

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report SEPTEMBER 2018 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

Development and Infrastructure Construction

- Studio Plaza's 400 unit apartment complex is scheduled to be completed mid-2019. However, the 2-story, 150 space County parking garage will open in November.
- United Therapeutic is schedule to complete its new building in the Fall as well.
- The Purple Line has begun construction. This is most evident in Lyttonsville (the closed bridge), Wayne Avenue at Manchester (the tunnel), and Long Branch (Arliiss St closed).
- PEPCO's work on Fenton in downtown will soon be moving one block south, having nearly completed the block from Colesville to Ellsworth.
- WSSC's work on Colesville continues.
- Washington Gas has recently been working on Ellsworth
- Park Valley in Tokoma Park is closed for months.
- In downtown around the Fenton Village area, various private development projects (Studio Plaza, Washington Properties, HOC) under construction continue challenging pedestrian and vehicular flow. Grove Street in particular is being impacted with oversized trucks and construction equipment

Community Celebrations in the Regional Area

The level of celebrations and activity in the Regional Area during the early Fall and through Thanksgiving is intense. While most of these events are produced by independent groups (non-profits, ethnic communities, and others) key ones are either sponsored in part or produced in whole the County or the City of Takoma Park. Some of these include:

- SS/TP Restaurant Week (starting September 4th); Ethiopian Festival (September 2nd), Jazz Festival (September 8th), Pan African Festival (September 22nd), KidFest (September 23rd), Harvest Festival (October 7th) all at Veterans Plaza; Latin American Film Fest (starting September 13th at the AFI); Takoma Park Folk Festival (September 16th, Takoma Park Middle School); Takoma Park Street Festival (October 7th, downtown Takoma Park); and the Thanksgiving Parade (Saturday before Thanksgiving)... Smaller events are also happening in Long Branch, Montgomery Hills, Takoma Langley, downtown Silver Spring by the Fountain most every Friday and Saturday, and on Veterans Plaza on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Civic Building and Veterans Plaza Community Access Program

This program is off to an historic start. Over 60 applications for the discounted use of the Silver Spring Civic Building and Veterans Plaza were recently reviewed. Final amount decisions have not yet been made. We will know soon how much is left in the Program to be used in the balance of the fiscal year.

Mini-Grants Awardees Notified

We have notified the recipients for this innovative program whereas resources from community and civic groups are matched to do block gathering, small neighborhood celebrations, and other community building efforts. We have exhausted the \$5,000 allocated to the Program for the Regional Area. 14 applications were received; 11 were funded; 3 did not qualify.

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

Next meeting: Monday, September 10th 7pm, Civic Building. On the Agenda: Understanding the budget process to better provide advice... Also of note: The request for applicants to serve on the Board yielded over 25 applications – but over ½ are from the downtown area sparking the possibility that it may be time for a downtown residents association to be formed. Interviews for the four Board vacancies will be scheduled in October to ensure the current Council can confirm in November.

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, September 20th , 3:30pm, Fire Station #1. On the Agenda: GreenBank, Opportunity Zones... Also of note: We are reviewing applicants and finalizing the recommended membership of this 11-member body. The vacant positions include positions appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and Optional Method Developers.

Silver Spring Transportation Management District

Next meeting: Thursday, September 13th, 8am, Discovery Building. On the Agenda: TBD... Also of note: The SSCAB will be considering three names for appointment to the SSTMD. (The SSCAB recommends residents from three distinct communities: Four Corners, Downtown, and North Silver Spring.

Purple Line Community Advisory Teams (CATs)

Dates for the next meeting of the four* CATs in the Silver Spring Regional Area are not set yet. *The four CATs include: Lyttonsville & 16th St Stations; Transit Center, Library, & Dale Ave Stations; Manchester & Piney Branch; and, University Blvd & Takoma Langley.

Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committees (CACs)

Next meetings: Central US29 Thursday, October 18th , 6:30pm, United Methodist Church; South US29 Tuesday, October 16th, 6:30pm, Civic Building.

Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

Last meeting: Wednesday, August 22nd – decided to write letter advising an artistic ‘barne dance’ (crosswalk in all directions) be installed on Fenton and Ellsworth when PEPCO finishes its work there and the road is resurfaced... Next meeting: TBD.