

## Silver Spring Village



# Village Vibe

September/October 2017  
Volume 4, No. 5

### Leadership View: Civic Responsibility and Our Village

Recent events have been painful reminders that our nation has much work ahead to achieve our ideal of *e pluribus unum*: *out of many, one*. Silver Spring Village is inspired by this same ideal. It's my hope that participating in our Village can provide small but significant opportunities for all of us to reduce fear and isolation that may be felt by some of our neighbors.

Nearly 20 years ago, in his book *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putnam argued that the health of American civil society was in decline. Membership in a wide range of voluntary associations was down. As indicated by his book's title, Putnam found it troubling that more Americans were bowling as individuals while fewer were choosing to join bowling leagues.

But about this same time, older residents of Beacon Hill in Boston were planning and organizing the first Village. Their success inspired more than 200 Villages that exist today throughout the U.S., including ours, with many more in the works. To honor this success, I hope you will join us in a national celebration of Villages on Monday afternoon, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at Montgomery College (see page 2).

A [recent Washington Post essay](#) by Sheryll Cashin about her neighborhood in D.C. succinctly captured the hope and spirit of our Village: "Real pluralism requires practice, and that can happen only in specific places....In Shepherd Park, we make it up as we go along." While we are learning continuously from the experiences of other Villages, we know that our Village (and our community) is unlike any other. Please help us as we "make it up as we go along" and grow older in this unique place called Silver Spring!

—Tony Sarmiento, President

### Did You Know?

Silver Spring Village offers reduced membership fees for seniors living in 20910 with limited incomes. For these seniors, full membership now costs \$60 and associate membership costs \$25. You are eligible if you want to be part of our community, have expendable income of \$30,000 or less and other assets of \$50,000 or less (not counting the value of your home and retirement savings), or have special circumstances. Please call Debbie Billet-Roumell at (240) 200-4290 to find out more about this membership option. Our goal is to make Village services available to all seniors in 20910, regardless of their income.



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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 August

- Members: 179 (87 full, 92 associate)
- Volunteers: 100

### Volunteer hours

- June: 849
- July: 684

### Volunteer help in April/May

- 97 rides
- 105 friendly calls and visits
- 35 home assistance requests filled, including helping with paperwork, moving a transfer chair, bringing recycling to the curb, doing laundry, providing meals, and decluttering.
- Telephone crew hours: 252



### Little Things Can Mean A Lot

Brightening a member's day with flowers

Photo by Anne Gavin

## Silver Spring Village, Inc.

### Board of Directors

Tony Sarmiento, *President*  
 Peggy Gervasi, *Vice President*  
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Debbie Billet-Roumell

### Director of Volunteer Services

Vanessa Ripps

### Committee Chairs

Development—  
 Mary Ann Zimmerman  
 Finance—Sue Decker  
 Membership—Anne McHenry  
 Programs—Gary Klauber

### Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

## Events Sampler

This past two months, members heard a talk on the constitutionality of the ravel ban; played IScrabble, chess, poker, bridge, and board games; saw *Casablanca* on the big screen at



AFI; discussed books and current events; learned about storytelling; enjoyed many local restaurants; and much more. New groups are forming around memoir-writing and knitting; the chess and poker players are looking for a few people with a little experience to join them. At left, members are enjoying a patio party on a warm August day. The daily storm held off until the end, but the friendly conversation flowed all afternoon.

See the events calendar for what is coming up.

Photo by Claire Maklan

## Habitat for Humanity Partnership Helps a Member

This summer, the Village began our first successful Lifelong Homes pilot project for a Village member, and the homeowner is thrilled! Habitat was able to use a \$10,000 AARP grant to install a more stable ramp at the front door, replace the roof, and trim trees that were overhanging the roof. Habitat will do more work inside, including installing grab bars in the bathroom, lever handles on doors, and a second railing on the basement stairs. They expect to use volunteers from Montgomery College for this part of the project. We believe this is the first collaboration between a Village and a Habitat for Humanity affiliate in the country. Homeowners must be 65 or older and meet income requirements.



## Come Celebrate 15 Years of the Village Movement

Beacon Hill Village (Boston) has invited Villages around the country to participate “virtually” in an event featuring Dr. Atul Gawande, author of the seminal book *Being Mortal*, who will discuss the value of community and choice as we grow older. Silver Spring Village will have a viewing of the live talk on September 25, 2017, at Montgomery College, Takoma Park/Silver Spring (TPSS), Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave., from 4:45-6:00 pm. Doors open at 4:30. The Office of the Vice President and Provost of Montgomery College, TPSS, is co-hosting the event.

