



May 2018 Issue

Our next meeting will be WEDNESDAY, MAY 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Media Center at Silver Spring International Middle School.

Upcoming SOECA Membership Meeting Dates and Presentations

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

Summer is Fast Approaching – Let’s Stay Safe Out There AND Have Some Fun

Please join your neighbors at the May membership meeting (May 9 at 7pm in Media Center of Silver Spring International Middle School) for a discussion with Montgomery County police about public safety and a representative from LimeBike about their dockless bike system in Silver Spring.

Officer Elections

SOECA elects its officers in May of each year. Here is the slate of officers for SOECA’s 2018-19 Program Year (May 2018 through May 2019):

President: Michael Bufalini (incumbent) has been a resident of the neighborhood since 1999 and lives on Hamilton Ave. with his wife Marcy, son Joe (17), and daughter Anna (15). Michael is a retired engineering manager and spends his time playing bass in bands, home remodeling, and volunteering for the county as a park ranger and a VITA preparer.

Vice President: Onuka Ibe and his wife, Michelle Tafel, moved into Chelsea Heights in October 2016, a couple months after their daughter was born. Onuka provides consulting services to nonprofit organizations and foundations in the areas of strategy, board governance, mergers, and change management. He also serves on the board of a professional business association and as a trustee of its foundation.

Vice President: Chris Reynolds moved into SOECA a year ago with his wife Lauren and their two kids, Catherine (3) and baby Liza. Chris has a Ph.D. in Economics and works in banking regulation. He loves researching urban public policy and looks forward to getting more involved with local and neighborhood causes.

Secretary: Kristen Conte (incumbent) and her husband have lived on Pershing Drive since 1982, where they raised their two children. Kristen has been active in SOECA, serving as Vice President in the early `90s, distributing the newsletter, and serving on the Traffic Task Force. Before retiring, she worked in the nonprofit sector and served on the boards of many nonprofit organizations.

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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. Sent letters to County Department of Transportation officials in support of reclassification of Dale Drive and Wayne Avenue to Minor Arterial (with Light Rail for Wayne Avenue) from Arterial.
2. Communicated County Executive’s approval of a child care center at site of former Library building in Silver Spring to membership.

Agenda for May 9 Meeting

1. Approve Meeting Agenda
2. Approve Minutes
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Announcements and Committee Reports
5. Volunteer Recognition
6. Election of Officers for 2018-19
7. Discussion with Montgomery County Police
8. Discussion with Jason Starr, General Manager/DC of Limebike
9. New Business

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.

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Treasurer: David Hartmann (incumbent) has been a SOECA member for over 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.

Happy Hour and Block Party

Please join your friends and neighbors for another fun get together at Mrs. K's on Wednesday, May 30 from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM. We will meet in the back room downstairs, by the bar, as we did in March. If it's nice, we can enjoy the back patio. See you there! Sponsored by the SOECA Social Committee.

SOECA's Social Committee is working on plans for a Block Party this summer. Stay tuned for updates on our Listserv, our website and be on the lookout for a flyer at your front door!

Minutes of the March Meeting

The March 14th meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Agenda: The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Presentation by Cathy Carr, GreenHeart Garden Designs: Michael Bufalini introduced Cathy Carr, a SOECA resident who runs her own business, GreenHeart Garden Designs. Ms. Carr noted that successful landscape design projects address the relationship of a house to both the hard- and softscape elements on the site. Her firm prefers to use native plants but understands that non-native species are sometimes better suited to a particular garden or for a particular purpose. Her firm also considers the need for pollination, storm water runoff, and wildlife habitat. She was asked about how one can deal with the abundance of deer, rabbits, and mosquitoes we often find in our yards. There are several plants that deer don't like but there is not much one can do about rabbits. Mosquitoes are best dealt with by eliminating or reducing standing water in our yards and gardens. For homes near highways or other sources of noise, she will recommend a water feature, which can range in size and complexity from a small fountain that recirculates water to a waterfall or koi pond. In response to questions about how plants are coping with the strange winter we've had, she said extreme variations in temperature and high winds can cause plants to

behave oddly. Before assuming a plant is dead, check the branch to see if it is still alive then prune above the live part.

