



Village Vibe

July/August 2015
Volume 2, No. 4

Presidents' Views: Moving Forward

June 30 was the end of our fiscal year, and what a year it has been! We met or exceeded all of our goals: We enrolled our 103rd member, recruited new volunteers, fulfilled hundreds of service requests, secured grant funding, and offered dozens of programs to enable our members to get out and about. Securing Marcy Frosh as our part-time Executive Director was a major feat. With her enthusiastic and skillful guidance, we made significant progress toward becoming the more inclusive and diverse Village that we set out to be, and we built a much stronger fiscal base. I'm delighted that she will continue to serve as a consultant next fiscal year.

An inevitable part of our progress is that people move on. A huge thank-you is due Roberta Gosier (first President and "founding mother") and Jacie Wallen (first Secretary), who are leaving the Board of Directors.

The hard work of our volunteers, board members, and committees, and the great teamwork by my co-officers has been critical to our success this past year. I thank them all as I look forward to trading places with Peggy Gervasi—and to enjoying another fine year!

—Claire Maklan, President, FY2015

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As we enter our third year of operations, we welcome two new individuals to the Village board. Leslie Hansley is a Silver Spring civic leader and a long-time Village volunteer, both contributing to committee work and providing direct services to Village members. Tony Sarmiento, Executive Director of Senior Service America, brings many years of experience in operating a large non-profit and serving on other nonprofit boards. Both Leslie and Tony fill gaps in skills and interests represented on the board, and we look forward to working with them to expand and improve our programs and serve a wider and more diverse population. (Page 2 lists all board members and committee chairs.)

When I started volunteering with the Village in 2013, I expected to feel a sense of satisfaction from helping neighbors with rides, grocery shopping, and gardening. However, I didn't expect to learn how to prune crepe myrtle or better appreciate ballet or Sondheim's *Follies*. The Village has not only given me purpose, it has given me new and interesting friends—a supportive community that shares a vision and enjoys working together to make it reality. We want to bring that sense of purpose and community to many more of our 20910 neighbors. That's my hope for the coming year. —Peggy Gervasi, President, FY2016

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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 June

- Members: 103 (52 full, 51 associate)
- Volunteers: 80

Volunteer hours

- April: 914
- May: 1015

Volunteer help April/May

- 58 rides
- Over 60 friendly visits and phone check-ins
- Other activities included: gardening, home repairs, tech help, decluttering, and grocery pick-up
- Office telephone crew: 258 hours

Special kudos to the cooks and bakers who delivered daily lunches to a member in May.

Visit us on Facebook -
www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Board of Directors (as of July 1, 2015)

Peggy Gervasi, *President*
 Claire Maklan, *Vice President*
 Mary Ann Zimmerman, *Secretary*
 Michele Frome, *Treasurer*
 Martine Brizius
 Leslie Hansley
 Gary Klauber
 Anne McHenry
 Mae Novak
 Tony Sarmiento

Committees

Board Development—Michele Frome
 Communications—Claire Maklan, Bruce Rosenthal
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman
 Finance—Michele Frome
 Membership—Anne McHenry
 Programs—Gary Klauber
 Volunteer Services—Mae Novak

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Events Sampler

Dozens of Village members, volunteers, friends, and family turned out for a plant swap at a member's home (photo at right by Claire Maklan). Another member hosted a book swap, where each person brought one or more books, talked about them, and picked up new reads.



SPARKLE (a joint program between the Village and Silver Spring Town Center) held a session on "Social Media for the Non-Tweeter." Pam Holland of Tech Moxie explained Tweets, hashtags, and selfies and how the latest social media apps can be used in day-to-day life and emergencies.



At one of several "foodie" events, members gathered for happy hour at McGinty's Public House. (Photo at left by Jay Elvo).

Reaching Out

The Village wants to make sure more people in Silver Spring know about our services. We recently staffed booths at Fenton Street Market and at the Silver Spring Blues Festival and spoke to dozens of individuals.



The Village also worked closely with community members in the Lyttonsville area to host a well-attended information session at the Coffield Community Center. More than 40 people attended the "lunch and learn" and some are now Village members. (Photos by Claire Maklan.)

Home Safety Program Launched

Thanks to a partnership between the Village and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, 22 homes of Village members and volunteers are now safer! Led by MCFRS's Jim Resnick, firefighters (accompanied by Village volunteers) did individual home safety checks, installing smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms as needed, providing prevention and response tips, and encouraging individuals to put personal and medical information in a



"File of Life" to be used in emergencies.

