

Situated in the green hills & valleys of Sligo Creek & its tributaries abutting the burgeoning downtown Silver Spring

December Issue 2010

Seven Oaks Evanswood



CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

December Meeting

For SOECA Residents
Wednesday, Dec. 8
Silver Spring LIBRARY
7:30 —9 pm
Basement Room

Agenda

Welcome & Greetings 7 :30

Crime Conversation Q&A
with the Silver Spring Police

Commander Donald Johnson
Community Liaison Officer.
Joy Patil

December Meeting Agenda,
Reports & Updates...

- Crime Watch Program
- Chelsea School
- Dale Lane Widening
- Ellsworth Park Playground Renovation & Redesign
- Library & Park Re-Use
- Purple Line

Business Meeting:

- Membership Report
- Treasurers Report
- Old Business
- New Business
- Approval of Sept. & Nov. Minutes

Adjourn 9:30 pm

SOECA Boundaries include:
Colesville Road on the West,
Cedar and Fenton Streets on
the South, Bonifant and Wayne,
on the East, and Franklin &
Caroline Avenues on the North.

CRIME Conversation with the Silver Spring Police , Dec 8

Many of you are aware that there has been a recent increase in auto and home break-ins in our neighborhood. The auto break-ins have been happening since the late summer and span the entire neighborhood; the more recent home break-ins have been on dark streets, and near homes that back up to Sligo Creek Park. Most of the crime has happened between midnight and 5 am, although daytime & evening crime also has occurred on Ellsworth Drive, and at the Wayne/Dale intersection.

Seven Oaks / Evanswood Citizen's Association and Park Hills Civic Association are jointly working on the problem. We have alerted Montgomery County and Park Police and requested late night patrols. They are doing what they can. As we all know, the county has faced budget cuts this past year and is operating with less resources. We can all help out, in light of the upcoming holidays, as follows:

If you plan to be out of town, please let one or two neighbors know where you are going and make sure they have a way to contact you at in an emergency. Lock your windows and close blinds/curtains if possible. Always lock your cars and do not leave change or small electronic devices (e.g., GPS devices, I-Pods) in your car.

If you see or hear something suspicious or a possible crime progress, **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.** Do not hesitate or investigate yourself - call and let the police investigate.

If the emergency is over (e.g., your car was broken into the night before), REPORT IT TO THE **NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER, 301-279-8000.** Please leave your name and contact information so that the police can call you back (expect a 24-48 hour response time). It is important to report all incidents, even if the response is not immediate, so the police have an accurate picture of crime trends in our area.

If you are leaving pets home while you travel and have a motion sensitive alarm system, please make sure the pets are confined to an area where they won't trigger it; also make sure that anyone who may visit your house (e.g., cleaning person, pet sitter) knows how to properly operate the alarm. False triggers can be a waste of police resources and unnerve neighbors.

www.soeca.org | email: soeca.board@gmail.com

CRIME "SAFE SHEET" "What to do "IF"

This consolidated crime tip sheet was created in conjunction with SOECA leadership, the SS Police Commander, and Officer Joy Patil, the Community Outreach Crime Prevention Officer for Silver Spring.

We commend the residents and teens for keeping safe under threat, as recent victims of crime in our community in October and November. We are glad you are safe and no one was hurt. While recent rampant crime sprees have roused us from rest, and the culprits are routinely released, for petty theft, we must keep ever vigil, as the eyes and ears of our community. We seek to work closely in partnership with the Police Officers who represent us, as we seek to break the cycle of crime happening in our neighborhoods, with effective solutions.

If residents don't report crimes and incidents directly to the local Police via 911 or the non-emergency number, (301-279-8000) then it handicaps police and the community to keep us all safe.

In Emergency REPORT the Crime, Call 911

- > See a Crime in-progress, call immediately
- > Be a good Witness: Identify suspects by features, location and direction they fled; and by what mode (by feet, car, etc), time of incident.
- > Emergency means: Crime in progress, someone in danger, or if you are a victim of a crime that just occurred (ex: robbery and burglary) not to include occurred earlier crimes (ex: theft from vehicle and vandalism).

Non-Emergency Call 301-279-8000

REPORT THE CRIME.

- > Crime happened overnight, call in morning, call police asap
- > Important: Give your name, address, phone (minimum name and phone number) If reporting a crime (noise, suspicious, drugs, etc) you can ask that Police call you back with follow up to determine if crime did occur and the outcome. Police go to scene, but not necessary immediately due to higher priority calls, they may need your info to follow up while on scene or up to 24-48 hours, or to ask more questions

Victim of Crime Incident

- > Stay and Be Safe!
- > Be Compliant - Give them the stuff they want
- > LEAVE the area immediately (if on the street)
- > Do Not Resist (It is usually material "stuff" they want). It may be a hassle to recover the items, yet compliance keeps one safe.

