



January 2018 Issue

Our next meeting will be **SATURDAY, JANUARY 13** from **3:00 to 5:00 pm** in **Conference Room 2 at the Silver Spring Library**.

Upcoming SOECA Membership Meeting Dates and Presentations

Saturday, January 13, 2018; 3-5pm in **Conference Room 2 at the Silver Spring Library**—Topic: Transportation.

Wednesday, March 14, 2018; 7-9pm at Silver Spring International Middle School—Topic: Landscape Design.

Wednesday, May 9, 2018; 7-9pm at Silver Spring International Middle School—Topic: Public Safety/Public Schools and election of SOECA officers.

January 2018's SOECA Membership Meeting Scheduled for a Saturday Afternoon; Will Focus on Transportation Projects Underway in our Area and Those Planned for the Future

In an effort to help more residents attend a SOECA membership meeting our January 13, 2018 meeting is scheduled for a Saturday afternoon and will be held at the Silver Spring Library on Fenton Street.

The focus of January's meeting is State Highway Administration transportation projects currently underway and scheduled for the future in and around SOECA. Come hear Peter Campanides of MD's Department of Transportation discuss: reversible lanes on Colesville Road; the Purple Line; Bus Rapid Transit; and Governor Hogan's ideas about widening the Beltway and Route 270. He will also be asked to speak to how the state views managing our existing road/highway infrastructure given the growth that will likely occur in our area over the next several years.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

There is a welcome letter attached to this newsletter. This letter is the SOECA Board's way of welcoming everyone who has moved into the neighborhood. It provides an update on a couple of the big projects that are underway in our area.

(See "Welcome" on next page)

SOECA Officers

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

Board Actions Since Last Membership Meeting

1. Comments on redevelopment of the former Silver Spring Library site were prepared and sent to County Executive Leggett. The comments were also posted on SOECA's website.
2. The Board finalized a welcome letter for new residents. A welcome letter will be included with SOECA newsletters a few times each year.

Agenda for January 13 Meeting

1. Current and Future Transportation Projects in and around SOECA
2. Approval of November Meeting Minutes
3. Business Update
 - Treasurer's Report
4. Announcements
5. 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.

(Welcome from previous page)

For those of you that have been here for a while – please hold onto this welcome letter and give it to the next new neighbor who moves in on your block.

Minutes of the Nov. 8, 2017 Membership Meeting

The November 8th meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Michael Bufalini presided over a business session.

Agenda: The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Treasurer's Report: David Hartmann reported a balance of \$8,762.34 in the checking account. Expenses since September have been for meeting room rentals, newsletter production, and dues to the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The annual membership drive has resulted in 123 member households paid through October, and there are 34 new member households in that total. By a unanimous vote, the Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Presentation on Redevelopment of Former Library Site: Greg Ossont, Deputy Director of Montgomery County's Department of General Services, and Jay Green of Montgomery County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs, joined the meeting to discuss the process that will be followed for selecting the winning bid for redevelopment of the former library site. The County sought bids for childcare and affordable housing because those are known to be in short supply and there is great need for both services. He noted that the County has the luxury of time in this process because the Friends of the Library is being housed in the building through the summer of 2019. The County Executive is committed to an open and transparent process, so the County has held community forums and created a website with the proposals and presentations by the offerors, citizen remarks/comments, reports, and other documents.

Many proposals were received and reviewed by County staff. Proposals from the top two scorers are now being reviewed by the public, and the County Executive wants to hear citizens' response to the proposals. County Executive Leggett plans to choose the finalist by the end of this year.

Citizens, civic associations, businesses, etc., are invited to submit comments to the County Executive for him to consider as he makes his decision.

Many questions were asked of the presenters and many issues were raised about the Gudelsky and Victory Housing proposals. Of concern were: Retaining public ownership of the land, maximizing green/open space, respecting the historical character of the existing building, providing an appropriate transition from the site into our neighborhood.

Several attendees raised questions and concerns about the County Executive's decision to seek development of the site that is contrary to the current Master Plan and contrary to input from citizens at County-sponsored forums and meetings over the years. Neither Mr. Ossont nor Mr. Green could address these issues but indicated they would take the comments back to the County Executive.

After Mr. Ossont and Mr. Green left the meeting, members of SOECA voted on several motions concerning the Library site. The voting endorsed the following position: the Master Plan should be followed but if the County Executive insists on developing the Library site, then the Gudelsky proposal should be chosen.

A second motion was adopted authorizing the SOECA Board to appoint writer/writers to prepare SOECA's comments to the County Executive. The comments will be approved by the Board and then sent to the County Executive. The comments will also be published on SOECA's website.

Other Business: David Hartmann announced that next year is SOECA's 50th anniversary. A social

event should be planned. David Hartmann said that SOECA needs new block captains (for delivering the newsletter and other material). Some of our current block captains have been serving for over 30 years. Michael Bufalini announced that the bench in honor of Bill Kaupert still has not been installed in Sligo Creek Park.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

An Interesting Tidbit from Jean Cavanaugh (excerpted from the Regional Services Center in Bethesda):

Wondering about that mystery wire dangling from the utility pole, bunched up in your front yard, or in the street? The County's Office of Cable and Broadband Services can investigate who the cable belongs to and get it removed. Call 311 or 240-777-0311 or submit a complaint online.

Purple Line Citizens Advisory Team and Wayne Avenue WG Update

Erin Johansson, our rep on the Purple Line's Silver Spring CAT and on the Wayne Avenue Working Group, reports that there are no complete road closures planned for our neighborhood, even throughout the reconstruction of the bridge on Wayne Avenue across Sligo Creek, until 2019. If you would like to receive updates on Purple Line construction activities, please sign up for notifications at: <http://www.purpleline.md.com>. The PL project also has a construction hotline: 240-424-5325.

