more on our Post Office's future permanent home.

REPORT FROM OUR MAY MEETING: BUS RAPID TRANSIT

We had a presentation from Project Manager Corey Pitts with the County Department of Transportation (DOT) on plans for BRT at our May meeting. The first route planned will serve our area, connecting downtown Silver Spring Metro Station and Burtonsville, running on US 29 (Colesville Road and Columbia Pike). The limited-stop BRT will utilize dedicated new-construction station platforms, integrating bike shares, canopies where possible, real-time sign boards, fare collection kiosks, and pedestrian and bicycle improvements at nearby intersections, and the possibility of public art. Service during peak hours is expected to be every 7 ½ minutes. The twelve inch raised platforms of the 13 individually-designed stations will allow barrier-free access for the 90 person capacity, articulated natural gas- and diesel-powered buses. Service is expected to be 25 to 35% quicker than conventional buses because of priority signaling at intersections and dedicated lane service north of Tech Road (Rte. 198). Additionally, because riders will purchase tickets at the stations and all-door boarding, stop times will be greatly reduced from conventional buses. A typical rush hour trip from Silver Spring Metro Station to the Park-and-Ride terminus in Burtonsville is expected to be about 30 minutes. Buses will also feature interior bike racks and WiFi. Service hours have not been fully finalized, but it is expected they will be similar to Metro. Final design for BRT is expected to be complete by late 2018, followed by construction in 2019 and service starting in early 2020. You can

learn more by visiting <https://getonboardbrt.com/> or by contacting Mr. Pitts at corey.pitts@montgomerycountymd.gov or 240-777-7217.

**GO SLOW ZONE ON WAYNE:
A PUBLIC SAFETY PROPOSAL
FOR THE PURPLE LINE**

All Silver Spring residents and stakeholders in the Wayne Avenue corridor are invited to join members of the Wayne Working Group on Purple Line Design, as they present its Go Slow Zone on Wayne proposal at the Silver Spring Civic Building on Thursday, September 20, 2018 from 7:30-9:00 pm.

The Go Slow Zone, which enjoys support from the Maryland District 20 Delegation and members of Montgomery County Council, incorporates planning ideas from contemporary practices in and around the DC metro area in order to form a more “complete street” without seriously impacting traffic flow and – more importantly – while increasing public safety.

**DEVELOPMENT & UTILITY CONSTRUCTION
UPDATES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

850 Sligo Avenue: The development team will hold a public meeting on October 4th to show changes before they file their project plan. The exact time and location of the meeting are TBD. We will let you know when we hear more. 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.

715-719 Sligo Avenue: The developer gave a community presentation last spring. They are awaiting the results of a state tax credit application, so it is not expected they will be filing any plans with the County any time soon. We have also learned there is a moratorium on building in the area because our school cluster is over capacity. This means the Planning Board cannot hear any new projects until the capacity issue is addressed - probably by the new County Council sometime next year. Background: the developer plans 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. 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.

Artspace: The developer will be holding a meeting for artists interested becoming a part of the project on September 20th at 6:30 PM in the Civic Building. Additionally, the project will be breaking ground in late September or early October. We have not yet heard on when the free parking in the lot will no longer be available. We do expect adequate public notice and will let you know as soon as we have more information. Please keep an eye for postings on site as well as the ESSCA listserv. Background: this project will turn the former police station on Sligo Avenue into housing and work and gallery space for artists as well as townhouses constructed on the open area facing Grove Street.

Studio Plaza: We understand the underground public parking garage is scheduled to open sometime in October. Background: This 12-story project 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 as well as the permanent home of the local Post Office, which is currently housed temporarily in the ground level of the Library.

Montgomery College, Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building: The College will be hosting two upcoming design charrettes for a proposed new building on the campus to replace the Science South and Falcon Hall buildings, which are on the order of 40-50 years old. The charrettes are an opportunity to learn more and share your comments, concerns and observations. Here is more information from a recent email notice:

Please join us for our next two design charrettes on September 11 & October 2, 7-9:30 p.m.

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus |
Cultural Arts Center
7995 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD
20910

Free parking available. See directions below or click here for a campus map.

Meet with the teams from Montgomery College, SmithGroupJJR architects, and LINK Strategic Partners—as well as students and community stakeholders—at our next design charrette. Each charrette focuses on various stages of the design process for a building design that balances the needs of neighbors, students, and fiscal prudence.

RSVP:
community@montgomerycollege.edu

**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 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!