

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report NOVEMBER 2015 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

THANKSGIVING PARADE Saturday, November 21 10am Starts at Veterans Plaza, then down Georgia Avenue

[1] Community Issues

Coordinating Activities in Commercial Hubs

- The Silver Spring's major commercial centers (the core of downtown and Takoma Park) are complemented by a series of smaller commercial hubs, each with its own distinctive approach to affirming what works in the respective area.
 - Long Branch has the Long Branch Business League, with which the RSC works very closely;
 - Takoma Langley has the Takoma Langley Commercial Development Authority, controlled by a Board on which the RSC Director is the County's ex-officio member;
 - Brookeville Light Industrial Area, where residents and businesses – with some technical assistance from the RSC - have developed a comprehensive directory to enhance outreach before, during, and after the Purple Line;
 - Montgomery Hills, an area under study by SHA for road improvements, where the RSC developed an on-line business directory;
 - Fenton Village, just south of the Core of downtown Silver Spring, where the RSC (through the Urban District) helps with the collaborative community efforts that produce "The Best of Fenton Village" and "Taste the World in Fenton Village"; and,
 - Four Corners, with Woodmoor Shopping Center and many other independently owned establishments across Colesville, where the RSC's involvement has been limited to the issue of pedestrian safety – particularly for students; and working with the RTS/BRT process.

Many private sector partners, non-profits, and county agencies are involved in some parts of these efforts. Coordinating these efforts and initiatives to provide maximum benefit to the hyper-local area while linking to the other nearby hubs in the Regional Area remains challenging. Our strategic focus remains to affirm each hubs' assets to serve and expand today's customer base while planning for the future.

Challenges of "Living Under Construction"

- While we work closely with our Department of Permitting services and Department of Transportation, State agencies, construction companies, and utilities, it remains a challenge to know when regular business and residential life are going to be impacted, for how long, and to what extent. Examples of cranes just showing up, construction signs impeding handicap access to a sidewalk, sidewalks taking a long time to be repaired, or partial street closures blocking driveways are all too common. Notifications requirements are evidently required, but are often either ignored or followed 'to the letter of the law', leaving businesses, customers, and residents ill-informed. We are focusing on these incidents through the Urban District operations, trying to establish better relationships with all the entities that disrupt the right-of-way so as to minimize these disruptions.

[2] Advisory Groups & Related Activities

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board (Monday, November 9th – 6:40 p.m.)

In October, the agenda focused on the growing need for expansion of school facilities in the Area. This dialogue was continued at the subsequent Committee meetings. In November, the SSCAB will host an information session on Silver Spring's major transportation projects (the Purple Line Light Rail and the Rapid Transit Bus System) focused on bringing newcomers up-to-speed.

The SSCAB will seat three new members at the December meeting, pending County Council approval.

Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee (Tuesday, December 1st)

The next meeting is set for December 1st. The Committee will share the winter programming plans of its members and guests. Updates will be provided regarding State and National arts initiatives as well as local opportunities for art groups.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee (Thursday, November 19th)

In October, the Committee heard from Park and Planning regarding the streetscape standards for downtown Silver Spring. In November, the SSUDAC will hear from the two advertising companies that are introducing new opportunities in downtown Silver Spring via the new message board on Ellsworth Place and on the Ride-On buses.

Silver Spring Transportation Management Advisory Committee (TBA)

There was no meeting in October. November agenda in development.

The Regional Center also follows and/or participates in other Advisory Groups and efforts:

- Youth Advisory Committee
- Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee
- Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority
- Long Branch Business League
- Long Branch Partners
- Impact Silver Spring Networking Nights
- Rapid Transit System (BRT) Community Advisory Groups for "29 South" (Colesville Rd and New Hampshire Ave)
- Purple Line Community Advisory Teams (to be formed in the near future)
- Lyttonsville Master Plan process
- Silver Spring Town Center Inc.

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