

Silver Spring Village



Village Vibe

November/December 2019
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Leadership View: Community and Generosity

A small group of Village members and volunteers gathered on a sunny October afternoon to share how the Village has touched their lives. Their astonishingly varied stories were unified in two respects. The threads of community and generosity were woven into every experience.

Our religious and cultural belief systems have traditionally emphasized these same values, and we've heard them so many times, they risk becoming mere platitudes. But let's take a moment to think about what community and generosity really mean. Partly stemming from the Latin *communitatis* ("sense of duty and willingness to serve"), community is the framework within which we organize our path through life. Generosity is derived from the Latin *generosus*, meaning "of noble birth." It was originally thought that generosity was an innate characteristic of the nobility. Only in the 18th century did generosity become a descriptor for an attitude toward giving. In more recent times, the meaning has continued to evolve, now encompassing not just gifts of money and valuables, but of those things we now so often find in shortest supply — including time, patience, and energy. In giving of our wealth, we create equity; and of our time, opportunity. In demonstrating patience, we give rise to understanding, and gifts of our energy jumpstart change. The Village is indeed a community where the willingness to serve is never in short



Neighboring information sharing at the Montgomery Hills Street Festival—photo by Claire Maklan

supply. Generosity, in all its forms, has created opportunities for all seniors to be valued and respected, and to live their best lives in their homes and neighborhoods.

At a time when every mailbox is stuffed with an unending avalanche of fundraising letters, it's important to remember and be thankful for the gifts—of all kinds—that are creating transformational change for our neighbors.

—Doug Gaddis, Executive Director

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GREATER WASHINGTON

Silver Spring Village is a nonprofit membership organization started in 2013 that helps our members to stay engaged in their community and continue to live at home with support from neighbors and friends.

Progress Report

Totals as of end of October

- Members: 217 (89 full, 128 associate)
- Volunteers: 130

Volunteer hours

- August: 731
- September: 770

Volunteer help in August/September

- 197 one-way rides
- 62 friendly calls and visits
- 73 other requests filled including medical note taking, technology support, meals, household tasks, and errands
- Telephone crew hours: 252

Events held

- August: 42
- September: 55

Silver Spring Village, Inc. Board of Directors

Peggy Gervasi, *President*
 Connie Raab, *Vice President*
 Claire Maklan, *Secretary*
 Katherine Anderson, *Treasurer*
 Martine Brizius
 Sue Decker
 Cheryl Gardner
 Minnedore Green
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Doug Gaddis, *Executive Director*
 Vanessa Ripps, *Director of Volunteer Services*
 Ana Carrion, *Operations Manager*

Committee Chairs

Development—
 Mary Ann Zimmerman
 Finance—Katherine Anderson
 Membership—Claire Maklan
 Programs—Gary Klauber
 Board Recruitment and
 Nominating—Martine Brizius

Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

Member profile: Rick Foucheux

Rick Foucheux (“fo-shay”), as his name suggests, is from a French-influenced part of our country. He was born and spent the first 20 years of his life in Houma, Louisiana, and still has a soft Louisiana accent. He attended Nicolls State University in nearby Thibodaux, where he majored in speech and broadcasting. Rick soon discovered that broadcasting was not the true love of his life. With the blessing of his wife, he turned to acting. He tried New York briefly, but it was not to his liking. He moved to this area, where he has found great success, acting in productions in almost every area theater.

Rick has performed a wide range of roles, including Tevye from *Fiddler on the Roof* (a role that he found particularly meaningful) and Willie Loman, from Arthur Miller’s *Death of a Salesman*. He also appeared in Bertolt Brecht’s *Mother Courage* with Kathleen Turner. He has won numerous accolades, including five Helen Hayes awards. In addition, upon his retirement in 2017, he received the Richard Bauer Lifetime Achievement Award from the Washington Area Performing Arts Video Archive. In addition to acting, Rick is also a talented painter.

Rick has been an active Village member for about 2 years. Like many other members, he feels his good fortune means that he should give something back, so he volunteers to drive and run errands for other members. He has given a “SPARKLE-ing” presentation on the backstage life of an actor, is a member of the poetry interest group, and coordinates monthly member readings to preschoolers at Easter Seals. When asked if he is truly retired, Rick smiled and said, “well mostly.” We all look forward to seeing him in his many current and future roles.



Rick Foucheux—
photo by MJ Jacobson.

Getting Social

The group of members at left has met regularly for more than 4 years. At right, members learn about another member’s business, Mekong



River Textiles. These are just two of almost 100 Village events in the past 2 months.

Need to get out more? Join us.



Photos by Cynna Janus and Claire Maklan.

Board Changes

After being on the Village Board of Directors for over 3 years, Leslie Hansley has stepped down. We thank Leslie for her work on the board, especially for serving as Secretary, and are grateful that she will stay an active member and volunteer. In October, Claire Maklan was elected Secretary.

Upcoming Community Events

The Village calendar of events includes something for everyone almost every day—educational talks, social gatherings, discussions groups, walks, and about twenty member-led interest groups. While most events are exclusively for our members, the events listed below are also open to the public. Join us! To see the full calendar of events, visit www.silverspringvillage.org. (Members can log in to see full details.)

