



ISCA NEWS AND EVENTS

Spring/Summer 2026

PRESIDENT: BRANDON MONTGOMERY

ISCAPRES20901@GMAIL.COM

VICE PRESIDENT: MARYSOL

BONILLA ISCAVP2091@GMAIL.COM

SECRETARY: HEATHER SAND

HEATHER.STEINRUCKEN@GMAIL.COM

TREASURER: PAM WERTZ

ISCATREASURER20901@GMAIL

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: MARY QUARM

ISCAMEMBERSHIP20901@GMAIL.COM

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: ANDY STAGER

CIVIC CHAIR: ABBE SPOKANE

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

LIASON: JILL ORTMAN-FOUSE

JILLORTMANFOUSE@YAHOO.COM

SOCIAL COMMITTEE:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ISCASOCIALTEAM@GMAIL.COM

NEWSLETTER TEAM: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

RECOMMENDED SERVICES LIST COORDINATORS:

JGOLDMAN@AASA.ORG

TOOL LIBRARY COORDINATORS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

COMMUNITY AND TOGETHERNESS!

by Brandon Montgomery, ISCA President

Greetings ISCA and welcome to all our new neighbors! The theme of our newsletter this season is community and togetherness, and all the ways we can communicate and share in our great ISCA village.

The new ISCA Board has put together some fun events on the calendar for this year. We are also working with the community to provide information on the proposed rezoning for our area. The board is remaining impartial and doing our best to obtain all information to share with the community. If you would like to get involved with the communications committee, please contact ISCAPRES20901@gmail.com. We hope to post updates, community meetings and findings on the ISCA website as the ISCA Comms team gathers information.

Please read on for information about **joining** Indian Spring Citizens Association and our **next membership meeting on June 29**. Your donation supports the events and information we provide throughout the year.

ANNUAL PRIDE CELEBRATION – SAT, JUNE 13, 2-5 PM

This year's ISCA PRIDE Celebration Block Party takes place on East Granville Drive and will be hosted by the Spokane-Focarazzo Family.

Let's celebrate Pride Month—meet and connect with your LGBTQIA+ neighbors and allies. Families are encouraged (please include kids in the headcount). Pride flags will be available at various locations in ISCA. We are planning for a great raffle with prizes. Raffle proceeds and donations will support LGBTQIA+ charities. Let us know if you have anything to donate to the raffle!! Bring blankets or lawn chairs to set out and enjoy food/drink/music and, most importantly, conversations with some neighbors. ISCA will provide main course food, music, games, lemonade. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be games & crafts for the kids. We need a day of volunteers – you can let us know in the comments of the Evite if you're able to help. Set up starts at noon.

We also need tables and shade tents to borrow. tap the link on the online version – Pride flags are available for pick up out front at 10 E Granville Ave and 9507 Caroline Ave. We look forward to seeing everyone for this feel-good family event for all ages!! For more details see last page: RSVP to ISCA PRIDE CELEBRATION AND BLOCK PARTY

https://evite.ISCA_Pride

POTENTIAL UPCOMING EVENTS – WE HAVE THE IDEAS, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE THEM HAPPEN!

ISCA House and Garden Tour – Do you have an addition you want to show off? Maybe an updated kitchen? A clever solution to retrofit our existing homes? Well, you can show them off at the neighborhood tour of homes! We need people interested in sharing their renos. We also need help mapping and planning the route. We cannot do it without your help!! Contact ISCASOCIALTEAM@GMAIL.COM for more information or to volunteer!

ISCA Community Yard Sale – Do you have stuff that you no longer want or need but someone else might? Wouldn't the ease of taking it to your yard for a great one-day ISCA yard sale be great!! We need someone to coordinate and publicize this event! Contact ISCASOCIALTEAM@GMAIL.COM for more information or to volunteer!

