



Village Vibe

November/December 2015
Volume 2, No. 6

President's View: Here When You Need It

Dear Friends,

In addition to the day-to-day operation of the Village—responding to member requests for assistance, organizing the many Village events, recruiting and onboarding members and volunteers, paying the bills—the Board of Directors is busy hiring an Executive Director and preparing for the giving season.

We received nearly 50 responses to our Executive Director job announcement. The selection process includes phone interviews and a smaller number of in-person interviews. We hope to have our new leader at the helm by December 1.

We are also gearing up for our annual appeal, which kicks off on #GivingTuesday, December 1. Even with a largely volunteer force, there are expenses involved in operating and growing the Village; membership dues cover only part of our operating expenses. And, if you've ever had to raise funds for a community organization or project, you know it involves a lot of research, thought, decisions, and just plain hard work. We are grateful to our Development Chair, Mary Ann Zimmerman, for her leadership in *all* of our fundraising efforts.

I also want to tell you about a member who has been in rehab after surgery, who we hope will be home in a couple of weeks. In addition to visits and phone calls to cheer her on, volunteers are holding down the fort at home: someone stops by her house daily to take in the mail, water the plants, and, most importantly, feed the cat and give him a little loving. You never know what will make a difference in someone's life! That's the beauty of the Village: a supportive community that's there when you need it, whatever "it" might be.

—Peggy Gervasi, President

End of the Year Ideas



☒ Give the gift of Village membership to a relative, friend, or neighbor

☒ Reduce your 2015 taxes with a tax-deductible donation to the Village



See page 3 for for "how-tos."

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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 October

- Members: 104 (51 full, 53 associate)
- Volunteers: 80

Volunteer hours

- August: 844
- September: 780

Volunteer help Aug./Sept

- 60 rides
- Over 60 friendly visits and phone check-ins
- At-home assistance requests filled: 50
- Activities included: yard sale help, meals, trash/recycling, home repairs, and pet care
- Office telephone crew: 252 hours

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

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Board of Directors

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

Committees

Board Development—Tony Sarmiento
 Communications—Claire Maklan, Bruce Rosenthal
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman
 Finance—Sue Decker
 Membership—Anne McHenry
 Programs—Gary Klauber
 Volunteer Services—Mae Novak

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Events Sampler

The past couple of months we offered members a full array of activities, from discussions of current events, books (below), Frank Lloyd Wright, gardening, and a no-grass yard; to a session on gold leaf by experts and Village members, Ina and Allen Marx; to coffees, happy hours, meals, and an ice cream social. Shown here is a tour of the new Silver Spring Library and a SPARKLE program led by CREATE Arts Center. See page 3 for upcoming events.

(Photos by Claire Maklan and Erin Byrne)



Book Group Update

The Afternoon Book Group is an eclectic mix of about 10, meeting once a month to talk about what we've read. In October, we talked about *In the Woods*, by Tana French, a mystery set in Ireland, with twists and turns and possible psychological implications, more than any single reader identified. For our next discussion on November 12, we will read the first half of *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson. We meet at the Silver Spring Library on the second Thursday of every month, in one of the new rooms available to the public. We have had new people show up each month, with several hard core returnees providing continuity, and we enjoy welcoming new readers. Please consider joining us in November or any month going forward, with the reading selections scheduled:

- Dec. 10—second half of *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson
- Jan. 14—*Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel (2009). We'll probably split this book for two months of reading, due to the fact that it is about 600 pages. We try to keep our monthly page-read to about 300.

—Carolyn Lauer

Appreciation Event

At least once a year we invite all members and volunteers to an event so everyone can enjoy each other's company. We also say thank you to everyone who contributes in some way to the Village. Donated door prizes, including a gingerbread house, were raffled off. A huge array of food and beverages was brought by attendees. We also thank Village Rides for contributing food, as well as a large red cardboard cutout car that people got their pictures taken with (see page 3). (We are one of seven Villages that uses software scheduling provided by Village Rides.)

(Photos by Claire Maklan)





Need a lift?

One of the things we do for full members is provide rides—to the doctor, the grocery store, our many events, and more. If this would be helpful to you, considering signing up for full membership (below).

At left: Two Board members hamming it up at the recent member/volunteer appreciation event—photo by Claire Maklan.

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 only part of our operating expenses and are: Full: \$350/individual or \$450/couple; Associate: \$150/individual or \$250/couple. Reduced cost full memberships are available to qualified applicants. For more info, please contact us online at membership@silverspringvillage.org or call (301) 503-7401.

...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 or donations by credit card can be made online via the [donation page](#) of our website. 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!

