

# SEVEN OAKS – EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Your neighborhood association  
working for a better community!

## Join Us For Our Next Meeting

**Thurs., March 1, 2007  
starts at 7:30 p.m.,  
At Silver Spring  
Library**

### AGENDA

**Topic: Ellsworth Park**

#### **Business Meeting:**

Approval of the Minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Announcements  
Old Business: Reports  
New Business

Adjourn by 9:00 p.m.

### **Sign Up for Electronic Newsletters:**

Has a paper copy of the newsletter been recycled with other household papers before you read it? Have a copy delivered to your computer. SOECA newsletters are now available through email. Request email delivery by sending an email to: [soeca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:soeca.newsletter@gmail.com) You will receive ONLY the SOECA newsletter (this document) by subscribing.

### **Get Involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program:**

Block captains met in early February and program signs are starting to go up in the neighborhoods. Remember everyone can do their part: when out walking your dog or strolling the neighborhoods, bring a notebook and jot down any suspicious activities, cars, or individuals. Be sure to note license plate numbers, make and model of cars, individuals' clothing or any other distinguishing features. Be observant and alert. Report anything suspicious to the police and your block captain. You can make a real difference. For more information on program or to become more involved, please call Elaine Ellis at 301-565-0040.

### **Hear the latest plans for Ellsworth Park at the next SOECA meeting:**

On March 1, 2007, Lt. Karen Petrarca, Commander of the Investigative Services/Special Services for the Maryland-National Capital Park Police will attend the SOECA meeting to answer questions and discuss issues related to Ellsworth Park. Lt. Petrarca will be able to address issues related to security, vandalism and the patrolling of Ellsworth Park by the park police. She has handled community complaints regarding graffiti, homeless persons sleeping in the park and general concerns we have had in the past about the park. In a recent tour of our park, conducted by the Silver Spring Recreation Advisory Board in which SOECA VP Jennifer Hollander and Lt. Petrarca participated, Lt. Petrarca pointed out graffiti that was not associated with gang activity and answered questions about lighting and safety. She is enthusiastic about being known by and involved in our community and to be available to us to keep our park safe.

Also at the meeting, Ms. Hollander will update the association about when we can expect to see renovations to Ellsworth Park.

### OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President:

Jennifer Hollander

Secretary:

Ann Johnson

Treasurer:

Bill Kaupert

## Summary of Last SOECA Meeting

### Meeting Minutes: January 18, 2007

**Program:** The Park Hills Community Association and SOECA held a joint meeting on January 18, 2007 at Sligo Creek Elementary School. The Park Hill Community Association includes neighborhoods that adjoin SOECA's boundaries. There was an excellent turnout from both associations and thanks to the meeting organizers there was a full agenda with informative discussions and presentations on a number of community interests and specific concerns. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Each association first covered pertinent business for its membership (see below for SOECA-related business).

### Valerie Ervin, Montgomery County Council Member

Valerie Ervin addressed the group, introducing her staff and indicating that she will be opening a local office in the Silver Spring/Wheaton area to facilitate communication with area residents. She emphasized that she is very interested in local issues and discussed the neighborhood access and parking issues in the area of Sligo Creek Elementary School and Silver Spring International Middle School. There is not sufficient parking for teachers at the two schools and surrounding streets have residential parking permit restrictions. Ms. Ervin suggested that residents contact the SCES principal if there are any concerns with parking and neighborhood access as a solution is worked out. Ms. Ervin indicated that she will be watching and working diligently on the county's growth policy, Purple Line developments, and the Old Blair Auditorium. Ms. Ervin's contact information is:

- Email: [councilmember.ervin@montgomerycounty.gov](mailto:councilmember.ervin@montgomerycounty.gov)
- Telephone: 240-777-7960.

### WSSC Representatives to Address Recent Contaminant Releases into Sligo Creek

Employees of WSSC's wastewater collection department explained the recent releases in December 2006 (100,000 gallons of sewage flowed into the creek through the Bennington Tributary) and addressed many community concerns. This was a very serious problem for several reasons: pollution of the creek, lack of appropriate notification to officials and residents, and inadequate and late signage at the point of release and further downstream to notify residents of the releases and hazards.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> an overflow occurred in the area of Fenton and Ellsworth. This overflow occurred because construction debris was dumped into the sewage system. The construction debris blocks normal flow in the pipes, causing an overflow in the system. Normal grease and waste from the downtown area (restaurants, businesses, and homes) then accumulates resulting in further blockages and overflows.

Community members stressed that this is an important issue for the health and safety of residents, especially children and dogs who like to explore the creek. WSSC must do better in their response to these events. Better communication is needed not only between WSSC and residents but also between WSSC and contractors (to avoid dumping of debris) and the county. Friends of Sligo Creek have documented 10 spills since Spring 2006. WSSC has high goals to improve the overall system and its capacity in light of future growth and development. WSSC indicated its efforts to improve communications and community outreach efforts. Initiatives include developing a notification system similar to Alert Montgomery and increasing the public's awareness about sewer back ups. *You can help prevent backups by never pouring grease, fats, and oils down the drain.* It should be collected and placed in the trash. For more information go to

[www.wsscwater.com](http://www.wsscwater.com).