INDIAN SPRING SIGN GETS A MAKEOVER



Our ISCA team: (L-R) Mary Schaefer Quarm, Brian Quarm, Cati Blais, Jennifer Whalen, Susan Washington, Rebecca Staple, and Kate Woods

This past fall, ISCA neighbor Jennifer Whalen led an effort to update the plantings around the Indian Spring sign at the entrance to the neighborhood. The work began with the kind assistance of Demetrio Hernandez, a neighbor who owns a landscaping business. He cut back the overgrown perennials, trimmed the existing shrubs surrounding the sign, and bagged the debris for a modest fee.

Next up was a group of volunteers who gathered to dig up the roots of some overgrown perennials and prepare the bed for new, shorter plantings. A group of families (young and seasoned) tackled the tenacious root mass. Within an hour, they had four bags of debris plus another trash can fully added to the four bags that Demetrio's crew had already removed. The ISCA Association chipped in with funds for new plantings. A few weeks later your neighbors gathered again to plant a new garden in front of the Indian Spring sign.

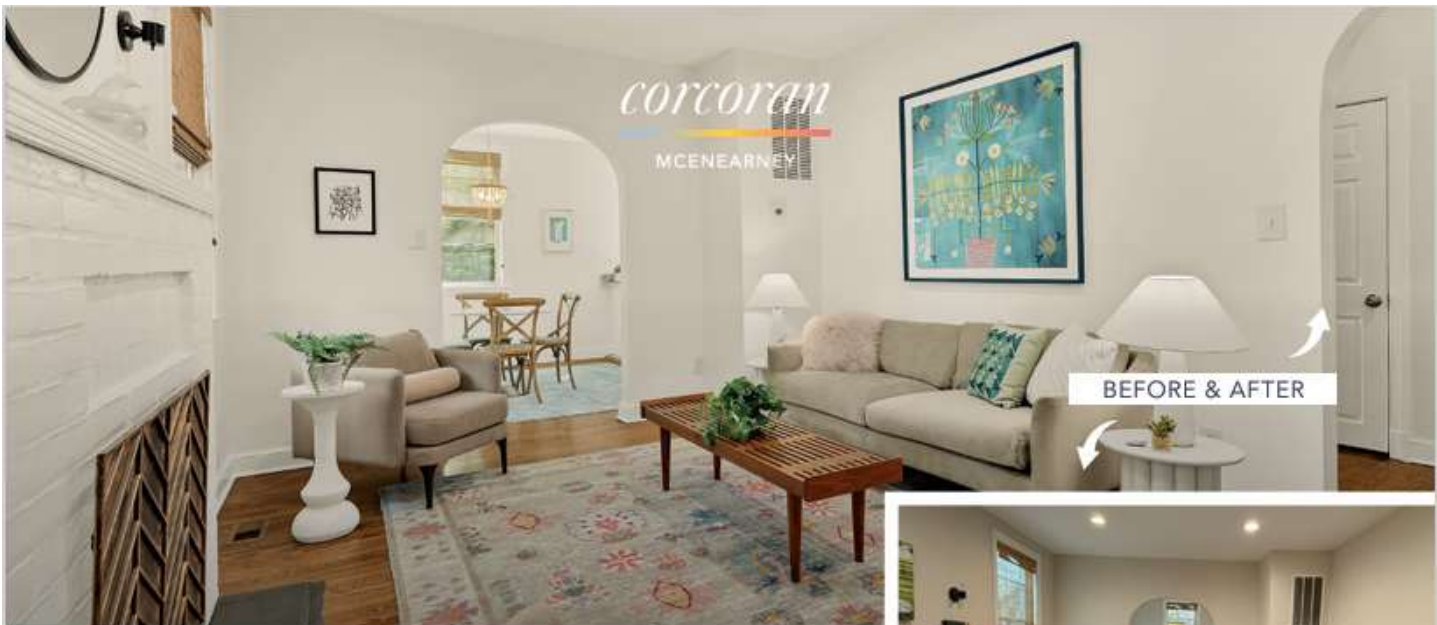
Our list of intrepid gardeners who help prep the bed, plant, weed, water and mulch included: Cati Blais, Betsy Hatcher, Tony McCann, Rebecca Staple, Mary Schaefer Quarm, Brian Quarm, Susan Washington, Jennifer Whalen, and Ole Varmer... plus the two youngsters and their parent who's name we didn't catch. Please thank these individuals when you see them. The sign now sports 30 native perennials and grasses: Penstemon, yarrow, salvia (two varieties), black-eyed Susan, phlox, creeping phlox, little bluestem grass, pink muhly grass, and an inkberry shrub. The group also planted 25 mixed daffodils and 20 mixed alliums. Watch for a new tree in the fall.

