



Village Vibe

September/October 2014
Volume 1, No. 5

President's View: Growing Stronger

September 29th is the anniversary of our opening date. Last September, Village planners had already been working for nearly three years. As with many other things we needed to decide, the opening date was a subject of considerable debate. Key elements were in place: we had a website and logo, officers and board of directors, 501(c)(3) status, bylaws, insurance, a little bit of money, and a lot of enthusiasm for our mission. Finally, we decided to "just do it."

After a couple of months, we had a few dozen members and trained volunteers, a calendar of events, and some local businesses giving our members discounts. As you will read in this issue of the Vibe, we've made good progress in growing our membership and volunteer numbers, and providing member-requested services. Harder to quantify, but equally important, are the many new friendships that are forming – among and between our members and volunteers.

This year, while we will continue to work on getting bigger, the emphasis will be on "growing stronger" – to ensure we can keep on doing what we've started and to do it very, very well. Above all, this will require recruiting more volunteers to provide service to our members and help with committee work. It will require successful fundraising and increased community support. Our Village will also be stronger when it better represents the wonderful diversity of downtown Silver Spring. This is exciting work! Please let us know how you can help. You can contact me or other members of the Board (see page 2) at any time with your ideas, issues, and inspirations via info@silverspringvillage.org or (301) 503-7401.

—Claire Maklan

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Mission of the Village

To build and sustain a supportive network of neighbors helping neighbors remain in their own homes and be engaged in the community as they age.

Using a combination of volunteer and professional services and referrals, the Village provides a variety of services, as well as opportunities for social engagement. Participation by a diverse mix of residents within the Village's defined geographic area enhances the quality of life for the entire community.

Like other Villages in the U.S. and abroad, our network aims to support individuals and to strengthen the community in which they live.

First Anniversary Celebration for Silver Spring Village

Please come!



Sunday, October 12, 2-4 pm

Silver Spring Civic Building at Ellsworth and Fenton Streets

Progress Report

Totals as of the end of July

- Members: 69 (40 full)
- Volunteers: 55

Volunteer help June/July

We provided direct assistance to members: 435 hours by 34 volunteers for 22 members, including:

- 36 rides, primarily for medical appointments
- 12 trips for groceries
- Gardening, computer assistance, furniture moving, TV assistance, establishment of a friendly visitor schedule for a new full member

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Board of Directors

Claire Maklan, *President*
 Peggy Gervasi, *Vice President*
 Mary Ann Zimmerman, *Secretary*
 Michele Frome, *Treasurer*
 Martine Brizius
 Roberta Gosier
 Gary Klauber
 Anne McHenry
 Mae Novak
 Jacqueline Wallen

Committees

Membership—Anne McHenry
 Member Benefits—Gary Klauber
 Volunteers—Mae Novak
 Service Providers—Shannah Koss
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman
 Finance—Michele Frome
 Communications—Claire Maklan, Bruce Rosenthal

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Silver Spring Village is a non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization.

Events Sampler

Members learned about the latest social media tools (Facebook, Twitter and others) and trends from Amelia Burke-Garcia, director of the Center for Digital Strategy and Research at Westat. Held at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center in Silver Spring, the event also celebrated the launch of the Silver Spring Village Facebook page in June 2014 (www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage). If you missed the session, check out the great video that Amelia played to help put social media in perspective: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxp4dNVd3c> (#Socialnomics 2014 by Erik Qualman).



Photo of "Social Media 101" session by Connie Raab

Other recent events included regular walks along the Sligo Creek Park hiker/biker trail, a collegiate-level baseball game between the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts and the DC Grays, and cocktails and conversation at the 8407 Kitchen Bar in Silver Spring.



Leisurely walk, baseball game, and happy hour—photos by Claire Maklan

Panel on Diversity in Villages

Silver Spring Village Board member Jacqie Wallen proposed and is leading a panel discussion on "Creating Diversity-Friendly Villages" at the upcoming conference of the Village to Village Network, a national membership organization to be held in Crystal City, Virginia, at the end of September. The panel of DC-area Village leaders will discuss strategies to promote recruitment of members from diverse groups in order to create inclusive Villages. The discussion will cover racial and economic diversity as well as LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) issues in Villages. Your suggestions for making our Village more diverse are welcome at info@silverspringvillage.org.

What Is the "Village Movement"?

It is a local, volunteer-led grassroots movement across the country that aims to support community residents who choose to age in place. The concept is neighbors helping neighbors. For more information visit:

- The Village to Village Network at www.vtvnetwork.org
- Washington Area Villages Exchange at www.wavevillages.org
- The Montgomery County Villages website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/Villages/Villages.html



A social for current and potential members and volunteers—photo by David Maklan

Members say:

- ✎ *"Thank you so much for all you have done and are doing for me. I could not make it without this support by you and the Village volunteers."*
- ✎ *"I am so grateful to whoever started the Silver Spring Village!"*
- ✎ *"One of Silver Spring Village's intrepid handymen recently installed a new antenna on my TV. I am such a happy camper!!! Village membership rocks!"*

How to . . .

