

Situated in the green hills & valleys of Sligo Creek & its tributaries, abutting the burgeoning downtown Silver Spring

# Seven Oaks Evanswood



CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Next meeting: **TUESDAY, OCT. 27, 7:30 pm, SILVER SPRING INT'L MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

## Officer Joy Patil

Officer Joy Patil, our Montgomery County Police 3rd District Community Services Officer (240-773-6800), will be the featured speaker at our 25 meeting. She will be providing an update on the crime levels in our neighborhood, providing tips on how to protect our homes, and answering your questions.

## Purple Line Update (from Anne Edwards)

The County Executive's Office heard these neighborhoods especially after the huge petition response, and it has taken on a direct role and the lead in brokering many of the unresolved impacts of the state-run Purple Line project and MTA's plans along Wayne Avenue.

For example, regarding the neighborhood's strong objection to widening Wayne so much at Dale Drive, right by the schools, the County Executive's office has told us that now it will lead a review to see if there is any way that Wayne at Dale does not have to double to the equivalent of eight lanes wide from its current four lanes. BUT traffic planners from both the State and the County are adamant that the extra lanes for cars are indispensable to prevent crashes between trains and left-turning cars that can occur near light rail stops. However, how the nearly two thousand kids who come and go via that corner to their schools every day are supposed to navigate that eight-lane width safely is not clear at all. It has also become clear that there is no plan by any agency now any pedestrians will cross Wayne's tracks anywhere

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October 2015 Issue

Next meeting:  
Tuesday, Oct. 27  
7:30 – 9:30 pm  
Silver Spring International  
Middle School Cafeteria

## AGENDA

7:30 – 8:30:

Joy Patil on crime statistics and safety tips

8:30: Updates / discussion on current concerns (e.g., traffic configuration, Purple Line)

## In this issue:

Purple Line update  
Traffic Pattern near the Old Library

Water Watchdogs  
Tree Canopy Initiative  
BRT advisory committee  
June 16 minutes

The next Thursday evening contra dances at the Civic Building are on Nov. 19 and Dec. 10, 7:00 – 10:00. All dances are taught; come early for the beginners' session. \$10 (FSGW members, \$8).

SOECA boundaries are: Colesville Road on the West, Cedar and Fenton Streets on the South, Bonifant and Wayne on the East, and Franklin and Caroline Avenues on the North.

at all between Dale and Cedar. And there is no easy solution in the State's current scenario how any one of those serious concerns accommodates another.

There are logjams with the State's plan for Wayne on many other important issues, and the County Executive's team has also taken those on, including requiring some kind of testing and perhaps financial penalties to lessen the inevitable "wheel squeal" from trains at all hours all along Wayne; setting up some initial steps to try to save any trees along Wayne -- all are currently marked for destruction or will die from being damaged; pursuit of a plan to put the light rail power substation in a better setting so it won't devalue homes within sight of it; perhaps initiating a County-level arts program to make Purple Line installations look better (there will be many many low and high "retaining" walls along Wayne) since all of that was knocked out of the state's budget (though MTA reports that it retains some budget to pretty-up the 13-foot-high wall that is going in, at Wayne and Dale); and finding some point of cooperation between the Purple Line and utilities so Wayne Avenue does not end up a thick forest -- and obstacle course -- of poles holding up wires.

Constant vigilance by citizens -- including contribution of creative solutions -- is essential to get agreements on these issues and then to make sure they happen. That is not about being "for" or "against" the Purple Line; it is just a common sense response to such a massive public works construction project which is about to transform the area and which already has a list as long as your arm of actors and agencies with countless competing priorities of their own. It is up to us to make our priorities count. If you can possibly become more active learning and championing some of these issues, now is the time. Please contact the SOECA officers.

## **Traffic Pattern near the Old Library** (from Jonathan Shurberg)

Kathleen Samiy (former President) and I have met to discuss the County's apparent disregard for the 1993 neighborhood protection plan barring southbound traffic from proceeding into downtown Silver Spring at the corner of Ellsworth Drive and Spring Street. We are planning to meet with Councilmember Tom Hucker's staff shortly and review the matter with them. At that point, we will discuss options for how to best seek enforcement of the 1993 plan. Peter Perenyi, who was part of SOECA leadership back in 1993, has provided valuable information, documentation and insight as well.

## **Water Watchdogs**

The Friends of Sligo Creek **Water WatchDogs** (WWD) citizen pollution reporting system, headed by Anne Vorce, monitors Sligo Creek and its tributaries for runoff events from sites throughout the SOECA neighborhoods and downtown. Anyone can use WWD to report problems to the Dept. of Permitting Services (DPS). If you see a runoff problem or other pollution, email WWD at **ReportSligoPollution@fosc.org**. It will be relayed directly to DPS.

## **Tree Canopy Initiative**

The third planting phase of the tree program started a year and a half ago by Sligo Creek Neighbors for a Sustainable Community, Inc. (SCNSCI) is taking place now. The objective is to restore the ongoing loss of our 'oaks & woods,' primarily with large canopy trees. To sign up for next spring's planting, send your name, address, and phone number to [sevenoaksevanswood@gmail.com](mailto:sevenoaksevanswood@gmail.com) and specify whether the tree(s) will go on private property (\$25 copay) or County right-of-way (ROW). (See the February 2015 newsletter at [www.soeca.org/page1/newsletters.html](http://www.soeca.org/page1/newsletters.html) for details.)

