



Village Vibe

November/December 2014
Volume 1, No. 6

President's View: Celebration, Expansion

On October 12, we celebrated our first anniversary with a special public event at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Members, volunteers, and other local residents joined the festivities. We heard from Pazit Aviv, Montgomery County's Villages Coordinator, and several government officials who recognize the importance of our work. We received a citation from Congressman Chris Van Hollen and from the Maryland General Assembly and a proclamation from the County Council. Even without an office, we have three nice certificates for the wall!

The Board of Directors is proud to announce a pilot program that will offer membership scholarships to individuals who wish to join our Village but who need financial assistance to do so. This program will help us with one of our key goals—to expand Village membership throughout more of our community. Please read more about this on page 4.

You will soon receive an email message about the start of our fall fundraising appeal. Please consider the value of the work we are doing to support our neighbors. We can't continue without strong financial support. Also, with the holidays approaching, please keep in mind that Village membership makes a great gift at this, and any, time of year.

—Claire Maklan

Anniversary Highlights

About 100 people gathered to mingle over refreshments, listen to speakers, and visit information booths. A citation by Congressman Van Hollen captured some of the sentiments expressed: "Presented to Silver Spring Village with appreciation for the outstanding services and programs it provides to people who wish to age comfortably and productively in their homes as members of a community, and with gratitude for its innovative 'network of neighbors' model, which enhances the quality of life for our entire community."

At left, County Executive Isiah Leggett was one of several speakers. At right, Councilmembers Cherri Branson and George Leventhal presented a citation to Village President Claire Maklan.

Photos by David Maklan; for more, visit our website.



In This Issue

- Progress report
- Events sampler
- Villages and Diversity
- Consumer Checkbook
- How to join, volunteer, give
- Events calendar
- Volunteer corner
- Reduced cost memberships
- In appreciation
- Donation form

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: 74 (39 full)
- Volunteers: 65 (plus 5 in progress)

Volunteer hours

- August: 912
- September: 1021

Volunteer help Aug./Sept.

25 volunteers provided direct assistance to 16 members. Services included 33 rides, several grocery trips, 50 friendly visits and check-in phone calls, 20 hours of gardening/weeding, 13 hours of tech support (computers, TV, phones), and 6 hours of pet care.

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

Committee Chairs

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

Facebook

Terry Savage, Nora Onley

SPARKLE representatives

Cynna Janus, Roberta Gosier

Visit us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage

Events Sampler

The past couple of months we held small and large events, learned new things, enjoyed the community we are building, and celebrated all that the Village is doing (see page 1).



Members enjoyed a Mandarin cooking lesson and dinner led by visiting scholar, Village volunteer, and enthusiastic cook Wei Jiang (photo at right by Jacqueline Wallen). Several members took a tour of a member's model railroad set (photo at left by Mae Novak).



A local historian, Bob Oshel, discussed the history of Silver Spring and how it became a suburb between the 1890s and the 1950s. Film critic and historian



Mike Canning spoke about how Washington, DC, has been portrayed in film and signed his book, *Hollywood on the Potomac* (photo at left by Cynna Janus). This was part of the monthly SPARKLE series (Senior Programs Aimed at Re-Kindling Lifetime Engagement).

Dozens of volunteers and members came to our volunteers appreciation brunch (photo at right by Claire Maklan).



Villages and Diversity

Jacqueline Wallen, founding and Board member of Silver Spring Village, coordinated a panel on "Creating Diversity-Friendly Villages" for the Village-to-Village 2014 National Gathering in Crystal City in September. Key speakers were:

- Shannon Cockett, President, East Rock Creek Village, on racial diversity in Villages. She emphasized the importance of partnering with neighborhood organizations that have a history of racial inclusiveness and support for diversity in order to help achieve diversity goals.
- Susan Hester, Executive Director of Cleveland & Woodley Park Village, on including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) members. She said it is important to understand LGBT terminology and the effects of long-term discrimination and suggested ways to indicate that a Village is a welcoming community.
- Marianna Blagburn, Executive Director of Northwest Neighbors Village, on economic diversity. She said that all Villages, no matter how affluent, should include lower income members. It is helpful to collaborate with public and low-cost providers of senior services and to provide low-cost activities for members.

Silver Spring Village welcomes members throughout our service area and is working to improve our diversity.

