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## East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Montgomery County GSA Deputy Director Greg Ossont will provide an update on Progress Place at our next

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING

MEETING DATE: Monday, September 15, 2014

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 month (Sept - May) Doors open 6:45PM, Meeting starts 7:00PM

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

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

Email Contact: [esscaprez@gmail.com](mailto:esscaprez@gmail.com)

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### NEW VENUE FOR SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER MEETINGS

We will hold our first two meetings this year at a new (old) venue: The historic B&O Station just south of the Fire Station on Georgia Avenue. We also intend to start meetings a little sooner than we have in the past: doors will open at 6:45 and meetings will begin at 7:00. This is a wonderful venue and we hope will join us on. Who knows, you may even be able to work in a little train spotting while you are there.

### PROGRESS PLACE – PROJECT UPDATE COMING AT OUR SEPTEMBER 15TH MEETING

Greg Ossont, Deputy Director of Montgomery County General Services Administration, will be back for our first meeting of the year to give us an update on plans for the new facility for Progress Place, to be located behind the Fire Station on Georgia Ave. We understand the county has completed the land swap deal with Washington Properties, the private developer who will be charged with building the facility in exchange for the old Progress Place site to the north, which will be used for a high rise apartment building. We understand an architect has been hired to design Progress Place, so this meeting will be an opportunity for the community to get a first look at plans and to provide input.

### A CHANGE IN ESSCA LEADERSHIP

Please join us in welcoming our new president, Megan Moriarty! Megan was elected at our last meeting in May. Megan joined the board last year and many of

you know her from efforts on the Silver Spring Advisory Board and of course for managing Fenton Street Market. Also reelected to new terms on the board are Darian Unger as Vice-President, Nancy Gurganus as Corresponding Secretary and Steve Knight as Treasurer. Megan has also set up an email address for the community to send questions, comments and concerns: [esscaprez@gmail.com](mailto:esscaprez@gmail.com)

### THANK YOU TO BOB COLVIN, ESSCA PRESIDENT FROM 1982 TO 2014

Please also join us in expressing heartfelt appreciation to Bob Colvin for his many years of service to ESSCA. Among his contributions are helping to create Bullis Park, monitoring safety in our parks, the landscaped traffic circle on Woodbury, advocating for increased police, fire and safety services for our neighborhood.

### DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

*At our last meeting Karen Roper provided us with some updates on development projects planned for Fenton Village.*

**Baptist Church Site at the corner of Fenton St. & Wayne Ave.:** The developer intends to begin demolishing the detached houses that sit on the property within the next month. The plywood currently visible on many of the windows on the houses and the church is there to prevent vagrants from squatting in the buildings, which has been a problem since the Baptist Church vacated the property in the late spring. There have been delays associated with working out arrangements with the Church, which include construction of a new sanctuary

building on the eastern part of the site. Construction on the 6 story building with retail, below grade parking and 220 rental apartments will likely begin the first quarter of 2015.

**Library Senior Housing:** Located adjacent to the new Library and facing Bonifant Street, ground was broken in June on this 8 story 110 rental unit building. It will provide moderately priced apartments for senior citizens and the project is estimated to finish the end of 2015.

**900 Thayer Avenue:** We understand the developer for the site currently occupied by a vacant service station on the southwest corner of Fenton St. and Thayer Ave. is working through the review and permitting processes, but we do not have a schedule or indication on when they intend to start construction. The building is intended to be 6 stories in height with some on-site parking and approximately 100 rental apartments.

**814 Thayer Ave.:** The developer says a very wet spring has contributed to some delays in the completion of this 5-story 52-unit rental apartment building on the south side of Thayer. The building will contain primarily moderately priced rental apartments and is scheduled to be completed in the early fall with a grand opening in October. We have worked closely with the developer to get them to mitigate construction-related traffic and burdens on the neighborhood and to route service vehicle traffic away from Grove Street when completed.

**Silver Spring Park:** Located on the southeast Corner of Fenton St. and Silver Spring Ave., this will be a mixed use project comprised of rental apartments and a hotel: We learned recently that the developer, Dr. Glee, has found a joint venture partner to provide additional capital for the project and that they will be moving forward with the permitting process.

**Northeast Corner of Fenton St. and Silver Spring Ave.:** Work on the corner storefront that used to house a diner continues. The interior is being refurbished for use as a pizza parlor and will be the second location by its owner in the greater DC area.

