



GSSCC Weekly Update

8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-565-3777 • info@gsscc.org • www.gsscc.org

April 7, 2014

Don't Miss GSSCC's April Networking Breakfast

. . . scheduled for 7:30 a.m. this Wednesday, April 9, at **The Daily Dish**. Join us for a new twist on the "speed networking" model, applying lessons learned from the most effective networkers. Click [here](#) to log in and register.

Last Chance to Register for GSSCC's "Lean & Green" Presentation

Interested in learning more about how to "green" your business by switching to a renewable energy source? Not sure where to start? After the closing of Clean Currents earlier this year, GSSCC heard many questions about the future of green energy. Business owners are not sure about the status of the clean energy market or about options that might be available. GSSCC and our Energy Co-Op partner **CQI Associates** are offering "**Lean & Green**," a presentation designed to help members "*Understand the Benefits and Options of Renewable Energy Resources.*" Join us at 5 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 8, in the GSSCC Conference Room. This presentation is free, but advance registration is required. Click [here](#) to login and register.

Mark Your Calendar for GSSCC's April Business-After-Hours. . .

. . .from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at the new Eleven55 Apartments at 1155 Ripley Street. Members and first-time prospects are admitted free; non-members pay \$40. Click [here](#) to log in and register by Friday, April 18.

REGISTER NOW for the 2014 GSSCC Chamber Cup Business Golf Classic

Spring is finally here, so plan now to join 100-plus Chamber member business leaders for a day of networking and fun at the Chamber's annual golf tournament, scheduled this year for **Monday, May 19, at Argyle Country Club**. Click [here](#) for details on the sponsorship opportunities. Click [here](#) to log-in to the Members Only section of our website to register your foursomes or individual golfers. Not a golfer? Sign up to join us for the awards reception after the tournament for dinner and networking. The Chamber is also seeking raffle prize donations and volunteers for the day. Please contact Laura Alin if you can contribute a prize or your time.

Join GSSCC as a 2014 AFI Docs Film Festival Sponsor

GSSCC is pleased to once again this year be a sponsor of Silver Spring's AFI Docs Film Festival. Now in its 12th year, AFI Docs honors excellence in filmmaking, supports the diverse voices and free expression of independent storytellers, and celebrates the power of documentary to improve our understanding of the world. Over the years, AFI Docs Film Festival has attracted 27,000 documentary enthusiasts, policy-makers and thought leaders. Promote your business and become a sponsor to sustain and advance the art form of storytelling and provide a platform for filmmakers to illuminate the issues and stories that impact our world. For more information regarding sponsorship or funding opportunities, please contact: Shayla Hines, Manager, Advancement at 301-495-6729 or SHines@AFI.com.

GSSCC MEMBER NEWS

* GSSCC was pleased to help cut the ribbon this past Saturday to celebrate the grand opening of **Fairland Animal Hospital's** new facility at 13425 Old Columbia Pike. Fellow Chamber members, clients and their four-legged friends, and neighbors joined the festivities. Click [here](#) to see photos from the event.

See your company's news here! GSSCC would be pleased to highlight news from our member companies in this section of the weekly e-news. Simply send us your information before close of business each Friday.

GSSCC's Committee Meetings in April

* **Major Events Committee** – 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8

* **Economic Development Committee** – 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, at United Therapeutics – Interviews with candidates for Montgomery County Planning Chair – *RSVP Required*.

* **Membership Development** – 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22

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County to Recognize Small Businesses

The Montgomery County Department of Economic Development will recognize some of the small businesses that have made a significant contribution to the area's economy, at its Small Business Awards Luncheon, scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 9 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Nominations are due by 3 p.m. this Wednesday, April 9. Click [here](#) for more information or to purchase tickets to attend.

Montgomery Works Event to Connect Businesses to No Cost Temporary Staffing Support

Through its Youth Employment Services, **Montgomery Works** matches employers' needs with the strengths and interests of young people interested in gaining experience during the summer. Businesses get an expanded workforce at no cost, because the program is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Businesses interested in learning more about the program are invited to attend a free seminar at noon on Thursday, April 17, at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Lunch will be provided. Advance RSVP required by April 10 to dgilgenbach@montgomeryworks.com. For more information about Montgomery Works, click [here](#).

Want to "Stand out in the Crowd" at the Next GSSCC Networking Breakfast?

Sign on as a spotlight sponsor for one of the Chamber's monthly networking breakfasts this year. As a sponsor, you have the opportunity to give a 5-minute presentation on your company to the captive audience at one breakfast this year. Sponsorship also includes: Your business name listed on email and web site promotions of the event; Your company's promotional item or brochure put at each place setting or a designated table; The chance for one representative to be the official greeter and hand out business cards to each guest at registration; and a set of mailing labels for breakfast attendees. Note: sponsorship opportunities are limited to members promoting products or services for sale and member companies are limited to one host sponsorship per calendar year. Call Laura Alin (301-565-3777) for details.