## **BRT Advisory Committee**

Lori Zeller represents SOECA on the County's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) for Colesville Road from New Hampshire Ave to the Silver Spring Metro station. The fourth Rt. 29 South CAC meeting was held on Thursday, Sept. 10, was a "technical review" meeting to follow up on information presented at the previous meeting on June 2.

There's a link the meeting materials, including video, at [bit.ly/1MwjH7Q](http://bit.ly/1MwjH7Q). You can send questions to Lori at [ZellerTransit@gmail.com](mailto:ZellerTransit@gmail.com).

## **Minutes of June 16 Meeting**

Lori Zeller, SOECA's representative on the Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), described the information presented to the CAC in its meeting on June 2 regarding identified needs and projections to 2040. (A link to the presentations to the CAC is at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/RTS/Resources/Files/us29section2.html>.) Lori's email is [ZellerTransit@gmail.com](mailto:ZellerTransit@gmail.com). Lori's response to questions indicated that financing and running-way options have not been discussed.

Jean Cavanaugh (outgoing President) called our attention to another task force, the Transit Task Force, that is looking at financing and at how an Independent Transit Authority (ITA) should be organized, and pointed out that there are questions of transparency and accountability around an ITA. Jonathan Shurberg (incoming President) said that an ITA would be floating a lot of debt, and he hopes that the County doesn't just say, "Trust us."

Tom Edwards gave a brief Purple Line (PL) update. His wife Anne Edwards has been leading a group that is trying to get the PL implemented well along Wayne Ave. In a conference call with the group, our State Senators, Jamie Raskin and Sheila Hixon, pledged as ever to make sure the Wayne Ave. corridor is treated well. A petition initiated by PHCA asked that the PL on Wayne be safe, especially the Wayne & Dale intersection (rated 9 on a scale of 10 for danger), and raised environmental concerns. Over 600 people signed the petition, a huge success.

A discussion of the SOECA website and listserv followed. Jonathan Bernstein, who has been managing the website, feels the need for a new platform; allocating money was deferred until we know the options. Other suggestions included getting younger neighborhood people involved and having students get community service hours for helping. After the listserv discussion, the default behavior of the "Reply" function, i.e., "Reply to all," was kept as is.

There are plans for a SOECA social event on July 23. A motion to allocate \$300 toward this event was passed. It was suggested as well that people who attend be asked for a small contribution.

Jean reported on the status of the old Silver Spring Library site. According to Greg Ossont, Deputy Director of General Services, the site has been assigned to the Dept. of Recreation; redevelopment is not contemplated. The CIP [Capital Improvement Budget] forum will be held on June 29, another chance to make our case that we want a multi-generational recreation center, and that we want to use the parking lot space for a field or basketball. The Old Blair Auditorium is not on the CIP agenda. The County schools are having space problems.

Cut-through traffic on Ellsworth Dr., and on other streets in the neighborhood, was brought up. One member said she would be willing to look at traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures. A motion to create a committee on traffic impact was seconded and passed.

Bill Kaupert, outgoing Treasurer; Charles Wolff, who has maintained the membership lists; and out-

going President Jean Cavanaugh were honored with gifts.

Bill reported that the checking account balance was \$5470.77 on May 31, and that 10 households joined SOECA at the April meeting.

Carolyn Michel who, with Jonathan Bernstein formed the nominating committee, presented the slate of candidates for the coming year:

For President: Jonathan Shurberg

For First Vice President: Rachel Bowers

For Second Vice President: Tina Guina

For Secretary: Tom Armstrong (incumbent)

For Treasurer: David Hartmann

No other candidates stepped forward. A motion to hold the election in May was seconded and passed unanimously, as was a motion to elect the slate by acclamation. The new Board members made brief remarks, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:08.

**Seven Oaks Evanswood  
Citizens Association  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
[www.soeca.org](http://www.soeca.org)**

### **SOECA officers**

Jonathan Shurberg, President

Jean Cavanaugh, Past President

Rachel Bowers, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Tina Guina, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Tom Armstrong, Secretary

David Hartmann, Treasurer

### **Resident volunteers**

Jonathan Bernstein, Listserv &  
web site manager, SSCAB rep

Lori Zeller, BRT Committee rep

### **Contact SOECA:**

[soeca.board@gmail.com](mailto:soeca.board@gmail.com)

## **Two ways to join SOECA's listserv:**

### 1) Via email:

- Send an email to [soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- The listserv moderator will email you asking for your name and address and will add you after you respond.
- You will receive a confirmation email from "YahooGroups."

### 2) If you have a Yahoo Groups account:

- Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>, 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, and click on "Join."
- The listserv moderator will email you asking for your name and address and will add you after you respond.
- You will receive a confirmation email from Yahoo.

Once you have joined, post messages by sending email to [soeca@egroups.com](mailto:soeca@egroups.com) or [soeca@yahoogroups.com](mailto:soeca@yahoogroups.com).

## **SOECA Membership Form**

Send this slip plus \$20 annual dues per household (\$10 for seniors and single members) made payable to SOECA to:

David Hartmann, SOECA Treasurer, 407 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send an email to [soeca.board@gmail.com](mailto:soeca.board@gmail.com) if:

- You want to receive the newsletter electronically, or
- You want to check the status of your membership.

If you want to join the listserv, see the instructions above.

*Note: Resident email addresses, street addresses, and phone numbers are not shared.*