



Weekly Update

January 5, 2015

Introducing the NEW GSSCC Weekly Update!

The newly designed GSSCC Weekly Update still includes all of the same information about issues that affect business in Silver Spring, Chamber events and activities, and Chamber members. We hope you like our new format.

MAKE THE CITY
PART OF YOUR NEW HOME

EYA.com

Discover the Townhomes of **Chelsea Heights**
in Downtown Silver Spring

New Townhomes with Rooftop Terraces from the \$700s
Steps from Metro, Shopping, Dining, and Entertainment

the real estate experts
EYA

MHBR No. 7092


 A photograph showing a rooftop terrace with a wooden table, chairs, and a railing. In the background, there are modern townhomes and a city skyline under a clear sky.

Ring in the New!

Join us for GSSCC's Young Professionals' Kick-Off Social

Wednesday, January 7

5:30p.m.-7:00p.m.
Denizens Brewing Co.
1115 East-West Hwy



\$10 for GSSCC members
\$15 for non-members
(1 appetizer and 1 beer/soda included)

Register online at www.gsscc.org. For more information, contact us at info@gsscc.org or call 301-565-3777.

New to GSSCC? New to your company? Check out GSSCC 101

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. this Wednesday, January 7, at **Eggspectation**, this free breakfast event is first-come-first-served and by advance reservation only. Preference will be given to new members if the event is full. Click [here](#) to log in and register TODAY to learn more about how to maximize your membership investment and more.

Register Today for GSSCC's January Networking Breakfast

. . .scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. next Wednesday, January 14, at **Argyle Country Club**. Click [here](#) to log in and register.

Welcome New Members.....

Please join GSSCC in welcoming these new members and returning members for December:

[Holiday Inn Express Washington DC/Silver Spring](#)

iBurst America

[Preal Haley & Associates - Ameriprise Financial](#)

[Streetsense](#)

[The 4 Corners Pub](#)

[Vendt Brothers AllState Agencies](#)

Thanks for Renewing...

A-1 Action Nursing Care, Inc.
Abol Ethiopian Cuisine
Arbor Education and Training
At Home Care, Inc.
Bethel World Outreach Church
Bud Miller Associates, Inc.
Commercial & Investment Realty Assoc.
Downtown Silver Spring
EagleBank
El Golfo Restaurant
Friends & Family Flooring, LLC
The Gunthert Company of Maryland

Lebanese Taverna
M&T Bank
National Museum of Health and Medicine
Patient First
Sandy Spring Bank
Silver Spring Regional Services Center
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts
Sky Properties
Sun Taxicab Association LTD
Sunrise Senior Living of Silver Spring
Tempchin & Bowers, LLC



* **Kaldi's Coffee Bar** is expanding....adding a rooftop deck. Visit their Facebook page to see photos of the planned expansion.

* Congratulations to these GSSCC members selected among The *Best of Montgomery County* by *Gazette* readers: **Stronsniders Hardware**- first in the Hardware category; **Mid-Atlantic Federal Creditunion** - first in the Credit Union category; **The Classics**- second in the Steakhouse category; **Mi Rancho**- second in the Mexican Restaurant category; **Maisie Dunbar Spa Lounge**- second in the Nail Salon category; **Hoover Fisher Florist**- third in the Florist category; and **Statland & Katz, Ltd.** - third in the Insurance Agent category.

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member companies in this section of the weekly e-news. Simply send us your information before close of business each Friday.

Pepco Customers to Receive New Account Numbers

As a result of an upgrade to a new and improved customer information system, Pepco has announced that all customers will be given a new account number that is one digit longer than the previous one (going from 10 to 11 digits). The new number will appear on the first page of the invoice and when customers log into "My Account." Pepco encourages customers to pay bills using their bank's online bill pay service and to update payment information with the new account number once it is available. Account numbers for customers enrolled in an automatic payment program will be automatically updated. Note: old account numbers will still work for outage reporting and account access, if necessary.

Pepco notes that December bills may reflect a shorter than normal billing period due to the customer information system upgrade and temporary adjustments to meter reading schedules; January bills may reflect a longer than normal billing period (ranging from 38 to 42 days) for the same reasons.

