



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us -- First Meeting of The Season

Tuesday, September
23rd, 2008
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,

LOCATION: Silver
Spring Branch,
Montgomery County
Public Library

AGENDA

**Pedestrian Safety
Initiative
Public Safety Update
Purple Line Updates**

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:
(vacant)

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert
301-585-3385

*** September Meeting Program *** SOECA Business on many topics:

- **Purple Line Update**
- **Pedestrian Safety Initiative**
- **Neighborhood Watch**
- **Election of Officers to Unfilled Positions**

The timeline for the Purple Line is VERY accelerated, and a lot has happened over the summer – please join us for this important meeting!

When: Tuesday, September 23rd, at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

October 28th, December 4th, January 15th, February 26th, April 2nd, and May 14th

**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: May 15, 2008

Program: Meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:40 pm and introduced Dan Sheridan, Division of Capital Development who will update SOECA on the road improvements planned for the intersection of Colesville Road and Dale Drive. Mr. Sheridan explained the proposed changes to improve overall traffic flow at this busy and dangerous intersection. Changes include adding a lane in each direction on Dale Drive and reconfiguring the signaling of the traffic light. The changes proposed for Dale Drive will extend from the intersection west to Watson Road and east to Kingsbury Road. This project is designed to improve traffic flow and alleviate the long backups in both directions on Dale drive that have dramatically increased over the last few years.

Changes on Dale Drive will involve widening on both sides (east and west), the addition of sidewalks and some green space. Mr. Sheridan emphasized that the traffic priority is to maximize the green light time on Colesville Road, keeping rush-hour traffic moving in and out of downtown Silver Spring efficiently. The project is currently at the 50% design stage and will be completed by February 2009. Construction is planned to start in February 2010 and will take one year.

Many residents had questions and comments regarding the proposed changes including: the importance of preserving the tree line; keeping the residential feel; impacts to Mrs. K; feasibility of sensor timing and signalization changes. One resident emphasized the need to change the signalization first instead of building our way out of the traffic situation. Better control of the traffic signals during rush hours may alleviate many of the current traffic problems and frustrations.

The lane changes during rush hour were also discussed. It was noted that the State Highway Dept. is the entity to address these rush hour traffic flow issues on Colesville Road. Installing lights in the roadway (pavement) were suggested to help drivers understand the lane changes during rush hour. Mr. Sheridan was asked if consideration has been given to sensor timing for when backups may occur on Colesville and block the intersection for east/west traffic. Another question asked if there was any data on the increased east-west traffic and where exactly it is coming from. It was suggested that the State Highway Dept should address SOECA in the coming year.

It was pointed out that Park & Planning controls the timing of traffic lights. Mark Gabriele will contact Rick Hawthorne of Park & Planning's traffic light timing department and the State Highway Dept to inquire about options for changing signalization. Discussion continued about Woodside Park's concerns with traffic calming and intersection changes and resulted in a motion to:

- Ask SOECA president to investigate change in signalization and coordinate with Woodside park efforts. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Barbara and Mark will coordinate the efforts of the two associations (Woodside and SOECA)

Purple Line Update: An update on Purple Line activities was given by Kathleen Samiy. MTA held meetings in April to provide additional information on tunneling options and traffic information. Major points include:

- Continuing SOECA questions on tunneling options; travel times provided but no cost information.
- Traffic capacity of Wayne with PL at grade will be dramatically increased. Turning lane dimensions will be wider and longer than original estimates.
- Additional widening of Wayne
- SIMS entrance to be closed and access will be from Dale and Schuyler.

Community concerns included further widening of Wayne; inability to turn left from Wayne onto Dale to travel eastbound; no exiting traffic from Whole Food parking lot onto Wayne Ave.

It was recommended that a new Task Force be established quickly to investigate the recent changes to the Purple Line, Wayne Ave alignment. MTA is moving quickly and new Task Force needs to support SOECA interests. Time for SOECA to coordinate and focus our input with the County Executive, County Council, and anyone who is relevant to the PL decisions; not MTA. Mark Gabriele pointed out that he has voiced to all relevant parties that the PL is not proceeding favorably to SOECA. Kathy Fitzgerald volunteered to head up this new task force and asked others to volunteer to help her. There will be a lot of work to do over the summer to make sure SOECA's voice is heard.

Minutes: The minutes for, 2008 meeting were approved with the noted typographical errors corrected.

Treasurer's Report for 05/15/08: Checking account balance of \$5,800 as of April 30, 2008.

After the February 28th meeting SOECA's membership increased by 32 new households. For membership information or questions contact Bill Kaupert at 301-585-3385.