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MD SHA Continues Work on Georgia

State Highway crews will soon begin the final weekend lane closures along MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in downtown Silver Spring for bus pad construction, bolstering the road surface located directly in front of bus stops to make them strong enough to support heavier vehicles without damaging the roadway. Although workers may not always be present, lanes must remain closed until the bus pad concrete is fully cured (dry) and all affected lanes are declared safe for travel. SHA's contractor will construct the final bus pad on northbound Georgia Avenue at the intersection of Ellsworth Drive. Weather permitting, construction of the final bus pad should be complete by the end of April.

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Call For Nominations - Is Your Company a Shining Star of Silver Spring?

On June 25, at its 2014 Awards & Installation Dinner, the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce will honor individuals and organizations that make Silver Spring shine and make this community a better place to live, work, and play. Once again this year, we will recognize **three businesses** and **one non-profit organization** as Shining Stars of Silver Spring. To nominate your organization, click [here](#).

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Maryland General Assembly Adjourns Sine Die

The Maryland General Assembly adjourned Sine Die at midnight last Monday night. Thanks to input from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, GSSCC is pleased to provide the [attached review](#) of business-related issues considered during the session.

GSSCC MEMBER NEWS

* Congratulations to **Fenwick Beer & Wine** (1327 Fenwick Ln.) on being named "The Best Place to Buy Beer" by readers of the *Washington City Paper*! This is the second year in a row that **Fenwick Beer & Wine** has received this honor in the *City Paper's* Best of DC contest.

* In recognition of the lunar eclipse, which will turn the moon pink, and the much-dreaded "tax day" tomorrow, **The Daily Dish** (8301 A Grubb Rd.) invites you to "eclipse your taxes," with specials on some rose-colored libations, including a Cosmos, Alexander Valley Rose, and Angry Orchard Hard Cider.

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Welcome New Members!

Please join GSSCC in welcoming these new members who joined GSSCC during the last quarter:

Batzel Law LLC; Keith R. Scott Associates, LLC; PerSei Apartments at Pike and Rose; Burger-Fi (Silver Spring Burger LLC); Advance Business Systems; Andy Alderdice, W.C. & A.N. Miller Realtors, a Long & Foster Co.; Senior Service America, Inc.; State Farm Insurance - Jennifer Smigal; Dieneke Johnson; Caring Transitions of Silver Spring; 5 A Day CSA; Baby Joy 3D/4D Ultrasound; Springs Physical Therapy; Hecht & Associates, LLC; SW Creatives, LLC; Creative Colony; SweetFrog; Guardian Realty Management, Inc.; BSharper Real Estate; Dancil-Jones & Associates, Inc.; and Apartment Turnovers, Inc.

Thanks for Renewing!

GSSCC thanks the following companies for renewing their membership in March:

The Original Crisfield Seafood Restaurant; Lebanese Taverna Café; Plaza Artist Materials of Maryland, Inc.; Minimally Invasive Vascular Centers; Colesville Towers; Waterford Tower Apartments; OLAZZO Restaurant; Maisel-Hollins Development; Montgomery Housing Partnership; H Street Business Solutions; Four Corners Animal Hospital, Inc.; Blue Shore Inc.; At Home Care, Inc.; Silver Spring Library; Taste Diner, Inc.; La Malinche; Grady Management, Inc.; Montgomery 1936 Land Company, LLC; Joseph Godbout CPA; Lee Development Group; Bell Flowers, Inc.; College Park Tennis Club; Apex Home Loans, Inc.; Family & Nursing Care, Inc.; Metamorphosis Wardrobe & Accessories Boutique; Commercial & Investment Realty Associates LLC; Home Properties, Inc.; Percontee, Inc.; Consultance Accounting Services; Montgomery College - Takoma Park/Silver Spring; and Fire Station 1 Restaurant and Brewing Co.

GSSCC's Committee Meetings in April

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* **Membership Development** – 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22

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MD SHA Bus Pad Work Delayed

Due to the forecast of rain last Friday, Maryland State Highway crews cancelled planned work that would have closed sections of MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) in downtown Silver Spring for bus pad construction. No work will be done this coming weekend because of the holiday; however, work is expected to begin again on April 25. SHA notes that although workers may not always be present, lanes must remain closed until the bus pad concrete is fully cured (dry) and all affected lanes are declared safe for travel.

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2014 Chamber Cup Business Golf Classic Almost SOLD OUT, Great Sponsorships Still Available

Don't miss your opportunity to join some 100 Chamber member business leaders for a day of networking and fun at the Chamber's annual golf tournament, scheduled this year for **Monday, May 19, at Argyle Country Club**. Registration begins at 11 a.m., lunch will be available at noon, and the shotgun start is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sign up to sponsor the roving Beverage Cart or one of the two standing Beverage Stations and meet every golfer on the course. Want to play? Sign up for a Gold or Silver sponsorship, which includes golf foursomes. Or, promote your company with a Hole sponsorship that puts your logo at one of the 18 tee boxes. Click [here](#) for details on the sponsorship opportunities. Want to sign up for one of the remaining opportunities for foursomes or individual golfers? Click [here](#) to log-in to the Members Only section of our website to register. Not a golfer? Sign up to join us for the awards reception after the tournament for dinner and networking. The Chamber is also seeking raffle prize donations and volunteers for the day. Please contact Laura Alin if you can contribute a prize or your time.

