



Village Vibe

January/February 2014
Volume 1, No.1

President's View

Welcome to 2014, and to the first issue of Village Vibe, the newsletter of Silver Spring Village! As I write this in mid-December, I am in awe of what has been accomplished since our official opening on September 29 and launch event October 20. So far, it's just as I hoped it would be during the long months and many meetings, discussing everything from finances to recruiting members and volunteers, from services and member benefits, from writing bylaws to electing a board of directors, to actually setting a date to OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

These past two months have been the reward for all that work. The sense of community I'm seeing, as we get to know one another through volunteer training sessions, social gatherings at members' homes and other venues, walks in the park, calls to the Village office, and so much more, is truly inspiring.

Now that we actually have a "product" to sell (our Village) we're seeing our membership numbers grow and our volunteers getting involved as they go about helping members with a wide range of tasks. The number of local merchants offering discounts to our members is growing steadily. It includes restaurants, home repair companies, a hardware store, and more. As we move forward, many social and educational activities are being suggested and set up. It's been fun to watch this happen, and to see the new activities being added to our calendar.

We're anxious to keep the momentum going and to hear your suggestions for events, services, and merchants who might give members a discount. Let us hear from you—our email and phone information are below.

I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has contributed to our progress. I'd also like to invite all readers who have not yet signed up to become a member, volunteer, or donor to consider doing so.

As Dorothy said in *The Wizard of Oz*, "There's no place like home!" Let's keep working so that aging in place at home is a viable option for our members. Best wishes to all for happiness and health and good times in 2014!

— Roberta Gosier, President

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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.



Stuart P. Rosenthal, keynote speaker.

Silver Spring Village, Inc.

Board of Directors

Roberta Gosier, *President*
 Mae Novak, *Vice President*
 Jacqueline Wallen, *Secretary*
 Sylvia Olivetti, *Treasurer*
 Martine Brizius
 Peggy Gervasi
 Gary Klauber
 Claire Maklan
 Anne McHenry
 Bruce Rosenthal
 Mary Ann Zimmerman

Committees

Membership—Peggy Gervasi
 Member Benefits—Gary
 Klauber
 Volunteers—Mae Novak
 Service Providers—Shannah
 Koss
 Development—Mary Ann
 Zimmerman, Bruce Rosenthal
 Finance—Sylvia Olivetti
 Communications—Claire
 Maklan

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab
 Erica Summers

Celebrating Our Launch

About 100 people came together on October 20 to celebrate the launch of Silver Spring Village.

The keynote speaker was Stuart P. Rosenthal, who is chair of the state-level Commission on Aging and publisher of *The Beacon*

Other speakers included:

- Peggy Simpson, founder and immediate past president of the Dupont Circle Village
- Reemberto Rodriguez, director of the Silver Spring Regional Center
- Village leaders including President Roberta Gosier and Vice



Roberta Gosier and Reemberto Rodriguez



Mae Novak engages a full house.

President and Volunteer Coordinator Mae Novak.

Silver Spring Village officially opened September 29 and the same month received tax exempt [501(c)(3)] status.

According to the national organization, Village-to-Village Network, “Villages are membership-driven, grass-roots organizations that, through both volunteers and paid staff, coordinate access to affordable services, including transportation, health and wellness programs, home repairs, social and educational activities, and other day-to-day needs, enabling individuals to remain connected to their community throughout the aging process.” (Note: Silver Spring Village has no paid staff at this time.)

Photos on this page by Marc Kagan

Progress Report

Silver Spring Village data, from opening on September 29, 2013, to mid-December:

- Members: 39
- Volunteers: 50
- Volunteer assistance requests filled: 23 (6 pending)
- Volunteer hours for October: 833
- Volunteer hours for November: 600



Village members on tour at United Therapeutics, Oct. 23, 2013

Member Update

About one-third of our members to date that they joined specifically to access the Village's volunteer services. Some need those services today, but others have joined at the Full Membership level "just in case." Information and referrals to professional services are also important to this group. Another third see the Village as a way to become more involved in their community, to meet new friends and make new connections. And one-third join for all those reasons and because they believe strongly in the mission and promise of the Village movement and are committed to making Silver Spring a great place to "age in place." Members' professional backgrounds cover an impressive range of fields: education, business, government, engineering, medicine, plus a florist and two anthropologists. Special interests include reading (lots of readers), music of all kinds, current events, politics, dance history, cooking, gardening, photography, painting, and genealogy. Many of our members are also very active in local civic organizations and other nonprofits. If you are a current or potential member, come to our Coffee Hour at Kefa Café, 10 a.m. every Wednesday. It's a great way to get to know us.

