

Silver Spring Village “UPDATES,” Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2013

SEPTEMBER 2013

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With a full calendar of events in October and November, a healthy cadre of members, volunteers, and business partners, we officially opened our "doors" on September 29th! Congratulations - and welcome -- to our earliest members and volunteers!

Another exciting occurrence this month was designation by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt [501(c)(3)] organization. This designation will be an important tool in our fundraising activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Among the many activities we have planned for October, the celebration of our launch is especially noteworthy. The public is invited to a fun and informative afternoon at the Silver Spring Civic Building, Sunday October 20th, from 2:00 - 4:00. Stuart Rosenthal, Chair of the MD Commission on Aging and Editor of *The Beacon*, is the keynote speaker. This will be a fun opportunity to learn more about our Village.

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### **JULY 2013**

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

##### **SUCCESSFUL ENROLLMENT KICK-OFF**

Thanks to everyone who helped make our June 26th enrollment kick-off event a success. Twenty-five people turned out to meet our Board members, hear our plans, and get their questions answered. Many participants took home membership applications and information. In addition to prospective members and volunteers, the audience included three people who are starting a village in Columbia and a reporter from the Washington Post. We're delighted to announce that four attendees stepped forward to enroll as volunteers. They are our first, and we thank them sincerely.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Wine and Cheese Social for Early Volunteers - Thursday, July 25th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. This invitation-only event is for everyone who has submitted either the Volunteer Interest form or Volunteer Application

by July 22nd. Event details will be provided. Afternoon Social for Early Members – Sunday, August 11, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. All who enroll as members by August 8th are invited to an afternoon social. Event details will be provided.

### ONGOING ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Enrollment of volunteers and members will be on a continuous basis, at events, via mail, phone and through this website. If you are ready to enroll now: Please complete the Volunteer Interest Form [here](#). Please complete the Membership Application [here](#). If you would like to discuss membership or volunteer opportunities, please contact us at 301-503-7401 or [info@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:info@silverspringvillage.org)

### CURRENT PROJECTS PROGRESS TOWARD OPENING DAY

In preparation for opening, we are planning social and educational activities for the fall. (Initially, we will hold two events per month, eventually ramping up to more.) We are also identifying local shops and service providers who will support the Village by offering discounts to members and/or in-kind support to the Village. If you would be able to help with any of this, please contact us.

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APRIL 2013

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Organizational Meeting On April 17, we held our formal organizational meeting, a significant step for any new nonprofit. We adopted our bylaws and a conflict-of-interest policy. We also appointed our Board of Directors and elected officers. Our Board members represent nine neighborhoods within zip code 20910.

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### **JANUARY 2013**

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our Village has a new name! We have renamed our Village! While our goals and target group are unchanged, we are now Silver Spring Village (instead of Downtown Silver Spring Senior Village). To go with our new name, we have new email and website addresses: [info@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:info@silverspringvillage.org) and [www.silverspringvillage.org](http://www.silverspringvillage.org), respectively. Our sites are set on a Fall launch! Our new strategic plan calls for opening enrollment to members and volunteers mid-

year, and launching services and activities in the Fall. Our Planning Group and committees are hard at work to ensure success in meeting this goal. Survey results will help us meet seniors' needs. Our online survey identifies the services needed by seniors in downtown Silver Spring. For the more than 125 respondents – each representing a different household – transportation and recreation are, by far, the most requested services. Each of these services was selected by over 65% of all respondents. Meeting these needs, using a combination of volunteers and existing services, will be the highest priority for Silver Spring Village.

#### CURRENT PROJECTS “SPARKLE”

In partnership with Silver Spring Town Center, we have sponsored four successful SPARKLE (Senior Programs Aimed at Re-Kindling Lifetime Engagement) programs. The first, in October, was “Facebook for Seniors.” Subsequent monthly programs were called “Telling Your Life Story,” “Age and Stage®,” and “New Year, Fresh Start! Time to Organize.” The program on February 7 is called “Hidden Treasures: Storytelling Performance.” These monthly programs will continue at least through March 2013. All SPARKLE programs are free for seniors and held in the Silver Spring Civic Building in downtown Silver Spring at the corner of Fenton Street and Ellsworth Drive. For more information, call (301) 503-7401.

#### NEWS

National study confirms importance of villages. A new study from Rutgers University's School of Social Work concludes that villages like ours "have emerged as among the most nationally prominent models of community aging initiatives" and that villages are "an innovative model to help people remain in their homes and to connect with their communities throughout later life."

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SEPTEMBER 2012

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DSSSV is now incorporated as a nonprofit organization in Maryland. We are working on our 501(c)(3) application for federal tax-exempt status. Our survey to identify the services that are most needed by local seniors is ongoing; please complete the survey and we'll report the results. DSSSV planners have convened outreach events for six

of the civic associations within zip code 20910, and several other information sessions.