Reclassification of Wayne Avenue and Dale Drive:

Currently both Dale Drive and Wayne Avenue are classified by the County as "Arterial" roads. Chris and Erin Johannson reviewed a letter they sent to the County Department of Transportation in support of the County's plan to down-classify Dale Drive from Arterial to Minor Arterial. Their letter also argued against the up-classification of Wayne Avenue from Arterial to Arterial with Light Rail. Their letter advocates for the County to down-classify Wayne Avenue (between Cedar Street and Manchester Road) from Arterial to Minor Arterial with Light Rail. Having a road classified as Minor Arterial provides many benefits, such as qualifying the road for various speed abatement measures; prohibiting road widening; and maintaining lower speed limits on the road than on roads with higher classifications.

A member of the Dale Drive Safety Coalition, an informal group of Dale Drive residents, discussed the efforts her group has undertaken to support the down-classification of Dale Drive to Minor Arterial.

Several motions were made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adopt this plan for SOECA's action on the classifications of Dale Drive and Wayne Avenue:

1. Two letters will be written. One in support of the plan to down-classify Dale Drive to Minor Arterial. A second letter will advocate for the down-classification of Wayne Avenue from Cedar Street to Manchester Road from Arterial with Light Rail to Minor Arterial with Light Rail.
2. Chris and Erin Johannson will draft the Wayne Avenue letter and Charles Vest will draft the Dale Drive letter.
3. Both letters will be reviewed and finalized by the SOECA board.
4. If there is time, other civic/citizen associations will be asked to sign on to our letters to down-classify these roads.

The group was reminded that we have elections coming up, so it is a good time to make our concerns about the volume and speed of traffic in our neighborhood known to candidates for public office.

Approval of Minutes of January Meeting: The minutes of the January 2018 membership meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: David Hartmann reported a balance of \$10,201.14 in the checking account. SOECA has 204 member households as of February 2018, and expenses during January and February totaled \$354.34 for room rental and newsletter production. SOECA just ended its annual membership drive and the balance in the checking account will be used to pay expenses until the 2018 membership drive in October.

Announcements:

1. There is a SOECA happy hour scheduled for March 28th at Mrs. Kay's Tollhouse.
2. Mr. Bufalini thanked Lynn and Tad Grodzki for assuming the leadership of SOECA's Social Committee; he thanked Chris Johansson for chairing our Land Use Committee; and he thanked Erin Johansson for serving on the Wayne Avenue Working Group and for being SOECA's representative on the Purple Line Citizens Advisory Team.
3. David Hartmann asked about interest in capturing SOECA's history. Perhaps high school students could be invited to interview long-time residents and prepare a history of our neighborhood.
4. David Hartmann thanked the Block Captains and Super Block Captains for all their work in delivering the SOECA newsletter.
5. Michael Bufalini said that LimeBike is interested in making a presentation at one of our meetings. There was interest in this idea.
6. Michael Bufalini also noted that SOECA elects its officers in May. There are 3 openings on the SOECA board: President, First and Second Vice Presidents. Anyone interested in serving should contact Tina Guina, the head of SOECA's Nominating Committee.
7. Michael Bufalini also announced that classes will be held in the District 3 police station for participants to learn how to assist fire and rescue during emergencies. Interested parties should go to montgomerycert.org for more information.
8. Yahoo Groups is closing; SOECA's board voted to transition the SOECA Listserv to Groups.IO. It should be a seamless process and we will have a better platform and product once we've migrated to the new service. This

change will occur over the next few months and there will be an announcement about the change on our Listserv, our website, and our Facebook page. There was interest in a tutorial or other means of instruction in how to use the Listserv.

