



September 2019 Issue

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11th, from 7-9pm in the Cafeteria at the Silver Spring International Middle School.

2019-20 SOECA Membership Meeting Dates

Meetings are in the Silver Spring International Middle School, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, September 11th, 2019 from 7-9pm

Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 from 7-9pm

Saturday, January TDB, 2020

Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 from 7-9pm

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 from 7-9pm



As Fall approaches, come warm up with our next Happy Hour! Exact date and location TBD – keep your eyes on the list serve emails and newsletter.

Upcoming Events

The Social Committee will be planning for the **2019 October Block Party** beginning in September, with some wine and cheese meetings that are fun to attend. We welcome ideas and volunteers, to help make it another great party.



If anyone wants to join the Committee and be part of the planning, please just email: lynngrodzki@gmail.com to be added to the list.

Announcement



Households along the northeast side of Cedar Street between Ellsworth Drive and Wayne Avenue now fall within the boundary of the Seven Oaks Residential Permit Parking Area (RPPA). Although parking is restricted due to the recent bikeway construction, the metered parking area has been removed and therefore, residents should be eligible upon request to purchase permits to park on adjacent permit parking streets within the Seven Oaks RPPA. The website for registering as a SOECA resident is <https://montgomery.thepermitportal.com/Account/Login>

SOECA Officers

Michael Bufalini, President
Chris Reynolds, Vice President
David Hartmann, Treasurer
Claire Zietz, Secretary

Board Actions Since May Meeting

Meeting to discuss 501(c)(4) Plan of Action

Featured Speakers and Highlights for September Meeting

1. Sligo Creek
 - Anne Vorce, SOECA Resident and representative of Friends of Sligo Creek, to discuss Sligo Creek and upcoming cleanup
2. Developments to Downtown Silver Spring
 - Elza Hisel-McCoy, Area 1 Chief of Montgomery County Planning Dept
 - Stephanie Dickel, Area 1 Regulatory Supervisor, Montgomery County Planning Dept
 - Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

In This Newsletter

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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.



Check Us Out Online!

www.soeca.org
facebook.com/SOECASilverSpring
twitter.com/soecatweet

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2019 MEETING

Note: In an effort to save space in this newsletter, a summary only will be provided here. Full meeting minutes are now sent out after every meeting to the neighborhood listserv and also posted to our website at www.soeca.org/category/membership-meetings/

Treasurer's Report: Balance in checking account is \$10,317.56. Expenses in March and April were \$275.72 for printing the bylaws and newsletter and meeting room rental and \$382.40 for food for the last happy hour. SOECA also paid for the license for Quickbooks and gifts for outgoing officers.

Announcements: David Hartmann briefed the group on the Social Committee's plans for the rest of 2019 and provided an update on the Mosquito Abatement Project. Michael Bufalini reviewed the improvements planned for Sligo Creek Parkway at its intersections with Worth Avenue and Three Oaks Drive.

Election of Officers: Mr. Bufalini was nominated for the role of President, and the following slate was then elected by unanimous vote:
President – Michael Bufalini, Vice President – Chris Reynolds, Treasurer – David Hartmann, Secretary – Claire Zietz.

First Guest Speaker: Officer Joy Bartholomew from Montgomery County Police discussed recent crimes in the neighborhood. She encouraged people to lock their home and car doors and noted that having a dog is a good deterrent for thefts/break-ins. She reminded the group that these types of crime often increase during warmer weather. The Police will conduct a home security survey at no cost to a homeowner. She also noted that the Police are on the app "Next Door" and encouraged residents to use that app.

Second Guest Speakers: Jeff Folden and Caryn Brookman from Maryland's Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration and Carol Rubin of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, as well as technical experts and department heads from the State Highway Ad-

ministration, joined the meeting to discuss Governor Hogan's project for expanding capacity and providing other improvements to the Beltway and I-270.

The problem being solved: The purpose of the project is to address congestion on both roads, which limits economic growth and diminishes the quality of life for motorists and residents. Many sections experience average speeds less than 15 mph under existing conditions and traffic is expected to deteriorate in the years ahead. The average commuter in the National Capital Region loses 87 hours and over \$2,000 to congestion annually.

The benefits of the alternatives under consideration to solve the problem: Express Toll Lanes (ETL) and High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes provide travelers an option to choose to pay a toll that varies to maintain free flow travel at or above 45 mph. All unrestricted free lanes will remain free, and diverting toll-paying vehicles to the HOT/ETL lanes should result in reduced travel times for those who continue to use the free lanes. New bridges and smoother pavement will be provided for all users at no cost to the Transportation Trust Fund, allowing funding that would have been needed to maintain roads to be used for other transportation improvements. Overall, local roads outside the interstates will have less traffic.

