

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, MAY. 17, 7:30 pm, SILVER SPRING INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

## **Election of officers for 2016-17**

The first item in this meeting is the election of officers for 2016-17. Our nominating committee, Carolyn Michell, in consultation with other members, has once again assembled a slate of candidates:

- President: **Michael Bufalini** has lived on Hamilton Ave. since 1999 with his wife Marcy, son Joe (15), and daughter Anna (13), and was SOECA VP in 2000. He recently retired from a career in Engineering Project and Program Management and spends time biking, rock climbing, building, playing bass, and volunteering as a park ranger for the county. He wants to help improve the community based on its interest, and has a special interest in transportation issues.
- First Vice President: **Tina Guina**, a scientist at NIH, is originally from Split on the Adriatic coast of Croatia and has lived in the U.S. since 1992. She lives on Woodside Parkway with her family and dog Coco. This will be her second year as a SOECA VP.
- Second Vice President: **Michael Gurwitz**, after serving as SOECA VP in 2013-2015, returns. He and his wife Maria Schmit have lived in the neighborhood since 1999. He volunteers with the Montgomery County Animal Response Team, and is committed to protecting the things that make our neighborhood a wonderful place to live.
- Treasurer: **David Hartman**, who continues as Treasurer, has been a Seven Oaks-Evanswood resident for nearly 40 years and has been a Neighborhood Watch coordinator. He has tutored high school students in math for many years, and is retired from the MITRE Corporation.

May 2016 Issue

Next meeting:  
Tuesday, May 17  
7:30 – 9:30 pm  
Silver Spring International  
Middle School Cafeteria

### AGENDA

- Business update
- Election of officers for 2016-17
- Update on old library site
- Discussion of proposals for new committees
- Upcoming meeting schedule

### Other business

#### Also in this issue:

- Purple Line events
- Traffic Task Force
- Silver Spring Village
- Water Watchdogs
- March 15 minutes

**The next Thursday evening contra dances at the Civic Building are on May 12 and June 9, 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.

- **Secretary: Tom Armstrong**, also an incumbent, is an astronomer, cyclist, and bass player (not all professionally) who has lived on Greenbrier Dr. for 23 years.
- **Jonathan Shurberg**, our Immediate Past President, has lived on Hamilton Ave. since 2002 and has been active in state and local politics on such issues as marriage equality and repealing the death penalty.

## Old Silver Spring Library

SOECA is on record favoring a multi-generational recreation center. Steve Peck and Denise Perme represented us at a County stakeholder's meeting on April 13 and posted a summary to the listserv. Briefly:

In February 2015, the Planning Board supported a multi-generational facility managed by the Dept. of Recreation., on the site, with the Parks Dept. using some of the land for Ellsworth Park. However, because the Dept. of Recreation did not have the budget to manage the space, the County has decided to seek ideas for both a multi-generational facility and senior housing (affordable and market-rate). Although the Recreation Dept. will retain oversight, any development or operations will be paid for by the proposers.

The stakeholder committee includes members from the Woodside Park and Indian Spring civics, SOECA, YMCA, Action Montgomery, SSCAB, and Chelsea Heights. From the County, Gabe Alborno (Recreation), David Dise, Greg Ossont, and Ronnie Warner (General Services), Jalal Green and Clarence Snuggs (Housing & Community Affairs), and Reemberto Rodriguez (Silver Spring Regional Services) participated.

The County representatives explained that the County will issue an RFP for a multi-generational facility that could also address senior housing (at least 30% affordable), hopefully before summer. The review process, likely with the above County departments, would take place in late summer or early fall. County Executive Leggett will have the final say.

**Tasks:** The stakeholder committee has two tasks, to be finished by April 28th (next committee meeting):

- List concerns for this initiative (e.g., traffic on Ellsworth; rezoning from R60 if apartments are built).
- Provide input on selection criteria.

Once we provide input, the RFP and proposal process is out of our hands. This committee is essentially for show: our input could be disregarded in later steps, and we will not have any additional involvement.

**Next steps:** Roberta (Woodside Park), Ellen (Chelsea Heights), and I discussed collaborating to combine input from our groups. If anyone has interest in providing input or joining our discussion, please send me an email (stvpeck@msn.com).

While the County reps didn't state this explicitly, it seems that their minds are made up: There will be some type of senior apartment building or tower on that site, with space for a multigenerational center. The Parks Dept. is not in this equation: there is no consideration of expanding the park, unless through a submitted proposal (which is unlikely).

## Purple Line events

The MTA is starting to form community work groups. Invitations have gone out to various civic associations as well as to the Wayne Ave. working group.

Meanwhile, MTA has scheduled a community meeting on **Thursday, May 26** at the Civic Building. The Wayne Ave. working group and others have had a long-standing request for a meeting to discuss a range of issues along the segment from the new Library to Flower Ave.

## Traffic Task Force

The SOECA Traffic Task Force, created in the fall of 2015, aims to improve walkability, traffic and bike safety. Task Force volunteers from one end of our neighborhood to the other, Cedar St. to Franklin Ave., strive to understand local traffic issues and find solutions. The Task Force organized a walking tour on April 16 to identify streets that were unsafe for pedestrians, traffic signs that needed replacing, and streets that were open to cut through traffic.