Huge thanks to Jennifer and her mighty band of volunteers for the beautification project. With the arrival of spring, it is fun to see all the new plantings coming up! If you are interested in helping maintain the garden, email Jennifer Whalen (jj.whalen@verizon.net). She will add you to the volunteer list.

IMPORTANT:

**Membership Meeting
June 29 @ 7:30 PM**

The next ISCA Membership Meeting will be held via zoom on June 29 @ 7:30. An agenda and link to the meeting will be sent to the membership emails we have on file closer to the event. For information on how to become a member – keep reading. Please join us!



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SIGN UP FOR A FREE SHADE TREE THROUGH MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Speaking of gardening!! Planting a shade tree is an easy, affordable, and sustainable way to positively affect the environment. From beautifying neighborhoods and increasing property values to improved air quality and home energy savings, shade trees have many economic, environmental, and social benefits. Learn more and sign up at

www.treemontgomery.org

VOLUNTEER THROUGH SHEPHERD'S TABLE

by Mary Quarm, Membership Chair

Looking for an easy way to help our brothers and sisters in need in Silver Spring? Did you know it's as easy as putting a donation out on your front stoop?!

Shepherd's Table is a local non-profit organization providing fresh and delicious meals to those experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, or poverty. ISCA has several neighborhood volunteer drivers who pick donations around the neighborhood every other Sunday afternoon.

Here is how it works: an announcement goes out to the listserv every other Wednesday with a sign-up list. Add your name and address to the list by Sunday morning and put your donation out by 1 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Our drivers will then come by to pick up your food donation and deliver it to Shepherd's Table! It's that easy. We have a wonderful group of dedicated homeowners who regularly put out donations of food and pantry items for collection. Our neighborhood households have given more than 1,000 separate donations since the pandemic began. Please join us! Reach out to Mary Quarm at mbrigido503@yahoo.com for information and watch the listserv for the Shepherd's Table announcement every other week.



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COMMUNITY GIFTING

by Heather Sauter

What do furniture, bottle brushes and Legos have in common? They're all items that have been offered or requested through Southeast Silver Spring's Community Gifting group. Originally founded as a Buy Nothing group, the community changed its name after the creators of Buy Nothing trademarked the term. The local group, established in 2019, has grown to more than 1,000 members and operates as a hyper-local gift economy where neighbors give away items, lend tools and request things they need — all with no money exchanged and no strings attached. Moderators keep the group running

smoothly by ensuring members follow community guidelines and maintain a respectful, neighborly atmosphere.


The group functions like a modern-day version of borrowing a cup of sugar from a neighbor. Members post items they'd like to give away, and interested neighbors ask to be considered. The gifters select a recipient, and the two arrange a pickup time. Through these exchanges, members declutter their homes, save money and reduce waste by keeping useful items out of landfills. Nearly everything imaginable has circulated through the group, from safety pins to folding tables. One woman preparing to downsize before a move gifted a couch, chair and bed to young men furnishing their first apartment. In another exchange, I picked up a plant stand from a neighbor I had never met before and discovered we shared a connection to France, where I once studied abroad. Small interactions like this help strengthen the sense of community that makes neighborhoods feel like home. **Community Gifting in Southeast Silver Spring** is hosted on Facebook (search for it under that name), while a smaller non-Meta alternative, Long Branch Area Gifting, is available on the Band platform.



