



GSSCC Weekly Update

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

March 3, 2014

**THIS EDITION OF THE GSSCC WEEKLY UPDATE IS AN ABBREVIATED VERSION.
THE CHAMBER OFFICES ARE CLOSED TODAY DUE TO THE LATEST WINTER STORM.**

Deadline to Qualify for Grand Prize at GSSCC's 2014 SchmoorzaPalooza Extended

Due to today's winter storm, GSSCC has extended the early-bird ticket purchase deadline to this Friday, March 7. Click [here](#) to purchase your admission to the 2014 SchmoorzaPalooza, scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, at **The Fillmore Silver Spring**. Thanks to **Statland & Katz Insurance**, our *Welcome Sponsor*, and almost 30 other exhibitors already signed on for this event. Want to showcase your business? Call Laura in the Chamber office to get one of only two remaining exhibit tables.

Make Plans Now for GSSCC Golf in May

The 2014 GSSCC Golf Committee is already planning for this year's **GSSCC's Annual Chamber Cup Business Golf Classic**, scheduled for Monday, May 19, at Argyle Country Club. Click [here](#) for details. Committee members will be calling in the coming weeks to sign up your sponsorships and foursomes. Not a golfer? Consider a hole sponsorship, or volunteer to help at the event and make a connections with the golfers.

What's in it for Me! GSSCC's Energy Co-op Program vs. Other Options Webinar

To kick off the spring campaign for its GSSCC's Commercial Energy Co-op, including the new **GO GREEN** electricity option, our member energy expert CQI Associates is offering a series of informational webinars to help members understand how the Chamber's program compares to other options. If you have been bombarded with mail, phone calls or door knocks from individuals seeking to switch you to another energy supplier this webinar is for you. If you are seeking ways to reduce your operational expenses, this webinar is for you. If you are confused or have questions preventing you from making a decision, this webinar is for you. You'll learn about regulations and consumer protection; the difference between the energy co-op program and other options; rates and contract terms; how to avoid scams; how to read your bill; and much more. These free webinars will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday, March 12; at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18; and at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 26. Advance registration is required. Simply go to the CQI Associates [home page](#), look for the Energy Information Webinars tab on the left hand side, scroll down to click on the date that you want to participate, and follow the steps to RSVP. If you have any questions feel free to contact Joe Tabeling at 443-472-3870

New Member-to-Member Discount

Chamber members support each other by doing business with fellow members and by offering their colleagues special deals and discounts. Here's a new addition this week.

- The **Infinet Payroll** will waive the set-up fee and give GSSCC members 20% off payroll processing charge. Contact Mark Lyn at (301) 310-1586. See the company's website at www.infinetpayroll.com. To add your discount to the Chamber's Member-2-Member Discount program and offer GSSCC Members your products, click [here](#).

GSSCC MEMBER NEWS

* Congratulations to **A Wider Circle** founder **Mark Bergel** on being selected as last week's *CNN Hero!* The story aired this weekend. You can watch the video and read the article [here](#).

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 March

- * **Major Events Committee** – TBD. Committee members, watch your email.
- * **Golf Committee** – 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 13

* **Economic Development Committee** – 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 20 – Robert Kronenberg, Montgomery County Planning Department will provide an update on the status of development projects in downtown Silver Spring and discuss the Lyttonsville Sector Plan, which is being restarted this spring.

* **Government Affairs Committee** – 9 a.m. on Friday, March 21 – Guest is newly appointed Interim District 5 Councilmember Cherri Branson

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.

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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March 10, 2014

Don't Miss GSSCC's March Networking Breakfast...

...from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. this Wednesday, March 12, at **El Golfo**, 8739 Flower Ave. Click [here](#) to register.