### Gary Stith, Downtown Silver Spring Development.

There's so much going on in downtown Silver Spring. Mr. Stith attended the meeting to give an update. He provided a number of informational materials highlighting the Silver Spring Town Center. There are more than 1500 hits to the website each day. **Visit it at: [silverspringdowntown.com](http://silverspringdowntown.com)**

Gary addressed specific questions from attendees. He had a number of drawings and schematics to illustrate future development projects. Selected points are briefly highlighted below:

- New Library: The location is at Fenton Street and Wayne Avenue. There will be free parking on nights and weekends
- New Transit Station construction: Before June 24<sup>th</sup> there will be changes in traffic flow around metro station area with an interim bus location. Bus stops will be along streets (Ramsey and Wayne). After June 24<sup>th</sup> utilities will be rerouted and excavation will begin. For project updates:

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sstc](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sstc) or call 240-777-7221

- Veterans Plaza and Civic Center: Mr. Stith showed the design and layout for the new Civic Building and surrounding area. Drawings are going out to bid soon and the project, once awarded, will take 16 months to build. The green grass will not be preserved and a few residents indicated their disappointment. Plans include a skating rink which in Spring and summer will have tables and chairs for eating and gathering.
- Apartments at Cedar and Ellsworth: A 223 unit, 4-5 story building with underground parking.
- City Place: looking for new anchor and possibility of adding office space at the top levels. With time the hope is that it will turn around.
- Birchmere in Silver Spring: Mr. Stith described the arrangements between the County, State, local developers, and the Birchmere (live music venue). The Birchmere proposed location is the old Penny's building on Colesville Road.
- Existing small businesses need marketing and economic help in order to survive during Silver Spring's growth and development.
- Support Our Long Time Businesses. Go and Spend Money at your Old Favorites!!

Silver Spring Regional Center  
 8435 Georgia Avenue  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910  
 301-565-7300  
 Email:  
 Silverspring@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Business Meeting**

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December 2006 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report for 01/18/07:** Mark Gabriele reviewed the Treasurer's report. A checking account balance of \$5,152.64, as of November 30, 2006; the current Certificate of Deposit matured December 8, 2006 with the value of \$2,137.84. A membership report was provided: Membership increased to 186 households.

A motion to approve the report was made and second. **Please remember to turn in your member dues.**

**Dues is only \$10 per household. Unsure if you've sent in your payment?? Call Bill Kaupert at 301-585-3385 and he will be happy to give you a status.**

**Old Business:**

**Announcements/Discussion:**

*Neighborhood Watch Program:* Watch Signs in SOECA have started to go up and block captains are busy organizing. There will be a Block Captains meeting in late January - early February. Since Park Hills is in the process of starting their own program SOECA invited their Block Captains to the upcoming meeting.

***If you would like to help out with this important program, please contact Elaine Ellis at 301-565-0040.***

*Colesville Road Lane Shift Proposal:* There has been no response from the State Highway Department regarding the review of Colesville Road lane shifts during rush hours (see October newsletter).

*Membership and Newsletter Distribution:* Mark Gabriele encouraged member households to sign up for our Electronic Newsletter (same as this paper copy) but available online. It was recognized that many households may be left out if the newsletter is only distributed electronically. Mark assured the group that the paper version will also be available. There was a motion to keep the newsletter distribution as it presently is.

...But if the electronic distribution works for you, please be sure to sign up by sending an email to: [soeca.news@gmail.com](mailto:soeca.news@gmail.com) – you will continue to receive the printed copy as you always have.

**New Business/Reports:** None

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

**Mark Your Calendar**  
**Future SOECA Meeting Dates**  
 Thursday, March 1, 2007  
 Thursday, April 5, 2007  
 Thursday, May 17, 2007

**If you have provided your opinions on the Proposed Bi-County Transitway (Purple Line) routes through downtown Silver Spring, specifically along Wayne Avenue, Thank You!**

**We will discuss SOECA's position and develop an action plan, if appropriate, at the next meeting. Bring your questions to the next meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> or contact SOECA by email:  
soeca.board@gmail.com.**

## **HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:**

- Send an e-mail to: [soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- You will then receive an e-mail reply at your inbox from "Yahoo Groups".
- Click on "Reply" and then "Send" to return confirmation of your desire to join.
- You can post a message to the community by sending an e-mail to: [soeca@egroups.com](mailto:soeca@egroups.com) or [soeca@yahoogroups.com](mailto:soeca@yahoogroups.com)

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### **TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOECA**

**Send this slip plus \$10 annual household dues (\$5 for senior citizens and single members) to: Bill Kaupert, SOECA Treasurer, 9222 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

# **BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## **Seven Oaks-Evanswood Citizens Association of Silver Spring**

### **What does SOECA do?**

Hold monthly meetings to address community issues  
Provides a monthly newsletter with pertinent neighborhood information.  
Has been instrumental in organizing the Neighborhood Watch program  
Participates in meetings to address green space in new construction areas  
Participates in meetings addressing Ellsworth Park.  
Brings to community attention issues impacting our neighborhood

### **How much does SOECA cost?**

**\$10.00 per year** (only \$5 for senior citizens)  
(that's about the cost of a Starbucks coffee and a bagel)

### **Who do you pay?**

Simply slip this paper into an envelope and mail to:

**BILL KAUPERT  
SOECA TREASURER  
9222 Manchester Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

OR

Bring it to a meeting at Silver Spring Library at 7:30 on:

Thursday, March 1, 2007  
Thursday, April 5, 2007  
Thursday, May 17, 2007

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check **this box** ->  if you would like the SOECA newsletter sent to you via email  
(you'll still get the paper copy)