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GSSCC Testifies to Keep Tax Dollars Collected from Silver Spring Business Owners in Silver Spring

In an effort to persuade Montgomery County Councilmembers to reject the County Executive's proposal to transfer \$1.1 million out of the Silver Spring Parking Lot District (PLD) budget over the next 15 years, Chamber President Jane Redicker [testified](#) recently that the additional tax dollars collected from downtown Silver Spring property and business owners should be reinvested in assuring that Silver Spring's downtown remains clean and safe. She argued that Silver Spring business and property owners who pay a higher level of property taxes because they are inside the PLD expect that those additional tax dollars will support the enhanced level of maintenance and services required in the Urban District, and not be transferred to the County General Fund to balance the budget elsewhere. Redicker also urged Councilmembers to keep the promise made some years ago and sunset the energy tax increase implemented in 2010. Work sessions on these and other County budget matters begin this week.

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. . .scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, at **la Madeleine Country French Café** (8435 Georgia Ave.). Join GSSCC for networking-before-work and to recognize the Montgomery County Police Officer

of the First Quarter of 2014. Click [here](#) to log in and register by Friday, May 9, and pay the early-bird admission price of \$20. Registrations received after May 9 will pay an additional \$10.

GSSCC MEMBER NEWS

* **Skillful Parenting** will present a research-based seminar on preparing couples for the transition to parenthood from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, in its offices at 8720 Georgia Avenue, #1000. While most new parent programs address the birth of a child, this one addresses the couple's life together, including understanding baby's emotions. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

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GSSCC's Committee Meetings in April and May

* **Membership Development** – 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22

* **Economic Development Committee** – 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, at United Therapeutics – Round I Interviews with four candidates for Montgomery County Planning Board Chair – RSVP Required.

* **Golf Committee** – 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 1, in the EagleBank conference room

* **Government Affairs Committee** – 9 a.m. on Friday, May 2

* **Major Events Committee** – Tuesday, May 6, location TBD

* **Membership Development Committee** – 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27

* **Economic Development Committee** – 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28, at United Therapeutics – Round II Interviews with four candidates for Montgomery County Planning Board Chair – RSVP Required

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County Ride-On Bus Posters Urge Companies to “Increase Business Strength”

Some 50 Ride-On buses throughout Montgomery County will carry traveling billboards over the next few months, urging companies to “Increase your business strength” by joining a local chamber or business organization. The campaign is an effort by the County's Department of Economic Development to help increase membership in local business organizations, particularly those geared towards women and minorities. The campaign was launched last week at a press conference where GSSCC and representatives of other business organizations were photographed next to one of the buses. GSSCC will be creating customized post cards and other materials to use as part of our membership promotion efforts in the coming weeks.

GSSCC Member\$ave on Office Supplies, Credit Card Processing & Shipping

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Looking to Get the Most from your Chamber Membership? Join Us for GSSCC 101 at Eggspectation

Whether you are a new GSSCC member or an established member looking to get the most from your membership investment, plan to attend **GSSCC 101** to learn how you can put your Chamber membership to work for you. Scheduled from **8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. next Wednesday, May 7, at Eggspectation**, this free breakfast event is first-come-first-served and by advance reservation only. Click [here](#) to log in and register to learn more about how to maximize your membership investment and more.

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2014 Chamber Cup Business Golf Classic Nearly SOLD OUT, Great Sponsorships Still Available

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GSSCC Urges County Council to Sunset the Energy Tax Increase

GSSCC President Jane Redicker was back in Rockville last week, in an effort to persuade Montgomery County Councilmembers to reject the County Executive's efforts to make the energy tax increase a permanent stream of revenue for the County, instead of sunsetting the 2010 increase as promised. Redicker told Councilmembers that in order to create long-term stability for the County's fiscal needs, it should adopt measures that will retain current businesses, attract new ones, and create more jobs, instead of continuing policies that make it more difficult and more expensive to do business here. She pointed to record high vacancy rates in commercial office buildings as evidence that having the highest energy tax in the region is having a major impact on economic development here. She also cautioned that the Federal government – the target of this tax – is reducing its footprint in Montgomery County, explaining that, "By the end of 2015, Federal government leases on more than 3 million square feet of office space here are due to expire. While neighboring jurisdictions work hard to lure these facilities away, and, the Federal Government looks to cut costs, the notion that targeting Federal facilities with a local energy tax seems at best misguided, and at worst, could be a disaster if the Feds decide they are exempt from local taxes." To read the full testimony, click [here](#).

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