Kate's
Cottage Bakes

Baked fresh
in the neighborhood

Sign up for weekly emails:
katescottagebakes.com

Follow and place orders:
 @katescottagebakes

ISCA RECOMMENDED SERVICES LIST

Last November, the ISCA website's directory of recommended service providers added fresh recommendations, submitted by ISCA residents, in 21 commonly sought categories. Project coordinator Jay Goldman is willing to launch a second round of updates in additional service categories, with help from 2-3 other volunteers, during the summer. Contact him at jgoldman@aasa.org, if willing to help. The ISCA service providers list can be accessed at: <https://iscaonline.com/recommended-services/>. These categories were updated on the recommendations list in fall 2025:

EASTERN SILVER SPRING COMMUNITY PLAN – ESSCP

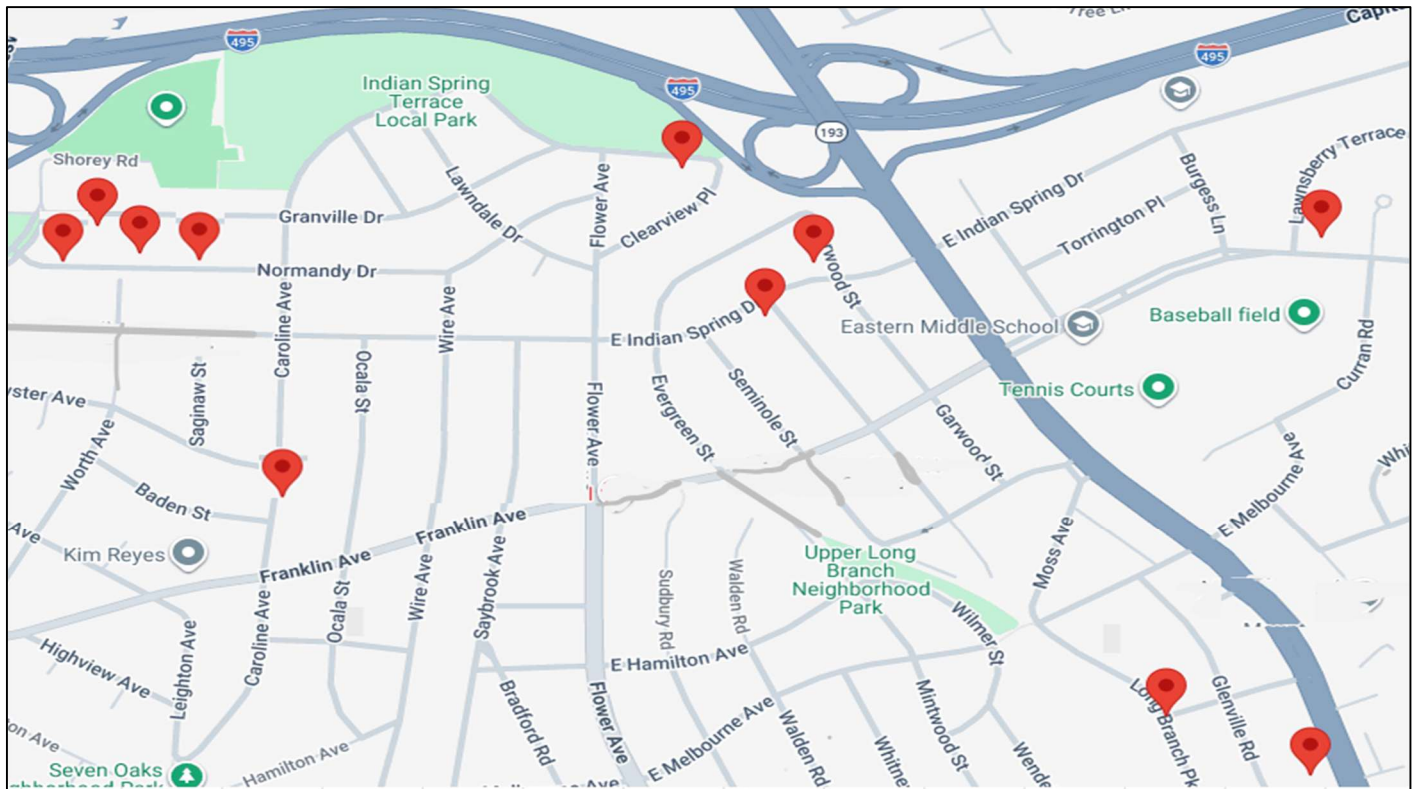
The neighborhood is learning more each week about the proposed re-zoning of the area. Please visit the website below for information regarding the plan. There, you can sign up for email updates, the e-letter and/or text message updates. The website also includes upcoming dates for input and county contact information. [Eastern Silver Spring Communities Plan - Montgomery Planning](https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/east-county/silver-spring/eastern-silver-spring-communities-plan/) or at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/east-county/silver-spring/eastern-silver-spring-communities-plan/>

