



## Village Vibe

September/October 2015  
Volume 2, No. 5

### President's View: Changes and Passages

A lot happened in July and August. We even managed to squeeze in vacations.

We welcomed a new treasurer and Village board member, Sue Decker, who brings extensive private sector financial management experience. Her civic contributions include serving as vice-chair of the County's Consumer Protection Advisory Commission and recent service on the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. (In our last issue, we also welcomed Tony Sarmiento and Leslie Hansley to the board.)

In early August, the board took time out from running the Village to orient new board members to all aspects of the Village's operations. A pro bono consultant from Capacity Partners (through a county referral) also reviewed the board's governance responsibilities and helped us assess where we are on the continuum from "working" board to "governing" board. These are important conversations for us to have as we plan to hire permanent staff and work to build a sustainable organization.

We also introduced the new board members to a small group of community partners and supporters, including some who we hope will become more involved in Village leadership. Guests included County Executive Ike Leggett, Council member Tom Hucker, officials from several county agencies, and neighborhood and civic leaders. Special thanks to United Therapeutics for providing a great venue and refreshments.

Finally, we said goodbye to our friend Roberta Gosier, who lost her battle with cancer on August 12. She was not only a cofounder of the Village and our first president, but also a pioneer in providing services to the elderly. We and the community she served will miss her greatly.

—Peggy Gervasi, President



*Celebrating new board members and community support—photo by David Maklan*

### In This Issue

- Progress report
- Events sampler
- Read on!
- Conference on Aging watch party
- How to join, volunteer, give
- Events calendar
- Volunteer corner
- In memoriam
- Donation form

### 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: 107 (54 full, 53 associate)
- Volunteers: 80

### Volunteer hours

- June: 1,066
- July: 815

### Volunteer help June/July

- 58 rides
- Over 50 friendly visits and phone check-ins
- 22 home safety checks
- Other activities included: decluttering and closet organization, plant and garden care, small repairs, meal preparation, and paperwork assistance
- Office telephone crew: 264 hours

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

## Silver Spring Village, Inc.

### Board of Directors

Peggy Gervasi, *President*  
 Claire Maklan, *Vice President*  
 Mary Ann Zimmerman, *Secretary*  
 Sue Decker, *Treasurer*  
 Martine Brizius  
 Leslie Hansley  
 Gary Klauber  
 Anne McHenry  
 Mae Novak  
 Tony Sarmiento

### Committees

Board Development—Tony Sarmiento  
 Communications—Claire Maklan, Bruce Rosenthal  
 Development—Mary Ann Zimmerman  
 Finance—Sue Decker  
 Membership—Anne McHenry  
 Programs—Gary Klauber  
 Volunteer Services—Mae Novak

### Vibe Editors

Connie Raab, Erica Summers

## Events Sampler

Over the summer, our members enjoyed a variety of social get-togethers at nearby restaurants and cafes, as well as several educational events. In July, we held a “watch party” for the White House Conference on Aging (story below). Other special events included a tour of a local art gallery and a just-for-us tour and cooking demonstration at our local Whole Foods.



Enjoying a “Foodie Finds” program at Whole Foods—photo by Claire Maklan

## Read On!

The Village and the Silver Spring Library continue to collaborate on an afternoon book group, held the second Thursday of each month at 2 pm in the library.



Meeting in the new library—photo by Claire Maklan

The next few books are listed below.

The group is open to the public so plan to borrow (or buy) a book, read as much as you can, and come on by.

- Sept. 10, 2015—*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt’s Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard (2005)
- October 8, 2015—*In the Woods* by Tana French (2007)
- November 12, 2015—*The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson (2010)
- December 10, 2015—*Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel (2009)
- January 14, 2016—*Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel (2015)

## Village Hosts White House Conference “Watch Party”

The White House has held a Conference on Aging each decade since the 1960s to identify and advance actions to improve the quality of life of older Americans. The 2015 conference used stakeholder meetings and communications technology to hold a national discussion. The organizers began with several town hall meetings around the country to identify four themes: retirement security, healthy aging, long-term services and supports, and elder justice. The July 13 White House conference was held as a live streaming event using social media, especially to gather questions and comments via Twitter. Silver Spring Village worked closely with Senior Service America and the Silver Spring Library to put on a watch party that day. About 40 people came for all or part of the day. We especially thank Fran Ware, head of the Silver Spring Library, and Parker Hamilton, head of the county library system, for making this event possible at the library. The Village also received recognition from AARP for holding this event.



Village President Peggy Gervasi presenting Fran Ware with a framed poster from the event—photo by David Maklan



## Join us?

There's a place for you at the table as an associate or full member. Here members enjoy happy hour at Adega in Silver Spring. For membership information, see below.

Photo by Claire Maklan

## How to . . .

**...become a member:** Residents throughout the 20910 zip code are eligible. All members can attend events, get discounts from local businesses, receive a subscription to *Washington Consumers' Checkbook*, access our information service, and get referrals to professionals. Full members can also receive services from our volunteers such as transportation, indoor and outdoor household help, technology support, friendly visits, and check-ins. Membership dues cover less than half of our operating expenses and are: Full: \$350/individual or \$450/couple; Associate: \$150/individual or \$250/couple. Reduced cost full memberships are available to qualified applicants. For more info, please contact us online at [membership@silverspringvillage.org](mailto:membership@silverspringvillage.org) or call (301) 503-7401.

**...volunteer:** People age 18 or older who support our "age in place" mission are invited to serve as volunteers. Volunteers are not required to be members of the Village (though they are welcome to join, and many do). They need to complete an interest form and application, and have a background check. Training is 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.

