



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

February 2013

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

REGULAR MEETING PLACE--SLIGO URBAN RECREATION BUILDING

500 Sligo Avenue, at corner of Piney Branch Road; parking lot entrance is on Valley Street

REGULAR MEETING DATE: Third Monday of month (Sept.- May) Doors open 7:00 pm; Meeting starts 7:30 pm

JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastsilverspringcivic>

(Include your name and street name when you send your "join request")

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN THE EARLY 1970'S WHEN ESSCA WAS INCORPORATED and having undergone only two revisions since then, we believe our constitution and bi-laws are in need of some minor changes to reflect more up-to-date ways of communicating with the neighborhood. At our next meeting our board will review and discuss some proposed adjustments. If you would like to be a part of this, please join us for our meeting on March 18.

AGENDA FOR MARCH 18 MEETING: 7:30-7:45: introductions/news items; 7:45-8:30: Review of proposed amendments, followed by questions/answers; 8:30-8:45: new business/issues; 8:45: adjournment.

LAST MONTH WE HEARD FROM JOEY LAMPL, CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGER FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS. Ms. Lampl gave a presentation entitled "Preserving Our Historic and Cultural Resources", covering the inventory and management of the historic properties in our County Parks. The Cultural Resources Stewardship Section has 5 employees and over 30 volunteers. They are responsible for managing 117 historic buildings on 43 sites on various properties owned and operated by the Dept. of Parks. The work of Ms. Lampl and her staff fall in 4 categories: historic research, archeology, rehabilitation and interpretation. Here is a bit of what we learned:

Historic Research: Cultural Resources has one staff person devoted to researching its inventory of properties. The historian also writes the content for many of the interpretive materials this group produces (see below). They also nominate properties for historic preservation designation and they will be nominating several more in the coming year.

Archeology: They also have one full-time archeologist plus one part-time archeologist. This is one area assisted by volunteers, about 80 currently. Opportunities here include dig camps for kids, families and adults. There is currently one active dig in the back yard of the Riley House at the Josiah Henson Special Park (of Uncle Tom's Cabin fame). In addition to digs, work includes a great deal of analysis work: 1 hour of work at a dig site translates to 5 hours of lab work. Tasks also include cataloging and mapping of artifacts. Thinking of keeping that pottery shard you found at a recent park outing? Think again! It is illegal to remove artifacts from park property. There are 707 known archeological sites in the County Parks system. Montgomery College has a program in Archeology and they work closely with Parks.

Rehabilitation: Cultural Resources has an average annual budget for restoring and repairing the properties of about only \$200,000. In addition to funds from the County, they have successfully administered some 14 grants from various other sources to assist in these efforts. Some of the properties are also rented at below-market rates to tenants who in turn are expected to perform some level of maintenance on the properties, to varying degrees, depending on the property in question. Additionally, several properties are run in partnership with other organizations, including Meadowbrook Stables in Chevy Chase and Hyattstown Mill, run with a local arts organization, in Little Bennett Regional Park.

Public Interpretation: Cultural Resources has installed over 30 interpretive signs at various properties. In addition to managing about 30 volunteer docents who conduct tours, they give presentations and organize festivals, including the Underground Railroad Experience Trail at Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park and the county's agrarian heritage at events such as the Annual Harvest Festival at the Brussard Farmstead. One staff person coordinates these efforts.

PRESIDENT: BOB COLVIN, VICE PRESIDENT: RUSSELL SHEW, TREASURER: STEVE KNIGHT,
RECORDING SECRETARY: NANCY GURGANUS, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: JANE GORBATY,
CHAIR FOR PLANNING, ZONING & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: KAREN ROPER

Interested in learning more about historic sites in our parks? Interested in becoming a volunteer? For a complete list of properties under the purview of Cultural Resources and for more information on those open to the public, feel free to log onto their website: http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Cultural_Resources_Stewardship/index.shtm

The Moorings Mansion: One Cultural Resources property of particular interest to our community is the bluish-gray frame house known as the Moorings Mansion in Jesup Blair Park. It was built in the 1850's for James Blair, son of Francis Blair, and served as a country home for the family until the 1930's when James Blair's daughter, Violet Blair Janin, donated it to the County for use as a library. It was remodeled by local architect Howard Cutler. It served for a short time as a Draft Board Office (some may recall the round of vandalism that took place during this time). It was then home to the Chelsea School in the 1970's. We encourage you to read more in Silver Spring Historical Society President Jerry McCoy's book [Historic Silver Spring](#).