- > Report incident IMMEDIATELY to 911! From the nearest phone or nearest neighbor.
- > Be a good Witness: Identify suspects by features, location and direction they fled; and by what mode (by feet, car, etc), Time of incident
- > Testify: Criminals go free when residents don't show up and testify against them in Court. Keep in communication with the Police and support them.

CRIME UPDATES www.crimereports.com

This report is a centralized Police Department Google pin map of all reported crimes in our community. Enter your address to find crime reports within one mile radius. Reports are updated daily, and incidents are updated over 1-2 weeks time as new information is obtained by police.

- > Residents mapping SOECA crime can refer to www.crimereports.com to reconcile reported and non reported crimes and crime locations in our community

Robbery / Definition of Terms Strong-Arm Robbery: when an item is taken or attempted to be taken by force or threat of force. Armed Robbery: when an item is taken or attempted to be taken while the suspect is displaying or implying a deadly weapon.

Pepper Spray: Pepper Spray (oleoresin capsicum) is a defensive device that can be used by a person in Maryland. Section 36 of the Criminal Code allows a person to carry pepper spray as "a reasonable precaution against apprehended danger". It can be purchased online and at various surplus retailers in the area. It will temporarily incapacitate a person, rendering them unable to see while having a runny nose and coughing. This will allow a victim time to escape and call for help. Do not purchase this product if you do not feel that you are capable of using it against another person as it may be taken and used against you to further a crime. Purchase "foam" vs aerosol – it's heavier and won't float back to the victim as easily. Test briefly prior to carrying – this will break the seal, and make sure you know how far it sprays as well as the arc of the spray.

Audible devises: These can be purchased as well that will emit 120db or more. When activated, these devices will alert those around you of an incident. It will draw attention to you and discourage the continuation of the incident by the suspect as the unwanted attention will lead to effective witnesses. Again, this will allow you to escape and call for help. This item can also be purchased at various local and online retailers.

COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

SOECA needs volunteers to this program, and 20 or more Block Captains to be successful. To volunteer Email SOECA.Board@gmail.com, or speak to Carolyn Michell, VP/ lead for SOECA.

SOECA has had a successful Neighborhood Crime Watch Program in the past (2006-2009). Its cohesion ebbs and flows depending on spikes in local Crime. If you have participated in the program in the past please volunteer to do so again. If you can lead this program, or be a liaison, we welcome your support.

- > Requires a Crime Watch Leader (s) and several Block or Zone Captains.
- > Successful programs have 1 coordinator, and 25-30 Block Captains, who communicate regularly
- > Liaison with Officer Joy Patil, Silver Spring, 3rd District offers a Neighborhood Watch Program Training.

> Participate in the Training Program: 6+ hours over 1-2 nights at the SS Fire Station.

The coordinator will set dates of training. The training for 2 nights covers:

Night 1 – how to set up NW, goals, strategies, effective meetings, methods of communication.

Night 2 – crime prevention: home, vehicles, personal crimes, property crimes, notifying communications center, etc.

A successful Neighborhood Crime Watch Program is a community run program that disseminates information, helps get crime prevention and crime trend information to neighbors and encourages neighbors to report activities and communicate amongst themselves. Watch Leaders notify incidents of crimes to the Police Officers who represent our Community. These officers insure cohesive coordination with our SOECA community, and with our Neighborhood Watch Program Leaders & Block Captains. This additional reporting ensures consolidated, detailed, and mapped reporting

ELLSWORTH PARK PLAYGROUND

2011 Renovations by the Park Department

Public Meeting Held, Tuesday, November 9
Long Branch Community Center
Attendees for SOECA: Kathleen Samiy, Vicky Warren,
3 SOECA Residents

Meeting Notes: The Park Department in general renovates 10 playgrounds per year in its 300 playground County inventory, in 2011 they will renovate 3 playgrounds in the Silver Spring area. Each playground has a 15-20 year life expectancy. Ellsworth Park is one playground at the end of its 'life cycle.' Some playground equipment has 'aged beyond replacement,' or due to vandalism, or demographic change needs new equipment. Priorities of renovations are set by the Park Program Coordinator, Kathy Dearstine, along with Playground Safety Inspectors, and designed and developed by the Parks Landscape Designer, CJ Lilly.

Each playground must meet 'code compliance' and 'standard of care' for layout and ADA accessibility. Playgrounds are grouped separately by areas for 2-5 year olds and for 5-12 year olds, each age group having separate playground spaces. New materials are chosen for resiliency, shelf life and maintenance.

