



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us -- Last Meeting of The Season

Thursday, May 15th, 2008
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,

LOCATION: Silver
Spring Branch,
Montgomery County
Public Library

AGENDA

- Colesville/Dale
intersection rebuilding
Purple Line Updates
Chelsea School Update
Public Safety Update

Business Meeting:

Approval of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Announcements
Old Business: Reports
New Business
SOECA Board Elections
Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele
301-565-3395

Vice President:
Kathleen Samiy

Secretary:
Ann Johnson

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert
301-585-3385

**** May Meeting Program ****

Montgomery County DPWT speaking on
Colesville / Dale intersection reconstruction

Followed by:

** Purple Line Update **

We will also have an open discussion on
SOECA's position on the Purple Line and
what our Association's next steps are with
respect to the MTA's conclusions.

When: Thursday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m.

*A note of thanks and recognition to Kristi Jones, who designed
the new SOECA logo featured in the upper left corner of this
page.*

**SOECA launched its new website to
facilitate access to the association's news
and information**

Visit www.soeca.org

*Community Issues, Newsletters, Bylaws, Meeting
Information, and much more!*

Meeting Minutes: April 3, 2008 17, 2008

Program: Mark Gabriele opened the meeting with a recap of the voting tally from the February 28th SOECA meeting focused on the Purple Line resolutions. The results have been (and remain) posted to the Association at <http://www.SOECA.org>

The program for the April meeting focused on the Chelsea School. Mr. Tony Messina and Ms. Phyllis Love, the Head of School and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chelsea School came and spoke at length about Chelsea, its mission, and its history. Chelsea serves a unique student population, comprised of students who have learning impairments but who are capable of mastering rigorous intellectual challenges. Chelsea is focused on science and technology education, and nearly all of its students not only graduate with high school diplomas, but go on to attend colleges and universities.

SOECA members noted that in recent years, Chelsea has been very visibly engaged in the neighborhood and has endeavored to be a good neighbor. Mr. Messina explained that, as he himself resides with the SOECA boundaries, he is sensitive to the concerns of local residents and is committed to making the school an asset not only to the region, but to our community.

Toward that end, Mr. Messina and Ms. Love presented draft plans for a significant renovation to the Chelsea campus. This proposal differs substantially from the proposal that was approved several years ago by the County Planning Board, with SOECA's concurrence. Due to the magnitude of the changes, a new planning and approval process would need to be completed; in addition, this major project will require a significant capital funding campaign, which will require years to complete. The Chelsea school wished to include SOECA on the "ground floor" (so to speak) of the planning activities and solicit our feedback on the overall draft plan.

Mr. Messina and Ms. Love then showed rough architectural concept drawings illustrating the new campus layout and highlighting the architecture of the new buildings. There is as yet no firm date for the planning and approval process to begin, much less for actual construction to start; however, the plan for traffic flow at the redesigned campus would be very much in keeping with the desire indicated by SOECA to minimize vehicle (particularly school bus) traffic through the neighborhood. Mr. Messina explicitly offered to keep the SOECA membership informed of the process at each step of the way, and all agreed that a continuing dialogue would be in the best interest of all parties concerned.

In that vein, Mr. Messina offered at the meeting to host an open house at Chelsea for SOECA members. In a later discussion following the meeting, the SOECA President and Mr. Messina agreed that such a meeting would be premature at this time, but that the Association would publish a prepared press release from the Chelsea School

in this newsletter to provide a comprehensive update to the entire Association as to the activities and plans at Chelsea.

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes for February, 28 2008 meeting were approved with minor corrections submitted.

Treasurer's Report for 04/3/08: Checking account balance of \$5258.08; certificate of deposit balance of \$2,128.08 as of March 30, 2008.

As always, to renew your membership (or join for the first time!), please submit your to our Treasurer, Bill Kaupert, who may be reached at 301-585-3385 with any questions about membership. And please, please use the membership form included on the last page of this newsletter.

New Business/Announcements/Discussion:

The SOECA Nominating Committee solicited volunteers for officer positions within SOECA.