- ☞ *"I got called to inquire how I was doing and whether I needed anything because of the snow and ice."*
- ☞ *"I feel more secure about this year."*
- ☞ *"What a wonderful event, and what wonderful company :-)"*

How to Become a Member

Residents throughout the 20910 ZIP code are invited to join our Village. All members can attend social and educational events, get discounts from local businesses and a subscription to Washington Consumers' Checkbook, and access to our information service. Full members also receive services from volunteers such as: transportation, indoor and outdoor household help, technology support, friendly visits and check ins, and referrals to professionals. Membership dues cover less than half of our operating expenses and are: Full Membership: \$350/individual or \$450/couple; Associate Membership: \$150/individual, \$250/couple. See the Village website for how to apply.

Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

JANUARY

- Thurs., Jan. 2 – **"Friday" Morning Music Club** at Strathmore Mansion, 11 am
- Tues., Jan. 7 – **Lunch at Pete's Pizza**, 12:30 pm
- Wed., Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29 – **Coffee Hour** at Kefa Café, 10-11 am
- Thurs., Jan. 9, 16, 23 & 30 – **Leisurely Walk in Sligo Creek Park**, 2 pm*
- Thurs., Jan. 9 – **Contra Dancing** at Silver Spring Civic Building
- Wed., Jan. 15 – **Village Happy Hour**, 5-7 pm*
- Fri., Jan. 17 – **"Putting the Wow in Your Garden,"** 3-5 pm*
- Wed., Jan. 22 – **Smart Phones for Smart Seniors**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-3:30 pm
- Wed., Jan. 29 – **Dinner and Jazz** at El Golfo, 6-9 pm*

FEBRUARY

- Wed., Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26 – **Coffee Hour** at Kefa Café, 10-11 am
- Thurs., Feb. 6 – **Friday Morning Music Club**, Strathmore Mansion, 11 am*
- Thurs., Feb. 6, 13, 20 & 27 – **Leisurely Walk in City Place**, 2 pm*
- Tues., Feb. 11 – **Spanish Tapas**, La Malinche, 12:30 pm*
- Thurs. Feb. 20 – Wine and snacks at **Adega**, 5:30,* followed by Michael French Smith talk on **Papua New Guinea**, Silver Spring Civic Building, 7 pm
- Sun., Feb. 23 – **Mrs. K's Tollhouse**, 5:00 pm,* followed by **Capitol Steps**, Blair HS, 6:30-8:30 pm

* Must be member

Founding Sponsors

Individuals

Anonymous
Rowena Bowman
Martine Brizius
Ken Cantor & Carol Lite
James Evans
Megan L. Foley
Michele Frome
Cheryl Gardner
Anne Gavin
Jana Goldman &
Michael French Smith
Roberta Gosier
Fern Hunt
MSG US Army (Ret) &
Mrs. Donald Jacobson
Cecilia B. de Kanga
Gary M. Klauber
Claire & David Maklan
Anne & Jim McHenry
Captain Carroll McKown
Mae Novak
Cricket Parmalee
Nancy Schwiesow
Denise & Chuck Sherer
William A. Taylor, DDS
Jacqueline Wallen
Ed Wolf

Institutions

ABC Imaging
Covington & Burling LLP
Seekers Church
Silver Spring Fire
Department – Life Safety
Unit
Springvale Terrace, a
Seabury Retirement
Community
United Therapeutics

Silver Spring Village is a non-profit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization.

Volunteer Corner

An old proverb states that “it takes a village to raise a child.” It also takes a village to run a Village. We now have over 50 volunteers who provide assistance to members, staff our “virtual” office, and work on committees that support communications, technology, resource development, membership, member benefits/activities, and volunteering.

The Village’s screened and trained volunteers provide transportation, run errands, care for pets, place daily reassurance calls, make friendly visits, and help with decluttering and paperwork. We welcome more volunteers, especially to do small household repairs for members, to assist with grant writing, and to post Village news to neighborhood listservs.

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- ☞ *“It was a great experience. I’d be happy to drive any time.”*
 - ☞ *“I am helping a member go through boxes of memorabilia from her amazing life. Plus I am answering the Village phone about 8 hours a week and talking with callers.”*
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How to Volunteer

We invite all interested persons (over the age of 18) who support our “age in place” mission to serve as volunteers. Volunteers are not required to be members of the Village (though they are welcome to join, and many do).

Volunteers need to complete an interest form, an application, and 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. See our website for more information.

How to Donate

To keep our Village strong, we need to secure sufficient funds from a combination of organizational and individual donors, in-kind contributions, and grants.

Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted! Donations are *fully tax-deductible*.

Checks can be made to Silver Spring Village and mailed to Silver Spring Village; c/o 500 Pershing Drive; Silver Spring, MD 20910.

We would love to hear from local businesses about discounts and in-kind contributions. Contact us!