

# SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report    AUGUST 2019    *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

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

## [1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

### Census

Everyone counts in Montgomery County. The effort to ensure full participation in the 2020 Census is a collaborative effort of the County – under the leadership of the Office of Community Partnership – and the many non-profits, faith communities, civic organizations, and business groups throughout the County. The Silver Spring Census Complete Count Committee is having a workshop Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in the Civic Building to help design a flier and social media message to encourage full participation. All are welcome at this workshop.

### Living Under Construction

The construction for the Purple Line is picking up all throughout the Line and in all of the future Purple Line Stations in the Silver Spring Region:

- Lyttonsville: The Lyttonsville Way bridge is partially opened and the historic Talbot Bridge has been removed.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Street: The area remains mostly a staging area; but activity in the path of the line is evident. The Spring Street bridge will temporarily close at a later – yet undefined – time.
- Transit Station: The area is already fenced off. Pedestrian and bus access has been re-routed. Major construction on the bridges across Colesville (parallel to the CSX bridge) will begin soon.
- Library Station: While this station is already built, street work leading to it on Bonifant and Wayne will be a major disruption. This work is not scheduled for the immediate future.
- Dale Avenue: Major work at the International School to rearrange parking has been going on all summer. That work will go on hold during the school year. Tree cutting along Wayne Avenue is continuing.
- Manchester: Most of the tunnel work is done, but heavy work continues in the egress/regress points.
- Long Branch: The current visible work for the station at Arliss and Piney Branch is more on the detours. Improvements to these detours – particularly for pedestrian access – will be done before the Fall.
- University Ave: The Southeast corner of the intersection of Piney Branch and University are being used as staging area.
- Takoma Langley: The line work is most intense at the moment in the Prince George's County side of University Boulevard. This work is progressing towards Takoma Langley.

For updates: [www.purplelinemd.com](http://www.purplelinemd.com)

Street disruptions by PEPCO, WSSC, WAG, and SHA continue throughout the Region:

- PEPCO is working on Fenton Street in downtown and on Georgia Avenue through Linden. This work is part of the major upgrade to the line that runs through Takoma Park and into D.C.
- WSSC is working on line replacement along Colesville, south of the Beltway.
- Washington Gas is doing line replacements in various neighborhoods, including the Flower Branch apartments in Long Branch.

- State Highway Administration has recently done work on Colesville, near downtown. The work at times have been at night.  
*We list these projects – and provide links to more info - in our regular eNewsletters as we are made aware of them. However, the utilities and agencies are responsible for doing the primary notices.*

Major private development also routinely disrupt sidewalks and streets. For example:

- The Studio Plaza project is not yet finished. Mayor Lane remains a work zone; Silver Spring Avenue is not yet repaved.
- The HOC Project on Fenton and Thayer is still under construction, necessitating sidewalk rerouting and protection.
- The ArtSpace project (at the old Police Station) has begun construction.

### **Small Business Support**

The County's Business Solutions Group now has a staff (Daniel Koroma) stationed in the Civic Building to provide direct support to Regional Area businesses and entrepreneurs. An official Business Center has also been formally opened at the Silver Spring Library. This effort will provide a more hands-on approach to ensuring businesses have access to county services, including array of training by others and timely information as needed. Recently the Group met with IMPACT Silver Spring to discuss how their efforts with co-operatives can be supported and expanded to enhance community economic development in the Area.

### **Neighborhood Mini-Grants (as reported last month)**

With the coming of the new Fiscal Year, each Regional Area has \$5,000 to distribute to qualifying neighborhood activities. The process for applying will be going out later this month via the Regional Area newsletter. Applications will be due by Labor Day. Final decisions will be made by October 1<sup>st</sup>. These small neighborhood grants have proven to be widely popular in the Silver Spring Regional Area. More than 10 mini-grants have been granted each of the last two years. We expect to do the same this year.

### **Fall Festival Season**

Fall bring festival season to neighborhoods around Silver Spring – not just downtown. Montgomery Hills and Long Branch are both hosting festivals in September. And, Takoma Park continue with their tradition of the Folks Festival and Street Festival. These events are not just fun – they are also a concrete way of affirming these communities and inviting all to 'live' (i.e.: shop and more) locally.

#### **NOTE:**

- **The Silver Spring Jazz Festival is ON for Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The headliner is Arturo Sandoval.**

## **[2] ADVISORY GROUPS**

### **No Advisory Group meeting in August.**

Both the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board and the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee will hold their internal retreat in August to line up topics and more for the year. They will both resume their monthly meetings in September. The SSCAB's first meeting will be Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Civic Building. The SSUDAC's first meeting will be Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. in the Urban District Operations Conference Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Fire Station #1.)

## **[3] OTHER ISSUES WE ARE FOLLOWING &/OR INVOLVED WITH**

- Beltway widening
- Walking Silver Spring efforts with the Y and others
- Community celebrations in the Civic Building, Veterans Plaza, Takoma Park and throughout the Region
- Adventist Hospital move to White Oaks and the physical plant left in Takoma Park
- The new Science Building in Montgomery College TP/SS Campus
- Pedestrian safety and speeding through neighborhoods
- New developments being proposed throughout the Regional Area, including various housing developments – and the upcoming process for the General Plan.
- New major investments downtown (change of ownership at Ellsworth Place; Refresh of Peterson Company/Foulger Pratt 'downtown' shopping center)
- SHA plans for Montgomery Hills
- Bus Rapid Transit System implementation
- Bike paths in and around downtown
- Scooters pilot project
- Night-time economy impact on quality of life (noise and late night / early morning activities)
- Oakview Neighborhood Action Team
- Progress Place and Environs Neighborhood Action Team
- Quebec Terrace issues re lighting and more