GSSCC's Committee Meetings in January



- * **Government Affairs Committee** - 9 a.m. on Friday, January 9, United Therapeutics Education Center - Meeting with Maryland District 20 Delegation. **RSVP to [Jane Redicker](#) Required.**
- * **Events Committee** - 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13.
- * **Economic Development Committee** - 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 15, discussions with representatives of Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services.
- * **Membership Development Committee** - 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27.
- * **About GSSCC Committee Meetings** - All GSSCC members are welcome to participate in Chamber committees. Members are welcome to attend committee meetings to assess interest in joining a committee. Meetings are typically held in the GSSCC Conference Room. **RSVP is required and priority will be given to existing committee members when speakers are scheduled.**

Thank you to our 2014-2015 GSSCC Partners

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Washington Adventist Hospital

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Partners - Adam S. Lowe Photography; Atlantech Online; Eggspectation; Signs By Tomorrow; Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.

Friends - My Office Products; Harvey Maisel/Maisel Hollins Development

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However, there may be times that an event may be held or cancelled due to the sponsoring company's policies and/or the discretion of GSSCC. The office will keep members apprised via our website, email, and social media outlets as promptly as possible.

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BUSINESS
Networking
BREAKFAST

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. . .scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. next Wednesday, January 14, at Argyle Country Club. Click [here](#) to log in and register.

Government Affairs Committee meets with Raskin and Moon

GSSCC Government Affairs Committee members met last week with District 20 State Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegate David Moon. Committee members presented GSSCC's 2015 Legislative Priorities for Maryland (linked [here](#)) and urged both legislators to consider matters of importance to business when they head to Annapolis this week.



GSSCC Young Professionals Kick-off was Huge Success!



All photos courtesy of [Adam S. Lowe Photography](#).

Save the Date: GSSCC Business-After-Hours

. . . scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, at Fenwick Apartments (8616 Second Avenue). Click [here](#) to log in and register.



GSSCC Young Professionals: Mark Your Calendars

GSSCC Young Professionals will join the young professionals groups from the Gaithersburg-Germantown and Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chambers, and Leadership Montgomery's Emerging Leaders program, to host a **Regional Young Professional's**

Group Happy Hour, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, at Timpano (12021 Rockville Pike). Come meet and mingle with other young professionals from Montgomery County. Space for this event is limited, so [click here](#) to register today.



- * Happy 15th Birthday to **Zipcar**! A celebration party is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at UberOffices in Dupont Circle. Click [here](#) for more details.
- * Happy 10th Anniversary to **SW Creatives**! Founded by **Shala Graham** in 2005, **SW Creatives** has expertise in web and graphic design, large-scale print design, branding, front-end web coding, and project management. The firm is a graduate of the Wheaton Incubator and found a permanent home in the **Royco World Building** in March of last year.
- * Congratulations to **A Wider Circle's** founder and Executive Director, **Mark Bergel**! Bergel has been named one of *Washingtonian Magazine's* nine [Washingtonians of the Year](#), "local heroes whose good works and generous spirits make Washington a great place." The current issue, on newsstands now, features his profile, in which he talks about the people served every day by **A Wider Circle**. Click on the link above to read more.
- * **The Daily Dish** brings its own special version of "Restaurant Week in January," this week, by offering a three-course meal (appetizer, entrée, and dessert) from a special menu, for just \$30. And, bottles of all reserve wines will be \$5 off. Click [here](#) for details.
- * **Abella Industria** announces that its *Dragon's Way Program* (6-week weight-management and stress-management program) will return to Crossings (8505 Fenton Street, 2nd Floor, just above Whole Foods), at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 29. The 6-week class will run through Thursday, March 12, with a "hiatus/break" on Thursday, February 26. Click [here](#) for more info.
- * Congratulations to **Adam S. Lowe Photography** on moving into new space at Washington Artworks (12276 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville). Move in day is tomorrow.