A resident asked about re-issuing the Welcome Letter (initially distributed with the January 2018 newsletter) and to have its emphasis be the things SOECA has achieved in the past year. There was general agreement that this should be done.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Our Environment

1. If you had problems with too much road salt this winter, you're not alone. Apparently, equipment failure contributed to the problems we had. Please send your experiences to Council Member Tom Hucker (tom@tomhucker.com), DOT head Al Roshdieh (mcdot.director@montgomerycountymd.gov) and DOT Environmental Protection Acting Head Patty Bubar. They want to hear about the problems this situation caused and have pledged to find a better way next year.
2. If you have an issue with the WSSC work going on all around us, send an email to EdwardDress@wsscwater.com.
3. The County's annual Greenfest will be May 5 at Jesup Blair Park. For more information it <http://montgomerycountygreenfest.org>.
4. The Three Oaks community received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to improve the community's environmental footprint. There are many ways to help with this important project. To learn more, check the website at hstrial-threeoakshoa.homestead.com/partners.html and see the Friends of Sligo Creek newsletter at www.fosc.org.

ByLaw Committee to be Formed

SOECA's Board has approved the formation of a By-Law Committee. Its purpose is to review the ByLaws and make recommendations for improvements. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please send an email to soeca.board@gmail.com.

SOECA’s Listserv is Getting a New Home

Our Listserv will be transitioning to Groups.io, an independent listserv website. We will get greater reliability, more flexibility, and a better user experience from this platform. Our current listserv will be transferred, so you will be able to search the archive of previous messages. This project is being managed by Jonathan Bernstein and Michael Bufalini, and the transition will occur over the summer.

If you are on the current listserv, watch for an email with instructions about how to move your account to the new service. Residents not on the current listserv will see notices about how to join the new listserv on SOECA’s website (www.soeca.org) and in future editions of the newsletter.

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 Federation– Jean Cavanaugh;
- Nominating Committee – Vacant;
- Old Library Site – Steve Peck;
- Safety Committee – Lynn Bailes;
- Silver Spring Citizens’ Advisory Board Representative – Jonathan Bernstein;
- Social Committee– Lynn and Ted Grodzki;
- Technology Committee – Jonathan Bernstein;
- Traffic Committee – Jean Cavanaugh;
- Purple Line CAT and Wayne Avenue Working Group – Erin Johansson

Silver Spring Businesses Want to Establish a BID

Since the fall 2017, after enabling legislation was passed, a group of downtown stakeholders, property owners and business owners have been meeting to form a Business Improvement District (BID) in Silver Spring. “BIDs are nonprofits funded by business property owners that focus on place management in collaborative, innovative and nimble ways. Unlike the existing Urban District model in downtown Silver Spring, which is governed by a committee and ultimately managed by the county, BIDs are governed by a board of stakeholders that is elected by members” (quoted from www.silverspringbid.org). The *Source of the Spring* posted an article about this effort on March 14th (see <https://www.sourceofthespring.com/business/silver-spring-group-planning-business-improvement-district/>) and *Bethesda Magazine* followed up with an article on March 22nd (see <http://www.bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/2018/Downtown-Silver-Spring-Property-Owners-Exploring-Potential-Business-Improvement-District/>). You can also learn more by visiting the Silver Spring BID’s website at www.silverspringbid.org.

Silver Spring Post Office Will Move to Silver Spring Library (for about a year at least)

The following information was excerpted from the Feb. 2018 edition of Bethesda Magazine

The US Post Office on 16th Street in Silver Spring is moving (temporarily) to the Silver Spring Library at 900 Wayne Avenue in the summer of 2018. The move will allow the post office to offer uninterrupted service when the 16th Street location closes. David Dise, the director of the county’s Department of General Services, said the post office will occupy an approximately 1,000-square foot space on the library’s first floor that will be accessible from the Wayne Avenue entrance.

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.