Members say

“I want to congratulate and thank the people who started the Village. It really adds to the value of our neighborhood.”

“I can't imagine what my life would be like today, or even where I would be now had I not found the Village. It has been a true godsend for me and done wonders in restoring my belief in the kindness of strangers.”

Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

**Must be member*

NOVEMBER

Tues., Nov. 3 – **Ice Cream Social at Islands Tropical Ice Cream**, 2 pm*

Fri., Nov. 6 – **“Date Night” Movie *Bridge of Spies***. Meet in lobby of the Regal Majestic 20, Silver Spring, 6:30 pm*

Wed., Nov. 11 – **Social Hour at Kaldi's Cafe**, 2 pm

Thurs., Nov. 12 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (*The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson), 2-3:30 pm

Mon., Nov. 16 – **Current Events Discussion** at a member's home, 2-3:30 pm*

Wed., Nov. 18 – **Library Technology, SPARKLE Program**, Silver Spring Library, 2-4 pm

Wed., Nov. 18 – **Post-SPARKLE Happy Hour, A.G. Kitchen**, 4 pm

DECEMBER

Wed., Dec. 2 – **Ice Cream Social at Moorenko's**, 2 pm*

Sun., Dec. 6 – **Souper Sunday** at a member's home, discussion on **Maximizing the Value of Your Home**, 1:30-4:30 pm*

Wed., Dec. 9 – **Pre-SPARKLE Lunch at Eggspectation**, 12:30 pm*

Wed., Dec. 9 – Collecting Shakespeare: The Story of Henry and Emily Folger" with author Stephen Grant, **SPARKLE Program**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-4 pm

Thurs., Dec. 10 – **Afternoon Book Group**, Silver Spring Library (continued discussion on *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson), 2-3:30 pm

Mon., Dec. 14 – **Current Events Discussion** at Taste Diner, 2-3:30 pm*

Wed., Dec. 16 – **Happy Hour at The Urban Winery**, 5 pm*

Sat., Dec. 19 – **Dinner at Hollywood East**, 6 pm*

The Storm Survey

The Village developed a “Storm Assistance Questionnaire” to ask our members about help they might need to get through a winter storm or power outage any time of the year. We ask what they need to be prepared.



One category is **staying informed**, which includes signing up for Alert Montgomery, as well as reviewing safety information. Another category is **identifying the member’s support network**, someone who can stay in contact with the member daily during an emergency, have spare keys, and stay in contact with friends and relatives. **Making a plan if evacuation is necessary** is another category. It includes help recording medications, conditions, and doctors, making a packing list, and planning where the member would go. The final category is **preparing a 72-hour supply kit**. This includes assembling water, food, medications, radio, flashlight batteries, first aid kit, and key documents.

The survey also asks what help would be needed **after** the storm, such as clearing snow and ice, restocking supplies, inspecting the property, or assisting with problems or finding service providers who can help.

We look after our members! Join us if you need our help, rain, snow, or shine.



Volunteer Corner: The Buddy System



ATTENTION trained Village volunteers! We have several Village members who completed a “storm survey” as part of the enrollment process for full members. Past practice has been for us to call these members during and after storms to check on them and see if they need anything. That has worked great so far—since there has been neither “snowmageddon” nor another derecho since the Village opened. If there had been an actual weather-related emergency, we had no consistent way of getting TO these members to provide assistance. (It doesn’t help much for me to say I can help someone over near Piney Branch when I can’t get up the hill on Midwood!)

To address this concern now, we are seeking Village volunteers who live near specific streets to “buddy up” with close-by members during and after storms and to meet with them ahead of time to go over their surveys and needs. Here is a list of the streets for members who have requested help. If you live close and want to help out with this initiative, please send an email to volunteers@silverspringvillage.org with the subject line “I Can Help with Storm Assistance on XXXX Street.”

Ashborn Drive
Bonifant Street
Coleridge Drive
Deerfield Avenue
Easley Street—Silver Spring Towers
Fidler Lane—Twin Towers
Georgia Avenue—The Pointe
Geren Road
Grace Church Road

Grayson Avenue
Kingsbury Drive
Louis Avenue
Pershing Drive—The Citron
Red Oak Drive
Second Avenue
Silver Spring Avenue
Sussex Road
Woodstock Avenue

Full members: If you need a storm survey form, please call the office at (301) 503-7401. As always, many thanks to ALL the volunteers for making the Village “go.”

—Mae Novak, Chair, Volunteer Services

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 the [donation page](#) of the Village website.

Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible as permitted by law.