Make Your Reservations Today for GSSCC's 2014 SchmoorzaPalooza

Just a one more week to register for GSSCC's biggest and best SchmoorzaPalooza ever! **Pre-paid registration is required by next Tuesday, March 18.** Don't miss this fabulous business expo and networking extravaganza, scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, at **The Fillmore Silver Spring!** Connect with more than 30 Chamber member exhibitors and some 200 local business people. GSSCC thanks our **"Welcome Sponsor" Statland & Katz Insurance.** Thanks also to participating restaurants to date: **Copper Canyon Grill, Eggspectation, Fire Station 1, Kaldi's Coffee Bar, La Malinche, and Little Caesar's Pizza.** Click [here](#) to register online. *Please note: No "walk-ins" or payment at the door will be accepted.*

Annapolis Update

* **State Budget** – The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee voted last week to fill a \$238 million hole in the State's budget with money that was supposed to go toward strengthening the finances of the state pension system. The budget gap is the result of a decrease in State property tax revenues. Read more [here](#).

* **Minimum Wage** – The Maryland House of Delegates voted Friday to raise the State's minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour over the next three years. The measure now goes to the Senate, where President Mike Miller has suggested that compromise might be needed to accommodate competing interests. Questions remain about whether there should be a single minimum wage across the state and whether the minimum wage should be indexed to inflation. Read more [here](#).

* **Estate Tax** – The Maryland House of Delegates voted overwhelmingly on Friday to raise the estate tax exemption threshold over the next five years and bring the State's exemption of \$1 million in line with the Federal exemption of \$5 million. Read more [here](#).

Thanks for Renewing!

GSSCC thanks the following companies for renewing their membership in February: **1st Choice Government Solutions; 8407 Kitchen Bar; Acumedicine Health; Blair Mill, LLC; Chesapeake Bay Roasting Co.; ConTemporaries, Inc.; Cornerstone Montgomery, Inc.; Duffy Insurance Group; Erie Insurance; Full Gamut Professional Services, LLC; Global Communities; Hanagan's Auto Body; Inflectra Corporation; Metro Immediate Care Silver Spring; My Carpet Cleaning Service; Office Depot, Inc.; Peake Financial; Robert R. Manton, DDS, PA; Ryan & Wetmore, PC; Sandy Spring Bank – Burtonsville; Sandy Spring Bank – Silver Spring; Scheer Partners – McKeithan; Self Storage Plus; Shepherd's Table, Inc.; Silver Spring DaVita; Silver Spring Ice Skating at Veterans Plaza; Skillful Parenting; Sparks Personnel Services, Inc.; and Washington Adventist University.**

Welcome Back!

GSSCC thanks the following companies for re-joining in February: **Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County; PNC Bank; The Original Velatis, Inc.; and Whole Foods Market.**

Welcome New Members!

Please join GSSCC in welcoming these new members from February: **5 A Day CSA; Andy Alderdice, W.C. & A.N. Miller Realtors, A Long & Foster Co.; Baby Joy 3D/4D Ultrasound; Caring Transitions of Silver Spring; Dieneke Johnson; Hecht & Associates, LLC; Senior Service America, Inc.; Springs Physical Therapy and State Farm Insurance – Jennifer Smigal.**

GSSCC Member Survey Winner Selected

Congratulations to Jaime Sorto of **La Malinche**, lucky winner of \$300 worth of gift cards from GSSCC members for completing the Chamber's recent membership survey. Sorto's name was drawn from a random list of members who provided contact information connected to their survey participation. See our [Facebook](#) page for a photo. Survey results are being compiled and a summary will be published in a future *GSSCC Weekly Update*. GSSCC will use the information from members who participated in the survey as the Executive Committee and Board begin work on a strategic plan for the Chamber's future growth.

GSSCC MEMBER NEWS

* The **Residence Inn Silver Spring** (12000 Plum Orchard Dr.) and the **Courtyard Silver Spring North** (12521 Prosperity Drive) are participating in a clothing drive to benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Donations of gently worn coats, clothes, shoes, belts, and bags are welcome through March 24. Click [here](#) for more info.

* In its efforts to give back to the community, **Whole Foods** in Silver Spring has selected SSTCi as a beneficiary of its *Nickels for Non-Profits Program*, a community giving program that features a local non-profit for three months. Every time a customer reuses a shopping bag, **Whole Foods** in Silver Spring will donate a nickel to the local non-profit chosen for that time.

* **Jim Musgrave, Research Financial Strategies**, is seeking a sales assistant. Candidates must have a minimum of two years of experience in the financial business, Series 7, and exceptional phone and computer skills. For details and contact information, click [here](#).