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Silver Spring Tops List of "Most Caring Suburbs"

Last year, real estate blog Movoto recognized Silver Spring as one of the "most exciting" suburbs in America. Now, they have added to that honor by naming Silver Spring the "Most Caring Suburb in America," (beating out Columbia and Frederick). Movoto notes that, "Silver Spring has more community services and mental health professionals per capita than nearly anywhere else (it ranked third and seventh in these categories, respectively). Plus, with a student to counselor ratio of 14.9 to 1, it's clear that this 'burb starts caring for residents early on." To read the full blog, click [here](#).

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January 20, 2015

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MHBR No. 7092

Register Today: GSSCC Business-After-Hours

Come see the brand new Fenwick Apartments (8616 Second Ave.) and network with fellow GSSCC members and guests from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28. Click [here](#) to log in and register.



LEGISLATIVE ALERT:

County Bill Would Require Paid Sick Leave for All Employees GSSCC Seeks Member Input on Business Impact

Legislation that would require ALL employers to provide paid "sick and safe leave" to ALL employees in Montgomery County, including part-time and tipped workers is being considered by the Montgomery County Council. [Bill 60-14](#) would require employers to provide earned sick and safe leave at a rate of at least 1 hour for every 30 hours an employee works in the County up to 56 hours in a calendar year. GSSCC, in cooperation with the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber and the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber, is seeking member input on current paid sick leave practices. **If you are a business owner manager and have not already done so, please take a moment to complete this very brief survey to help us determine how this legislation might affect your business.** Click [here](#) to access the survey, or paste the following link into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QFR3FVM>

Economic Development Committee Meets with County DPS

GSSCC Economic Development Committee members met last week with Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) Director Diane Jones and Jessica Fusillo, who handles public outreach for the department. Jones explained DPS's new [eServices system](#), which is designed to speed up the review process for permit applications by

making it possible for simultaneous review by all relevant DPS staff. Jones also introduced the Department's new "[Recipe for Success](#)" program specifically designed to help restaurants through the permitting process. In addition, Jones discussed DPS efforts to bring the requirements of the International Green Construction Code to Montgomery County. She signaled that DPS will be urging County Council to enact legislation to adopt this code.

Connect



GSSCC Launches Lunchtime Networking Series

In response to popular request, GSSCC is pleased to present "Connect @ Lunch," an every-other-month members-only networking event that will provide opportunities for members unable to participate in the networking breakfast or the business after hours to connect with other Chamber members in a formal networking setting. Join us for the kick-off lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m. on

Wednesday, February 18, at **Sergio's Ristorante** (8727 Colesville Rd., on the lower level of the DoubleTree Hotel). Cost is \$25 per person and includes salad, entrée, and iced tea or coffee. Participation is limited to the first 24 members who sign up. Click [here](#) to log in and register.

GSSCC Non-Profit Team to Host "How to Be a Good Customer"

The GSSCC Non-Profit Team, representatives of the many non-profit organizations that are members of the Chamber, will host a panel discussion "How To Be A Good Customer," from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, in the GSSCC Conference Room. The panel includes Chamber members **Sarah Burnett, Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC), Julie Statland, Statland & Katz, Ltd., and Charlie Atwell, Innovative Business Interiors.** Panel members will discuss what it means to be a good client; and the importance of customer accountability; and using various business networks to your advantage. Click [here](#) to log in and register.

GSSCC Young Professionals: Mark Your Calendars

GSSCC Young Professionals will join the young professionals groups from the Gaithersburg-Germantown and Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chambers, and Leadership Montgomery's Emerging Leaders program, to host a **Regional Young Professional's Group Happy Hour**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, at Timpano (12021 Rockville Pike). Come meet and mingle with other young professionals from Montgomery County. Space for this event is limited, so [click here](#) to register today.



* Congratulations to **Lerch Early & Brewer Chtd.** on celebrating its 65th Anniversary this year! And, congratulations to the firm on having 26 of its partners, including past GSSCC Chair **Bill Kominers**, listed among [2015 Maryland Super Lawyers](#).

* **Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union** invites GSSCC members to "Small Business U," co-sponsored by The U.S. Small Business Administration, Montgomery Community Media, the Gazette Newspapers, and Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 22. Click [here](#) for more information.

