



September 2017 Issue

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 13, from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm** at the **Silver Spring International Middle School Media Center**. We will have a presentation on the WSSC water main replacement on Colesville Road.

SOECA Membership Meeting Dates

Listed below are the dates SOECA plans to hold membership meetings over the next nine months. Note the January meeting will be held on a **Saturday afternoon**. Many SOECA members expressed an interest in holding a meeting on a Saturday, and we are hoping this will be an opportunity for more neighbors to attend a membership meeting.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 Wednesday, November 9, 2017
Saturday, January 13, 2018 Wednesday, March 14, 2018
Wednesday, May 9, 2018

September Meeting to Include a Presentation on WSSC's Construction Project on Colesville Road

WSSC is replacing the water transmission main on Colesville Road. The work will continue into 2019 and the project spans 1.88 miles from Colesville's intersection with Georgia Avenue to the Beltway. Come to the September meeting and hear why the work is being done and how it will impact our neighborhood and traffic on Colesville Road. For more information go to <https://www.wsscwater.com/Colesville>.

Special Thanks to our Social Committee

The summer potluck hosted by the Social Committee was a huge success and we owe this committee a heartfelt thanks for putting together such a nice party for us. Every event this committee has planned has been fun, interesting, and well received. If you see a member of the committee (Leslie Hansley, Ann Ledger, Jaime Alvarado, Tina Guina, and Marciela DeGrace) please be sure to let them know how much their work is appreciated.

The Social Committee wants you to know that it will be holding **one more happy-hour in 2017**. The date and place will be announced soon but it will probably be in late September or early October.

SOECA Officers

Michael Bufalini, President
Mike Kirby, 1st Vice President
Vacant, 2nd Vice President
David Hartmann, Treasurer
Kristen Conte, Secretary

Want to Volunteer?

We are always looking for people to help. In fact, we are still looking for people to chair committees and represent SOECA on various issues. Please see the Committee Chairs and Issue Representatives list on Page 4. Whether you have just an hour for a project or want an ongoing commitment, SOECA needs your help.

To volunteer, contact the SOECA Board at soeca.board@gmail.com.

Agenda for September 13 Meeting

Presentation on WSSC's Colesville Road Project
Approval of May Meeting Minutes
Update on Purple Line Project
Business Update
Announcements
Committee Reports

SOECA Boundaries

Colesville Road on the West;
Cedar and Fenton Streets on the South;
Bonifant Street and Wayne Avenue on the East;
Franklin and Caroline Avenues on the North.

Minutes of the May 22, 2017 Membership Meeting

The May 22nd meeting was a joint meeting of SOECA and Park Hills Civic Association. Representatives from State and Local government and from Purple Line Transit Partners were present to brief residents on legislative activities and on the light rail project.

Prior to the presentations, Michael Bufalini presided over a brief SOECA business session:

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the April 4, 2017 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: David Hartmann reported a balance of \$7,546.68 in the checking account. Expenses in April and May were \$515.72 for meeting room rentals and production of 2 newsletters. Eight members paid dues in the April/May period, and the next annual membership drive will be in September/October of this year.

Announcements: Anne Vorce invited everyone to the Friends of Sligo Creek Bike Ride for Clean Water on June 4th. Details can be found on the website of Friends of Sligo Creek.

Resolution regarding Queen Anne's Drive: Michael Bufalini read a motion concerning traffic and pedestrian changes on Queen Anne's Drive. Jeff Ensor, a resident of Queen Anne's Drive and the leader of the effort to put traffic/pedestrian changes in place, joined Mr. Bufalini in answering several questions. It was noted that the resolution documents SOECA's support for a request to the County to consider several changes to Queen Anne's Drive. The changes are designed to improve safety for pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Mr. Ensor noted that over 50% of the residents on Queen Anne's Drive support the proposed changes. The resolution passed on a vote of 14 in favor and 6 opposed.

Election of Officers: Michael Gurwitz, SOECA Vice President, presented the following slate of officers for the coming year:

1. Michael Bufalini, President
2. Michael Kirby, First Vice President
3. Raquel Montenegro, Second Vice President
4. Kristen Conte, Secretary
5. David Hartmann, Treasurer

The slate of officers was passed by a unanimous vote.

Presentation by Representatives of State and Local Government: Delegates Jheanelle Wilkins and David

Moon and Senator Will Smith briefed the membership on the recently-concluded legislative session in Annapolis. Their presentation was followed by one from County Councilmembers Tom Hucker, Marc Elrich, and Hans Riemer on the County budget for the coming fiscal year and on their recent legislative accomplishments. Councilmember Hucker announced that the County had just signed a new contract for trash removal in Silver Spring due to the considerable number of service complaints filed by residents against the current contractor.

Presentation on the Purple Line: Representatives from Purple Line Transit Partners and from the MTA's Purple Line Management Team were on hand to make a presentation on the light rail project.

Mr. Madden started the presentation by discussing various activities that are currently underway; the timeframe for construction and operation of the system; the siting of the Traction Power Substation; and improvements to a school parking lot and to the area buses would use to drop off/pick up students. He noted that the light rail vehicles will be modular, articulated to accommodate sharp turns, 139' long, seat 80 passengers, and be able to carry bikes. Trains will run approximately every 7-1/2 minutes.

Mr. Madden reviewed the revised design for the Dale Drive/Wayne Avenue station. One major improvement was to reduce the width of Wayne Avenue by approximately 10'. Other changes include a reduction in the height and length of a retaining wall; installation of a pedestrian refuge in the middle of Wayne Avenue; use of pedestrian countdown timers; the use of safety personnel during student arrival and dismissal times; and installation of lighting, railings, and use of closed circuit TVs to increase safety.