* Scholar son of GSSCC member **Bill Kominers, Lerch, Early & Brewer Chtd.**, is in the news. A paper on "The Internet of Things" by Harvard scholar Paul Kominers was recently cited in a *Wired* online article. Click here to read the [story](#).

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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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March 17, 2014

Reservations Deadline Extended for Next Week's GSSCC SchmoorzaPaloosa

Due to the late season snow storm today, GSSCC has extended the pre-paid reservation deadline for next week's SchmoorzaPaloosa for one more day – to close of business this Wednesday, March 18. Don't miss this fabulous business expo and networking extravaganza, scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, at **The Fillmore Silver Spring!** Connect with more than 30 Chamber member exhibitors and some 200 local business people. New this year: our "**Health Fair in the Spotlight,**" featuring six of GSSCC's healthcare related members providing a variety of free health and wellness screenings on The Fillmore stage (*in lieu of last year's musical performer*). GSSCC thanks our "**Welcome Sponsor**" **Statland & Katz Insurance**. Thanks also to participating restaurants to date: **Copper Canyon Grill, Eggspectation, Fire Station 1, Kaldi's Coffee Bar, la Madeleine Country French Cafe, La Malinche, and Little Caesar's Pizza**. Click [here](#) to register online. *Please note: No "walk-ins" or payment at the door will be accepted.*

Annapolis Update

* **Repeal of Small Business Reserve Definition Sunset** – Both the Maryland Senate and the Maryland House of Delegates have passed companion bills that repeal the sunset on measures that, two years ago, expanded access to the State's Small Business Reserve Program and allowed a business to qualify for the program as long as it does not exceed the number of employees or the average gross sales. GSSCC supported this bill and had supported efforts to expand the qualifications of the SBR program two years ago when this section was added.

* **Minimum Wage** – Business groups are working to have an amendment introduced that would pre-empt localities from setting a minimum wage different from that of the State. Proponents of the amendment are concerned that the bills passed in the House, and current Senate bills, make no provision for how minimum wage is to be administered for a discrete job, project, or other work that is conducted in multiple counties. Also, current legislation makes no provision for enforcement of local minimum wage laws in any county, and both counties that have enacted a minimum wage in excess of the current federal minimum wage have failed to enact any enforcement measure for their wages. The amendment, which would be tied to one or more of the bills that increase the State minimum wage, eliminates all of these administration and enforcement problems. Proponents point out that the minimum wage bills passed by the House of Delegates have eliminated sections that linked the minimum wage to the consumer price index in future years; delayed implementation by one year until January 1, 2015, with a phase-in to \$10.10 by January 1, 2017; excluded certain recreational facilities that operate less than 7 months per year; reduced the minimum tip wage.

* **Local Alcoholic Beverage Bills** – Several bills have already passed both Houses that would expand Montgomery County's alcoholic beverage laws. Included are bills that would: allow beer festivals in the county; establish a beauty salon beer and wine license; expand micro-brewery licenses; alter the proportion of food and alcoholic beverage sales required; establish a special beer, wine, and liquor license for performing arts facilities; establish a beer, wine, and liquor license for clubhouses/lodges; among others.

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 to Help Members Reach Apartment Community Customers

In an effort to help our members reach the thousands of customers that currently reside, or will reside in the growing number of apartment homes in Silver Spring, GSSCC has begun working with the property managers of our member apartment communities to provide promotional information about our members to the residents of these buildings. In the coming months, GSSCC will produce an electronic guide of our members that provide retail and consumer services that are designed specifically for the residents of our apartment communities. In addition, GSSCC will work with the property managers to create welcome packets for new residents. More details will follow. If you would like to have your business included in this special directory, please complete the form linked [here](#) and email it to info@gsscc.org.