Ellsworth Park has 2 existing (5,586 and 6,010 square

foot) playgrounds for differing ages, for a total of about 11,600 sf. The Park Department will renovate only one new 5,000 sf playground at the cost of \$60-\$80,000 each. Therefore one of the two Ellsworth playgrounds (the metal one) will be removed because the Park Department deems the land under it too 'wet' from run-off at the tennis courts. The other "wood" playground will be renovated and have equipment for ages 2-5 and 5-12 consolidated in one 5,000 sf playground area, with separate equipment areas for each age group. Input from residents included a request to remove the 'center seated area' to allow for more running room for children and concern over reducing to current total square footage of playground equipment in the overall area from 11,600 – to 5,000 square feet, from 2 playgrounds to one playground."

> If you wish to participate

Work with the Park Dept. to plan this playground renovation please contact SOECA VP Vicki Warren, VP. Is the Lead for SOECA on the Library and Park property and Playground /renovations.

> Online Park Ellsworth Playground survey:

http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/ellsworth_playground.shtm

> **Schedule:** Fall 2010 community input, Winter 2011 Concept/Design, Fall 2011 new Park reopens. SOECA will invite the Park Landscape Designer to the January or February SOECA meeting.

SOECA November 4, 2010 Meeting Minutes

“Envisioning Our Community”

The meeting was called to order by President Kathleen Samiy at 7:15 pm in the Ellsworth Room of the new Civic Building.

The meeting was devoted to a “SOECA Charrette” to discuss future land use and quality of life directions for the neighborhood. The event was led by two members of the County’s Planning Department, John Carter and John Marcolin.

After a brief explanation of the process from Mr. Carter, we divided into two groups to discuss our vision for SOECA, its characteristics, the challenges we face, and actions we can take. Within each group, the discussion was moderated by one of the Planning Department guests, who kept a running list of the various topics we brought up for discussion. Each group had a large aerial photo to draw on and refer to.

The following is a summary of the topics brought up and discussed by the two groups.

Challenges

Development

- Pressures for increased development and increased density (the possible rezoning of property inside our borders)
- Maintaining the integrity of our single-family, tree-lined neighborhood
- Fostering responsible development
- Uncertainty about the future of the old Library site

Traffic

- Cut-through car/commuter traffic on quiet residential streets (including on Worth, Bonifant, Queen Annes.)

- ‘Failing’ intersections (car volumes and gridlock at intersections, ex: Dale & 29)
- Pedestrian safety, including lack of pedestrian access to the Whole Foods parking lot from Pershing Rd.
- Reversible lanes on Colesville Rd. (‘suicide lane’)
- Expected pressure for two-way traffic on Pershing and Ellsworth due to the future Purple Line’s effects on traffic

Commercial

- Better shopping downtown (so residents don’t have to drive to other regional areas for clothing and necessities)
- Inward-facing nature of the Ellsworth Ave. downtown development

Infrastructure/environment

- Too much impervious surface; too much storm water runoff
- Aging infrastructure
- Loss of trees (not always to storms)

Increased crime

- Growth of urban downtown and as a “Regional Destination for Entertainment”
- Gang growth in the region
- Spread of crime from downtown to our neighborhoods

Actions

Development

- Preserve the R-60 zoning in accordance with the Master Plan. Preserve the single-family residential nature of the neighborhood.
- No retail corner stores within the neighborhood. Resist pressure for increased density, especially

within a half mile of transit stations. Try to keep the middle class feel.

- Turn the Library into a community center or recreation center
- Turn the parking lot at the Library into a playing field

Traffic

- Get rid of the reversible lanes on Colesville Road. Add a median with trees
- Add sidewalks
- Add traffic-calming measures on Fenton St., Bonifant St., Worth Ave., Sligo Creek Parkway
- Create a comprehensive plan for the streetscape and pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- Make the neighborhood friendly to pedestrians, dog-walkers, and strollers.
- Reduce cut-through traffic. Improve signage
- Keep Ellsworth Ave. as the bike throughway rather than develop the Green Trail along Wayne Ave.
- Keep Wayne for pedestrians.

Infrastructure/environment

- Add and replace street trees
- Add a green entrance to the neighborhood at Dale Dr. & Colesville Road
- Create a sense of entry into the CBD on foot
- Retain the narrow streets within the neighborhood; avoid widening streets
- Put utility lines under ground

Reduce crime

Discussion

The groups came back together at 8:20 and described the things we had brought up in the groups. After thanking the Planning Department guests, some discussion followed.

