

SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Your neighborhood association
working for a better community!

Join Us For Our Next Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2006
starts at 7:30 p.m.,
At Silver Spring Library

AGENDA

Topic: Community Watch

Business Meeting:

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

Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President:

Jennifer Hollander

Secretary:

Ann Johnson

Treasurer:

Bill Kaupert

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As SOECA starts another year there are many important neighborhood initiatives and issues before us. In September's newsletter we presented the ideas of two candidates in the democratic primary election held on September 12th. Now is the time to focus on the November election which is right around the corner. Please get out and vote on November 7th and encourage your neighbors and friends to do the same.

Traffic: At our first meeting of the new year we had an informative presentation from Officer Norm Brissett from the Montgomery County Department of Police, Traffic Squad. A summary of that presentation is provided in the minutes of the meeting, on page 2. Traffic in our community is important to all of us and affects our quality of life whether we are motorists or pedestrians. We at SOECA will be working through appropriate channels to address traffic challenges on our surrounding roads. Review the minutes from the last meeting and if you have ideas on the subject join us at an upcoming meeting.

Neighborhood Watch: We all can make a difference and contribute to the overall safety of our neighborhood. The Neighborhood Watch Program is ready to be launched. Signs will be posted at designated locations in the next few months. For more information please join us at our next meeting on October 26th.

Needed: Block captains for the neighborhood east of Wayne Avenue. Please contact Mark Gabriele.

Mark Your Calendars! Future SOECA Meeting Dates

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Thursday, April 5, 2007

Meeting Minutes: September 19, 2006

Program: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:40 p.m.. Mark Gabriele introduced the evening's topic, Traffic Flow Around the Neighborhood, and the evening's guest speaker, Officer Norman W. Brissett of Montgomery County Police Department, District 3, Traffic Squad. He addressed the group and discussed the challenges relating to increased traffic flow through and around downtown Silver Spring and provided an update on 2006 traffic statistics. Officer Brissett pointed out that there have been many tools and road improvements made to help to control and enforce traffic flow. The increased traffic volume has resulted in more incidents (accidents) and traffic citations this year, keeping the 6-officer traffic squad extremely busy. Officer Brissett and the group reviewed a summary of traffic incidents in 2006 at the following two intersections: 1) Colesville Road and Dale Drive; and 2) Colesville Road and Franklin Avenue.

During the time period January through June 2006 there were a total of 13 incidents involving injury and/or personal property damage at these two intersections. In addition to these 13 incidents where the responding officer filed a formal report there were another 15 incidents where an officer was called to the scene but no report was required.

Officer Brissett provided 2006 enforcement statistics (through mid September) for the major arterial roads in our area. In the 3rd District more than 17,000 citations have been issued. Major roads and number of citations written include: Colesville Road (2985); Georgia Avenue (2939); New Hampshire Avenue (2152); University Blvd. (1571); Piney Branch Road (1413); Spencerville Road (354); and All Other Roads (5662).

Officer Brissett highlighted the tools that have been implemented to help control traffic and reduce moving violations. The red light camera at Colesville Road and Dale Drive has been an effective tool in reducing the number of motorists running red lights. Speed cameras are also proposed for this location and other selected intersections in the area. Currently speeding violations are addressed through enforcement efforts (officers making traffic stops and issuing citations).

Officer Brissett described Coleville Road as one the main commuter routes in and out of Washington , DC with the lane changes during rush hour periods designed to facilitate that traffic flow. He pointed out that the current light technology (for the lane designations) is severely outdated and contribute to traffic problems. It was noted that the State has been notified of the situation and been asked to upgrade the traffic lighting for the reversible lanes.

There was one pedestrian fatality this year at Colesville Road and East-West Highway. A discussion of non fatal incidents at other locations ensued. One community member brought up a concern with the intersection at Worth Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. There is one stop sign at Worth Avenue but none on Sligo Creek Parkway to stop traffic. Community members have suggested two more stop signs on Sligo Creek Parkway, resulting in a 3 way stop. This would greatly improve pedestrian safety since many individuals and families cross at this location to go to the bike path and parks. The group cited how well the Dennis Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway intersection works and that a 3-way stop would greatly benefit the Worth and Sligo Creek Parkway area. One community member noted he has a request on file with the park department, which, in turn, has to request approval for any stop signs from DOT. Although it is DOT's jurisdiction Officer Brissett will address the issue with his supervisor. He also pointed out that SOECA can request the County to set up a traffic counter at areas of concern.

The group then further discussed the reversible lane and associated traffic issues on Colesville Road and questioned the value of this traffic pattern. The fourth lane doesn't seem to give much traffic relief. The lane is typically less traveled and used by fast drivers. The group discussed the improvements that may be gained from returning to 3 lanes in each direction at all times on Colesville Road. They cited the improvements to the 16th Street traffic flow and would like to further explore the possibility of eliminating the reversible lane on Colesville Road. A SOECA motion was raised to look into this possibility, seconded and approved.

The group then discussed targeted enforcement for speeding vehicles on certain roadways. Officer Brissett reminded the group that there is a traffic complaint line for Silver Spring. He also indicated that citizens can request a speed trailer, usually manned by a volunteer, from the police department to further evaluate the problem. Once the problem is evaluated, the area is moved from the complaint list and targeted for enforcement.

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the May 18, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$5,805.89, as of September 8, 2006; the current Certificate of Deposit matured September 9, 2006 with the value of \$2,127.43; A complete membership report will be provided at the next meeting.

Announcements: Mark Gabriele reported a number of announcements including the following:

- (1)The Jemal Building, located on Coleville Road between Spring and Fenton Streets has been vacant for several years. A hotel is planned for this building location and SOECA has the proposed plan layout.
- (2)Neighborhood Watch: There are no signs yet but are likely in the next few months. Officer Patil, Community Liaison, will get updated information to Elaine Ellis (contact with the Police Department) There are no signs planned and no block captains identified yet for the neighborhoods east of Wayne Avenue. If interested please contact Mark Gabriele or Elaine Ellis.
- (3)Newsletters are distributed approximately one week before SOECA meetings. The full text of SOECA newsletters are also available online, and can be accessed through Yahoo! groups. See below for instructions on joining the SOECA group on Yahoo!
- (4)Topics of Interest for SOECA Meetings: if you have any suggestions for meeting presentations or speakers please contact Mark Gabriele or one of the officers.
- (5) As always, participation and active membership in SOECA is strongly encouraged – no community organization can exist without community support. As SOECA is a voluntary association, we have no resources except for our membership. If you're not a dues-paying member, please consider joining; if you're already a member (thank you!), please send in your annual SOECA dues (see below for membership form).

Old Business:

New Business/Reports: A discussion continued about submitting a proposal to regarding Coleville Road Rush hour traffic patterns and lane changes. SOECA will evaluate the proposed changes and submit a letter.

A discussion about trash in, and lighting of, Ellsworth Park (next to Silver Spring Library):

Ellsworth Park and Increased Trash. A concern was raised about the increase in trash from teenagers using the park. It was noted that there is little or no lighting in the park area. Teen gatherings may be reduced if improved lighting could be installed. The community member was urged to resubmit his letter to the new director of Park and Planning, Mary Bradford.
Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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HOW TO JOIN THE SOECA LISTSERV:

- (6) Send an e-mail to: soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.
- (7) You will then receive an e-mail reply at your inbox from “Yahoo Groups”.
- (8) Click on “Reply” and then “Send” to return confirmation of your desire to join.
- (9) 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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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. Make checks payable to SOECA.
Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail (optional): _____