



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

NOVEMBER 2017

A discussion about Grove Street will be an important part of our next:

**EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING • MEETING DATE: MONDAY, November 20, 2017 at 7:00 PM
MEETING LOCATION 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

LEARN MORE ABOUT SIDEWALKS, GREENWAYS AND TRAFFIC-CALMING IDEAS AT OUR NOVEMBER MEETING

County Department of Transportation DOT representatives, Chris Conklin and Matt Johnson will answer questions – and listen to suggestions – at this meeting. There has been a lot of recent discussion about sidewalks, bike paths, traffic, and safety on Grove Street and Queen Annes Drive. In the case of Queen Annes Drive, a neighboring civic association is exploring the addition of a sidewalk. In the case of in the case of Grove Street, there have been several different proposals addressing safety and traffic. This agenda item for our November meeting is intended as an educational opportunity for residents to learn more about regulations for the design of sidewalks and different traffic-calming measures so we have a better understanding of County design and process when we make community proposals in 2018. We will also learn about the relatively new concept, greenways, which are in essence mixed use travel paths for pedestrians, bikes and cars that incorporate design elements to slow and calm car traffic, which has been suggested as one alternative for Grove Street.

ALSO AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING: UPDATE ON 850 SLIGO AVENUE

The development team for the 8-story building at the corner of Fenton and Sligo are getting ready to submit their Sketch

Plan for redevelopment of the property to the County. They held a community presentation on November 8th. We learned they intend to keep the existing building, give it a new façade and convert it to apartments and build a new 5 story apartment building on the adjacent surface parking lot. Zoning for the new building requires it to step down in height as it nears the adjacent houses. The project will contain approximately 75 rental units and off-street parking for about 30 cars will be accommodated in a below-grade garage. Loading and service will occur off of Sligo and residential parking access will be from Gist. An estimated project timeline calls for submitting the project Sketch Plan by the end of this month, filing for Site Plan in mid-2018, getting final project approvals in 2019 and starting construction in 2020.

In late September ESSCA also organized a presentation by the developer team to neighbors immediate to the project. Since that time one of the neighbors, Dan Meijer, has voiced concerns about the accuracy of the zoning classification applied to the site. He believes the community should hire its own zoning attorney to verify the accuracy of the current assumptions for the project, which determine allowable height and density for the site. At the November meeting, we will hear a short presentation by Dan further enumerating his concerns. While neither ESSCA nor its board has taken a position on the matter, we have agreed to hold a vote on whether or not pursue his suggestions.

STREET PAVING IN THE AREA

Several of our local streets are tentatively on the list for repaving for County fiscal year 2020, which begins July 1, 2019. Included is repaving of Silver Spring Avenue from Fenton Street to Piney Branch Road and Cedar Street between Bonifant and Easley Streets.

A NOVEMBER MEETING BONUS: TOUR THE POLICE SUBSTATION NEXT DOOR

After completing the other agenda items, those interested can join in a walk through tour of the firehouse and Police substation next door to the B&O Station. ESSCA President Darian Unger is a firefighter/EMT at that firehouse and he has arranged this tour of the station and equipment that serves our neighborhood through 3rd District Police Commander, Captain Marcus Jones. You will also have an opportunity to learn more about the function of the police sub-station housed on the 2nd floor of the building.

MEETING ON MICROBREWERY ASTROLABE

You may have seen construction activity at the former site of Joe's Record Paradise on the west side of the 8200 block of Georgia Avenue. What's up you may ask? A microbrewery is on its way and we had a presentation from Emma Whelan, co-proprietor of this new establishment planned to open in early 2018. Along with brewer Matt Cronin, the facility

will include on-site brewing operations in the back of the building, a pub in the front and outdoor seating on the sidewalk. Some condensed food service, including small plate appetizers, will be offered in addition to beer. Ms. Whelan noted that, while long noted for their restrictions, the County is trying to make it easier for micro-breweries, wineries and distilleries to operate in the County. ESSCA Vice President Tim Haverland presented Ms. Whelan a bouquet of hops grown on Silver Spring Avenue at the end of the presentation.

