



Village Vibe

March/April 2015
Volume 2, No. 2

President's View: New People, More Voices

In this issue, we are delighted to introduce Marcy M. Frosh, who joined us in January as part-time Executive Director. Acquiring professional help is a major step for our organization, and we are thrilled to have succeeded in recruiting such a smart and resourceful person as Marcy. She is already helping our Village build connections with other local nonprofits, businesses, and groups of neighbors, to support our growth and sustainability. Read more about Marcy on page 2. (This important news was also reported on our Facebook page, in the [Gazette](#) and in [Silver Spring Patch](#).)

We've created three new communication tools to help our members and volunteers be more engaged in the Village. First, we developed the "Village Insider," which is a short, monthly message to members and volunteers to provide them updates and reminders. Distribution began at the end of February via email and in hard copy as needed. Second, we have established an electronic "forum" through which members can communicate easily and directly with each other. Now, members can notify others about an interesting exhibit, a fondue pot they want to give away, a rollaway bed they'd like to borrow, an extra ticket to a show, etc. And third, we've set up an email "suggestion box" to supplement periodic feedback sessions for our members.

We are making a push to enroll our 100th member by the end of June (20 new members in the next 4 months). In addition to making presentations to neighborhood civic associations and other groups, we are offering incentives to current members and volunteers who successfully recruit new members. Perhaps you can help: Please spread the word about the Village—and tell me via our phone number or email below if you know someone who might like to join us!

—Claire Maklan

Snow, wind, rain, etc? Need help?

Those of you who are full members know that you can get many types of help from our volunteers. We want to remind you that this can include *storm assistance* such as a check-in call or visit in the event of a power outage, help with grocery shopping, or snow or debris removal. Members are encouraged to complete the Storm Assistance Survey on the membership page of our website or call the Village to receive a survey by mail. And thanks in advance to the volunteers who provide these important services to our members!



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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.

Progress Report

Totals as of the end of February

- Members: 79 (42 full, 37 associate)
- Volunteers: 65

Volunteer hours

- December: 756
- January: 957

Volunteer help Dec./Jan.

- 54 rides
- 76 friendly visits and check-ins
- 14 dog walks
- Office telephone crew: 240 hours

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www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage

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

Executive Director

Marcy M. Frosh

Committee Chairs

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

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Facebook Administrators

Terry Savage, Nora Onley

SPARKLE Representatives

Cynna Janus, Roberta Gosier

Village Appoints First Executive Director

The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce the selection of Marcy M. Frosh as the Village's Executive Director, effective January 2015. Marcy has extensive leadership experience in the nonprofit, private, and government sectors in the greater Washington, DC area. Most recently, she worked with the nonprofit Children's Dental Health Project overseeing foundation and grant-funded programs with partners such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and, earlier, as a consultant for MayaTech Corporation on public health prevention initiatives for the National Cancer Institute. Marcy brings an understanding of County government and senior issues, having served as a Montgomery County Community Resource Coordinator. She has served on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations, including the Montgomery County Childcare Association, CollegeTracks, and the Ivymount School. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the Georgetown University Law Center.



Marcy M. Frosh—photo by Doug Wallick

Marcy recently answered some questions for the *Vibe*:

- *Why were you interested in this position?* I met with many seniors during my husband's campaign for Attorney General and heard about challenges and needs. The Village seems like a valuable part of the solution.
- *What do you think is important about the Village?* It builds community and fills a gap in services and programs for those who want to age at home.
- *What have you learned in your first few weeks in the role?* Members and volunteers share a bond in wanting to be part of a very special community, a community we want to expand. The potential for the Village is powerful.
- *What are your priorities this year?* Fundraising and membership marketing/outreach will help to right-size the budget to accomplish goals. Friend-raising will enable critical community partnerships. Attention to administrative systems will assist our efforts to provide services and programs.

Marcy adds "I am honored and excited to join the Silver Spring Village team."

Welcome, Marcy!

Events Sampler

Events this past couple of months included our first current events discussion session, several coffee hours, a SPARKLE event on decluttering attended by a record 60 people, and much more. See page 3 for the March/April lineup of events.



Talking about current events—photo by Claire Maklan



Enjoying conversation and coffee at Zed's—photo by Gary Klauber



Learning to downsize and unclutter—photo by Lisa Martin



A grateful member holding a thank-you lunch for volunteers—photo by David Goldstein

How to . . .

...become a member: Residents throughout the 20910 zip code are eligible. All members can attend all 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 or \$250/couple.

...volunteer: People age 18 or older 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 is 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 organizational and individual donors, in-kind contributions, and grants. Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted. Donations are tax-deductible, as permitted by law. 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 contribute or provide in-kind contributions or discounts to our members. Contact us!

Know a potential member?

The Village has lots of room for growth and has the capacity to help many more people than we currently do to age in place comfortably. If you know someone in zip code 20910 who would benefit from being a Village member, let us know. It might be a loved one, friend, neighbor, or even yourself. Our current goal is to add 20 more members by the end of June. Consider signing up or giving someone the gift of membership for a birthday, Mother's or Father's Day, another special occasion, or just because.



Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

* *Must be member*

ONGOING EVENTS

Village Coffee Hour, every Wednesday in March at Zed's Café, 10-11 am

Village Meet-and-Greet Coffee Hour, every Wednesday in April (except April 8) at Bump 'n' Grind, 2-3 pm

Walk in Sligo Park, every Thursday in March weather permitting, 1 pm

MARCH

Thurs., March 5 – **20+20 Art Show at Waverly St. Gallery**, with talk by artist, Liz Wolf, 1:30–3:30 pm

Wed., March 11 – **Lunch at Adega Wine Bar and Café**, 12:30 pm*

Wed., March 11 – **"Seniors Beware: Scams and Money Perils," SPARKLE Program**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-4 pm

Fri., March 20 – **Four Seasons Garden Design**, with Sue Bell, licensed landscape contractor, designer and Master Gardener, 2-4 pm*

Tues., March 24 – **Introduction to Gentle Yoga**, Holy Cross Senior Center, 2:30-3:30 pm*

APRIL

Wed., Apr. 8 – **"Writing Your Memoirs," SPARKLE Program**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-4 pm

Wed., Apr. 8 – **Happy Hour at Eggspectation** following SPARKLE Program

Sat., Apr. 11 – Silent movie, **"Manhandled,"** starring Gloria Swanson, at **AFI/Silver Theatre**, 1-2:30 pm

Fri., Apr. 17 – **"The Leopard,"** classic movie shown at member's home, 1:30-5 pm*

Mon., Apr. 20 – **Current Events Discussion Group**, led by Robert Werner, at a member's home, 2-4 pm*

Fri., Apr. 24 – **Smithsonian Craft Show**, National Building Museum, 10 am-2 pm

To all our volunteers:
THANK YOU
 again for a great 2014
 and for all the service you
 provide.

Members say:

- ☞ *"Thank you so very much for coming out in the rain on Christmas Eve to bring me that wonderful banana bread."*
- ☞ *"Thanks for the excellent snow shoveling yesterday. . . [and for] your recipe for more dog biscuits."*
- ☞ *"Dear Village Volunteers. Thank you for your kindness. Thanks to so many drivers, card-writers, trash removers and more. You all have been a wonderful support through this difficult time. Have a great new year!"*
- ☞ *"I am very grateful for your help."*

In Appreciation

Special thanks to these recent, generous donors:

- Seeker's Church (\$1,000)
- Sanford and Doris Slavin Foundation, Inc. (\$2,500)

Save the date

This year's member and volunteer Plant and Seed Swap will be held on Sunday, May 17th.

Volunteer Corner: Bits and Pieces

Full members, did you know that you can get weekend assistance from Village volunteers? Some volunteers work full-time day jobs and can *only* "pitch in" on *weekends*. So if you need assistance—transportation, household repairs, de-cluttering, whatever—call the office at (301)-503-7401 to make your request.

Hungry? We have a group of volunteers who are cooks and bakers. If you would like a home-cooked meal delivered to your house once a month, call the office and put in your request. Please specify any food allergies, and what day of the week would be preferred.

Transportation reminders: Please request rides as soon as you make your medical appointments and try to schedule appointments in the 10 am - 2 pm time slot. Members have had good luck explaining to the medical schedulers that the drivers are volunteers and are more available midday AND midweek. Finally, remember that any parking fees and tolls are to be paid by the member, not the volunteer driver, and cancellations should be called to the office (and to your driver) right away.

Parking tags: If you have mobility or other disability issues (temporary or permanent) you can apply for a handicapped placard for your car. No car? No problem! You can still apply for a placard that your friends, relatives (and Village volunteer drivers!) can use. For more information, call (410) 768-700 or check online at http://www.mva.maryland.gov/About-MVA/Disabilities/index.htm#parking_accommodations.

Having trouble getting the rubbish cans out to the curb? Montgomery County has a special program called "curbside waiver" that several of our members use. To find out more about the program and apply, call the County at 311.

Drivers: If you take a member to a Village event, you are welcome to join the group at that event. For example, we cosponsor a monthly educational series (SPARKLE) at the Civic Building and these programs are free and open to the public. If you drive a member to a SPARKLE event, you are also invited to join the group when there is a pre-event lunch or a post-event Happy Hour (please plan to cover your costs). See page 3 for upcoming events.

—Mae Novak



DONATE NOW—Help Silver Spring Village continue to provide programs and services that strengthen our community while helping neighbors age in place.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount: ☐ \$ 500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other: _____

Please make your check payable to Silver Spring Village and mail it to Silver Spring Village, P.O. Box 8217, Silver Spring MD 20907.

If you would like to contribute by credit card, please visit our website at www.silverspringvillage.org. Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization and your contribution is tax-deductible as permitted by law.