



SOECA Membership Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held remotely via Zoom until further notice. Please sign up for the listserv (instructions are below) to receive the meeting information; a link and dial-in information will be sent out via email listserv in the days preceding the meeting. You can join via video conference or phone dial-in number.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- October Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 PM
- December 1, 2021
- February 9, 2022
- April 6, 2022
- June 1, 2022 (elections)

Do you have ideas or questions about our neighborhood?

Do you have ideas for our next newsletter?

We'd love to hear from you!

Send an email to soeca.board@gmail.com



General Updates

Zinnia's is open! This new restaurant concept, operated by the Takoma Bev Co team, is at the location of the former Mrs. K's Tollhouse on Colesville Road. Zinnia's is opening its outdoor gardens first, and gearing up for future indoor dining and local market. Check out eatzinnia.com or @eatzinnia on Facebook and Instagram for more information.

The annual SOECA Halloween Block Party is on! We are repeating last year's model, with three established parade routes in SOECA. We encourage everyone to participate as they see fit - attend, cheer on, decorate, etc. Parades will begin at 5:30pm on October 31; those who wish may then continue to trick or treat as they like. Pro tip: last year, many neighbors set candy for trick-or-treaters on tables along the sidewalk/street to minimize contact. Please follow CDC guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks.

SOECA Officers

- Chris Reynolds President
- Tom Armstrong, Vice President
- Alan Constantian, Vice President
- David Hartmann, Treasurer
- Matt Jahromi, Secretary

Highlights for the October Meeting

Guest speaker: Eli Glazier, Planner, Montgomery County Planning Department

*If you have suggestion please contact us at soeca.board@gmail.com.

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SOECA Boundaries

Colesville Road on the West; Cedar and Fenton Streets on the South; Bonifant Street and Wayne Ave on the East; Franklin and Caroline Avenues on the North



Check Us Out Online!

- www.soeca.org
- [facebook.com/SOECASilverSpring](https://www.facebook.com/SOECASilverSpring)
- twitter.com/soecatweet

LISTSERV SIGNUP INSTRUCTIONS

Go to <https://groups.io/g/SOECA/join> and fill in your email address; OR Email SOECA+subscribe@groups.io and include your name address in the email.

Dale Drive Pedestrian Safety Update

Montgomery County Department of Transportation has provided mixed response to community concern regarding speeding and pedestrian safety along Dale Drive between Georgia and Wayne avenues. A temporary speed monitor was installed at Dale and Ellsworth facing in the direction of Georgia Ave. Unfortunately, it did not provide relief to the most concerning section of road which is the approach to Dale and Pershing. A discussion with chief traffic engineer Mark Terry confirmed that tree trimming has been ordered for the obstructing shrubbery at Dale and Pershing as well as request for removal of the adjacent unused telephone pole. Mr. Terry stated that he would not support a four way stop at that intersection. Community response is significant with more than 100 emails expressing need for action to address speeding and consolidate the confusing array of traffic signage along this stretch of Dale. Many provided examples of successful traffic calming measures in other neighborhoods. Outreach to MCDOT, community, police, and representatives is ongoing.

Downtown Silver Spring and Adjacent Communities Plan Underway

The Montgomery County Planning Department is working on a new Downtown Silver Spring and Adjacent Communities plan (<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/downcounty/silver-spring/silver-spring-downtown-plan>). The Planning Board will review and approve staff plan drafts this fall and winter, then send the plan to the County Council for review and approval. The Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan is an update to the previous downtown Silver Spring sector plan and will guide Silver Spring's future growth. Much of the SOECA neighborhood is included in the new "adjacent communities" addition to the plan. See the plan boundary (<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/downcounty/silver-spring/silver-spring-downtown-plan/silver-spring-downtown-and-adjacent-communities-plan-boundary/>). In addition to increased density, SOECA can anticipate a new child care center at the old Silver Spring Library; a new eatery/bar called Zinnia's at the Mrs. K's site; and Purple Line construction for a few more years. Now is the time (if you haven't already) to reach out to Silver Spring plan's project manager, Atara Margolies, 301-495-4558, Atara.Margolies@montgomeryplanning.org with your requests and suggestions including those concerning pedestrian safety and traffic; tree canopy, types of shops and spaces in the SS CBD; and any other issues.

Halloween Parade and Social Committee Update

The annual SOECA Halloween Block Party is on! We are repeating last year's model, with three established parade routes in SOECA. We encourage everyone to participate as they see fit - attend, cheer on, decorate, etc. Parades will begin at 5:30pm on October 31; those who wish may then continue to trick or treat as they like. Pro tip: last year, many neighbors set candy for trick-or-treaters on tables along the sidewalk/street to minimize contact. Please follow CDC guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks.



We have missed socializing with you more frequently, due to the global pandemic. We will continue to monitor CDC recommendations and provide opportunities to safely gather.

If you would like to help to plan this or other events, please email: lynngrodzki@gmail.com to be added to the list of our Social Committee and we can meet by Zoom to start our planning. An invitation for planning will go out soon!

Composting Program Pilot

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection is launching a new pilot program to test residential food scrap recycling (composting). Parts of the SOECA neighborhood are included in the pilot area (<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/foodwaste/food-scrap-pilot.html>). If you would like to participate, the MoCo DEP will give you a rolling curbside food scrap recycling bucket (about half the size of the blue paper recycling buckets) as well as a kitchen-sized collection bucket and lots of bags for each receptacle. The food scraps will be picked up on our regular trash day. Many of us already participate in the Compost Crew program, and the county is asking that users of that service consider continuing to support Compost Crew. That said, the county pilot program is provided at no cost (our taxes already pay for it) and the county has actually contracted with Compost Crew to manage the program—so bear those factors in mind as you decide which program to participate in. For neighbors not already working with Compost Crew, this looks to be a great option. Currently the pilot is scheduled to run for approximately two years, and the DEP hopes to expand the pilot, possibly county-wide, over the next couple of years. Interested neighbors can contact ResidentialFoodScrapsPilot@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov with questions. SOECA leadership will also schedule a presentation/Q&A with DEP's David Frank immediately following the SOECA meeting on October 6th.