The county is currently in the Analyzing Feedback and Revising Recommendations phase of the project.

We encourage everyone to participate in the discussion, review the proposal, and determine what information we are lacking. At this stage, ISCA's focus is on information dissemination to ensure that everyone has information in a timely manner and each household can develop an informed opinion.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

Our neighborhood has a plethora of little libraries where you can borrow a book or share a book! See below for a map and take a stroll around the neighborhood If you are interested in starting a little free library – check out the website <https://littlefreelibrary.org/start/>



LITTLE FREE PANTRY



Let's celebrate the opening of ISCA's Little Free Pantry at 9511 Seminole St!

The Little Free Pantry movement is grassroots, crowdsourced solution to immediate and local needs. Whether someone has a need for food or a desire to give, mini pantries help neighbors feed neighbors.

Special thanks to Michele and Jeremy Lunsford, Tobi Macfarland and Suzannah Stivison for coordinating, building and monitoring this awesome new feature of the neighborhood.

Please give what you can and take what you need. ❤️



HOOPED SUMMER CAMPS

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(half Art, half active games)



Splash at Franklin Knolls
(members only)



Dedos Spanish Immersion
(Art, Theater, Sports)



Girl Power & Trailblazers
(Cooking, Art, Science, active games)



Grace
(Kensington)

Franklin Knolls Pool
(Silver Spring)

St. Bernadette's
(Silver Spring)

LOCATIONS

Register Online

HoopEducation.com

ISCA LISTSERVE: CONNECT WITH NEIGHBORS!

Join the ISCA Email Listserv Communicate with hundreds of your neighbors via email by registering at the ISCA groups.io page. Join by visiting iscaonline.groups.io/g/main or by scanning the QR code.

Follow ISCA on Facebook Learn about upcoming events and advocacy work happening in and around the ISCA community. From food drops to new businesses in Silver Spring, ISCA's Facebook page covers it all! Join by visiting bit.ly/ISCA-Facebook or by scanning the QR code.



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE INDIAN SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ISCA)

by Mary Quarm, Membership Chair

ISCA uses the donations to promote social activities and cover the expenses of needs around the neighborhood. ISCA donations help to put on the PRIDE block party and neighborhood pride flags, landscape the area by the ISCA sign cover administrative costs, Fallfest and support Santa's visit for the tree lighting in December, and a whole lot more!

Your membership also adds you to an email distribution list for ISCA information including notification of events and votes on issues impacting our community (NOTE: this is different from the "iscaonline" listserv for which you do not need to be an ISCA member).

Donations are member chosen, renewed annually for January – December membership. You can join using PayPal/Credit/Debit, Venmo, or by mail 306 Indian Spring Dr. Please join or renew today! (Use one of the options below) – suggested household donation is \$20 to keep ISCA running

Please see QR codes below to donate or reach out to iscatmembership@gmail.com to become a member without a donation. Please include your address and email in the comments if using Venmo.



Indian Spring Citizens A...

@iscaonline



Scan QR code on your phone to go directly to the ISCA Membership page



ISCA NEIGHBORHOOD TOOL LIBRARY

Another big thanks to Luke Patton for starting a neighborhood tool library and he invites you to join! The idea is simple: we can share tools with one another, saving money and storage space, and getting to know our neighbors in the process.