New Business/Announcements/Discussion:

Neighborhood Watch Program:

Mark announced that there'll be a Neighborhood Watch Night Out on Tuesday, August 5th. Scott Lazensky is the Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator. Contact Scott for more information at 301-920-2205.

SOECA ByLaws: A proposal was discussed to change the associations bylaws to allow absentee voting in future association-wide debates/votes. This will be discussed more during the fall meeting schedule.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

If you would like to volunteer as a Watch Captain, please contact Scott Lasensky at 301-920-2205, or slasensky@gmail.com. A report on the program will be provided at the upcoming SOECA meeting, and also distributed by email.

Watch Updates: SOECA would like to express appreciation to all volunteers working with the Neighborhood Watch Program. Eight new watch captains have stepped forward following the rash of crime-related incidents during the summer months. We also express our appreciation to Captain Donald Johnson, the Commander of the 3rd District police force, and Officer Joy Patil, our liaison in the 3rd District, for their tireless commitment to improving security and safety in our community. At a recent community meeting, both expressed their interest in continuing and expanding the on-going dialogue with residents in order to address our concerns.

There are several sources for staying informed about crime in our area, including crime reports and statistics available from: the Montgomery County website (3rd District force), the *Silver Spring Gazette*, and websites like crimereports.com, which send periodic updates via email.

Some disturbing incidents and on-going problems reported in recent months include:

1. A neighbor was shot with a BB gun about 10:00 p.m. after getting off bus at Colesville Rd. near Leighton Avenue. This was an attempted robbery.
2. Carjacking attempt at gunpoint in parking lot of Springvale Terrace Retirement Home about 4:00 p.m. A handgun was brandished in full day light on a Sunday afternoon!
3. Vehicle break-ins near Ellsworth Drive and Kingsbury. Car windows smashed and property taken.
4. Obscene graffiti written on sidewalks and cars near Chelsea School.
5. Reports of ongoing problems at Ellsworth Park with drug paraphernalia
6. Rampant speeding and aggressive driving on Dale Drive, with numerous accidents at Dale/Colesville intersection, and serious pedestrian concerns all along Dale.

We need everyone to be alert and report any suspicious and/or dangerous activity in the neighborhood (day or night) to the police. Officers from the 3rd District police station have repeatedly emphasized to residents not to hesitate in calling 911 as a "first response" rather

than investigating on your own. There is also a non-emergency # 301-279-800. Let's work together to make our neighborhood a safe place to live. **Never assume someone else is reporting a crime, always report, every time.**

As the local police force reminds us time and again, most residential burglaries occur during the daytime.

Some tips to keep your home secure:

Did you:

- o Lock your doors and windows?
- o Install and use a quality deadbolt lock?
- o Trim your shrubs from doors and windows?
- o Close your garage door?
- o Turn on your alarm system?
- o Put away all bicycles and yard equipment?
- o Report suspicious activity?

RABIES ALERT

Every year in Montgomery County, an average of 50 animals are confirmed to be rabid by laboratory analysis. While most of these animals are wild animals such as raccoons or foxes, there have been several rabid cats in Montgomery County over the last 5 years. The fact that rabies has been found in cats in Montgomery County is of great concern because it shows the disease migrating from the wild animal population into domestic animals. Once the domestic animal population is affected by rabies, it becomes far more likely that a human will be exposed. The best way to protect our community and our children is to ensure that all dogs and cats have current rabies shot.

Foxes have been exhibiting strange behavior within SOECA neighborhoods. Please report any unusual animal behavior to Animal Services Division at 240-773-5960 or 240-773-5925.

Miscellany:

A request for a donation - in the event that anyone has a video projector they would like to lend or 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.

SOECA Officer Elections, Take Two:

Our thanks to the nominating committee, who have recommended two candidates to fill offices within SOECA that were left vacant after our May elections. Their biographies follow:

Second Vice President: Jonathan Jay. Jonathan has lived on Woodside Parkway for 16 years. He served as Vice President of SOECA from 1996 to 1999; is SOECA's delegate to Prezco, the association of inside-the-beltway Silver Spring civic associations; and has been active in a number of community issues. He often can be seen fast walking through the neighborhood.

Secretary: Jean Cavanaugh. Jean has lived on Worth Avenue for 10 years and served as co-Vice President of SOECA 2002-3. She is a Foreign Service Officer and just returned from a tour in Argentina. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Maryland. Jean has been active in pedestrian safety issues. She may be seen walking her new poodle puppy (acquired from SOECA neighbors) with her husband and two sons.

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.)

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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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

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