**819 Silver Spring Ave.:** This property on the north side of Silver Spring Avenue behind the retail block fronting Fenton and adjacent to a 1960's era 5 story office building is currently occupied by a detached residential building and rear parking lot and was used an office. It was recently sold and the new owner is planning a 4 story building with ground level retail/restaurant uses and offices above. This project is in the early planning and approval stages and at this time we are not aware of a timetable for construction.

**Former Sligo Avenue Police Station:** The Police Station was closed and relocated to a new facility in White Oak in May. The community will continue to be served by the new station as well as a substation in the Fire Station on Georgia Avenue. The County considered a variety of uses for the site and has settled on housing. Specifically, the County Executive's office is exploring the idea of moderately priced housing for artists, likely in the form of live-work rental units with possibly some gallery or other publicly-accessible space for art exhibits. We will know more later in the fall, after the County has done further research in preparation for soliciting further input from the community to help shape what happens here.

**Studio Plaza:** While the project has its planning approvals, there is no new word on the its starting. We understand the developer is currently looking for joint venture partners to provide capital for the project. It will occupy the County-owned Parking Lot #3 in the middle of the block bounded by Fenton, Georgia, Thayer and Silver Spring. The 11 story building will have 415 rental apartments and retail facing Thayer Avenue.

#### GATEWAY PARK ART REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Suzan Jenkins of the Arts & Humanities Council has shared the draft for the RFP to find an artist to replace the Criss Cross sculpture that stood at the intersection of Fenton, Burlington and Philadelphia. It was in need of repairs and the County elected to sell it to a private collector and use the funds to purchase a replacement. The RFP was issued on August 12th to various county agencies & on the [www.creativemoco.com/opportunities](http://www.creativemoco.com/opportunities) web site and invites artists to submit Statements of Qualifications to design, fabricate and install artwork in the Park.

A deadline for submissions will be in mid-September. Semi-finalists will be required to present their proposals at an open public meeting. At that time, members of the community will have the opportunity to ask questions & offer opinions. The date, time & location of the meeting will be announced through a variety of media, including the ESSCA list serve. Please stay tuned. We invite you to join your fellow citizens in this process.

#### PURPLE LINE UPDATE

For 12 weeks this summer, ESSCA participated with 40+ other civic associations and community organizations, as a member of the Purple Line Implementation Advisory Group (PLIAG), appointed by County Executive Ike Leggett. The purpose of the PLIAG is to provide a forum for documenting and resolving issues of concern to the communities along the Purple Line route, i.e. noise, business impacts, construction, etc. The Request for Proposal (RFP) to build the Purple Line was released by MTA in July. PLIAG will continue to meet on an as-needed basis during the process of awarding the contract and construction of the Purple Line. Karen Roper, who has represented ESSCA on the PLIAG, will provide a more detailed update on the Purple Line at our September meeting.

#### A WEBSITE FOR ESSCA

One of Megan's priorities is for ESSCA to develop a website. We discussed content ideas for the website at our May meeting and it was agreed the site will include basic information on board member profiles, membership, ESSCA boundaries and meetings, as well as an archive for our newsletters. Other items under consideration include a calendar for

community activities, web links to county services, Silver Spring Advisory Board and Regional Center, as well as a map and information for development projects. Long time resident and ESSCA member Mark Paster has graciously volunteered his time and expertise to work on the new website. Please stay tuned for updates and a launch later this year.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP DELIVER NEWSLETTER

We need volunteers to deliver **The Advocate**. Areas to be covered include a handful of streets south of Sligo Avenue as well as a handful of streets near Bullis Park. If you are interested in helping ESSCA and could spare about an hour once every 2 months to deliver the newsletter in these areas, please contact Betsy Taylor at 301-589-4868.

#### PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING ESSCA!

##### **We Are Your Civic Association.**

Membership dues allow us to print and deliver this newsletter, beautify our neighborhood and our parks, work on other issues beneficial to the community, including working with local developers for better projects, parking permits and monitoring neighborhood crime and safety issues.

##### **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. Please note that ESSCA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation and that member dues are not tax-deductable. Thank you!

*President: Megan Moriarty  
Vice President: Darian Unger  
Treasurer: Steve Knight  
Recording Secretary: Nancy Gurganus  
Chair for Planning, Zoning &  
Public Works Committee: Karen Roper*