

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report FEBRUARY 2019 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

Please review archive of reports* from links at <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/silverspring/boardscommittees/cab/index.html>

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

(*Please see last month report for details regarding PEPCO's work on Fenton, Purple Line Construction Updates, the Oakview Neighborhood Action Team, and Studio Plaza vicinity updates. The list of issues below focus on new issues or those not reported recently.)

The program to grant limited funds to businesses negatively impacted by the construction of Garage 3 (under the Studio Plaza development between Sligo and Thayer Avenue) will no longer be available. **The garage – with more spaces available than before - is now open.** The garage replaces the surface parking lot spaces that were taken away during construction – and adds a few more... However, the development of the apartment building is not yet complete. It is expected to start leasing later this year. Issues remain regarding unobstructed access to the alley, the programming of the future Plaza, and the coordinating disposing of trash, recycling, and restaurant grease for the business fronting Georgia Ave. We are working with the developer and various County agencies on these details.

We are working with the Department of Transportation on **rebranding the VanGo** with buses that would have a distinctive, artistic look; and the creation of an **'all ways' crosswalk** at Fenton and Ellsworth when the PEPCO project is completed and the street is resurfaced.

Working with the Community Use of Public Facilities, we have **processed most applications** for this year to reduce the cost of accessing the Silver Spring Civic Building and Veterans Plaza through the **Community Access Program**. We should be releasing the comprehensive **annual calendar of Regional Area Community Celebrations**, including many of the CAP's recipients, along with the long list of Takoma Park celebrations. Together, these gatherings number over 70 celebrations in the Regional Area, the vast majority done by civic entrepreneurs, including the Silver Spring Town Center, Inc., and Old Takoma.

We have begun collecting the **reports from the mini-grants** provided to community groups throughout the Regional Area earlier this Fiscal Year. Already some groups have begun inquiring about the next round, which will be available July 1st. These projects represent a wide-range of community building small events including block gatherings, markets with local merchants, and more.

Working with the Department of Transportation and the State Highway Administration, we were able to substantially increase the **lighting under the CSX underpass** on Georgia Avenue. Next, the underpass will be repainted so as to make this critical passageway once again welcoming to all pedestrians and less inviting to derelict activity.

Work is also underway by the Parks Department for the **Gene Lynch Park** at the intersection of Colesville and Wayne/2nd Ave. The park should be completed later this year, providing a comfortable gathering place at this busy intersection and major pedestrian connection from the Metro to the core of downtown Silver Spring.

The **BiPPA** (Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Areas) project in downtown Silver Spring continues at a brisk pace. The completed protected bike lanes will soon be augmented by **two additional bike lanes** on Cameron St., and Dixon St. There will also be a **secure bicycle parking facility** at Dixon Ave and Bonifant St., in an underused pad beneath a parking garage... Additionally, work is underway to correct the misalignment of the lanes that caused damage to the median on Spring St., at Georgia Avenue.

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

Next meeting: Monday, Tuesday, February 12th*, 7 p.m. - Civic Building. (*Change of date is due to the special budget tool forum to be held Monday, February 11th.) On the Agenda: A conversation with Park Police Chief McSwain; a presentation by Director Stoddard re Emergency Preparedness; Committee reports on recent major meetings; and adoption of letter of advice to the County Executive re the FY20 Budget.

Next Committees meetings: Monday, February 25th, 7 p.m. The agenda items will appear in the upcoming eNewsletters as time nears. These Committee meetings build on the success of three excellent meetings in January, when the Neighborhoods Committee met in Takoma park with residents from the area and elected officials; the CED Committee brought together representatives from various groups that work with continuing education and career paths; and, the TREE Committee had over 50 people attend an information session on the plans for Montgomery Hills traffic and circulation improvements.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, February 21st, 3:30 p.m. (Silver Spring Urban District Operations, 3rd floor Fire Station #1.) On the Agenda: A conversation with David Kuens, Chief of Staff for Councilmember Tom Hucker; and an update on the special allocation to fix damaged sidewalks throughout the Urban District. The Committee will also be discussing their letter of advice to the County Executive for the FY20 Budget.

Silver Spring Transportation Management District

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14th, 8:00 a.m. (Discovery Communications.) On the Agenda: TBA.

Other key advisory groups and initiatives relevant to Silver Spring that the RSC Director regularly monitors/attends

- Purple Line Community Advisory Teams – Next series of meeting will likely be in late winter/early spring.
- Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committees – Next meeting being scheduled soon.
- Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee – No meeting set at this time.
- Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. – Bi-monthly meetings set
- Safe Silver Spring – In the January meeting, the group got an update on the various proposed State legislations that deal with public safety.
- Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce – One grand opening was held for a new pastry/cake shop in Montgomery Hills.
- PREZCO (Presidents of Silver Spring civic associations) – Quarterly meetings.