



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

May 2014

ESSCA BOARD VOTING, DISCUSSION ON STARTING A WEBSITE & NEIGHBOR NETWORKING AT THE NEXT

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014

REGULAR MEETING PLACE--SLIGO URBAN RECREATION BUILDING

500 Sligo Avenue, at corner of Piney Branch Road; parking lot entrance is on Valley Street

REGULAR MEETING DATES: Third Monday of September, November, January, March & May

Doors open 7:00 pm - Meeting starts 7:30 pm

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

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

AT OUR MAY MEETING WE WILL have board elections (see bottom of this page for details), a discussion to solicit ideas for a new website for ESSCA and open discussion and network time to solicit ideas for meeting topics and action items for next year.

ESSCAFEST IS BACK! SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY MAY 17TH

It was so much fun last time with local musicians, food and entertainment that we have decided to do it again. We are still working on a location and other details, so please keep an eye on the list serve for additional information to be aired very soon. If you are interested in helping with the event (planning, setup or cleanup) please contact Tim Haverland at tim.haverland@gmail.com or Nancy Gurganus at nancy.gurganus@gmail.com.

Date & Time: Saturday, May 17th Rain or Shine!

Location: TBD (Keep an eye on the list serve for more info. soon!)

Live Bands from 2 – 6 PM

“Open mike” between sets for acoustic singers/songwriters

Other family fun activities planned

Snacks and soft drinks provided + BYOB

Admission is Free and Open to all neighbors in the ESSCA community!

TASTE THE WORLD OF FENTON VILLAGE

Returns on Sunday, May 4, 2014, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., with a raffle at 5:30 p.m. Rain or shine. 31 Fenton Village restaurants participating. Pick up your event “passport” at the Main Stage located at parking Lot 3 off Fenton or at the second stage sponsored by Yelp at Georgia and Sligo avenues. This family-friendly “restaurant crawl” offers \$2 - \$5 sample appetizers and tasting plates and is kicking it up a notch this year with sponsorships by Yelp and All the Hits 107.3 and entertainment on two stages. We hope to see you out and about supporting our local Restaurants!

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING ESSCA!

WE ARE YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION. Membership dues allow us to: Print this newsletter, beautify our neighborhood and parks, work on issues beneficial to the community, including working with local developers for better projects, parking permits and monitoring neighborhood crime.

WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP WE COULD IMPROVE ON THESE EFFORTS AND DO A LOT MORE. Annual ESSCA dues are \$10/family. Dues cover each meeting season, from September to May. Please pay at our next meeting, or send a check (payable to ESSCA) to Steve Knight, ESSCA Treasurer, 808 Violet Place, Silver Spring MD 20910. Thank you!

VOTING FOR ESSCA BOARD POSITIONS

Candidates: We have two candidates this year for President: Bob Colvin and Megan Moriarty. Darian Unger (Vice President), Steve Knight (Treasurer) and Nancy Gurganus (Secretary) are running unopposed for reelection.

Voting: To be eligible, you need to be a member (dues can be paid that night if you are not current) and every adult over 18 in a household is allowed one vote. The outreach and advocacy efforts of your civic association are only as effective in part as those who serve in these leadership positions. We hope everyone will make an effort to come out to participate in the election.

PRESIDENT: BOB COLVIN, VICE PRESIDENT: DARIAN UNGER, TREASURER: STEVE KNIGHT, RECORDING SECRETARY: NANCY GURGANUS

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: MEGAN MORIARTY, CHAIR FOR PLANNING, ZONING & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: KAREN ROPER

FROM OUR MARCH MEETING: DISCUSSION WITH OUR DISTRICT 5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHERRI BRANSON

Council Member Branson, appointed the end of January to replace Valerie Ervin, who left office to pursue an opportunity with a non-profit institution in New York. Ms. Branson stated that (our) District 5 is quite large, stretching from Takoma Park to White Oak, as well as racially and economically diverse. Ms. Branson will take over the committee positions previously held by Ms. Ervin: Government Operations and Education. We had the opportunity to meet Council Member Branson, ask her questions and hear her thoughts on key issues affecting our neighborhood.

Background: A resident of Silver Spring, Ms. Branson was born in West Virginia and raised both there and in southeast Washington DC. After college and law school she worked on Capitol Hill, focusing primarily on congressional oversight work as well as advocacy work for black farm families affected by years of government discrimination. More recently after Hurricane Katrina, she worked to change FEMA rules to help small, local and minority businesses more effectively compete to procure recovery contracts, most typically won by larger contractors.