- Friday, November 8, 10 am — **Staying Safe on the Internet.** Come listen to Pam Holland, founder and president of TechMoxie, describe what you can do. RSVP to volunteers@silverspringvillage.org. At the Coffield Community Center.
- Wednesday, November 13, 2 pm — **SPARKLE Program.** Activate your inner creative abilities at a special Autumn Art Workshop in collage and mixed media! CREATE Arts will provide the materials, but participants can bring anything they would like to use in creating their artwork. Suggestions include fabric scraps, buttons, photos, clippings from newspapers or magazines, pages from books, or objects found in nature such as leaves or flower petals. Space is limited to 20 participants for this workshop. You must RSVP: programs@silverspringvillage.org or 301-503-7401. At the CREATE Arts Center, 914 Silver Spring Ave.
- Thursday, November 14, 2 pm — **Afternoon Book Group.** Join us in September to discuss *Life After Life*, by Kate Atkinson. Ursula Todd, the heroine of this novel, is reborn over and over again on the same day and tries to shape her future. At the Silver Spring Library.
- Wednesday, December 11, 2 pm — **SPARKLE Program.** Your Digital Life After You Die. At the Silver Spring Library.
- Thursday, December 12, 2 pm — **Afternoon Book Group.** At the December meeting, we will discuss Willa Cather's 1918 literary masterpiece, *My Ántonia*, about the experience of immigrant pioneers on the harsh Nebraska plains. At the Silver Spring Library.

Expansion Update

As reported in the last Vibe, the Village's board recently voted to expand our service area beyond zip code 20910. In September, the board voted to add the small section of 20815 east of Rock Creek Park not served by a Village. Now, in addition to residents of 20910, people living in 20901 and this small section of 20815 may join our Village as full members. There is no change with respect to associate membership, which has always been open to people living throughout Montgomery County.

No growth is complete without a few growing pains, but we are working to keep those at a minimum. We will not sacrifice our community identity. New members and volunteers will mean new ideas and opportunities for all to enjoy. Many of our events will have more participants, and new members may be inspired to form additional interest groups.

We are carefully managing our growth and focusing on volunteer outreach first. Building a strong volunteer infrastructure in our new service areas will allow the Village to continue operating with the same commitment to excellence our community has come to expect. We have already been meeting with civic associations in the new areas to introduce them to the Village.

Word of mouth is the best publicity, so please let us know if you can help connect us with neighborhood groups, places of worship, or other influential organizations in our new areas.

Storm Buddy Program

Heat waves, snowstorms, derechos—oh my! The Village's "storm buddy" program can help out when dangerous weather or a potentially damaging storm is predicted or occurs unexpectedly. Full members are paired with Village volunteers who will do their best to help keep the members safe before, during, and after weather events. These volunteers can make sure the member is prepared—with flashlights, food, medications, etc. If the power goes out, the volunteers will call or visit their buddies and provide support until power is restored. Volunteers also can help with post-storm cleanup and securing assistance with removal of snow, ice, broken branches, and other debris.

Full members who have not previously been assigned a storm buddy and volunteers who would like to serve as a storm buddy should contact Vanessa Ripps. Want to become a Village member or volunteer? Visit our website or give us a call.



Thank you to the following contributors to this issue: Sandy Morris (profile of Rick Foucheux) and Claire Maklan (storm buddies)

IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can use a charitable rollover from your IRA to make a gift to Silver Spring Village and lower your taxable income. Your gift will support the Village's mission and may fit into your overall financial plan. You can: donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA; satisfy your required minimum distribution for the year; and make this kind of gift even if you don't itemize. And since you never receive the distribution from the IRA, it is not included in your taxable income.

First, consult your tax preparer to see if this rollover works for you. If it does, instruct your IRA plan administrator to make the gift to Silver Spring Village, P.O. Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Our tax identification number: 46-0723926.

Gifts for 2019 must be made by December 31. Charitable rollovers sometimes take extra time, so be sure to beat the year-end rush.

Cafritz Match

How would you like to double the impact of your Village donation? Through the end of the year, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation will provide up to a total of \$5,000 to match gifts from first-time donors and increased gifts from existing donors. So, for each new gift of \$100 you make, the Village receives \$200 to help seniors.

Volunteer Spotlight: Steve Durako

Steve Durako always wanted to volunteer when he retired. He had a 40-plus year career doing health research and in 2017 retired as a Senior Vice President of Westat. Steve had just finished reading Atul Gawande's book *Being Mortal*, heard about the Village, and was interested in becoming involved. In November 2017, Steve attended a volunteer training and started volunteering soon after. He also has joined the Village as a member.

Steve fulfills many types of requests for assistance from our members—he drives, answers the Village phone, helps with household tasks, provides technology support, and even does some pet care. And Steve does more than direct-service volunteering. As part of the effort to recruit volunteers from local businesses, Steve arranged for the Village to be part of a member appreciation day at Rock Creek Sports Club and is working on a committee to figure out how to get employees of local businesses to volunteer with Silver Spring Village. He is a member of the volunteers committee and has helped with writing grant applications as well. Silver Spring Village is one of five organizations that Steve currently volunteers with, and we are excited that he is involved with us. Thank you, Steve, for all that you do!

—Vanessa Ripps



Steve Durako—photo by Claire Maklan



What's A Great Gift That "Keeps On Giving" All Year?

Village Membership! For \$150 (associate membership) or \$350 (full membership), you can give something special to someone special. For more information, contact membership@silverspringvillage.org.

DONATE NOW—Help Silver Spring Village continue to provide programs and services that strengthen our community while helping neighbors age in place. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible.

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. If you would like information about how to leave a legacy gift, please contact Katherine Anderson at (301) 503-7401.

Silver Spring Village, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Maryland corporation. You will receive no goods or services in exchange for this contribution, so it is tax-deductible as allowed by law. A copy of the organization's financial statements may be examined upon written request to Silver Spring Village, P.O. Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907. Documents required by the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available for the cost of copying and postage from the Secretary of State, 16 Francis Street, Annapolis, MD 21061.