GSSCC MEMBER NEWS

- * Join GSSCC for the official ribbon cutting and grand opening of **SweetFrog** (100 Lexington Dr. in the Woodmoor Shopping Center) at 10 a.m. this Saturday, March 22. There will be free samples, face painting, music, and more. Partial proceeds and customer donations on the day will benefit **Shepherd's Table**.
 - * **A Wider Circle** presents The National Conference on Ending Poverty from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at the Silver Spring Civic Building. The Conference will highlight innovative, on-the-ground approaches to ending poverty and connect attendees with concrete ways to engage. Visit www.awidercircle.org for more information and to register or contact Pam@awidercircle.org.
 - * **Comcast Business** has joined with *Inc. Magazine* to launch "Innovations 4 Entrepreneurs," a national competition that will award more than \$600,000 in cash and services to aspiring entrepreneurs who are leveraging technology to enhance customer and employee experiences. Winners will have the opportunity to win \$25,000 in cash, Comcast Business Internet and TV services for two years, a \$2,500 allocation for additional Comcast services, and complimentary use of premium cloud applications from Comcast's partners. Visit www.business.comcast.com/i4E for details. Entries are due by April 30, 2014.
- 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.*

New Member-to-Member Discounts

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- **Adam S. Lowe Photography** offers members 20% off the first photography session and 10% off future sessions. Contact Adam Lowe at (240) 389-2751. See his website at www.aslphoto.com.
- **Caring Transitions** offers GSSCC members \$200 off de-cluttering projects, packing, downsizing, moves, estate sale, space planning, and more. Contact Robert Ray at (301) 593-5433. Visit the website at <http://estatemovesilverspringmd.com/>
- **BSharper Real Estate** offers GSSCC Members 50% off home warranty or home inspection. One coupon per customer. Discount given at settlement. Expires 8/31/14. Contact Betty Pelzer-Sharper at (240) 638-2758. Visit the website at www.bsharper.com

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March 24, 2014

More than 300 Registered for GSSCC SchmoozaPalooza

...set for tomorrow evening, March 25, at **The Fillmore Silver Spring**, come snow or come shine! Thanks to more than 30 Chamber member exhibitors, especially our "*Welcome Sponsor*" **Statland & Katz Insurance**, and our "*Health Fair in the Spotlight*," exhibitors **Holy Cross Hospital; Life Chiropractic; Patient First; Robert Mantoni, DDS PA; United Optical; and Washington Adventist Hospital**. Thanks also to participating restaurants: **Copper Canyon Grill, The Daily Dish, Eggspectation, Fire Station 1, Kaldi's Coffee Bar, la Madeleine Country French Cafe, La Malinche, and Little Caesar's Pizza**. *Remember: No "walk-ins" or payment at the door will be accepted.*

Don't Miss GSSCC's April Networking Breakfast

... scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, at **The Daily Dish**. Click [here](#) to register by this Friday, April 4, and pay the early-bird admission price of \$20. Registrations received after April 4 will pay an additional \$10.

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 register by Friday, April 18.

ANNAPOLIS UPDATE -- Estate Tax Bill Headed to Governor

Following spirited debate last Thursday, the Senate voted 36-10 to cut the state's estate tax over the next five years. The bill has been sent to Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is expected to sign it. The bill recouples Maryland to the federal estate tax exemptions. The state's estate tax ceiling would go up incrementally, capping at the federal exclusion level of \$5.3 million by 2019. Under current state law, any assets worth \$1 million or more are taxed after their owner dies. Supporters of the bill said that Maryland's wealthy residents are migrating out-of-state to avoid paying the hefty estate tax. Thirty-four states, including Delaware and Florida, have even done away with their estate tax. The vote to pass the House bill was 113 to 14. It is important to note that nine of the 14 delegates who voted against this important legislation were members of the Montgomery County Delegation (Delegates Barkley, Carr, Fraser-Hildago, Gutierrez, Hucker, Luedtke, Mizeur, Robinson and Waldstreicher). In the Senate, five of the ten votes against the bill were from Montgomery County Senators (Senators Frosh, Madaleno, Manno, Montgomery, and Raskin). GSSCC supported this bill and will be sending thank you messages to those Montgomery County legislators who voted in favor of its passage (Delegates Arora, Barve, Cullison, Dumais, Frick, Gilchrist, Kaiser, Kelly, Kramer, Lee, Miller, Reznick, and Zucker, and Senators Feldman and Forehand).