The Wayne Avenue Working Group is fighting to improve pedestrian safety along Wayne Avenue. It helped get the MTA to reduce the number of lanes on Wayne Avenue at the PL station's Dale Drive station. However, speeding continues to plague the neighborhood. Chris Richardson recently organized a delegation of elected officials to witness the unsafe school crossing at Wayne & Dale. Additionally, Mac Steele purchased a radar gun and created a video of excessive speeding. You can watch it by browsing

to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXaAu7RYSvE&feature=youtu.be>

The Wayne Avenue Working Group hopes that with this evidence the County will turn on the speed cameras along Wayne and take other measures to reduce speeding. If you'd like to assist with these issues or if you have other questions and concerns, you can reach Erin at erinjohansson@yahoo.com.

Residents Working to Calm Traffic on Ellsworth Drive

Robin Metalitz and others from SOECA are discussing ways to calm traffic on Ellsworth Drive. One idea is to establish a Greenway. This would bring changes and improvements that put pedestrians, cyclists, and cars on a more equal plane. The group has been in touch with elected officials and MC staff. To learn more, you can contact Robin at rmetalitz@gmail.com.

"Water Works" at PumpHouse Pop-Up (excerpted from a post by Anne Vorce on SOECA's listserv)

Location: Hilltop Road between Maple and Geneva Avenues on Sligo Creek

Local artists Marty Ittner and Gretchen Schermerhorn matched a series of 100-year-old photographs to the actual locations along Sligo Creek and in Takoma. The gallery is installed at an open air site, likely a former garage.

There is a self-guided walking tour to sepia-toned prints in the very spots where the original photos were taken. Highlights include remnants of the waterworks buildings that provided Takoma residents with drinking water from 1900-1920. More details can be found <http://www.pyramidatlanticart-center.org>

The exhibition, a project of Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, will be on view through March 3, 2018.

Please Pitch In and Help Out

SOECA relies on its block captains to deliver the newsletter and other notices to neighbors about 8 times a year. Delivering newsletters is a very important service because the newsletter continues to be the primary way SOECA communicates with the neighborhood.

Some of our block captains have been serving for more than 30 years! The time has come for others to step up and help out. Please consider becoming a block captain – contact David Hartmann at dchartmann1@msn.com to learn more about how the process works, when the deliveries need to occur, and the streets that need coverage.

Or, how about joining SOECA’s Social Committee? 2018 will be a big year for this committee as SOECA will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Help us plan that celebration, as well as the annual summer picnic, and

other opportunities to get neighbors together in fun and interesting ways.

Committee Chairs and Issue Representatives

- BRT CAT – Brian Feit
- Education Committee– Vacant
- Land Use – Chris Johansson
- Legislative Committee – Vacant
- Membership Committee – David Hartmann
- Montgomery County Civic Association – Jean Cavanaugh
- Nominating Committee – Tina Guina
- Old Library Site – Steve Peck
- Safety Committee – Lynn Bales
- SSCAB Representative – Jonathan Bernstein
- Social Committee– Vacant
- Technology Committee – Jonathan Bernstein
- Traffic Committee – Jean Cavanaugh
- Purple Line CAT and Wayne Avenue Working Group – Erin Johansson

Join SOECA’s Listserv: Go to www.soeca.org to learn how.

Did you see Leslie Hansley’s post on the SOECA listserv about using UPS Access Points instead of having packages delivered to your front door? If not, here’s how the service works:

- For individual packages, choose “Change Delivery” from your UPS My Choice email alert and choose “Pick up my package at a UPS location.”
- To automatically send all your packages to a UPS Access Point location, login to your UPS.com account, select “Preferences” and edit your preferences to always use this convenient and safe service.

Thanks, Leslie, for letting us know about this service in time for our holiday deliveries!

SOECA Membership: Pay by Check or Paypal

Annual dues of \$20 per household or \$10 for seniors and single members

- **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** _____

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



Welcome to the Neighborhood!

You are living near restaurants, bars, theaters, cinemas, stores, and much more in the thriving area of downtown of Silver Spring. There's a metro station south of the downtown area; an urban park with a playground, tennis courts, and a dog park at the intersection of Ellsworth Drive and Springvale Road; and there are trails and playgrounds throughout Sligo Creek Park.

Our civic association represents our interests before our State and Local Governments. Formed in 1968, the Seven Oaks Evanswood Citizens Association (SOECA) is organized and run by volunteers – there are many roles to fill and opportunities to help out. Included with this flyer is the latest issue of our newsletter.

There is a lot happening in and around neighborhood, and here are two of the major projects SOECA is working on right now:

- A two-year project (2017-2019) by WSSC to replace 2 miles of water mains underneath Colesville Road from its intersection with Georgia Avenue to the Beltway. Visit www.wsscwater.com/colesville to learn more about this work.
- A multiple-year project (2016-2022) to build a 16-mile light rail line from New Carrollton to Bethesda. SOECA residents will be served by stops on Wayne Avenue, the Silver Spring Library, and on Manchester Place. Visit www.purplelinemd.com for information about construction and operation of the rail line.

Of course, we hope you will join SOECA. To be a member you must live in a single family home within our boundaries. The membership form is on the last page of every newsletter and, of course, it can be found on our website.

SOECA BENEFITS:

- ♦ Website at www.soeca.org
- ♦ Listserv
- ♦ Bi-monthly newsletter
- ♦ Regular membership meetings
- ♦ Social events
- ♦ Facebook page and Twitter account
- ♦ Committees, task forces, and project teams that are organized and run by your neighbors

Please consider joining SOECA. See the last page of the newsletter or go to www.soeca.org.