



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

JANUARY 2017

Informal networking and dinner at our next

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING • MEETING DATE: MONDAY, January 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

JANUARY MEETING PLACE - PETE'S NEW HAVEN PIZZA

962 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD - (301) 588-7383 - petesapizza.com

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")

VISIT ESSCA'S NEW WEBSITE: www.eastsilverspring.org EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SOMETHING FUN AND DIFFERENT FOR OUR JANUARY MEETING!

Neighborhood Meet and Greet at Pete's New Haven Pizza! We will not have a formal agenda for this meeting. This will be a chance to meet some new neighbors, catch up with old ones and tell us what is on your mind. Why not make a night of it and bring your kids? Pizza and drinks available for purchase. We hope to see you there!

MONDAY JANUARY 16TH, 2014,
7:00 TO 9:00 PM - PETE'S PIZZA -
962 WAYNE AVENUE, SILVER SPRING

SPEAKING TRUTH & ACCEPTANCE TO EXPRESSIONS OF HATE & INTOLERANCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

For our November meeting, ESSCA did something quite uplifting, constructive and different. After the election, the ESSCA Board was moved by reports of local hate incidents, and called neighbors together to celebrate and pledge defense for our tolerant and diverse community.

We made a last minute change to our November agenda, spreading the word via the telephone, email and on local list serves. Unprecedented given our usual focus on issues including development, public safety and local government, our idea was to create a place for people to express frustration, grief and anger over

recent events. More importantly, we wanted to facilitate a discussion to find positive and constructive ways to combat such negative and destructive activity. We were heartened to see nearly 50 people show up--quite a turn out for a local civic association meeting. Darian Unger started the discussion by showing a brief documentary video entitled "Not in Our Town", the story of the community of Billings, Montana that experienced several similar incidents of intolerance towards the Jewish community in the early 1990's and positively addressed it with visible displays of acceptance. The website www.niot.org continues to be a source for collecting similar stories and educating others about how to undertake similar efforts in their schools and communities.

After the video we broke the large number of attendees into several smaller groups of 3 to 4 people to better foster discussion on what we might be able to do here in Silver Spring. Points of discussion included how to get our local officials to develop a way to report incidents of racism, how to communicate with those in the community who are vulnerable and how to mobilize other groups to be active participants in a dialog about race, immigration and inclusion. Some of the ideas that came from these discussions which were then presented to the assembled large group included:

- Hold potluck gatherings occasionally where adults and children can tell stories of acceptance and tolerance

- Organize events at local schools where students can speak out and share their ideas and stories
- Create a strong visual symbol of acceptance, similar to the Menorahs hung in windows in Billings, Montana
- Find ways to get our Hispanic and Ethiopian neighbors more involved in local and civic affairs
- Pressure local law enforcement and rescue personnel to make a statement that they are here to help and not deport individuals
- Organize porch and block parties and be sure to invite those who think differently or who hold opinions different from the majority
- Develop an information card that provides simple and clear instructions on how to report incidents of discrimination
- We need to work to make sure our local officials are paying attention to these issues—many stressed the importance of actually calling their offices—this is more effective than emails and letters.
- Have a presence at local public events. Post-meeting update: we were pleased to see several dozen of our neighbors organize a section for the 2016 Silver Spring Holiday Parade sharing visible messages of support and inclusion.

The evening was also book-ended with live music by our Corresponding Secretary Tim Haverland and local resident Dan Jenkin. This isn't the kind of meeting we have done before, but we were pleased with how it went. We look forward to

continuing to explore new ways to carry on a dialog about diversity and inclusion in the future.

A NEW ONLINE SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS

With the demise of the *Gazette* newspaper and reduced coverage by the *Washington Post*, we have experienced quite a reduction in news coverage for our area over the last couple of years. To fill the void, *Bethesda Beat / Bethesda Magazine* has been providing some coverage of the area, despite its name.

This past November local Silver Spring residents Mike Diegel and Mike Mowery started a new online newspaper, www.sourceofthespring.com. Its coverage will include the area south of the Beltway, Four Corners, east to the Prince George's County line, south to the Washington D.C. line and west to Rock Creek Park. Mr. Diegel gave a brief presentation at our November meeting. He has a background in journalism and Mr. Mowery has a background in events organization and music promotion. They were interested in starting an online news publication that would focus on local issues. He stressed that *The Source* is not a blog. Rather, the intent of is to report on important issues of our community on which better coverage is needed, including government, business, development and entertainment news plus stories about local residents. Mr. Diegel and Mr. Mowery will use local list serves and social media outlets for story ideas. They also welcome direct inquiries and ideas for news items as well. In addition to the website, they also have Twitter and Facebook accounts. Their initial goal is to publish at least one news article a day. We welcome their presence on the local news scene!

THE WINTER SEASON IS UPON US...

...which means pothole season cannot be far behind! While not a substitute for more serious long term repairs and upgrades needed on many of our local streets, we have been impressed by the responsiveness of our County Department of Transportation in fixing and repairing potholes which

often appear after wet and cold weather. Reporting areas that need to be addressed is easy and can be found online at mcdot.highway@montgomerycountymd.gov

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL LEO'S RUN, A 5K BENEFIT FUN RUN

Leo's Run, a 5k run/walk in downtown Silver Spring, has been set up to honor the stillborn son of Caroline Joyce and Mike Mowery, and will take place on Sunday February 5, 2017. The run will begin and end at East Silver Spring Elementary School (631 Silver Spring Ave). Proceeds from the 5k will go to Leo's Garden, a non-profit whose aspirations include starting a scholarship for children whose parents have experienced pre-natal loss (i.e. the recipient will have lost a sibling), and supporting and sponsoring creative and artistic activities or therapies such as yoga, art, and outdoor education as a means of promoting the well-being of families who have suffered still birth or other tragic loss. More information is available at the following website: www.leosrun.org

BEST OF FENTON VILLAGE IV

Voting by the community in this third annual contest to show support for our local small independent business community started on National Shop Local Day (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) and ended on December 31st. Event sponsor Fenton Village, Inc. is currently compiling the list of winners and an announcement will be made on the listserve soon. Please stay tuned: we will also provide an announcement on the upcoming awards ceremony. Last year's was a very nice gathering hosted by Urban Winery and attendees included Executive Ike Leggett as well as many owners and patrons of the businesses in Fenton Village, which number well over 200.

PARKING LOT III OPEN DURING STUDIO PLAZA CONSTRUCTION

While construction of this high rise residential project is now underway, County Public Parking Lot 3, on Fenton Street between Silver Spring and Thayer

Avenues, is still open and is free weekends and after 5pm on weekdays. On weekdays the cost is \$8 to park from 8am to 5pm, but there are currently no hourly rates. This has had a very negative effect on the small businesses in Fenton Village and we are working with the County and the developer to establish a system for an hourly option on weekdays between 8AM and 5PM.

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

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH 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.



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS CAN NOW PAY THEIR DUES ONLINE THROUGH PAYPAL!

Visit the ESSCA Website:
<http://eastsilverspring.org/Membership.html>



WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP WE COULD IMPROVE ON THESE EFFORTS & 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!