Mark Gabriele provided a brief summary of a telephone conversation with Councilmember Ervin in which she noted that she welcomes input from concerned individuals about civic issues (such as the Purple Line).

Announcements.

- *Mention was made of a presentation being given by MTA representatives on April 8 to discuss their studies of Purple Line routing along (and under) Wayne Avenue. This meeting was limited in attendance to a few representatives from each of SOECA and Park Hills Civic Association.*

Meeting adjourned at 09:05 p.m.

SOECA Officer Elections: The following candidate biographies were presented by the nominating committee:

President: Mark Gabriele

A resident of Seven Oaks for the past seven years, he is the incumbent president of SOECA and, prior to that, was SOECA vice president. He serves on the Board of a child welfare non-profit based here in Silver Spring, and works in the field of public policy development.

Vice President: Kathleen Samiy

She represents the third generation of her family to reside in SOECA, where members of her family have lived since 1935. In her professional career, she worked as a museum art director and design director. She has done volunteer work: for many organizations including the Friends of Sligo Creek, and most recently served as Chair of the SOECA Purple Line Task Force.

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert

Bill Kaupert and his wife Ruth bought their Silver Spring home in 1968. Mr. Kaupert is retired from a 34-year career as a secondary level English and ESL teacher with the DC Public Schools. When Bill and Ruth moved into their home, they found a SOECA membership form in the mailbox. When he responded, he was captured and recruited by the officers. Bill has served as Vice President in the 1960's, two terms as President in the 1970's, and two more terms in the 1980's. Bill has been a delegate to the Allied Civic Group and the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF).

Vice President's Note:

The SOECA executive committee will present updates on two recent Purple Line/MTA presentations. The first, on April 4th, was a private slide show presentation to Park Hills and SOECA leadership and task forces, and primarily focused on Wayne tunneling and traffic analysis. The second, on April 24th, was a public slide presentation on various alignments into and through downtown Silver Spring, including the Wayne alignment. We will also display several MTA large-scale engineering drawings that indicate the path of PL at-grade on Wayne, and tunnel options and impacts. Both presentations can be found on the soeca.com website.

SOECA leadership is working to determine if our two September 07 resolution requests (for tunneling and traffic studies) have been fulfilled, and our questions and concerns fully addressed. At this meeting we will be seeking recommendations on "next steps" on the SOECA PL position (as per our February vote results), and further discuss MTA responses to questions.

It is critical to get your input, as this is the last regularly scheduled meeting until September... **Please come to this meeting!** We will be discussing and seeking input on 'next steps' on the SOECA PL position, as per our February vote results, MTA feedback, and your input will guide subsequent actions leadership will take. --Kathleen

Treasurers note:

To begin with – this note serves as a "last call" to any of you who may have come to the February meeting and registered as a new SOECA member, but paid in cash and did not fill out a registration form. Please fill out a registration form (attached to this newsletter) and return it to me with a note that you paid in cash at the February meeting. Any registration fees left unclaimed at the end of this month will simply be counted as donations to the SOECA treasury. That said...

I have for some time wanted to remember a few of our long time faithful members who have made the journey to, as Hamlet said, "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns." Among these are Alice

Caudill, Lester Gery, Leonard A. C. Eiseres, Robert Kopp, William Pace, and Virginia Pierce. Alice always sent a greeting card with her membership renewal. She was the secretary of our association back in the 40's and 50's. Leonard and I were alumni of Northwestern University. A 1949 graduate of the renowned Medill School of Journalism, he was founder and president of Business Publishers Inc. of Silver Spring. He frequently walked his miniature schnauzer up on our street and we chatted about N.U. and the local state of affairs. The Koppes and the Paces were nearby neighbors. Rita Gery, Charlotte Kopp, and Marcie Pace have left our neighborhood for retirement communities. They are life members of SOECA and receive our newsletter by mail. A word about longevity: the August family have been members of our association since 1948! We recently lost another longtime faithful member – Gene Starbecker, a prolific documentary filmmaker, who is survived by his wife and collaborator, Marcia. Gene was perhaps best known for his school bus safety films, one of which he screened at a SOECA meeting long ago. His firm, Seven Oaks productions, made films for the Department of Defense, as well as for many Fortune 500 companies. He is credited with 970 documentaries and 300 television programs over the course of his career. Finally, special thanks are due to all of you who have faithfully supported as SOECA as members and officers. - Bill.