While Dr. Gawande’s book title alludes to death, the stories in it are actually about life. He describes people’s efforts to maintain autonomy as they age in the face of ingrained habits, cultural expectations, and one-size-fits-all corporate offerings. He includes the Village model as a way to extend community to people who want to remain in their own homes and enjoy the rich array of activities, attributes, attitudes, and ages that engage the community’s older adult population. Choice and community are concepts honored throughout the Village movement and have led to the founding of Beacon Hill Village and more than 200 other Villages that impact the lives of thousands of older adults across the country. To RSVP, please contact us at [programs@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:programs@silverspringvillage.org) or (301) 503-7401. Open to the public.



## Cheers!

Village ice cream socials recognize member birthdays each month. All members can come, but those with birthdays get a free serving. For these and other sweet benefits of membership, check out our website or contact us.

*Enjoying Moorenko's—photo by Jeanne Adams*

## Helping the Village Succeed

So many people working with Silver Spring Village contribute to its success. We hope that everyone involved knows what the Village means to members, volunteers, and the Silver Spring community. It's wonderful to hear from members that the Village has changed their lives and from Village volunteers who share meaningful stories about assisting our members. In last year's membership survey, 91 percent of Village members said that because of Village membership they are confident of their ability to continue to live independently and 99 percent said they feel strongly, because of Village membership, that they belong to a community where people look out for one another.

What many people don't realize is that Village membership dues cover less than one-third of our operating costs. This year we are so fortunate to be selected to work with a pro-bono fundraising coach provided by an organization called MatchDotDollars. We are working with Kae Dakin, a seasoned fundraising consultant, who is helping us to develop a fundraising plan to ensure that we are able to meet both our short-term financial needs and our long-term sustainability goals.

There are so many ways that you can join in the effort to ensure that Silver Spring Village can continue to serve its growing membership (47 percent increase in fiscal year 2017!). We always need volunteers—both drivers and those willing to make a friendly call or visit. Do you know people in the community who might be interested in learning more about our work? Would you be willing to set up a coffee for us to meet and talk with people about the Village? Do you know businesses in the community that you would be comfortable approaching for an in-kind donation for an event or even monetary support? If you prefer to make a financial donation, that is always appreciated. No amount is too small. Donations can be made straight to the Village or you can provide monetary support by joining the Village.

There are so many ways to help. We truly can't thank enough the members, volunteers, and donors who keep us going each and every day. Please let us know if you want to help out or if you have any other thoughts to share.

*—Debbie Billet-Roumell, Executive Director*

### JOIN US!

For information on how to become a member, a volunteer, or a donor, visit our website at [www.silverspringvillage.org](http://www.silverspringvillage.org) or contact us at [info@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:info@silverspringvillage.org) or (301) 503-7401.

### Events Calendar

Check our website for any changes.

\*Open to the public.

#### ONGOING EVENTS

- Scrabble**, every Monday, **Parkway Deli**, 3-5 pm  
**Poker Dawgs**, Sept. 5, 19 and Oct. 3, 24, at members' homes, 5-6:30 pm  
**Beginner's Chess**, every Wednesday, **Kefa Café**, 2-3:30 pm  
**Bridge**, every Tuesday, at members' homes, 2:30-4:30 pm  
**Monthly Reading to Children and Adults**, Sept. 18 and Oct. 16, 11 am, **Easter Seals Building**  
**Poetry Group**, Sept. 18 and Oct. 19, 10:30 am-noon  
**Techno Club**, September 26 and October 24, Coffield Center, 11:45 am, \*  
**Volunteer at Shepherd's Table**, September 19 and October 17, 11:30 am