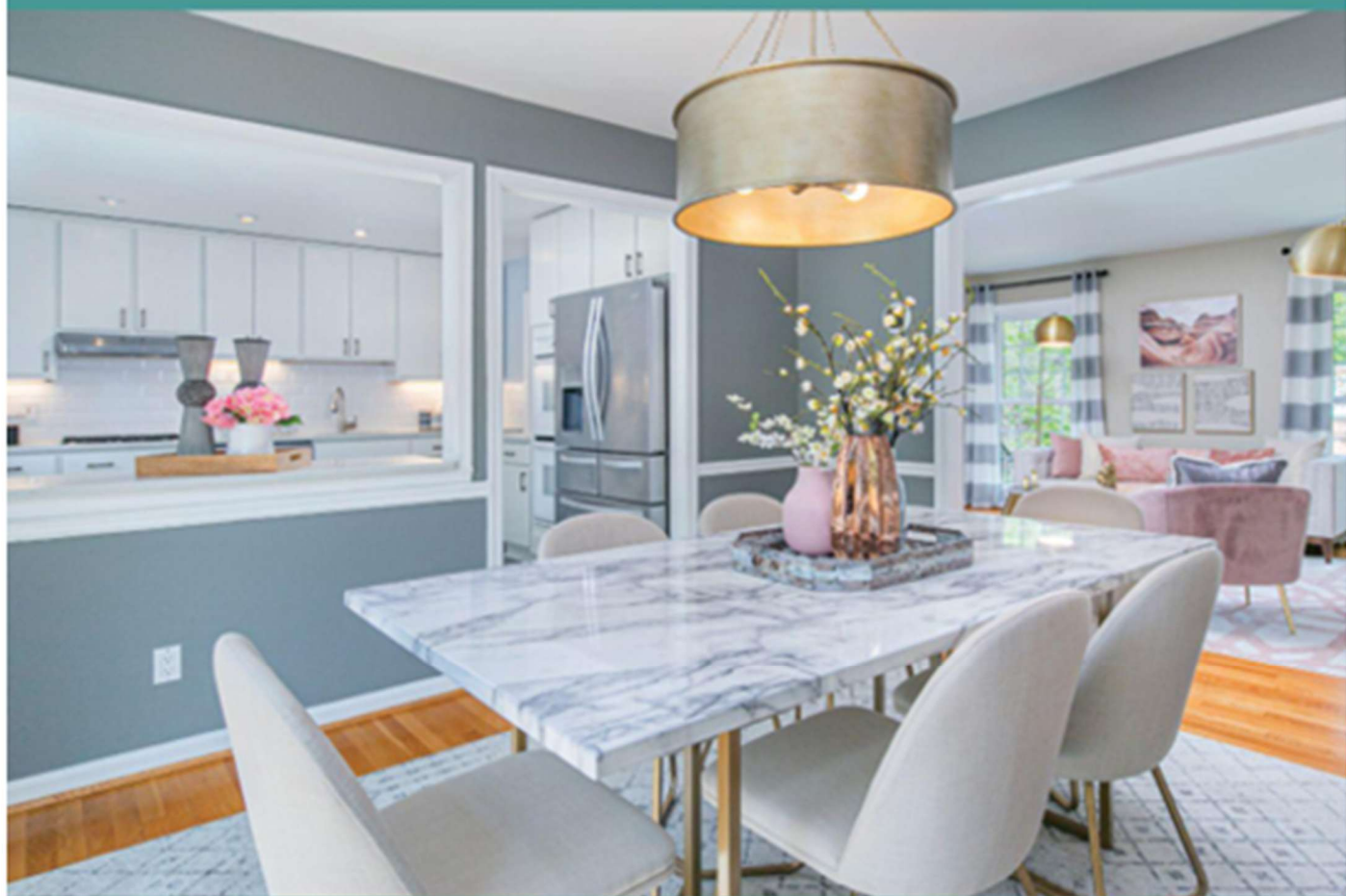
This is a great way to access the tools you need without having to buy them, help the environment by reducing consumption, and build a stronger, more connected neighborhood.