Miscellany:

A request for a donation - in the event that anyone has a video projector they would like to donate to SOECA, it would be greatly appreciated. More and more frequently, our association invites speakers who wish to use visual aids to convey their message – and on more than one occasion, we've had to scramble to beg, borrow, or otherwise obtain a projector that can be connected to a laptop computer. Before SOECA lays out several hundred dollars for such a capital expenditure, we'd like to ask if anyone has such a projector lying around that they no longer need, and would like to see it off to a community organization where it will be truly appreciated.

The following article is published here at the request of Tony Messina, Head of School at Chelsea School:

Chelsea School: Who We Are

Chelsea School is a college preparatory school, serving grades 5-12 for students with language-based learning disabilities from the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Our students have average to above average intelligence, yet struggle with language in ways that impact their speaking, listening, math, reading, and writing skills. The instruction at Chelsea School is research-based using best practices from current educational literature as well as university research. Chelsea School takes pride in an educational philosophy, which in addition to academic success, emphasizes psychosocial and emotional growth and community responsibility. This philosophy is modeled by parents and faculty through our T.E.A.M. Chelsea motto: Teach, Educate, Advocate, and Mentor students to be academically and socially responsible. In addition, we challenge all students to live up to what it means to have Chelsea P.R.I.D.E.: Personal Respect and Individual Dedication to Excellence.

Chelsea School has positioned itself to embark on a bold new future through several exciting ventures. We are working to be the first math/science/technology college preparatory school for at-risk (*of dropping out of school*), inner city students with language-based learning disabilities. To accomplish this goal, we are looking to expand the current career pathway options to include areas of engineering, biotechnology, digital multimedia, and many others. We have recently completed a

set of conceptual drawings for a new high school on our present site in Silver Spring, Maryland. This project has been inspired by Daniel Libeskind, the world-renowned architect, and realized by Ron Claiborne, a longtime protégé of Mr. Libeskind. Daniel Libeskind is the lead donor and the design advisor to our Board of Governors for this project. He has committed his iconic name, logo and support to Chelsea School for the completion of this new building (*in the next 5-7 years*) and our capital campaign. Finally, Chelsea School is planning to establish a Learning and Technology Institute with the goal of serving the greater educational community by providing outreach, research, and partnership opportunities, with the hope of establishing additional Chelsea Schools in cities across the country. This effort will be spearheaded by collaboration with local universities and fundraising from corporations, foundations and individual donors.

Our ultimate goal is to build a world-class school that is not only responsive to the needs of students with learning disabilities but to serve as a national symbol of hope for all individuals with learning disabilities. We anticipate being at the forefront of the national conversation on school reform and plan to bring a coherent and convergent voice to the discussion of teaching, learning, literacy, and technology regarding learning disabilities.

Tony Messina, Head of School

Washington Post article about Chelsea School:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/28/AR2007102801469.html?hpid=sec-education>

Web Link to Daniel Libeskind: <http://www.daniel-libeskind.com/>

HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

There are two ways to join the SOECA Listserve:

(1) **Via email**

- Send an e-mail to: soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- The ListServe moderator will email you asking for your name and address by response email and after this email exchange, the moderator will add you to the list-serve.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups" of your addition to the list-serve

(2) **Via Yahoo Groups** at <http://groups.yahoo.com/> (if you already have, or will set up, a free yahoo id)

- Find SOECA and click "Join this Group."
- Fill in the form, including the email address you wish to use, adding a comment about yourself and why you would like to join the group, and click "Join" at the bottom.
- The ListServe moderator will email you asking for your name and address by a personal response email and after this email exchange, the moderator will add you to the list-serve.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups" of your addition to the list-serve

You can post a message to the community by sending an e-mail to: soeca@egroups.com or soeca@yahoogroups.com (Note that it can sometimes take several minutes for your post to be visible so please wait before sending the message again thinking it didn't get through.)

* * * * *

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)*