Each alternative will include improved access to existing transit stations and transit-oriented developments. In addition, public bus usage of managed lanes will be allowed to enhance transit mobility and connectivity to existing and planned transit facilities. MDOT has committed to working with WMATA to consider the results of the Washington Area Transformation Bus Study in the MLS improvements.

The proposed method for solving the problem: Under a public-private partnership (P3), the state will partner with the private sector to design, finance, build, operate, and maintain improvements for over 70 miles of I-495 and I-270.

Next Step in the Process: The State will go through a process established by the National Environmental

Policy Act, which includes development of an Environmental Impact Statement. This step also includes identifying MDOT SHA's recommended preferred alternative and holding additional public hearings.

The public can provide feedback and stay connected:

1. Visit the website at <https://495-270-p3.com>
2. Email questions and comments to 495-270-p3@sha.state.md.us
3. Mail Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration I-495 & I-270 P3 Program Office 707 N. Calvert Street Mail Stop P-601 Baltimore, Maryland 21202
4. Call Toll-Free 833-858-5960
5. Provide a hard copy comment form that can be dropped off at the workshops or in the mail
6. Provide oral comments to the verbatim recorder

A Q&A session followed the presentation. A summary of the questions asked and the answers given by the State may be found on the SOECA website, as mentioned in the Note above.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ISSUE REPRESENTATIVES

Bus Rapid Transit CAT – Brian Feit
 Environment – Anne Vorce
 Butterfly Garden – Betsy Mendelsohn
 Mosquito Abatement Project – Karen Kuehl and Carol Leventhal
 Land Use – Chris Johansson
 Membership Committee – David Hartmann
 Montgomery County Civic Federation – Jean Cavanaugh
 Old Library Site – Steve Peck
 Purple Line CAT and Wayne Avenue Working Group – Erin Johansson
 Safety Committee – Lynn Bailes
 Social Committee – Lynn and Tad Grodzki
 Technology Committee – Jonathan Bernstein
 Traffic Committee – Jean Cavanaugh

Agenda for September Meeting

1. Featured Speakers:
 1. TBD
2. Business Meeting:
 - a. Approve Agenda
 - b. Approve Minutes
 - c. Treasurer's Report
 - d. Announcements, Committee Reports
 - e. New Business
 - f. Adjourn

OUR ENVIRONMENT



Our leafy green neighborhood has provided a welcome respite from the summer's heat. Fireflies, birds, bunnies, and vines have all flourished. Happily, the crested night heron have returned.

Deer and fox are around. Mosquitos seem diminished in some areas, perhaps due to the neighborhood traps - although it's too early to tell "officially".

Neighbors have continued to protect our beloved Sligo Creek and its tributaries by reporting pollution to Steve Martin's team at DEP via the Water WatchDog email. (If you spot pollution on the street or in the Creek, send a brief text plus a photo to ReportSligoPollution@fosc.org.)

Recently, thanks to Adam Landsman, who reported a white substance he spotted in Sligo Creek, Gretchen Ekstrom of DEP promptly traced the liquid from the Schuyler Road outfall (pipe) emptying into the Creek to Highland View Elementary School. She wasn't able to determine who discharged the white substance, but asked the contractor working near the front of the school to clean concrete dust from the parking lot. Construction work - or any pollution - can show up in Sligo Creek, coming from surprising places a distance away!

Do you have ideas for our next newsletter? We'd love to hear from you! Send an email to soeca.board@gmail.com



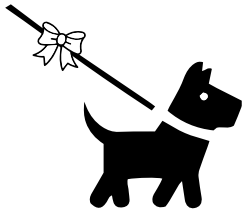
NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: Thank you, Norm Rushevsky

“There are so many unsung heroes here. For a start, I'd like to nominate Norm Rushevsky. For years, nearly every day (maybe even every day), Norm has picked up trash in our neighborhood, usually as he walks his dog but often without his dog. I sometimes see him out two or three times a day picking up trash with his long handled stick.”



If you know of someone we should feature in this section who either goes above-and-beyond or has a service to offer fellow neighbors, please send a paragraph (and photo if permission is given) to soeca.board@gmail.com subject line: Neighbor Spotlight

OUR FURRY FRIENDS



If you see a dog with a YELLOW RIBBON or something yellow on the leash, this is a dog who needs some space. Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.

There are many reasons why a dog may need space: health issues, in training, being rehabilitated, scared or reactive around other dogs.

- From theYellowDogProject.com

JOIN SOECA

Annual membership renewal begins in October!



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 and home addresses are not shared.