Ribbon Cuttings for Two New Members!

GSSCC was delighted last week to cut the ribbon for the official grand opening of two of our newest members.

* Last Thursday, GSSCC helped celebrate the launch of **Creative Colony** with the relocation of its parent company **SW Creatives** to Suite 600 in the **Royco World Building** at 8121 Georgia Ave. GSSCC members **Lebanese Taverna** and **Kaldi's Coffee Bar** provided refreshments and donations were collected to benefit **A Wider Circle**. For more information about the **Creative Colony**, send an email to hello@creativecolonyspaces.com.

* On Saturday, GSSCC was proud to join **SweetFrog** operations manager Jaya Shelton to cut the ribbon for the official grand opening of her store at 100 Lexington Drive in Four Corners. Also on hand for the festivities were **SweetFrog** mascots Scoop and Cookie, who posed for pictures with GSSCC members and friends from the neighborhood who stopped by for the celebration. In **SweetFrog** tradition, proceeds from the day were donated to **Shepherd's Table**, represented by Jacki Coyle at the event.

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GSSCC MEMBER NEWS

* **SEEC** is offering GSSCC members the opportunity to showcase their businesses by sponsoring or providing silent auction donations for its "Dancing for SEEC Stars" event on Friday, April 11, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda. Robert Scott, **MyOffice Products**, has signed on as the event chair. **SEEC** is a Silver Spring based nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. For more information about the event, click [here](#).

* Congratulations to **Statland & Katz, Ltd.** on being awarded the "Quality Agent Award for 2013" by **Erie Insurance Group**. The recognition, given to only 16 of the 2,000 Erie agencies in the country, brings **Statland & Katz** a listing in **Erie's** annual report for the next five years. This is the second time in 23 years that **Statland & Katz** has been recognized with this prestigious award.

* The **Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services** Waste Reduction and Recycling Section is holding a business recycling seminar from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on Thursday, March 27, at the Silver Spring Civic Building. There is a minimal \$10 registration fee that covers parking reimbursement, light refreshments, and materials. Businesses can register [here](#).

* **Pepco** is providing 2,000 free trees to customers in Maryland and the District of Columbia through its Energy-Saving Trees program. Launched as a pilot initiative in 2011, the Energy-Saving Trees program helps customers conserve energy and reduces household electricity bills through strategic tree planting. Pepco customers can reserve their free trees today at www.arborday.org/pepco or by calling 1-855-670-2771.

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GSSCC's Committee Meetings in March and Early April

* **Membership Development Committee** – 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 27 (postponed because of Schmoosa)

* **Golf Committee** – 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3

* **Government Affairs Committee** – 9 a.m. on Friday, April 4

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.

What's in it for Me! GSSCC's Energy Co-op Program vs. Other Options Webinar

To kick off the spring campaign for GSSCC's Commercial Energy Co-op, including the new **GO GREEN** electricity option, our member energy expert CQI Associates is offering a series of informational webinars to help members understand how the Chamber's program compares to other options. If you have been bombarded with mail, phone calls or door knocks from individuals seeking to switch you to another energy supplier, this webinar is for you. If you are seeking ways to reduce your operational expenses, this webinar is for you. If you are confused or have questions preventing you from making a decision, this webinar is for you. You'll learn about regulations

and consumer protection; the difference between the energy co-op program and other options; rates and contract terms; how to avoid scams; how to read your bill; and much more. These free webinars will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26. Advance registration is required. Simply go to the CQI Associates [home page](#), look for the Energy Information Webinars tab on the left hand side, scroll down to click on the date that you want to participate, and follow the steps to RSVP. If you have any questions feel free to contact Joe Tabelaing at 443-472-3870.

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

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

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Thank you to our 2013-2014 GSSCC Partners

Corporate Partners –Downtown Silver Spring; Lee Development Group; Montgomery College; Statland & Katz Insurance, Inc.; Washington Adventist Hospital

Business Partners – AFI Silver Theatre; Bud Miller Associates, Inc.; Digital Industry; Discovery Communications; EagleBank; The Fillmore Silver Spring; Holy Cross Hospital; Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chtd.; Linowes & Blocher LLP; M&T Bank; The Tower Companies (The Blairs); United Therapeutics Corp.; Washington Property Company.