MCFRS recommends one smoke alarm per floor and, if gas or other fuel or a fireplace is used, a CO alarm near the sleeping area, plus one near the potential source of CO. Search the County web site at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov> for information on seniors and fire safety. (Photos by Connie Raab.)



Book Group

Thank you to El Golfo Restaurant for hosting our first three Afternoon Book Group meetings. (Photo by Martine Brizius.) The regular meetings at 2 pm on the second Thursday of the month will now occur at the new Silver Spring Library. See calendar for details.



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 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!

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.

Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

* *Must be member*

ONGOING EVENTS

Village Meet-n-Greet Coffee

Hour, every Wednesday in July (except July 8 and 29) at Kaldi's Coffee Bar, 2-3 pm

Village Meet-n-Greet Coffee

Hour, every Wednesday in August (except August 12 and 26) at Taste Diner, 2-3 pm

JULY

Thurs., July 9 – **Afternoon Book Group** at the Silver Spring Library (*The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss), 2 pm

Fri., July 10 – **Regional Craft Show**, Strathmore Mansion, 11 am

Thurs., July 16 – **Lunch at Busboys & Poets**, 12 noon*

Thurs., July 23 – **Happy Hour at Denizen's Brewing Co.**, 5 pm*

AUGUST

Sat., Aug. 1 – **Art Glass Exhibition**, Waverly Street Gallery, 12 noon, followed by **Lunch at Boeeymonger***

Thurs., Aug. 6 – **Foodie Finds Program at Whole Foods**, 3 pm*

Thurs., Aug. 13 – **Afternoon Book Group** at the Silver Spring Library (*Someone by Alice McDermott*), 2 pm

Sat., Aug. 15 – **Dinner at Mi Rancho**, 5:30 pm*

Wed., Aug. 26 – **Happy Hour at Urban Winery**, 4 pm*

Members say:

- ☞ "I don't know where I'd be without all the help you've given me."
- ☞ "It [the Village] is such a good idea."

A member's son says:

- ☞ "You guys are the best, thanks so much."

County Grant Award

We are very pleased to report that our grant application to the Montgomery County Council was again successful. We've been notified that for Fiscal Year 2016 we will receive \$25,000 for operating support. Thank you, Mr. Leggett!

Village TV Debut

On June 11, Montgomery County's *Week in Review* show featured an interview with Claire Maklan on what the Village is and what it can do for people. The segment can be viewed on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/o2U8cQiTEGY>

Space: The Next Frontier (for the Village)

The Village is looking for free or low-cost space in downtown Silver Spring with room for two people to work, ideally with access to a meeting room. Please contact info@silverspringvillage.org if you can help.



Plant yourself where you will bloom with help from Silver Spring Village. (Photo by Claire Maklan.)

Volunteer Corner:

Volunteers Needed For Village Swimsuit Edition

Stop the presses! We aren't **really** planning to recreate the *Sports Illustrated* annual issue, but we **are** looking for volunteers (men and women!) to get suited up for work on our newly rechartered committees. That's right—we need YOU to help run this growing Village. Grab your sand shovel and read on for how you can pitch in:



- **Finance Committee**—develops and implements processes to ensure that the Board fulfills its responsibilities to plan and manage the Village's financial affairs and financial assets.
- **Communications Committee**—conducts outreach to the community and in-reach (to our members, donors and friends) to create and maintain visibility, credibility and enthusiasm that help sustain and grow the Village. Also responds to inquiries and proactively informs individuals and organizations in the community about our work.
- **Development Committee**—develops, implements, and assesses plans for resource acquisition to support the Village's sustainability and growth. The Village's diversified base of support includes earned income, philanthropy, government funding and partnerships.
- **Membership Committee**—develops and carries out plans to expand membership in accordance with established goals and to maximize engagement, satisfaction, and retention of current members.
- **Programs Committee**—defines and implements a robust set of events, activities, and other benefits for Village members and engages the broader community.
- **Volunteer Services Committee**—recruits, trains, and maintains a sufficient number and mix of volunteers to fulfill members' requests for assistance and to carry out the organizational work of the Village.



Interested? Want more info? Put on your SPF 30 and dive in by dropping a line to info@silverspringvillage.org, or by calling the office at 301-503-7401.

—Mae Novak

Villager for Life!

I want to express my thanks for the opportunity to work with Silver Spring Village as Executive Director. My decision to transition from this role was not an easy one. There are times, though, when family life demands more focus—something I think all of you can understand. I am very proud that in our time together we were able to expand our membership base, improve our planning process, and make safe aging in place a priority!

With its remarkable individuals, Silver Spring Village has the best possible future!

Warm regards, Marcy Frosh