Purple Line: Along with Council Member Roger Berliner, Ms. Branson wrote a letter to County Executive Leggett, requesting he form a citizen's advisory committee to provide input on the design of the Purple Line. In particular, she is concerned about negative impacts the line may have on businesses along Bonifant Street where the line will run between the new library and the transit center. In general, Ms. Branson has observed that, while many were and still are excited about the coming Purple Line, there are many details that cause controversy as the community learns more about its physical impacts and measures need to be taken to minimize those impacts.

County Budget: While it is very early in the Council's review process of the next fiscal year budget drafted by the Executive, Ms. Branson was able to report that Schools, which comprises half of the county budget, will be funded at a rate above the state-mandated maintenance of effort; furthermore, there will be increases in funding to libraries, parks and public safety.

Silver Spring Transit Center: There is still not an update to the schedule for project completion, as there are still questions about liability and responsibility of the ongoing structural repairs. While it is hard to say, given the current disagreements between the various parties involved, resolution to the disagreements and plan for repair likely won't be determined until early summer. There is also uncertainty about the ownership/operation plan for the Center once it is complete.

FROM OUR MARCH MEETING: ART REPLACEMENT FOR GATEWAY PARK AT FENTON, PHILADELPHIA & BURLINGTON

As we previously reported the current "Criss Cross" sculpture by artist Albert Haley is in need of extensive restoration and the county has elected to sell the piece and use the proceeds, totaling approximately \$30k, to procure replacement art. Many will remember Criss Cross was originally on the site of the current Civic Center and was relocated to Gateway approximately ten years ago. ESSCA members have formed a committee and have been working closely with the County providing input on replacement. During our meeting we had a presentation by Michelle Cohen with the Arts & Humanities Council and Tricia McManus with the Parks Department, who told us about plans for improving the park as well as the process for replacing the sculpture.

The Park: In the long term, to enlarge and improve the park, the county intends to acquire the two houses adjacent to the community garden (currently occupied by businesses), acquire the auto repair shop to the west of the garden on Burlington Avenue and close the one-block-long portion of Philadelphia that currently divides the park from the community garden. We did not learn of a budget or timetable for park expansion and improvements.

Art Replacement: Three options for locating new artwork were discussed, including the existing one front the street intersection, closer to the community garden and closer to the existing seating area. A few general concepts were discussed, with possibility of fun and interesting street furniture and/or benches being the current focus. After working further with ESSCA committee members to reach a consensus on the siting and nature of the art, the county will go through a selection process, culminating in a final artist selection by mid-June.

UPDATE ON HISTORIC JESSUP BLAIR HOUSE

Funding has been secured to start restoring the last surviving home of Silver Spring's founding family, located in Blair Park at the corner of Georgia and Eastern Avenues. The county has set aside approximately \$480k in its budget for phase one of a two phase project. The County Parks Departments says phase one will include the extensive repairs to the building's exterior and structure, long-neglected and suffering from water and mold damage, the result of its limbo status after being used as a homeless shelter run by the county Housing Opportunity Commission. Once this work is complete the plan is to let the house sit and resettle for a period of time before Phase two interior restoration work is undertaken. Funding for Phase two has not yet been secured. Long term dedicated uses for the structure have not yet been identified. Phase one is expected to take approximately 6 to 8 months and the County expects the structure to be complete and ready for tenant move in with 1 to 2 years.

WE LEARNED THAT WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS IN THE AREA START THIS SPRING and continuing to next spring.

According to Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), most lines in the area were installed between 1920 and 1950 and many are in need of replacement. Lines will be replaced on Wayne Avenue between Fenton and Georgia, Bonifant Street between Cedar and Fenton, Thayer Avenue from Piney Branch to Grove and on Silver Spring Avenue from Nolte to Hartford. In some areas trees will have to be pruned or removed, but residents on those streets will be notified of this ahead of time. All work is expected to occur weekdays between 8 AM and 5 PM. There will likely be some minimal service disruption as the new lines are put into commission, but again, affected residents will be notified ahead of time. If you have questions about the project (number BR5555A13) contact Project Manager Vicente Sorra at 301-206-8358 or at vsorra@wsscwater.com. You can also sign up to receive text or email alerts for service disruption by visiting WSSC's home page at www.wsscwater.com.

FENTON STREET MARKET RETURNS SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH FOR ITS 5TH SEASON

This weekly market featuring vendors selling everything from handmade jewelry, crafts and used books plus community activities will be with us every Saturday from 10AM to 4PM from April 26 – October 25. The location is Veteran's Plaza at the corner of Ellsworth and Fenton Streets in Silver Spring. We hope to see you there! Visit the website for details: www.fentonstreetmarket.com.