



September Meeting Date:
SOECA will hold a meeting
on Monday, November 17 at
7pm at the Zinnia Restaurant
and via Zoom.

***SOECA's November Meeting: Monday,
November 17, 2025, at 7pm***

We will discuss data center development and its implications on land use and the environment, particularly in the DC metro area. Our speaker will be Mariah Davis representing Nature Forward. Mariah is an environmental consultant with 10 years of experience working at the local, state, regional, and federal level. Her consulting business, Davis Strategies, represents clients throughout the region striving to create a healthier, more accessible, and inclusive environment.

Here is the Zoom meeting info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84112620346?pwd=VAMja6pbEaIQpwLMAOaBiH3RtG4OC8.1>

Meeting ID: 841 1262 0346
Passcode: SOECA

SOECA Membership

We would like as many neighbors as possible to become members to help support our activities. We are also seeking donations to enhance our use of technology. To join, check the status of your membership, or

donate, go to www.soeca.org and scroll to the Join Now button, which will take you to the secure SimpliDues website.

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.



SOECA Officers

Chris Reynolds, President
Elicia John, Vice President
Matthew Murawski, Vice President
Cody Uhing, Treasurer
Diana Rowny, Secretary

SOECA Committees

If you are interested in either of the open positions listed below, please send an email to Chris Reynolds at: urban.economist@gmail.com.

Environment Committee – Anne Vorce
Land Use Committee – Chris Reynolds
Membership Committee – Open
Neighbors Help Neighbors Committee –
Michael Gurwitz
Public Safety Committee – Open

Purple Line Community Advisory Team –
 Robert Samors
Social Committee – Angela and Matt Hood
Technology Committee –
 Jonathan Bernstein

SOECA Email List

While it is not a SOECA project, we advertise the email list as a helpful resource. To join: <https://groups.io/g/SOECA/join> and fill in your email address; or email SOECA+subscribe@groups.io and include your name and address in the email.

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Highlights of Membership Meeting on September 29, 2025

SOECA held its membership meeting on September 29, 2025 with guest speaker Mike Tidwell, author of [The Lost Trees of Willow Avenue](#). Mike's book is subtitled "A Story of Climate and Hope on One American Street." That street happens to lie two miles from us in Takoma Park. The book is an account of the impact that has been demonstrated by climate change in our own county, and a hopeful discussion of potential solutions. Mike's message to us was that we can avoid despair by joining with others to

take action. He invited us to join the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

Chris Reynolds made a presentation to honor the Hood family as our neighborhood heroes. Angie and Matt provided the energy and organization to make SOECA's block parties huge successes. Thank you, Angie and Matt!

Chris discussed the delay in the Seabury at Springvale Terrace demolition. Also, on Colesville Road, the Hotel Silver Spring has closed and will be converted into multi-family housing, with many units designated as affordable housing. Chris also discussed the FLASH bus service on US-29, noting that a proposed stop at Franklin was not included in the latest plans. Ann Vorce announced plans for a raingarden walk with DEP on October 26 at 8:30 am.

East Silver Spring Community Plan

Montgomery Planning is currently developing the Eastern Silver Spring Communities Plan. The plan area starts east of Sligo Creek up to the Beltway; it includes SOECA homes along Franklin, Manchester, Hamilton, Highview, Caroline, Worth, Leighton, Knox and Sligo Creek Parkway.

At an open house in September 2025, the Planning staff presented ideas pertaining to the neighborhood around the future Purple Line station on Wayne Avenue at Manchester. The planners prompted discussions around the residents' wishes for the community. Planning stated that "Montgomery County is experiencing a serious housing shortage. We need more housing options for everyone, including housing of all types, sizes and prices." They indicated that there is an opportunity as part of the master plan to consider rezoning for

different types of housing or commercial uses. Attendees were asked to weigh in on strategies for mixed-use development, apartment buildings, duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes. Sidewalks, lighting and parks may also be part of this plan.

According to the Montgomery Planning website “The Eastern Silver Spring Communities Plan (ESSCP) team is working with residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to take a comprehensive look at how people live, work, play and shop in their community, now and in the future. Together we will create a vision for the future of the community and make recommendations to help achieve that vision.” Preliminary recommendations are scheduled to be presented to the Planning Board in Winter 2025.