Summary of Minutes from June 15, 2021 Meeting



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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Membership had agreed on investigating how to incorporate for IRS compliance and SOECA has hired a company to help. Maryland Nonprofits has guided us with this endeavor and have been extremely helpful. Our current status: we are now officially a corporation and have begun the process to apply for 501(C)4, a nonprofit tax exempt organization sometimes called a social welfare organization.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT & VOTE

Chris Reynolds read the letter that the Traffic Committee wrote to address the speed racing along Sligo Creek, which was then voted on and unanimously approved. A question was raised about asking for speed cameras; Chris mentioned that the committee can look into this idea, and other tech solutions for mufflers and sound. A question was asked about examining cut-through traffic at Springvale Road, Pershing Drive, as well as Bonifant Street and Worth Avenue. With the interest in improvements to neighborhood traffic issues, Chris said that anyone interested in joining the committee should contact him at soeca.board@gmail.com.

TOPIC: BOARD ELECTIONS

SOECA's current President, Vice President, and Treasurer all stood for reelection. Matt Jahromi was proposed for the open position of Secretary. Alan Constantian, an active member of the Social Committee, was proposed for the second position of Vice President (Alan was not present and was therefore offered and voted on in absentia). Chris proposed the motion and it passed unanimously – SOECA's 2021-2022 Board was elected in full.

SPEAKER: CHRIS BROWN of ZINNIA

Chris Brown came to speak to the members. He is the owner of Zinnia, the new restaurant which is to replace what was formerly Mrs. K's Tollhouse. The plan for opening has three phases: the first would include outdoor service; the second would include indoor cafe seating in the front room and fireplace room, and a local market place with sales for local and craft food, goods, beer, and wine; the third would include the main restaurant portion, the terrace room, and would implement some of the old design elements from Mrs. K's. For timing, phase one is to begin by the end of this summer/beginning of fall. Phase two is slated for the end of fall and phase three for next year.

Chris B. fielded questions about parking, music, and potential operation of a beer truck. He stated that Christmas tree sales would continue in the parking lot. He ended by stating that he is happy to speak with anyone with further questions. Please feel free to contact Chris or his restaurant manager at chris@eatzinnia.com and justin@eatzinnia.com.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris said that this was the last meeting until the fall. Tom Armstrong asked about the status of the Bylaws Committee and volunteered to be the chair. Chris mentioned that the committee currently has four members and to contact soeca.board@gmail.com if anyone would like to join. Chris also mentioned that he would like to revitalize the Downtown Plan Committee and to contact the board if anyone would like to join.

Committee Chairs and Issues Representatives

Colesville Road Bus Rapid Transit CAT – Brian Feit
 Downtown Plan Committee – Chris Reynolds
 Environment – Anne Vorce
 Land Use – Chris Johansson
 Membership Committee – David Hartmann
 Montgomery County Civic Federation – Jean Cavanaugh
 Neighbor's Help – Michael Gurwitz
 Purple Line CAT and Wayne Ave Group – Erin Johansson
 Safety Committee – Lynn Bailes
 Silver Spring Library Redevelopment – OPEN
 Social Committee – Lynn and Tad Grodzki
 Technology Committee – Jonathan Bernstein
 Traffic Committee – Jean Cavanaugh

Purple Line Update

Updates on the Purple Line project as of September 2021:



Crews will relocate underground utilities along eastbound Wayne Avenue (MD 594A) from Silver Spring International Middle School (SSIMS) to Springvale road from October through February 28, 2022, weather permitting. Work may take place 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. weekdays and as needed on weekends. Long-term lane closures will occur in the far-right eastbound lane, with intermittent sidewalk closures adjacent to the work zone. Pedestrians will be directed to use the nearest crosswalk via on-site signage prior to the closed segment of sidewalk.

For questions on the Purple Line construction, contact outreach@purplelinemd.com or 443-451-3706. You can sign up for traffic closure notices via texts and emails at Purplelinemd.com.



**Support your Citizens' Association by joining!
Annual membership dues are due now!**

Dear Neighbor,

It's that time of year – your annual SOECA membership is due! Members voted to simplify dues collection by having all memberships due at the same time – that's now, in October.

We appreciate your continued membership and look forward to welcoming new members, too.

SOECA needs your support to remain strong and effective. As a member, you will be able to vote on all issues that affect our neighborhood, and you help support the costs associated with the listserv, website, and newsletter, all of which are available to everyone living within SOECA borders. In addition, your membership allows SOECA to host social activities, pay room rental fees for SOECA meetings, and support important initiatives such as neighborhood beautification, hiring needed experts, and select legal costs.

Please complete the membership form and send it with your check or use the PayPal link on our website. Your membership will be current through September 2022.

Thank you,

David Hartmann, Treasurer

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SOECA membership Form

New Member Returning Member

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: Send this slip plus \$20 annual dues per household (\$10 for seniors and single members) made payable to SOECA to: David Hartmann, SOECA Treasurer, 407 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4223

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Note: Resident email addresses, street addresses, and phone numbers are not shared.