



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Your neighborhood association
working for a better community!

Join Us For Our Next Meeting

**Thurs., April 5, 2007
starts at 7:30 p.m.,
At Silver Spring
Library**

AGENDA

**Topic: Recycling in
Montgomery County
Speaker: Neil Einhorn**

Business Meeting:

Approval of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Announcements
Old Business: Reports
New Business

Adjourn by 9:00 p.m.

Latest News from SOECA

Next meeting is April 5, 2007:

We will hear from Neil Einhorn, Montgomery County Department of Public Works & Transportation, on solid waste services, including recycling, hazardous materials disposal, and other services.

Ellsworth Park Update:

Maryland-National Capital Park Police officers attended the last SOECA meeting (March 1st) and provided an informative update on parks in SOECA and answered questions from attendees. In addition Jennifer Hollander provided a status on upcoming renovations at the park planned to start in 2008 (see the meeting summary on page 2).

Sign Up for Electronic Newsletters:

SOECA newsletters are now available through email. Request email delivery by sending an email to: soeca.newsletter@gmail.com

(You will continue to receive the printed version as delivered by your Block Captain.)

Neighborhood Watch Program:

Block captains met in February and decided to change their name to Watch Captains to avoid confusion with volunteers that deliver the SOECA newsletters door to door. Watch Captains are the point of contact in your neighborhood areas for this program. If you do not know your Watch Captain(s) for your area please ask neighbors or contact Elaine Ellis at 301-565-0040.

OFFICERS

President:

Mark Gabriele

Vice President:

Jennifer Hollander

Secretary:

Ann Johnson

Treasurer:

Bill Kaupert

Summary of Last SOECA Meeting

Meeting Minutes: March 1, 2007

Program: Lt. Karen Petrarca, Commander of the Investigative Services/Special Services Unit of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police and Keith Gentry, Patrol Officer, addressed community concerns regarding Ellsworth Park. Specific concerns discussed included inappropriate park use, excessive graffiti, and security lighting in the park. She indicated that overall reports and problems concerning Ellsworth Park have significantly decreased over the last few years.

Lt. Petrarca emphasized that the Park Police have jurisdiction over and primary responsibility for area parks. She requested that residents call and report any issues or concerns directly to her office. She emphasized that the Park Police are equipped to handle all complaints including the pick up of trash, drug paraphernalia, or condoms in the park in a safe and appropriate manner. If residents clean up items in the park be sure to report those occurrences to her office – but, better yet, don't pick up the items yourself, call the Park Police so that any items can be evaluated as evidence of unlawful activities in the Park. This will help the Park Police stay on top of these problems and better manage the use and condition of our parks.

Lt. Petrarca recently walked through Ellsworth Park with Jennifer Hollander and the Silver Spring Recreation Advisory Board. She noted the graffiti on chess tables but it does not represent gang-related markings. She pointed out that cigar wrappers and/or clumps of cigar tobacco are often indicators of drug use (marijuana). There have been six arrests in the last 14 month period in the vicinity of the park, primarily related to drug use.

The group then discussed adding security lighting to Ellsworth Park. Lt. Petrarca discussed the benefits and other considerations that result from lighting the park.

- Lighting will tend to attract more people to use the park during the evening hours. Currently parks without lights are closed for use after dark. Park police are authorized to remove any individuals in the park after dark. In Montgomery County parks with lights are open for public use until the lights are turned off (usually 10 pm).
- Lighting may tend to bother neighboring homes. Halogen lighting on high poles is the typical type of lighting used. Motion detectors are not practical for park lighting because there are many opportunities for the sensors to be tripped (birds, animals, etc).
- If there is concern about someone using the park after dark please be sure to call the emergency number listed below. If it is not an emergency call or email Lt. Petrarca and they will increase patrols in the area to investigate the problem.
- There are signs to indicate that the park is closed at night. However, the group discussed that additional ones are needed, especially near Colesville Road and Ellsworth.

Officer Keith Gentry has been patrolling the SOECA area for the last 17 years. He is usually on a bike in good weather but covers a large area from downtown Silver Spring, to University Blvd, to Georgia Avenue. He also emphasized that residents should call and report any suspicious activity in the parks. Montgomery County police can always patch your call directly through to the National Capital Park Police.

Other items discussed included stormwater flow and excessive weeds in the area of Sligo Creek (Worth Avenue) and Bennington Park. Lt. Petrarca will contact WSSC and park maintenance to help with these issues. Wildlife live and thrive in the areas around the creek (deer, raccoons, coyotes, foxes), indicating the overall health of the system.