CURRENT PROJECTS

DSSSV is collaborating with Seabury Care Management on an event titled The Ethics of Aging in Place, to be offered on Friday, September 21; social workers may obtain continuing education credit. We're collaborating with the Silver Spring Town Center on a six-part, monthly series on Health and Wellness, Work and Finance, and Technology for seniors. The first program will be in October at the civic building. (See www.silverspringtowncenter.com for details.) On Saturday October 27, DSSSV will have a booth at the Fenton Street Market. For more information about our plans, visit us there between 10:00 and 4:00.

NEWS

Currently, 89 villages are operating across the country, in Canada, Australia and the Netherlands, with another 123 Village in development. DSSSV is actively involved with the Washington Area Village Exchange and the Village to Village Network, a national peer-to-peer network to help establish and continuously improve management of villages; a couple of DSSSV representatives will be attending the 4th Annual National Village Gathering this fall to learn how other villages are achieving success. A recent article in The Washington Post, titled "‘Village’ groups, home alterations help more elderly people keep the homes they love," featured the accomplishments of villages in helping older adults live independently in their own homes.

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## **MAY 2012**

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Preliminary survey results tabulated Nearly 100 people have responded to our needs assessment survey. At the top of the list of desired services are transportation and recreation, both of which will be key elements in DSSSV's service package. The Village will also assist with other frequently requested services that we cannot provide directly. For example, we will provide information, referrals, and discounts for vetted providers of such things as home health care, housework, and financial and legal matters.

## CURRENT PROJECTS

DSSSV is “on the road” Representatives of DSSSV have an active schedule making presentations to community associations, religious organizations, condominium and apartment building residents. If your organization is located in zip code 20910 and you would like a presentation about DSSSV, please contact us. We are eager to speak to – and get input from -- potential members, financial supporters, volunteers, civic leaders, and service providers. In preparation for the start of operations in 2013, we have finalized our articles of incorporation, bylaws, and conflict-of-interest policy. We are starting to tackle the remaining organizational requirements for obtaining 501(c)(3) status, develop budgets and fundraising plans, and identify the services and programs that will comprise our service package.

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FEBRUARY 2012

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Donations to DSSSV now tax-deductible We are delighted to announce the approval of DSSSV’s application for fiscal sponsorship by the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. With this, all donations to DSSSV are now fully tax-deductible.* We believe that status as a sponsored program fund under the Community Foundation significantly improves our fundraising potential. And, obviously, that’s important! Before our planned “opening day” in Spring 2013, we must raise sufficient funds to obtain telephone and computer lines, set up an office, hire a coordinator, purchase insurance, etc. *Please note: Donation checks must be made payable to Community Foundation— Downtown Silver Spring Senior Village. Mail to: DSSSV Fund; c/o 500 Pershing Drive; Silver Spring, MD 20910.

CURRENT PROJECTS

A subcommittee of our Planning Group is drafting bylaws for the management and operation of DSSSV. When these are complete, we will submit our Articles of Incorporation to the State of Maryland. Next, DSSSV will apply to the Internal Revenue Service for recognition as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization [501(c) (3)] that is independent of the Community Foundation. The Planning Group

now includes 14 active members, most of whom are residents and/or civic leaders in neighborhoods within the 20910 zip code. Planners are working aggressively to establish relationships with relevant Montgomery County agencies and organizations, learn from the experience of established villages, develop a database of contacts, and build interest in DSSSV. Three committees, focused on Administration, Fundraising, and Outreach, are busy conducting research, making plans, and speaking at community association meetings.

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## **SEPTEMBER 2011**

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Planning group holds outreach meetings The Planning Group for the Downtown Silver Spring Senior Village (DSSSV) held two outreach meetings in August to provide an overview of the senior village concept. Questions and discussions at these meetings – attended by over 40 persons – indicated interest in and need for such an organization in our area. Responses to our questionnaire have identified specific areas of senior needs and interest. Those mentioned most frequently included: social/ recreational activities, home maintenance, transportation, legal services, and locating existing services. Additionally, several respondents expressed an interest in becoming a volunteer.

### **CURRENT PROJECTS**

To further diversify our outreach, we will be contacting area churches and have a presence at community functions. We will also provide information to area publications, Maryland AARP, and neighborhood newsletters and listservs. We are currently grappling with what type of organization will best fit our needs. Toward this end, we are in contact with other successful and emerging senior villages, including many in the metro area, to see what has worked best for them. Specifically, we're investigating organizational goals and structure, financial planning and management, website development, and volunteer recruitment. We are recruiting people who are interested in helping now with the planning process, and we are building a database of those who want to participate once our Village is operational – either as volunteers providing services or as members receiving services.