...become a member: Residents throughout the 20910 zip code are eligible. All members can attend events, get discounts from local businesses, receive a subscription to *Washington Consumers' Checkbook*, access our information service, and get referrals to professionals. Full members can also receive services from our volunteers such as transportation, indoor and outdoor household help, technology support, friendly visits, and check-ins. Membership dues cover less than half of our operating expenses and are: Full: \$350/individual or \$450/couple; Associate: \$150/individual, \$250/couple.

...volunteer: People over age 18 who support our "age in place" mission are invited to serve as volunteers. Volunteers are not required to be members of the Village (though they are welcome to join, and many do). They need to complete an interest form and application, and have a background check. Training will be provided. All applicants must be officially accepted and enrolled by the Volunteer Coordinator before performing tasks for the Village. All sorts of skills and interests are welcome.

...donate: To keep our Village strong, we need funding from a combination of organizational and individual donors, in-kind contributions, and grants. Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted. Donations are *tax-deductible*. Checks should be made to Silver Spring Village and mailed to Silver Spring Village, PO Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Consider the Village in your will, in memorial donations, or in someone's honor.

We would love to hear from local businesses that might provide in-kind contributions or discounts to our members. Contact us!

Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

Must be volunteer or member

* *Must be member*

ONGOING EVENTS

Coffee Hour, every Wednesday in September at Zed's Café, every Wednesday in October at Kefa Café, 10 am

Walk in Sligo Park, every Thursday, 1 pm (weather permitting)

SEPTEMBER

Sat., Sept. 6 – **Model Railroad Open House**, 1-4 pm*

Wed., Sept. 10 – **"Hollywood on the Potomac" SPARKLE** program. Book talk with Mike Canning, film critic and historian, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm

Mon., Sept. 15 – **Creative Recollections**. Introductory workshop to learn how to remember and document life experiences and insights, 2 pm*

Thurs., Sept. 18 – **Happy Hour at Denizen's Brewing Co.**, 4 pm*

Sat., Sept. 20 – **Village Volunteer/Member Appreciation Brunch**, 10 am–2 pm#

Tues., Sept. 23 – **Lunch at Pacci's Trattoria**, 1 pm*

OCTOBER

Wed., Oct. 8 – **"Silver Spring Becomes a Suburb 1880s-1950s" SPARKLE** program. Discussion with Bob Oshel, local historian, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm

Sun., Oct 12 – **Village Anniversary**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-4 pm (all are welcome)

Wed., Oct. 15 – **Mandarin Cooking Lesson and Dinner**, 4 pm*

Fri., Oct 17 – **Sondheim's "Follies,"** Performing Arts Video Series, with wine, cheese and discussion, 2-5 pm*

Sun., Oct 19 – **Senior Beacon Resource Fair**, Silver Spring Civic Building, noon-4 pm

Tues., Oct 28 – **Happy Hour at El Golfo**, 4 pm*

Volunteers Help

Providing transportation is a key service our volunteers provide to full members.



Another is computer help.



We can also help with grocery shopping, change light bulbs and window screens, hang pictures, move boxes, water plants, do light gardening, come for a visit, de-clutter, do temporary pet care, and more.

If you are a full member, let us know how we can help by calling 301-503-7401. If you are not, but have needs, consider joining the Village. If you want to volunteer, see our Wanted poster. Be part of the Village Movement!

*Photos by Cynna Janus and
Dennis Gosier*

Visit us on Facebook!
[www.facebook.com/
silverspringvillage](http://www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage)

A volunteer said

so "I really enjoyed my time with Mr. _____. He has a very interesting history ... I will definitely sign up to visit with him again."

Volunteer Corner

Note the spiffy "Wanted" poster below designed by our creative newsletter team. Yes indeed, readers, we are actively seeking **more volunteers** to assist Village members and to help grow the Village as we approach our first anniversary. One goal of the Volunteer Committee is to add a screened and trained volunteer for every new full member of the Village, and so far we have been on track in meeting that goal. As I discovered this summer, however, "on track" is not the same as "keeping up." What happened? Summer! Life! Volunteers (including yours truly) went on vacation, had family and pet emergencies, and car troubles, and we were caught short-handed, particularly in filling requests for transportation.

First, my thanks to every volunteer, and especially those who went the extra mile (literally) over the past two months. Second, my thanks to **all** the volunteers who collectively have logged over **9500 hours** in the past ten months. Wow! Third, I need your help to expand the Village volunteer corps, so please spread the word! Starting the volunteer application process can be done at the volunteer section of the website www.silverspringvillage.org, or by email to volunteers@silverspringvillage.org. Thank you.

—Mae Novak



Thank you, Silver Spring Village

I am happy to contribute to a facility that has made my accident recovery as easy as possible. Without your help, it would have been a very difficult and disturbing time for me. You made certain that you and your volunteers each day and week made a wonderful experience for me. May God bless everyone in the Village.

WANTED



Volunteers for Silver Spring Village

Qualifications: 18 and older, desire to assist others
Drivers particularly needed



REWARD

Benefit your community
Meet cool new people
Help grow our Village



Contact:

301-503-7401 or volunteers@silverspringvillage.org