**...donate:** To keep our Village strong, we need funding from organizational and individual donors, in-kind contributions, and grants. Contributions in any amount are gratefully accepted. Donations are tax-deductible, as permitted by law. Checks should be made to Silver Spring Village and mailed to Silver Spring Village, PO Box 8217, Silver Spring, MD 20907 or donations by credit card can be made online via the [donation page](#) of our website. Consider the Village in your will, in memorial donations, or in someone's honor. We would love to hear from local businesses that might contribute or provide in-kind contributions or discounts to our members. Contact us!

### Members say

- ☞ "Today was a great visit and I felt the best I have this week after our positive visit. You always accomplish so much as well as making my life seem better."
- ☞ "I loved the gardening talk today—not only was the speaker informative, it was great to talk to other gardeners who were in the audience."

### A volunteer says

- ☞ "I only wish I had more time to volunteer—every encounter with our wonderful members is a great experience."

## Events Calendar

Be sure to check our website for changes and additions.

*\*Must be member*

### SEPTEMBER

Wed., Sept. 2 – **Village Social Hour at Peet's Coffee and Tea**, 2 pm\*

Thurs., Sept. 3 – "Getting Your Garden Ready for Fall," **SPARKLE** Program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-4 pm

Thurs., Sept. 10 – **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard), 2-4 pm

Wed., Sept. 16 – **Dinner and Jazz at El Golfo**, 6:30 pm\*

Fri., Sept. 18 – **Frank Lloyd Wright** video, 2 pm\*

Mon., Sept. 21 – **Current Events Discussion Group**, moderated by Bob Werner, 2 pm\*

Thurs., Sept. 24 – **Happy Hour at The Classics**, 5:30 pm\*

Mon., Sept. 28 – **The No-Grass Yard**, tour of a member's fully landscaped yard, 10:30 am\*

Wed., Sept. 30 – **Village Social Hour at Peet's Coffee and Tea**, 2 pm\*

### OCTOBER

Sun., Oct. 4 – **Member-Volunteer Appreciation Potluck**, Indian Spring Community Building, 3-5 pm

Wed., Oct. 7 – **Ice Cream Social at Moorenko's Ice Cream Village**, 2 pm\*

Thurs., Oct. 8 – **Afternoon Book Club**, Silver Spring Library (*In the Woods* by Tana French), 2-4 pm

Tues., Oct. 13 – **Tour of Silver Spring Library**, 1:30 pm\*

Thurs., Oct. 14 – **Gold Leaf Through the Ages**, Ina Brouseau Marx and Allen Marx, Takoma Park Community Center, 12:30 – 2 pm

Thurs., Oct. 15 – "You Don't Have to Be An Artist..." Tamar Hendel, Executive Director CREATE Arts Center, **SPARKLE** Program, Silver Spring Civic Building, 2-3:30 pm

Wed., Oct. 21 – **Social Hour at Tastee Diner**, 2 pm\*

Sat., October 24 – **Dinner at Pacci's Trattoria**, 5 pm\*

Thurs., Oct. 29 – **Happy Hour at The Daily Dish**, 4:30 pm\*

## Celebrating 5 Years

The Village was well represented at this summer 's event in recognition of the fifth anniversary of the Silver Spring Civic Building. Here current and past Village presidents, Peggy Gervasi (left) and Claire Maklan (right), are shown with County Executive Ike Leggett.



Photo by Tony Sarmiento

## In Memoriam



Roberta Gosier was the force behind our Village opening when it did, and we will remember her fondly as our "founding mother." As Villagers, we are extremely grateful to Roberta for her vision, good humor and hard work through the planning of our Village and, especially, for her wise, courageous, and tenacious leadership during its launch and first year. As friends, we will surely miss her.

Photo by Mark Kagan

## Volunteer Corner: A Happy Transition

Two years ago this month we held the first Silver Spring Village volunteer training session. Since then over 80 of our neighbors have stepped forward and been trained to help support the mission of the Village: *"To build and sustain a supportive network of neighbors helping neighbors remain in their own homes and to be engaged in the community as they age."* It has been my privilege to not only screen and train the volunteers, but also to connect them to meaningful opportunities providing assistance to Village members and supporting Village operations. A typical month of direct-service volunteering includes friendly visits and check-in phone calls, providing transportation, gardening, tech trouble-shooting, preparing meals, caring for pets, and decluttering. In support of Village operations, volunteers answer the office phone, create communications pieces including pamphlets and this newsletter, work on grants and Village development, update the Village website and maintain our Facebook presence, negotiate discounts with local merchants, ensure the integrity of our financial records, and create and manage the Village events enjoyed by so many of our members. Since the Village opened in September 2013, volunteers (yes, VOLUNTEERS) have provided 21,000 hours of service to members, to Village operations, and to the community at large. Awesome, truly awesome.

In the May/June issue of the *Vibe* I wrote about changes coming to the Village this summer, and some of those changes have now taken place. By the time you receive this issue, Vanessa Ripps will have taken over full responsibility for connecting the volunteers with member requests for assistance. Vanessa has been a Village volunteer since January 2014, providing a variety of direct assistance to members as well as helping with office work and events. In the past several months she has managed the transportation requests for members and volunteer drivers, and monitored the volunteer email account during my absences. Thank you, Vanessa, for all you have already done, and congratulations!

—Mae Novak, Chair, Volunteer Services Committee

**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. If you would like to contribute by credit card, please visit the [donation page](#) of the Village website.

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