Member Benefit: “Checkbook”

Here is another good reason to become a Village member: You get the online *Washington Consumer's Checkbook*. *Checkbook* provides listings of top quality and price providers in 67 categories. It provides neighbor-to-neighbor comments or general advice on another 184 services categories, such as appliance stores, computer repair, handyman services, plumbers, auto body shops, and health care providers.

Using the online *Checkbook* you can select the best providers closest to home. *Checkbook* also has articles on planning before you select a service provider, what services you may want to consider, and how to save money.

Village volunteers can assist members who need help looking things up or who don't have Internet access. The Village has also negotiated discounts for members with some of the top-rated service providers in the community.

How to . . .

...become a member: Residents throughout the 20910 zip code are eligible. All members can attend all our 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 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 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*, 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 provide in-kind contributions or discounts to our members. Contact us!

Members say:

- ☞ “Words cannot express my appreciation for all that the Village has done for me.
- ☞ “Not a week has gone by since I made that first phone call that the Village has not been part of my life. For that I will be forever grateful.”

Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

Must be volunteer or member

* *Must be member*

ONGOING EVENTS

Village Coffee Hour, every Wednesday in November (except November 26) at Kaldi's Coffee Bar; every Wednesday in December (except December 24 and 31), at Zed's Café, 10 am

Walk in Sligo Park, every Thursday (except November 27 and December 25), weather permitting, 1 pm

NOVEMBER

Wed., Nov. 12 – **Good Nutrition Through Easy Recipes and Simple Cooking, SPARKLE** program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm

Sun., Nov. 16 – **Movie at AFI/Silver**, “The Woman on the Beach,” 1:30 pm*

Mon., Nov. 17 – **Lunch at Republic Restaurant**, 12 noon*

DECEMBER

Tues., Dec. 2 – **Hanukkah Cooking Lesson**, 1 pm*

Wed., Dec. 10 – **Lunch at Adega**, 12:30 pm*

Wed., Dec. 10 – **Tapping Into Your Dreams – Creating Your Bucket List, SPARKLE** program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm

Fri., Dec. 19 – **“The Nutcracker,”** Performing Arts Video Series, with wine, cheese and discussion, 2-5 pm*



Members at the anniversary celebration—photo by David Maklan

Volunteer Corner

Let's Get Growing! I know, I know ... it's the wrong time of year, but only for our gardens, not for volunteering. Volunteering never lies fallow, and our volunteers are doing their part to keep Silver Spring Village growing. We have an exciting pilot project called "Meals for Members," organized by new volunteer Kerstin Schmidt. A group of Village volunteers are preparing a weekly home-cooked meal for several members. Full members: If you are interested in being added to the meals project, please call us or send an email to volunteers@silverspringvillage.org.

We have also been contacted by individuals representing groups (yes, groups) of young adults ages 25-32 who want to volunteer with our Village. We're working to match these young volunteers with Village members who request storm assistance—neighbor by neighbor, neighborhood by neighborhood. Watch for this year's storm assistance survey, and then stay tuned for more information.

Help keep the Village growing this winter: provide opportunities for volunteers to serve!

—Mae Novak



2010 Snowmageddon—photo by Phebe Raab

Reduced Cost Memberships

Silver Spring Village aims to be an inclusive community of neighbors helping neighbors. We want to make Village benefits available to our diverse economic population. That's why we set our membership dues as low as possible—about half the actual cost. Still, there are residents who can't afford the dues.

We are proud to announce we are launching a pilot program to subsidize membership fees for individuals and households with less than \$30,000 and \$38,500, respectively, in annual income, and with assets below \$50,000 (not including the value of any home and tax-deferred retirement savings). These scholarships, made possible by a donation from Seekers Church, are available for full memberships only.

The number of scholarships is very limited. They will be awarded to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. Enrollment will begin in the next few months.

The identities of inquirers and of scholarship recipients will be held strictly confidential. To learn more about how the scholarship works, contact Anne McHenry, chair of our Membership Committee, via (301) 503-7401.

In Appreciation

Thank you to those who recently provided in-kind support:

- DigiPrintConnection – graphics help and printing
- Easter Seals, DC/MD/VA – program venue
- Negril Eatery – anniversary celebration food
- Seabury at Springvale Terrace – venue for Board meetings
- Barry Seltser – evaluation consultant

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 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 non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization and your contribution is deductible as permitted by law.