



May 2024 Issue

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, 7 pm, in the Zinnia Tavern, and via Zoom.

SOECA Block Party June 8 from 3 pm to 7 pm on Bennington Drive!

See page 4 for details

Next SOECA Meeting: Tuesday, May 21 7 pm

Hybrid: Zinnia downstairs tavern (Use Main Entrance)

ALSO via Zoom

Note that we might not have the equipment set up right at 7, so please be patient if Zooming in). This will be the final meeting before our summer break. SOECA meetings will resume in September.

At our May meeting, we will hold elections for SOECA Officers. Any SOECA member is welcome to run for President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary. That said, our current Board members will all be standing for re-election. Hear updates on the Purple Line, the CentroNia Gudelsky Child Development Center, and the Springvale Terrace redevelopment.

Here is the Zoom invitation for residents watching remotely:

Meeting ID: 863 7138 1533

Passcode: SPECS

One tap mobile dial-in:

+13017158592,,86371381533#,,,,*792474#

We encourage everyone to check their membership status and renew their SOECA membership, if they need to. That can be done at <https://www.soeca.org/about-us/join-soeca>. We would like for as many neighbors to become members as possible to help support neighborhood activities like the upcoming Block Party. We are also seeking donations to enhance the technology that we use for hosting hybrid meetings; you'll see that option on SimpliDues alongside membership options. Note that our new method for paying dues online uses SimpliDues, so this may look unfamiliar to folks who haven't encountered it, yet.

SOECA Officers

Chris Reynolds, President
Elicia John, Vice President
Matthew Murawski, Vice President
Cody Uhing, Treasurer
Charlie Demma, Secretary

In This Newsletter

1. Block Party June 8
2. Committee Representatives
3. Minutes of March Meeting
4. Stormwater Management
5. Shepherd's Table support

SOECA Inc Boundaries

Colesville Rd on the West; Cedar and Fenton Sts on the South; Bonifant St and Wayne Ave on the East; Franklin and Caroline Aves on the North.



LISTSERV SIGNUP INSTRUCTIONS

*The SOECA Organization is not affiliated with the SOECA Email list, but advertises it as a helpful resource for our residents. 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.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ISSUE REPS

Bus Rapid Transit CAT – Brian Feit
 Downtown Plan Committee – Chris Reynolds
 Environment – Anne Vorce
 Land Use – Chris Johansson
 Membership Committee – David Hartmann
 Mosquito Abatement Project – Christine Dunathan
 Neighbors Help – Michael Gurwitz
 Purple Line CAT, Wayne Ave. – Erin Johansson
 Public Safety and Crime – Sharland Reeves
 Safety Committee – Lynn Bailes
 Social Committee– Angela and Matt Hood
 Tech Committee & Newsletters – Jonathan Bernstein
 Traffic Committee – **OPEN**

Minutes from the March Meeting (Hybrid)

Chris Reynolds welcomed Eric Saul of Saul Architects in Takoma Park.

Eric led a presentation on the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units in Montgomery County and the recently changed zoning laws. After highlighting the positive community benefits of ADUs, Eric discussed their legal and regulatory requirements including: numbers allowed, dimensions, living requirements, footprint, setback rules, height restrictions, drainage, energy requirements, fire codes and parking requirement. Eric then introduced the contractor for his current job who discussed the details of that job.

After the informative ADU presentation, Chris Reynolds concluded the meeting with these announcements:

- SOECA is looking for someone to help with the newsletter.
- Demolition and reconstruction of the Seabury Retirement Home may start late this summer or early fall.
- Invitation to attend the planning board traffic hearing on April 18th.
- Questions regarding the Gudelsky Child Development Center (old SS library) construction or traffic can be addressed at the county.
- Sharland Reeves was confirmed to lead a newly formed committee on public safety and crime.
- SOECA residents should report complaints on amplified proselytizers in downtown Silver Spring. Possibly contacting Jacob Newman, the local police district or the Peterson Companies may help. Quantifying the noise levels with a decibel meter app is a good idea.
- Floyd Gomez-Starnes will take over the Shepherd's Table food collection coordination.
- Members are encouraged to express interest in running for SOECA office.

Food Trucks



Location: Cloverfield & Pershing, next to the Seabury Parking Lot

Thanks to Christine Dunathan for planning delicious Thursday evening food trucks. **Check the SOECA listserv for upcoming visits!**

Improving SOECA Stormwater Management: ISO Your Suggestions plus Possible Events

The SOECA Environment Committee and several FOSC leaders are working with the County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on a "Green Ambassador Program". DEP is now focusing on our neighborhood and environs to consider stormwater management improvements and to evaluate how Rainscapes and other past projects have been working. There are many possible pieces of this initiative for the late spring.