Partners – Apex Home Loans; Atlantech Online; Eggspectation; Signs By Tomorrow; Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.

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



GSSCC Weekly Update

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301-565-3777 • info@gsscc.org • www.gsscc.org

March 31, 2014

Don't Miss GSSCC's April Networking Breakfast

. . . scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, at **The Daily Dish**. Join us for a new twist on the "speed networking" model which applies lessons learned from the most effective networkers. Click [here](#) to register by this Friday, April 4, and pay the early-bird admission price of \$20. Registrations received after April 4 will pay an additional \$10.

Thanks to All Who Made GSSCC's 21st Anniversary SchmoozaPalooza a Smashing Success!

Last Tuesday's GSSCC SchmoozaPalooza at the **Fillmore Silver Spring** was a resounding hit! Even the late-season wintry weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the nearly 300 GSSCC members and guests who came out to schmooze with new and old business colleagues. Special thanks to our "*Welcome Sponsor*" **Statland & Katz Insurance**, our "*Health Fair in the Spotlight*" exhibitors: **Holy Cross Hospital; Life Chiropractic; Patient First; Robert Manton, DDS PA; United Optical; and Washington Adventist Hospital**. Thanks to our 28 table sponsors, the 2014 GSSCC Business Golf Classic Committee, and participating restaurants: **Copper Canyon Grill, The Daily Dish, Eggspectation, Fire Station 1, Kaldi's Coffee Bar, la Madeleine Country French Cafe, La Malinche, and Little Caesar's Pizza**. Congratulations to **Rebecca Silvestre, Legal Shield**, on winning the early-bird ticket purchase prize that included gift certificates from all the contributing restaurants. Special thanks to **Adam S. Lowe Photography** for documenting the event for posterity. Check out his slideshow [here](#), and check out other photos in the Photo Gallery on GSSCC's [website](#).

GSSCC Invites Members to Explore Going "Lean & Green"

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. on Tuesday, April 8, in the GSSCC Conference Room. Please respond to this message or call 301-565-3777 to 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 register by Friday, April 18.

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

* Kudos to **Urban Butcher** (8226 Georgia Ave.), dubbed "a carnivore's playground," on winning two stars from *Washington Post* food critic Tom Seitsema, who said, "[Chef and Owner Raynold] Mendizabal had me at lomo (cured pork loin), and again at his racy Spanish chorizo, then at tocino, or pork belly." Read the full review [here](#).

* Congratulations to **8407 Kitchen Bar**, on celebrating its fourth anniversary in Silver Spring last week. For the third year in a row, the restaurant at 8407 Ramsey Ave. has been named to *Washingtonian Magazine's* list of 100 Very Best Restaurants in the Washington area.

* **Arrow Bookkeeping** welcomes Kelly Holston, who brings nearly 15 years of experience to be a "Full Charge Bookkeeper" the company. Holston grew up in Montgomery County and currently lives here with her three children.

* **Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union** (MAFCU) has expanded its annual community shredding event to include digital and electronic media. This year's event in Silver Spring is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, at the 11140 New Hampshire Avenue branch. All paper documents will be accepted. In addition hard drives and external hard drives, flash drives, optical storage devices, floppy discs, magnetic tape ID badges, credit/debit cards and X-rays will be accepted for shredding. Other electronic devices, such as flash drives, battery backup, laptops, etc. will be accepted for recycling. For more info, go to www.macfu.org.

* Congratulations to **BeautyCounter**, represented locally by independent consultant Anne Morris, on being named one of the "[10 Companies Revolutionizing Retail](#)" by MSN Money. The company is called "revolutionary" because it "offers cosmetics that are free of the 1,300 ingredients that are banned in Europe, [but are] regularly found in U.S. cosmetics." For more information, contact annemorris.beautycounter.com.

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* **Government Affairs Committee** – 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 3, AFI Conference Room – Meeting with Councilmember Roger Berliner, Chair of the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee concerning the Silver Spring Parking Lot District budget.

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