Contact Information:

Lt. Karen Petrarca, Commander, Investigative Services/Special Services
Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division
12751 Layhill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Office: 301-929-5989
Mobile: 240-876-6669
Email: Karen.petrarca@mncppc-mc.org

Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division

Emergency: 301-949-3010

Non emergency: 301-949-8010

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the January 18, 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report for 03/01/07: Bill Kaupert, SOECA Treasurer, provided the following report: SOECA currently has a checking account balance of \$5,331.44, as of February 28, 2007; the current Certificate of Deposit matured March 8, 2007 with an estimated value of \$2,147.76. A membership report was provided: no new members have joined since the January 18, 2007 meeting. Membership remains at 186 households. A motion to approve the report was made and seconded. **Please call Bill Kaupert at 301-585-3385 with any questions about membership or dues.**

Announcements/Discussion:

Neighborhood Watch Program: Approximately 29 signs have been installed in SOECA. Watch Captains are organizing and recruiting new Watch Program volunteers. If you are interested please contact your Watch Captain or Elaine Ellis at 301-565-0040.

Silver Spring Recreation Advisory Board: Jennifer Hollander, SOECA Vice President, provided an update on the plans for Ellsworth Park. She was invited to participate in a tour of area parks with the Silver Spring Recreation Advisory Board. The park is scheduled to be reviewed and renovations proposed in July 2008. She indicated that Blair High School art students are interested in developing possible designs for the park. Also, the Rotary Club is interested in helping with the upgrades by providing some financial contribution to the county. Groundbreaking is expected to begin in Spring 2009.

Area Roads and Intersections: Mark Gabriele reported that he was asked to provide any concerns regarding pedestrian safety along area roads and intersections to the Presidents Coalition of Local Community Associations Presidents. He provided information on intersections that are often discussed at the SOECA meetings: 1) Ellsworth and Cedar; 2) Worth and Sligo Creek; and 3) Dale and Dartmouth. The group then discussed: continued speeding issues on Dale Drive; widening at Dale and Colesville for turning lane; improved signage and road markings at Worth and Sligo Creek; and silver traffic poles on Sligo Creek need to be replaced (near Old Blair track). One member offered to take photographs to illustrate the problem.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Helpful Contact Information

Council member Valerie Ervin:

- **Email:** councilmember.ervin@montgomerycounty.gov.
- **Telephone:** 240-777-7960.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC): go to www.wsscwater.com.

Downtown Silver Spring: go to www.silverspringdowntown.com

New Transit Station: for project updates go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sstc or call 240-777-7221

Silver Spring Regional Center: 8435 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301-565-7300; Email: Silverspring@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Mark Your Calendar
Future SOECA Meeting Dates**

Thursday, April 5, 2007

Thursday, May 17, 2007

No summer meetings; resume in Fall '07

Remember: support our longtime, downtown Silver Spring restaurants and small businesses!

HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

- Send an e-mail to: soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- You will then receive an e-mail reply at your inbox from "Yahoo Groups".
- Click on "Reply" and then "Send" to return confirmation of your desire to join.
- You can post a message to the community by sending an e-mail to: soeca@egroups.com or soeca@yahoogroups.com

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CHELSEA SCHOOL CHARITY AUCTION:

The Chelsea School cordially invites the Seven Oaks / Evanswood community to its annual Charity Dinner and Auction on Friday, April 20th at 7 p.m. Items for sale at the auction include restaurant gift certificates, tickets to area sporting events, overnight stays at hotels and bed and breakfasts, tickets to cultural events, baskets of goodies, and admission to historic landmarks. The Chelsea School family would be delighted to get to know our neighbors better, so please plan to stop by the Auction. For more information, call Karen Frank at 301-661-0415.

BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WHAT DOES SOECA DO?

- Holds monthly meetings to address community issues
- Provides this monthly newsletter with pertinent neighborhood information
- Helps organize useful programs such as the Neighborhood Watch Program
- Provides a collective voice on behalf of our neighborhoods to state and county representatives
- Participates in meetings addressing Ellsworth and Bennington Parks and other community issues

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOECA

Send this slip plus \$10 annual household dues (\$5 for senior citizens and single members) to: **Bill Kaupert, SOECA Treasurer, 9222 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Yes No *(please circle one)*