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Upcoming GSSCC Committee Meetings



- * **Membership Development Committee** - 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27.
- * **Golf Committee** - noon on Thursday, January 29.
- * **Major Events Committee** - 9 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3.
- * **Young Professionals Committee** - 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4.
- * **Government Affairs Committee** - 9 a.m. on Friday, February 6, meeting with District 3 Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz. **RSVP Required.**
- * **Economic Development Committee** - 9 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, meeting on Council Office of Legislative Oversight's report on Parking Lot Districts.

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Weekly Update

January 26, 2015

Montgomery County has a goal to reduce waste and recycle 70% by 2020.



Recycle All You Can at Work!
Recycle More Now.



Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling or call 3-1-1 or 240-777-0311.

Last Chance to Register.....

Make your reservation today for GSSCC's January Business After Hours and join us for an evening of networking at the brand new **Fenwick Apartments** (8616 Second Ave.)

Scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28. Click [here](#) to log in and register.



Request for Employer Input: Public Hearing on Paid Sick Leave Bill Scheduled this Thursday

The Montgomery County Council has scheduled a public hearing on [Bill 60-14](#), which would require ALL employers in the County to provide paid "sick and safe leave" to ALL employees, including part-time and tipped workers. The bill, sponsored by Councilmembers Leventhal, Navarro, Elrich, and Reimer, would require employers to provide earned sick and safe leave at a rate of at least 1 hour for every 30 hours an employee works in the County up to 56 hours in a calendar year.

Based on survey input from GSSCC members, the Chamber will testify in opposition to this bill. Concerns have been raised that it will increase costs forcing employers to reduce staff, especially part-time staff; does not accommodate for employers who have adopted a "Paid Time Off" (PTO) policy combining all leave; allows too broad a definition of "family member"; requires complicated and expensive tracking and reporting requirements that will be a burden for small businesses; among other challenges.

The public hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, in the 3rd floor Council Chambers at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville. Employers wishing to testify on this bill should call 240-777-7803 before 10 a.m. the day of the hearing. Employers are also encouraged to make their concerns heard by contacting their Councilmembers. Click [here](#) to find contact information for members of the Council.

Note: The Maryland General Assembly will consider similar legislation this session. [SB40](#), the "Healthy Working Families Act" has returned and will be heard in Annapolis on February 3. GSSCC is working with other statewide business organizations on opposing this bill.

Montgomery County Council Passes Styrofoam Ban

In a unanimous vote last week, the Montgomery County Council passed legislation to ban the use and sale of all polystyrene (Styrofoam) containers and clingy "packing peanuts," effective January 1, 2017. The bill, sponsored by Councilmembers Hans Riemer, George Levanthal, and Marc Elrich, bars restaurants, supermarkets, and institutional cafeterias from using containers, plates, cups, egg cartons, and other products made of Styrofoam. Instead, they must use only compostable or recyclable single-use disposable food service ware. Products packaged outside of Montgomery County before receipt by the food service business and materials used to package raw meat, seafood, or poultry are exempt. The ban begins on January 1, 2016 for the County government and its contractors. The law will also bar the sale of polystyrene loose-fill packaging, commonly referred to as "packing peanuts." It will be enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection on a "complaint driven" basis, meaning that the county will not conduct inspections but will investigate calls or e-mails from the public about possible violations.

Put Your Business on Center Stage at GSSCCs 22nd Anniversary SchmoopaPalooza



...scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, at Silver Spring's most rockin' venue, **The Fillmore Silver Spring**. Tables are going quickly, so call now to claim yours and showcase your business to GSSCC members and guests. Last year's event attracted almost 300 members and guests. Call Jane or Stephanie to reserve your table now.

Pre-paid admission required for all guests. Make your early-bird reservations before February 27 for a chance to be entered into a members-only grand prize drawing. Click [here](#) to log in and register.

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* Congratulations to **Fairland Animal Hosiptal!** Last Friday marked the one-year anniversary of being in their new building at 13425 Old Columbia Pk. See photos on their [Facebook](#) page.

* The **Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services** will hold a Business Recycling Seminar from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, January 29, at the Ana G. Mendez University System campus (11006 Veirs Mill Road L-1 in Wheaton). Cost is \$10 per person. Click [here](#) for more information.

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