Several residents asked for the justification for the station at Dale Drive/Wayne Avenue. Mr. Madden indicated that many people in the community wanted this station.

In response to questions about how the Purple Line would affect car, bus, and truck traffic and parking on residential streets, Mr. Madden said that the trains would not interfere with left turning traffic or with school buses arriving at/departing from the schools. The State has asked Montgomery County to consider prohibiting trucks from using Dale Drive from Wayne Avenue to Piney Branch Parkway.

Great concern was expressed by residents about speeding on Wayne Avenue and Dale Drive.

Mr. Madden noted that the speed limit on Wayne Avenue has been reduced to 25 MPH and he asked residents to contact the County Police about their concerns with enforcement of traffic laws and traffic cameras.

Several residents expressed concerns about environmental issues. Mr. Madden said all parties involved in this project are adhering to light rail rules and regulations. While usually not shared publicly, Stan Edwards of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection will share a copy of the project's storm water management plan with SOECA.

Residents asked about "wheel squeal" and were informed that while there is the potential for this in "a couple of places" project management does not believe it will be a problem. Residents wanted to know why a Traction Power Substation had to be placed in our neighborhood. Mr. Madden indicated that the placement of substations was dictated by the need to situate one roughly every two miles along the route.

Regarding the construction schedule, Ms. Carla Julian of Purple Line Transit Partners indicated the workday will span 7am to 7pm with some night and weekend work.

Mr. Bufalini thanked Mr. Madden and his associates for the presentation. He indicated that questions had been solicited in advance of the meeting and those questions will be given to Mr. Madden so answers can be prepared and returned to SOECA to share with its members.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

The Environment

This summer, our neighborhood once again let us experience the wonder of nature without getting in a car. Yellow crested night herons, ducks and hawks fished in our creek; deer and red fox were seen by many. Neighbors got in on the action and in early June around 70 hearty nature lovers celebrated our watershed by riding in the Friends of Sligo Creek's Second Community Bike Ride for Clean Water. Riders followed the Anacostia Tributary Trail System from

the head waters of Sligo Creek to the Anacostia River and back.

While there is much to admire in Sligo Creek Park there is pollution too. The source isn't always known but problems have been seen near the stage on Ellsworth Drive, the Wayne Avenue parking garage and around WSSC's road work.

Please help us protect Sligo Creek by being a Friends of Sligo Creek Water Watchdog. If you see pollution in Sligo Creek, in one of our tributaries feeding the Creek or on the street heading into a storm drain, send an email ASAP to ReportSligoPollution@fosc.org. Include a brief description (including location and time) and photo. If you see WSSC's work is sending chlorinated water and/or muddy runoff into a storm drain, report the pollution through the email. If you see muddy runoff from a construction site, please report it: unchecked, it can kill aquatic life and it is illegal.

Board Actions Since Last Membership Meeting

1. Signed letter with other civic associations endorsing an additional early voting site near the Silver Spring CBD.
2. Sent letter to Montgomery County endorsing pedestrian and traffic safety changes to Queen Anne's Drive.
3. Received and reviewed information from Michael Madden in response to neighborhood concerns about the Purple Line. Michael Bufalini will report on Mr. Madden's responses to the membership at the 9/13 meeting. In addition, Mr. Madden's written answers will be posted to SOECA's website and a link will be sent to the Listserv.

SOECA Membership Renewals

SOECA membership dues for the coming year will be due in October. You should receive a renewal application form in late September through our block captains. Dues can be paid by check or you can now use PayPal. Please see the links on the SOECA website (<http://soeca.org/about-us/join-soeca/>) for membership forms and PayPal instructions. The information about how to pay your dues is also included on the membership form on the last page of each newsletter. Thanks for your continued support of our neighborhood.

SOECA Officer Update

Our newly-elected Second Vice President, Raquel Montenegro, let us know recently that she has accepted a job in another state. We are happy for her, of course, but sad to see her go from our neighborhood and from the SOECA board. We now have an opening for a Second Vice President and welcome anyone who would like to serve as a SOECA officer for the next 9 months.

Committee Chairs and Issue Representatives

Education – Vacant
Land Use – Vacant

Legislative – Vacant
Membership – David Hartmann
Nominating – Tina Guina
Outreach – Vacant
Social – Leslie Hansley
Safety – Lynn Bailes
Technology – Jonathan Bernstein
Traffic – Jean Cavanaugh
SSCAB Representative – Jonathan Bernstein
BRT Corridor Advisory Committee – Brian Fiet
Wayne Avenue Working Group/Purple Line CAT – Beth Jewell and Kathleen Samiy
Montgomery County Civic Association – Jean Cavanaugh

Join SOECA's Listserv

- Via email: Email soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with "subscribe" in the subject line. The moderator will ask for your name and address and will add you after you respond. You will receive confirmation from "YahooGroups."
- If you have a Yahoo Groups account: Click "Join group" at groups.yahoo.com/soeca, fill in the form, include the email address you wish to use, add a comment about yourself and why you would like to join, and click on "Send request." The moderator will ask for your name and address and will add you after you respond. You will receive confirmation from Yahoo.
- Post messages by emailing soeca@yahoogroups.com

SOECA Membership: Pay by Check or Paypal

Annual dues of \$20 per household (seniors and single members: \$10) are due in October.

- **PayPal:** from the "About" drop-down menu at www.soeca.org, select "Join SOECA" and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.
- **Check:** make it payable to SOECA and send it with this form to: David Hartmann, SOECA Treasurer, 407 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____ Email _____

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