The walking tour was organized via email on the SOECA listserv, which not everyone might have seen, so to be sure that everyone's concerns are heard, we encourage you to email [soecattraffic@gmail.com](mailto:soecattraffic@gmail.com) by May 20 with your traffic and ped/bike safety observations and suggestions or to phone them to Leslie Hansley at 301-509-5113. The Task Force will review all concerns and suggestions and make recommendations through the SOECA Board and the neighborhood via the newsletter, meetings and the listserv.

## Silver Spring Village

Silver Spring Village, a "neighbors helping neighbors" network, is a nonprofit organization that offers services and programs to help people in 20910 age in place—remain in their homes while they continue to be a vital part of the community. To learn more about Silver Spring Village, please call 301-503-7401 or visit [www.silverspringvillage.org](http://www.silverspringvillage.org).

## 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.

## Minutes of March 15 Meeting

Our guest was Ari Brooks (Friends of the Library—FOL), who spoke to us about their use of the old library as their interim bookstore.

Our public library (MCPL), the only one in Maryland that is a department of County government, gets its primary support from the County. FOL provides supplemental funding for new programs, materials and equipment, and enhanced services. Past examples include MCPL's first PC lab, laptops to check out, cultural celebrations, and the summer reading program. If MCPL finds that a service that FOL has started is desirable, they ask for County budget support.

FOL, a 501(c)(3), has a \$1.1M budget (80% from book sales), 25 to 28 employees, and over 250 volunteers, many in the book stores. The stores sell MCPL's deaccessioned books, returning 10% to the County and the rest to grants for summer reading, laptops, etc.

FOL chapters support individual branches, but the FOL itself helps those that can't sustain a volunteer base, e.g., Long Branch, where FOL funded chess, homework, and games clubs, and a digital media lab.

The Wheaton store closed on March 13 and moved temporarily to the old Silver Spring library, where it will open in mid-April. It will move back to Wheaton when the new recreation facility is built. It will be smaller than before: Rockville store was recently expanded, and FOL's three-year strategic plan includes a store upcounty. There is no plan for a permanent store in Silver Spring; FOL's surveys show that their customers come from along Georgia Ave. and I-270.

President Jonathan Shurberg reminded us of rumors of developers eying the property, questions as to how the County will implement the Master Plan, and the 2010 charrette calling for a multigenerational recreation facility. The County doesn't have funds to devote to the building and may consider a PPP (Public-Private Partnership). There is talk of affordable housing or senior housing, but no definitive answers.

Past President Jean Cavanaugh filled us in on the February meeting at which David Dise (General Services) talked about the options. SOECA and virtually all the other civics have been lobbying for a multigenerational facility since 2010. The Master Plan says that the property should be used for parks, recreation, and

open space. Jean hopes that County Executive (CE) Leggett will honor that plan. He gave the site to the Dept. of Recreation, but now says that the County has no money to fix it up. He will set up stakeholders group and is looking for community participants.

VP Tina Guina suggested asking United Therapeutics (UT) for support. Jean replied that UT, which is in the Central Business District (CBD), pays into a Parks Dept. amenity fund, which the Parks Dept. says can be used only in the CBD. Tina suggested that UT might still be interested supporting the community.

Jean mentioned the debate in Bethesda on their new Master Plan, and the challenge of finding park space. We should tell CE Leggett that with 10,000 apartments in the pipeline, we need open space. Could we advocate for mothballing the library until money is available? The budget situation, and the 8.5% tax increase that Leggett is calling for, suggest that a wait-and-see option for the site might be welcome.

Elaine Ellis called for telling Tom Hucker that we want a moratorium on new construction on green space to address our feeling that decisions are made behind closed doors.

Secretary Tom Armstrong gave a Purple Line update. The concessionaire has been chosen, and MTA plans a community meeting on the Wayne & Fenton to Arliss & Flower segment, e.g., the width of the Wayne & Dale intersection, loss of trees, noise, power substations, and the "forest of poles" from adding PL power lines to the cables already present. The Friends of the Capitol Crescent Trail are pursuing a lawsuit to compel revisiting the environmental impact statement to address a number of issues, such as stormwater runoff.

Jonathan reported that Councilmember Tom Hucker is aware of the concerns and are working on keeping the Wayne & Dale intersection from being so wide.

Jean told us that construction of the PL will probably start in Prince Georges County later this year, and won't reach us until maybe 2017. The contract is very specific about landscaping. Replacing trees is one-to-one, although we don't know whether the replacements will be local. There will be community teams that the County will coordinate with the MTA and the concessionaire. In response to the concern about whether MTA and the concessionaire will say, "Our hands are tied" by the contract whenever an issue comes up, Jonathan told us that Congressman Van Hollen's office assured him that we're not at the point where those constraints are imminent; there may be room for tradeoffs, but now is the time.

The treasurer reports that we have \$6840.97 in the SOECA checking account.

**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.*