

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report MARCH 2019 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

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

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

PEPCO's work through Takoma Park and downtown Silver Spring continues to present a challenge to circulation and business access. We are pursuing the possibility of a community meeting that would bring area residents and businesses together for a 'Q&A' session with PEPCO to better understand the work outstanding and how communication could be improved.

Garage 3 is open. **The County garage under the new Studio Plaza development in Fenton Village is officially open.** The number of spaces in the new garage exceed the number of spaces that were on the surface lot before. While the apartment complex and the plaza are not yet finished, having this garage open helps the nearby businesses as this garage offers excellent access to Georgia Ave., Silver Spring Ave., Thayer Ave., and Fenton Street.

We continue working with the **Oakview Neighborhood Action Team**. We are scheduled to do a 'walk around' soon to better understand the trash/litter situation in parts of the neighborhood and explore possibilities for addressing the issue with area residents.

Working with the **small business communities in Long Branch and Fenton Village**, we are finalizing the designs for enhanced signage to ensure when the Purple Line construction gears up customers will know 'business is open' and there are clear ways to get to parking and deliveries. Additional collaborative efforts are also underway with businesses along the path of the Purple Line, including **Brookville (Lyttonsville) and Takoma Langley**.

The **Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment District** is pursuing a series of art projects in downtown, including: (a) installation of a mural on the County-owned north wall in April on Bonifant St. and Georgia Ave.; (b) Working with the Department of Transportation to distinctively wrap the VanGo free circulator; (c) Begin a series of monthly art walks in April; (d) Install posters promoting www.SilverSpringDowntown.com on bus shelters.

Taste the World in Fenton Village is set for Sunday, May 19th. We've begun work with the Fenton Village, Inc., non-profit to prepare for this year's event. Additionally, an extensive survey of over 1/2 of the area's 200+ businesses was recently conducted. Results are being tabulated.

Working with Montgomery County Public Schools, we will be sponsoring an information session for the **Summer Rise Program**, in hopes that corporations in Silver Spring will participate in this highly successful program.

GBT Realty, the **new owners of Ellsworth Place**, have begun their refurbishing and extensive outreach to better connect this major downtown shopping center with the community. We are working with them to explore possibilities.

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

Next meeting: Monday, March 11th, 7 p.m. - Civic Building. On the Agenda: A conversation with Andrew Kleine, Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer regarding governance; and Al Roshdieh, Montgomery County Department of Transportation Director. Also, committee reports on recent major meetings, including Montgomery Hills transportation issues; update on the Bus Rapid Transit Systems; and arts in the Regional Area.

Next Committees meetings: Monday, March 25th, 7 p.m. The agenda items will appear in the upcoming eNewsletters as time nears.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, March 21st, 3:30 p.m. (Silver Spring Urban District Operations, 3rd floor Fire Station #1.) On the Agenda: A conversation with Adam Ortiz, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protections; and, David Kunes, 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: Lora Byala, FourSquare Regional Bus Transformation Project.

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

- Purple Line Community Advisory Teams – Construction of the Purple Line continues at a brisk pace. It is expected that road disruptions will be more evident mid-year. Next series of meetings will likely be in late winter/early spring.
- Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committees – As construction has officially begun, next meetings are being scheduled soon.
- Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee – No meeting set at this time. However, the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board held a Committee meeting recently which brought together 10+ organizations working on the arts in the Regional Area.
- Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. – Getting ready for their ambiance performances on Veterans Plaza once the ice-skating rink moves out (to return in October.)
- Long Branch Partners – This group of over 25 service providers had their quarterly meeting recently where they continued their work on a community driven emergency plan (in collaboration with the County's Homeland Security.)