A FEW REMINDERS ABOUT ON-STREET PARKING

Did you know permit parking on our residential side streets is restricted to residents of single family homes? While only residents of single family homes can park in permitted areas during restricted times, anyone can park there outside of those times. Demand for on-street parking is very much a street-by-street, and in some cases, a block-by-block issue in East Silver Spring. While permit restrictions are typically set only for daytime hours on weekdays, residents can petition to have the hours adjusted, extending them to overnight, into the weekends or even removing them altogether. This can be adjusted on a block-by-block basis. Examples include restrictions around Montgomery College to encourage students to use the nearby garage as intended and additional restrictions on Bonifant, where the limited amount of available parking was being taken by downtown business patrons. If interested, please visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.htm> to learn more about pursuing adjustments to parking restrictions on your street or block. Also, you can contact Joe Pospisil with the County Traffic division who can walk you through the process for changing hours or installing/eliminating permit parking on your block. He can be reached at 240 777-2460.

ALSO FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING: BIKE LANES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

We heard from Matt Johnson with Montgomery County DOT with a status update on the new dedicated bike lane

just installed on Spring and Cedar Streets. Also attending were representatives of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), a regional bike advocacy group interested in expanding the local network of dedicated bike lanes. Matt stated that because downtown Silver Spring is one of the more populous areas in the County, it has been designated a Bicycle Pedestrian safety area, which means it is the recipient of a specific focus on planning to improve accommodations for pedestrians and cyclists. The dedicated bicycle lanes on Cedar and Spring are the latest component of this effort. The green paving one sees on these lanes is there to help demarcate the zone for cyclists, especially zones in potential conflict with car traffic. The next leg to be constructed will be on Wayne Avenue and 2nd Street. While this stretch already has a dedicated lane in addition to the sidewalk, known as the Silver Spring Green Trail, this has functioned as a shared use bike/pedestrian path that was installed a number of years ago. The County has learned that shared use lanes are in large measure not successful, because the mix of the two presents safety and flow issues. The route will remain a shared use path east of Fenton Street to Sligo Parkway because of a lack of space for a dedicated bike lane. Matt brought up the study examining the feasibility of dedicated bike lanes on Fenton Street, which will be completed and made available to the community this fall.

CANNIBUS DISPENSARY OPENING ON FENTON STREET

You may have noticed remodeling underway at the former Banner Glass shop in the 7900 block of Fenton Street. It will soon be the site of a medical marijuana dispensary, scheduled to open by the end of the year. Last March ESSCA hosted a presentation by the operator, Jason Divelbiss with Green Thumb Industries (GTI). Based in Chicago, GTI is a privately-held nationwide operator of cannabis cultivation and dispensary facilities with a presence in Illinois, Nevada, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and now Maryland, where they were successful in their bid for one of two licenses made available by the State in Congressional Senate District 20 to dispense the substance. The second dispensary will be

in Takoma Park. You can learn more about the highly regulated medical marijuana industry by visiting GTI's website. It is available only to patients with one of twelve qualifying conditions, which are chronic and debilitating in nature. Prescriptions from doctors are required to obtain the product. You can learn more by visiting GTI's website: <http://www.gtigrows.com/>.

SILVER SPRING THANKSGIVING PARADE 2017

Don't forget about the annual parade in downtown Silver Spring!
Saturday November 18th at 10 AM
Starting at Ellsworth Drive & Veterans Place, the parade proceeds South on Georgia Ave., to Silver Spring Ave.

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

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!

President: Darian Unger • Vice-President: Tim Haverland • Treasurer: Steve Knight • Corresponding Secretary: Tracy Vanderbroek • Recording Secretary: Nancy Gurganus • Chair for Planning, Zoning & Public Works Committee: Karen Roper