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/east-county/silver-spring/eastern-silver-spring-communities-plan/>

SOECA Halloween Parade on October 31 at 6pm

Like in past years, there will be three separate routes for different sections of the neighborhood, all designed to keep children from having to cross any major streets. Volunteers from the Social Committee will lead each parade. Neighbors who aren't directly on the parade route are encouraged to bring their candy and distribute goodies along the way. The parade doesn't preclude kids from trick-or-treating where they please in the neighborhood. Neighbors who don't wish to be visited should turn off their outside lights. See the attached flyer for the parade routes.

The next SOECA Rain Garden Walk

The SOECA Environment Committee is organizing a Rain Garden Walk on October 26, from 8:30 to 10:30 am. It will feature neighbors' rain gardens with tips for your situation plus DEP, FOSC and SOECA Environment Committee experts. Look for details on the listserv.

Springsong Museum Update

Plans for Springsong Museum at the southern trailhead of the Northwest Branch Trail on Colesville Road (near Trader Joes) continue on schedule. Over the summer the museum secured a \$50,000 grant and raised the required matching funds. The new museum will be designed by students from Virginia Tech School of Architecture under the leadership of Professor Paul Emmons.

Springvale Terrace Redevelopment

The project team continues working to keep the project moving forward. All funding is lined up, but there are other steps involved before building permits can be issued. The team believes it can close those final transactions in February or March 2026.

In the meantime, they are working with County and HUD staff to approve the demolition of the building as soon as possible. While the timeline is still in flux, they hope to begin demolition in November. Max Glikman, Associate Director, Development at Enterprise Community Development, is happy to answer any questions that people have: mglikman@enterprisecommunity.org

SOECA Email List Netiquette

The SOECA email list provides a very efficient way to share information. The email list is not sponsored by or supported by SOECA; it was

started by, and is managed by, Jonathan Bernstein as a benefit to all.

Jon noted that some exchanges he saw in the Spring suggested it would be helpful for him to review the netiquette for the email list.

- This group is not for commercial advertising.
- Messages should be signed with your name and street.
- Discuss issues/problems, not individuals. Refrain from making comments that are negative, harmful, or defamatory—even if the individual is not a member of the email group.
- Remember that the SOECA email group is a public communication, not a private conversation.
- Please don't forward private messages to the group without the permission of the original sender.
- Avoid messages that pass on information that might not be true or might only be partially true.
- Follow the golden rule: Treat other people in the email group as you would want them to treat you.
- Be careful with humor and sarcasm: Tone of voice rarely translates in email.

While advertising is not allowed, there is value in sharing information about events or businesses with whom you have had a good experience. As for politics, please be sensitive to posting about such topics. A good guideline is to freely post about political events but refrain from political advocacy.

SOECA Environment Committee

Unrestrained Pets. Did you know that Montgomery County has a leash law? Any

dog must be on a leash, even in public parks. Owners of unleashed dogs can be fined. Also, like dogs, cats are required to wear up-to-date rabies and pet license tags, and cat owners must ensure their cats are confined to their property..

Pools and Hot Tubs. If you're draining your pool or hot tub for the season, please make sure your treated water doesn't go into Sligo Creek. Chlorine and other chemicals can hurt aquatic life! See the County's guidance here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/property-care/pool-discharge-guidelines.pdf>

Car Washing and Detailing. Don't let the runoff from washing/detailing your car go into the nearby storm drain. The runoff can hurt water quality. There are mats you can buy (or make your own) to prevent runoff and be sure to ask your detailer to use a mat to protect the creek. The County has more info here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/car-washing.html>

Where Are All the Birds?

(www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back/)

The North American bird population has lost 2.9 billion breeding adults since the 1970s. More than 90% of the losses come from just 12 families including sparrows, blackbirds, warblers, and finches. There are some things people can do to stop the devastation. Among them are:

- Make your house's windows safer
- Keep your cats indoors
- Reduce your lawn by planting native species
- Avoid using pesticides

SOECA Halloween Parade



**Friday, Oct. 31
Starting at 6 p.m.**

Like in years past, there will be three separate parades for different sections of the neighborhood, all designed to keep children from having to cross any major streets. Volunteers from the Social Committee will lead each parade.

Neighbors who aren't directly on the parade route are encouraged to bring their candy and distribute goodies somewhere along the way. The parade, of course, doesn't preclude kids from trick-or-treating anywhere they please in the neighborhood. And neighbors who don't wish to be visited should turn off their outside lights.