More recently, about 1990, the Moorings Mansion was turned over to the County Department of Housing & Community Affairs (DHCA) and the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) for conversion to a shelter for single homeless mothers and their children with a substantial grant from Baltimore businessman Willard Hackerman. Renovations for this new use included removal of almost all of the interior millwork, except for the main staircase in the front center hall. Several partitions were added to create rooms for residents. At some point water damage and mold problems ensued and the house was no longer habitable, with the last resident leaving in 2008. The house has sat vacant ever since. The Parks Department is currently in negotiations with DHCA and HOC to return the house to the condition it was in prior to its becoming a shelter, which was a condition of the contract that turned it over to their use in 1990. We understand this has been a slow and complicated process, given the number of parties involved and the extent and nature of the damages; however, the County is currently soliciting proposals from architects to survey the property, a key step in moving forward with restoration and hopefully transition to a new use(s), which possibly include community meeting space plus a possible home for the Historical Society and office space for American Heritage Magazine.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS IN THE FIRST ANNUAL BEST OF FENTON VILLAGE! We would like to extend our thanks to Karen Burditt and Karen Roper for their hard work in making this event a reality. And thanks as well to all those who participated in the survey. It is great to see neighbors showing appreciation for our local independent businesses!

| BEST OF FENTON VILLAGE WINNERS | HONORABLE MENTIONS |
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| Automotive: Beahm's Auto Service | Automotive: Fenton Citgo |
| Bank/Loans: Capital One Bank | Bank/Loans: Adams' National Bank, Best Pawn |
| Bars/Taverns: Quarry House Tavern | Bars/Taverns: Pirate's Tavern |
| Cafés: Kefa Café | Cafés: Fenton Café/Crepes |
| Food Shops: Thai Market | Food Shops: Safeway |
| Beauty Salons/Barber Shops: Spa Mesu | Beauty Salons/Barber Shops: Ebony Barbers Unisex Inc., Nancy Nails |
| Dance/Fitness/Sport: Urban Nation Dance Academy | Dance/Fitness/Sport: Universal Martial Arts Center |
| Dry Cleaners/Alterations: Weller's Dry Cleaners | Dry Cleaners/Alterations: Tailoring & Alteration Ctr |
| Education/Non Profit: Meditation Museum | Education/Non Profit: Cissel-Saxon AL Post 41 |
| Media/Web Publishing: CD Publications | Media/Web Publishing: Blue Sky Films |
| Music/Art/Books: Pyramid Atlantic | Music/Art/Books: Dale Music |
| Professional Services: Holy Cross Health Care | Professional Services: Ambassador Animal Hospital |
| Restaurants: Pacci's Pizzeria | Restaurants: Mandalay Restaurant |
| Services & Repairs: Arina's Shoe & Leather Repair | Services & Repairs: Moren Watch Repair |
| Specialty Shops: Pennyworth Shop | Specialty Shops: Purple Couch Consignment |

Sponsors: ESSCA, Taste the World of Fenton Village, Buy Local Silver Spring, and Friends of Fenton Village

EAGLE BANK BUILDING UPDATE: It has been about a year since we had a presentation from Community One Development on their proposed plans to renovate the 8-story building on the southeast corner of Wayne and Sligo Avenues. We checked in with the developer this month and learned the plans to rehab the building into apartments and add a mid-rise residential building on the adjacent parking lot have been put on hold and that they have withdrawn their offer to purchase the property.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ESSCA DUES? If not or if you are unsure if you are up to date, please contact our Treasurer, Steve Knight. Dues are \$10 per household per membership year, which runs from September through the summer. Payment can be mailed to 808 Violet Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910.