We asked our guests' advice on how to advocate for the neighborhood on all these topics. Part of the response was:

- Possible rezoning at the Chelsea School site and any modification to the current Master Plan or increased denser zoning for our neighborhood and the issue of the Library re-use, (and now Ellsworth Park Playground renovations) we have plenty to occupy SOECA regarding 'Land Use' in our Community.
- Getting Wayne Avenue improvements or the Green Trail built is also a sizeable task, and we should not expect the Purple Line for a long time.
- Sidewalks go through the County's sidewalk program, the wait is long and the residents must be unanimous.
- The County also has a street tree program, (to replant road side trees) but funds have been cut this year.
- The newly appointed Planning Board Chair, Francoise Carrier is a zoning expert who adheres to master plans, and strictly follows zoning laws.
- For funding new neighborhood projects, such as bikeways, sidewalks, or street trees we must request funding via a County budget program called a "CIP." We must attend the capital improvement program meetings and ask for what we want; to get our projects onto the agenda.
- If residents wish to mitigate cut-through cars on their neighborhood streets they must come together and work with the County to initiate a

"comprehensive evaluation and assessment of traffic' from this assessment a "traffic management plan" can be implemented that will reroute commuter cars, and/or limit cut-through cars on certain streets during certain hours.

New Developments

- We discussed that there is a county-wide "Zoning Re-write*" in progress.
- Several years ago the County Council tasked the Planning Department with revising the complex text documents of Commercial Zoning Laws to edit and consolidate them down after years of modifications and addendums that made the zoning codes cumbersome for the County and Developers to interpret, understand and follow.
- The new Planning Administrator, Rollin Stanley, expanded the scope of the initial commercial-only zoning law rewrite so that it now includes revising all residential and agricultural zoning laws as well.
- An outside zoning consultant has been hired, an Advisory Group was formed and the Planning Dept. is now in the process of reviewing recommendations of the consultant.
- The overall rewriting of the zoning laws that are being considered will be an ongoing process for the next several years.
- Some of the residential rezoning ideas and recommendations are a 'radical' change from current zoning laws, and disavow current residential master plans
- Upcoming new infill Development in the downtown Silver Spring area includes development on the north parcel of the Falklands apartments (16th Street at East-West Highway); a

rumored start of construction is 'soon', for the condo development on Cedar Street behind the Civic Building,

- Downtown "Green" or "Open Space" (un-built land) is planned in Fenton Village, at the "Blairs" and on Ripley Street.
- The County is in litigation with Discovery Communications over their closed fencing around "open" public space on the west side of their building.

OTHER TOPICS...

We deferred all other business—membership report, Treasurer's report, Old and New Business, and Approval of Minutes—to the next SOECA December meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

NOTE

Re: County "Zoning Rewrite"

The SOECA Executive Committee leadership team is keeping abreast of the residential portion of the zoning law rewrite project.

We seek to understand and determine how and in what ways this will impact our community.

SOECA will bring residents zoning updates in 2011 and plans presentations and panel discussions on this topic throughout next year.

Master Plans are created with extensive community input and usually are in place for 20 years or many more. The current North and West Master Plan for our area of Silver Spring was finalized in 2000, and created under Smart Growth Policy of the County.

Zoning is the Law and the Rules that Developers must follow when planning, designing and building within Master Plan Areas.

Seven Oaks Evanswood
Citizens Association
Silver Spring, Maryland
www.soeca.org

SOECA Officers

Kathleen Samiy, President
Mark Gabriele, Past-President
Vicky Warren, Vice-President
Carolyn Michell, Vice-President
Tom Armstrong, Secretary
Bill Kaupert, Treasurer
Resident Volunteers
Jean Cavanaugh, PrezCo Liaison
Jonathan Bernstein, List Serve
Charles Wolff, SOECA Historian

Contact SOECA:
soeca.board@gmail.com

TWO WAYS TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

(1) Via email

- A) Send an e-mail to: soeca-subscribe@yahoogleroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- B) The ListServ moderator will email you asking for your name and address by response email, adding you after you respond.
- C) You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "YahooGroups."

(2) Via Yahoo Groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/>

(Use this method, if you already have a Yahoo account set up)

- A) Find SOECA and click "Join this Group."
- B) Fill in the form, including the email address you wish to use, adding a comment about yourself and why you would like to join the group. Click on "Join."
- C) The ListServ moderator will email you asking for your name and address by a personal response email adding you after you respond.
- D) You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "YahooGroups."

Once you have joined....Post messages to the community by sending an e-mail to: soeca@egroups.com or soeca@yahoogleroups.com

SOECA Membership 2011 Renew Annual Dues

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: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home) _____ Cell) _____ Work) _____

Would you like to receive the SOECA newsletter by: Email? Printed ? Both? (circle choices)

If by email, please print email address here: _____

Are you registered on the SOECA Yahoo Groups List Serve? Yes No (please circle one)

Would you like to receive SOECA Board e-communication? Yes No (please circle one)

If yes, please print email address here: _____

NOTE: Resident email addresses, street and phone numbers are held in strict confidence, they are not shared.

SOECA Dec. 2010 Issue 3

Seven Oaks Evanswood
Citizen's Association
Silver Spring, MD 20910