

**SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**
of Silver Spring, Maryland

Your neighborhood association
working for a better community!

Traffic Blues?

**Come to our next SOECA meeting
and hear an update on the proposed:**

Purple Line

Connecting Bethesda, Silver Spring, and New Carrollton

*And Form Your Own Opinions Whether Purple is
the Answer for Silver Spring*



**Join Us For Our
Next Meeting**

**Thurs., December 7, 2006
starts at 7:30 p.m.,
At Silver Spring Library**

AGENDA
Topic: Purple Line Update

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

Adjourn by 9:00 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President:
Jennifer Hollander

Secretary:
Ann Johnson

Treasurer:
Bill Kaupert

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Mike Madden, Maryland Transit
Administration**

Date: Thursday, December 7th *Hope you can join us!*

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A TRAIN ON WAYNE AVENUE? An opinion by Jonathan Jay

Light rail down Wayne Avenue in the form of the “Purple Line” (also known as the Bi-County Transitway) is still a real possibility. If it is built above ground, running down Wayne Avenue, rather than in a deep tunnel, it could have a significant negative impact on our neighborhood. The same is true if the route through residential Silver Spring is built on any of the other proposed routes in East Silver Spring.

At present, the Purple Line is not a true color-coded, rapid transit, 4- to 8-car, heavy rail addition to the Metro system, which many of us originally championed. In its current conception, it is now slower 2-car light rail. Therefore, it would seem all the more necessary for our community to make sure that if light rail is built, that it be done right.

If above ground on Wayne Avenue, two lanes on the portion between Fenton and Sligo Creek Parkway would probably disappear. Traffic, which will likely become increasingly worse on Wayne as downtown Silver Spring continues to develop well into the future, could become unmanageable. It is unlikely that any of the existing traffic would be displaced from Wayne by use of the Purple Line, since virtually no one commutes between College Park and Silver Spring by way of Wayne Avenue. It will be more difficult for us to get in and out of our neighborhoods, and more cut-through traffic by others will be encouraged. The status of the Green Trail (bicycle), on which construction was to begin a year ago, is in abeyance. There are also issues of safety for school children and other residents. Moreover, there are trade-offs between speed, safety, and traffic — and not ways of satisfying all these factors. In general, above-ground light rail through residential Silver Spring would not be very fast, and, therefore, not an attractive option for commuters. And then there would be the unavoidable fact that the transit line would serve as a divider straight through the center of what had been a resurgent community.

If the Purple Line is built through our community, it would need to be underground. The best way to do this is by deep tunneling. The alternative is “cut and cover,” a cheaper but significantly more destructive method in construction, rendering unusable great portions of the street for long portions of time, as would also of course be the case with above-ground rail.

Effective rail transit cannot be built on the cheap, and neither our community nor others should be asked to pay the social cost of a seriously compromised system. Building light rail in a smart way so as to protect our community will also ensure that it is more like the truly rapid color lines of Metro and that more people will find it an attractive alternative to driving. Our neighborhood will pay greatly if it is not deep-tunneled through our community, and we will not find the community as desirable.

SOECA values YOUR opinion! Please come to the December 7th meeting at 7:30pm at the Silver Spring branch Library (basement meeting room) and participate!

Meeting Minutes: October 26, 2006

Program: The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:40 p.m. Mark Gabriele introduced the evening's topic, SOECA's Neighborhood Watch Program. Elaine Ellis, a SOECA member, was instrumental in setting up the Neighborhood Watch Program last year and provided attendees with an update on the program. She discussed the program's history, what led SOECA to start a program, accomplishments, and the next steps.

Background: In response to a late 2005, drug-related homicide on Manchester Lane and daytime home robberies and auto vandalisms, Elaine and SOECA decided to take a proactive stance to deter further crime. Elaine coordinated with the Montgomery County Police Department. Officer Joy Patil addressed the SOECA membership in early 2006 and discussed setting up a Neighborhood Watch Program. SOECA first needed to identify Block Captains in areas where Neighborhood Watch signs would be located and establish a list of specific responsibilities for Block Captains. Montgomery County would provide 19 signs free of charge and SOECA would be responsible for paying for any additional signs needed.

Current status: SOECA has 15 volunteer block captains for the program; an approved list of Block Captain responsibilities; and approved locations for the Watch Signs at major access and entry roads. A neighborhood map was displayed showing the location of the Proposed Watch Signs. Elaine encouraged attendees to look at the map and she noted a few areas that are in need of Block Captains. There are no signs planned and no block captains identified yet for the neighborhoods east of Wayne Avenue. If interested please call Mark Gabriele.

Installation of the signs is pending but expected within the next few months. Revised county procedures have reduced for the additional signs that SEOCA must pay. Then SOECA will send final payment for the signs to the County. The next steps include the following:

- Block Captains need to inform their neighbors about the SOECA Watch Program
- Distribute list of responsibilities and encourage neighborhood participation
- Establish boundaries for individual blocks
- Continue recruiting for additional block captains
- Everyone should stay vigilant and report all suspicious activity to police and neighbors

Block captain responsibilities are available on the SOECA website. The primary responsibility for the Block Captain is to coordinate with the assigned households in the Block and share information on recent crimes, trends, and prevention. The Block Captain will distribute information to households in the block in a manner that best fits the specific households of the block. The Captain will organize the best way to communicate with neighbors in the block. It may be through flyers, phone tree, email, or small home meetings.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>We all can do our part by</i> Reporting Suspicious Activity Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 301-279-8000</p>

The group discussed a few suggestions including:

- adding the emergency Watch Number to the SOECA group on Yahoo! groups and
- getting more information out about the SOECA group and how to access it.

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the September 19, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$5,430.59, as of October 26, 2006; the current Certificate of Deposit matured September 9, 2006 with the value of \$2,127.43. A membership report was provided: Three new households have joined SOECA this year; nine households have moved from the area; currently 175 households have paid the 2006-07 membership dues. **Please remember to turn in your member dues. Dues are only \$10 per household, per year.**

Announcements/Discussion:

Membership and Newsletter Distribution: The newsletter is delivered to 800 households in the SOECA area, whether your household is an active member or not. Community information is being brought to you by a number of dedicated volunteers in an effort to keep you informed. So take the next step and support SOECA's efforts: Become a Member (see membership form below).

Speaking of dedicated volunteers, SOECA would like to thank Raul Camino and all the neighborhood contacts that work so hard to deliver the newsletter to all the doorsteps in SOECA! We can't do it without you!! If you

would like to lighten the load for some and you can spare a little time to help deliver newsletters please contact Mark Gabriele at 301-565-3395. We really need you!

Old Business:

Mark Gabriele, on behalf of SOECA, thanked Elizabeth Conklin, past president, for 4 years of dedicated service to the association. He then presented her with a plaque to show SOECA's appreciation and thanks.

New Business/Reports: None.

For Next Month: Mark Gabriele indicated that he will pursue a speaker to give the association an update on the Purple Line. He indicated that the County is not pursuing the Wayne Avenue greenway or bicycle path until decisions are made regarding the Purple Line.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Mark Your Calendar Future SOECA Meeting Dates Thursday, December 7, 2006 Thursday, January 18, 2007 Thursday, March 1, 2007 Thursday, April 5, 2007</p>
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HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

- Send an e-mail to: 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 or soeca@yahoogroups.com
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<p>TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOECA</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>Name: _____</p>
<p>Address: _____</p>
<p>Telephone: _____</p>
<p>E-mail (optional): _____</p>