If you'd like to participate, please add your tools to this Google Sheet and use it to coordinate all lending and borrowing:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16Qa8OA2CgXZFN6a3fy5oTonqy4QsoGE2FPKY6jz99dw/edit?usp=sharing>

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ACTIVE MONTGOMERY SUMMER REGISTRATION

It is time to think about fireflies, flip flops and summer registration. The lineup for summer programs from Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County Recreation and Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) includes aquatics, tennis, ice skating, fitness classes, golf lessons, nature exploration, arts programs, sports and more.

Registration is open for Montgomery Parks Summer programs and activities, Montgomery County Recreation's summer programs, Montgomery County Recreation's senior (55+) summer programs, and on Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 a.m. registration opens for Summer Term I for Ice Skating, Ice Hockey and Tennis. Visit ActiveMONTGOMERY.org for program registration.

SILVER SPRING DOWNTOWN EVENTS CALENDAR

Did you know that Downtown Silver Spring has an Events Calendar — your one-stop source for everything happening in our vibrant community? From live music and festivals to art exhibits, networking events, family activities, and more, this calendar connects you to the heart of Silver Spring.

Designed for the community, by the community, it features events from businesses, nonprofits, schools, and local groups. Whether you're looking for cultural celebrations, outdoor activities, dining specials, or seasonal highlights, you'll find it all here. [Calendar | Events | Downtown Silver Spring](https://silverspringdowntown.com/events/calendar) <https://silverspringdowntown.com/events/calendar>

Stay connected, explore Silver Spring, and make the most of what our dynamic community has to offer!

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PHASE 1 ●

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PHASE 2 ●

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You may opt out of syndication to Redfin.com at any time.

PHASE 3 ●

Sell Better **PUBLIC WEBSITES**

Backed by early demand and a price point the market has already endorsed, your home enters the broader market positioned to achieve the best possible price and terms.

SILVER SPRING SPOTLIGHT – SILVER SPRING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

by Stephanie Helsing, President & CEO Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce (shelsing@gsscc.org)

The Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce (GSSCC) is a nonpartisan, membership based 501(c)(6) representing all nine zip codes of Silver Spring with its “boundaries” which include the DC Line north to the Howard County line on Rt. 29 (including Burtonsville); the Prince Georges County Line to the East; the DC Line to Sandy Spring Rd. on Georgia Ave and New Hampshire Ave.; and Grubb Rd off East West Hwy. The mission of the Chamber is to enhance the economic prosperity of greater Silver Spring through robust promotion of our member businesses and unrelenting advocacy on their behalf, with a vision of a prosperous business community that contributes to a vibrant greater Silver Spring.

The Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce is actively “Backing Business - Building Community.” It is as simple as that. Without a healthy economic base, the entire community is impacted. Business and community are inextricably linked. In the greater Silver Spring area, much of the business community is owned and operated by our friends and neighbors. People we know and some we don’t, all with the same goal of doing something they are good at, something that is needed, or something that they love, to support the people they love. Nothing “big” or “bad” to see here.

In the last few years Silver Spring has been voted Best Place in the Country for Families, by Fortune Magazine; One of the Top East Coast Cities, by Travel & Leisure; 2nd Nicest Place in America, by Reader’s Digest; 3rd Most Generous Community of All Time by GoFundMe; and most recently this year, Silver Spring is the 1# Most Diverse Community in the Country!

This last accolade is important. This is what shapes our community at large. The businesses the GSSCC represents are predominately small, minority owned businesses. Post COVID, the defined lanes of what Chamber’s do and how they contribute to the broader community has shifted. This is the world that as GSSCC President & CEO, I currently function in. Though our mission is the same, we have moved beyond just offering the expected programming, networking events, and business advocacy. To learn more about the important work that we do, please visit our website at <https://www.gsscc.org/>

Have an article or topic you would like to submit for the ISCA newsletter? Interested in placing an ad?

Want to volunteer for an event or have a great idea for one?

Reach out to iscasocialteam20901@gmail.com

A copy of this newsletter will be available online at iscaonline.com