#### SEPTEMBER

- Wed., Sept. 6 – **Coffee, Peet's Coffee & Tea**, 11 am  
 Fri., Sept. 8 – **Storytelling with Cricket Parmalee**, at storyteller's home, 2-3:30 pm  
 Mon., Sept. 11 – **Making of The Big Broadcast**, with playwright and author Murray Horwitz, Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, 4 pm  
 Wed., Sept. 13 – **Lunch, Oriental East**, noon  
 Wed., Sept. 13 – **Using Enneagrams, SPARKLE Program**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm\*  
 Thurs., Sept. 14 – **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson), 2-3:30 pm\*  
 Thurs., Sept. 14 – **Contra Dancing**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 7 pm\*  
 Fri., Sept. 15 – **Current Events Discussion, Tastee Diner**, 3:30 pm  
 Fri., Sept. 15 – **Patio Party**, at member's home, 4-6 pm  
 Sat., Sept. 16 – **Writing Your Memoirs**, at member's home, 10 am  
 Tues., Sept. 19 – **Art Gallery Tour, Zenith Gallery**, 2 pm  
 Tues., Sept. 19 – **Happy Hour, Denizen's Brewing Company**, 5 pm  
 Mon., Sept. 25 – **15th Anniversary of Village Movement simulcast**, Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 4:45-6 pm\*  
 Tues., Sept. 26 – **Cooking with Gas Blues Band**, Veterans Plaza, 6:45 pm\*

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Events, continued from page 3

Wed., Sept. 27 – **Dinner, Thai at**

**Silver Spring**, 5 pm

Thurs., Sept. 28 – **Birthday Ice Cream Social, Ben & Jerry's**, 2-3:30 pm

### OCTOBER

Sat., Oct. 7 – **Wildlife Photographs, Waverly Street Gallery**, 11 am

Sat., Oct. 7 – **The Deathtrap, Silver Spring Stage**, 8 pm\*

Sun., Oct. 8 – **Brunch, Hen Quarter**, noon

Wed., Oct. 11 – **Things You Know About the Economy That Are Probably Wrong, SPARKLE Program**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2 pm,\* followed by **Happy Hour, Lincoln's Bar-b-que**, 3:30 pm

Thurs., Oct. 12 – **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway), 2-3:30 pm\*

Fri., Oct. 13 – **Current Events Discussion, Tastee Diner**, 3:30 pm

Sun., Oct. 15 – **Board Game Afternoon, Tastee Diner**, 4-7 pm

Fri., Oct. 20 – **Storytelling with Cricket Parmalee**, at storyteller's home, 2-3:30 pm

Sat., Oct. 21 – **Swap Meet**, at member's home, 2 pm

Sat., Oct. 21 – **Dinner, Mi Rancho**, 6-8 pm

Fri., Oct. 26 – **Birthday Ice Cream Social, Mama Lucia**, 2-3:30 pm

Sun., Oct. 29 – **4th Annual Volunteer and Member Appreciation Celebration**, United Therapeutics Education Center, 2 pm

## Member Recognized

Village member Jim Anderson was named Park and Planning Volunteer of the Year for 4,000 hours of service to Sligo Creek Park. A certified "Weed Warrior Supervisor," he has led 1,280 volunteers who removed non-native invasive plants and assisted with meadow restoration and reforestation projects.



Visit us at [www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage](http://www.facebook.com/silverspringvillage)

## Volunteer Corner: Becoming a Village Volunteer

What do you need to do? The first step is to let us know of your interest either by visiting our website, sending us an email, or calling us. We will then send you a Volunteer Application along with a Volunteer Interest Form that includes the various ways you can volunteer—driving, making friendly calls and visits, organizing/decluttering, gardening, preparing a meal, caring for pets on a short-term basis, and many other ways. (Volunteers do not do any personal care or give out medications).

Fill out the forms and send them back to the Village by mail or by email. If you want to drive, you must also send a copy of your license and your automobile insurance policy and what it covers. We will check your references and ask you to have a background check (using a link that we will send you). These steps are required by our insurance policy, but we also want our members to feel safe with the people who go to their homes. The vetting process goes both ways—we also interview all members to make sure we are sending volunteers into safe environments.

At least four times a year, the Village holds training sessions that include role playing, do's and don't's of volunteering, and how to use Village databases to sign up for various tasks. The next session will be in the fall. Weekly emails are sent to volunteers listing the various opportunities that are available. You can sign up for as many opportunities as you want.



Are you interested in volunteering? Contact Vanessa Ripps via [volunteers@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:volunteers@silverspringvillage.org) or (301) 503- 7401, and she will get you started.

## Extra Support for the Annual Appeal?

Last year an anonymous donor gave a \$3,000 match for all new money—it helped us double the amount raised from the prior year!! If you are willing to offer a match for all new money raised (it can be anonymous or named), please contact Debbie Billet-Roumell at 240-200-4290. Thank you!

**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. To contribute by credit card, please visit the [donations page](#) on the Village website.

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