- A specific important request is to suggest projects that would improve stormwater management in the neighborhood, on both sides of Sligo Creek. To get an idea of where a project might help, just take a look around for strong water flow down the road in any rainstorm: some spots are particularly bad.
 - DEP is considering a "field walk" in May to look at and assess established projects, including in the Three Oaks area. This could help all of us think about the way forward.
 - An event in one of our parks with a native plant giveaway before the summer is also being considered.
- Please reach out to the Environment Committee if you would be interested in any of these activities - and suggest good spots for stormwater management projects! (Email Anne Vorce. avorce@aol.com)

SOECA Families Monthly Support of Shepherd's Table, April 2024 Update

Background

During the pandemic, when community needs soared, Silver Spring Cares ("SSC") worked with Shepherd's Table to try to meet these needs. SSC is a hyper local nonprofit started by Liz Brent. SSC started their Neighborhood Ambassador program leveraging 20 to 25 neighborhoods around Silver Spring to help with weekly donations to Shepherd's Table. SOECA first participated through the amazing efforts of Suzanne Mintz, who recruited generous community members to pick up and deliver family donations. Jonathan Bernstein succeeded Suzanne to continue the weekly donations.

In 2023, we changed from weekly pickups to a monthly pickup. There is no question that Shepherd's Table has leveraged our civic donations to help their patrons, so residents can be sure that their monthly contribution really has impact! Shepherd's Table has a wish list that ranges from juice drinks to socks to gardening tools.

Update

Early in 2024, we decided it was time for Jonathan to hand over his Neighborhood Ambassador coordinating duties to another, and Jonathan is so happy that Floyd Gómez-Starnes has stepped forward to do that! Floyd lives on Pershing, and is a retired school principal. Reinventing himself, he became a realtor, and works with Liz Brent in her realtor firm. "We are blessed as a community with such caring people, and I couldn't be more pleased that Floyd will take over, to continue this worthwhile civic project" Jonathan said.

Here is our 2nd Wednesday monthly Collection Schedule for the remainder of 2024:

May 8	August 14	November 13
June 12	September 11	December 11
July 10	October 9	

A few quick quotes from Floyd: "What a pleasure it is to take on a project that is so well organized! With all the systems already in place! Thank you, Suzanne and Jonathan!" And a huge thank you for all of you SOECA folks who continue faithfully supporting Shepherd's Table, month after month.

If you have been thinking about donating items to Shepherd's Table and you're worried that it may be complicated – Worry no more! I send out a super simple link on the listserv that you can follow. OR you can just shoot me a text or an email and we can work it out :)"

Floyd Gómez-Starnes
floyd@gobrentrealty.com
301-651-5415

BLOCK PARTY 2024!

SOECA

Saturday, JUNE 8, 3-7 p.m.

(RAINDATE: JUNE 9)

• **FREE ENTRY FOR ALL** •

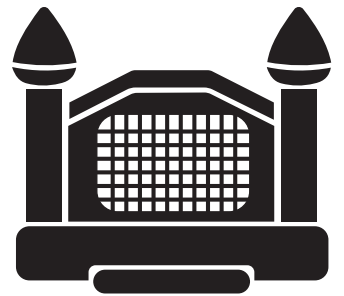


Live music by
'DOWNWIRE'

Food • Drinks • Shaved Ice

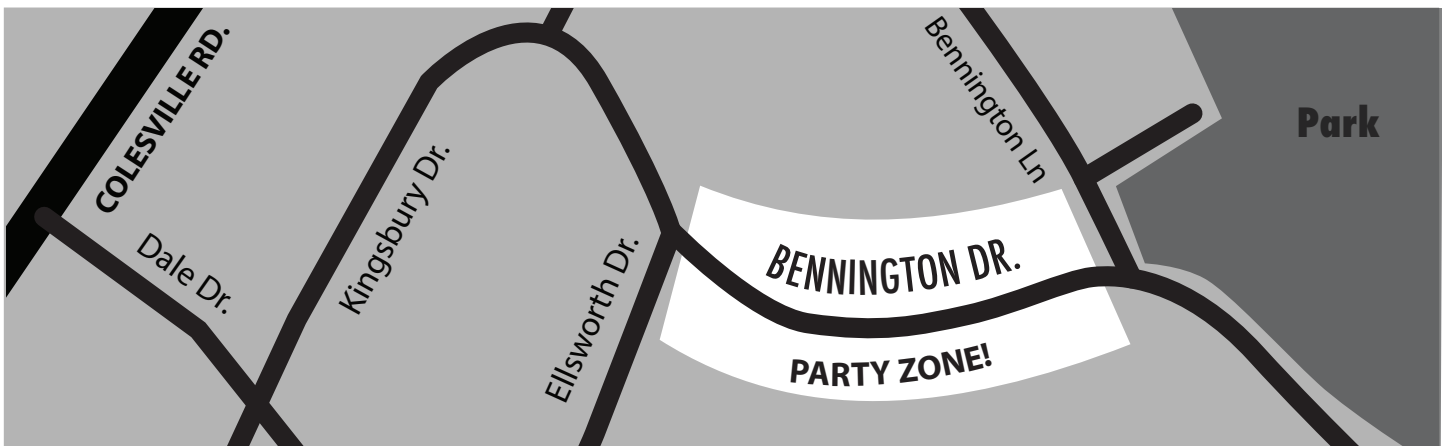
! BOUNCY HOUSE !

Balloon Animals • Facepaint



\$1 RAFFLE TICKETS } Win HUNDREDS of dollars in prizes
from local businesses & organizations

PLUS: Collection for Sheperd's Table



[**LOCATION: Bennington Dr.**]