

28 September 2022

Hello Neighbors!

Thank you to all who helped make the **SRCA picnic and annual meeting** a success! A copy of the annual meeting minutes will be posted on the 'Documents' page of our website, seminaryridge.net, once the Board approves them at the October 6 meeting. The approved September Board Meeting minutes have already been posted.

If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible! So far only about 100 households have done so! You may make checks payable to SRCA and send to Scott Sutherland, Treasurer, at 813 St. Stephens Road, or use the website to pay via PayPal.

There is an important community event coming up that we want to bring to your attention:

Duke Street *In Motion* is an project that is underway by the City of Alexandria that will likely bring substantial changes to future traffic on Duke Street.

SRCA member Scott Sutherland has attended several of the meetings on this topic as a private citizen and summarized the matter for us at the annual meeting. Sutherland explained that the city received an \$87 million grant from the State to design and implement bus rapid transit along Duke Street between Landmark Center and the King Street Metro station. The city is currently holding meetings to decide what the re-design options should be. To accomplish the task, the City appointed an 11 member "Duke Street Transitway Advisory Group" that has held five meetings to date.

Sutherland's assessment from the Group is that there is a strong majority of the panel that favors establishing dedicated bus and bicycle lanes for the entire length of the project. It's not clear how the city can accomplish multiple dedicated lanes for buses and bikes without major impacts to automobile traffic and on the quality of living for those whose homes front onto Duke Street, especially those homes and yards currently buffered from busy traffic by frontage roads.

The Advisory Group has committed to the principle of dedicated bus and bicycle lanes and has also decided on a goal of lowering the speed limits along Duke Street. These actions will likely result in hampering automobile traffic flows. This process will probably be more challenging than what occurred on Seminary Road due to a much higher volume of cars that travel along Duke Street. If you remove automobiles from a lane or add bus lanes down the center of the street, there are stretches where there will only be one lane for cars in each direction. There has been some talk in the Advisory Group about also eliminating frontage roads, such as the one near the corner of Fort Williams Parkway and Duke Street. Because the homes in that stretch do not have driveways, if that frontage road becomes a traffic or bus lane, it is unclear where those residents will be able to park. One member of Advisory Group did question the option that would include adding bus lanes into the middle lanes of the street, asking how people would be able to make left turns (across bus only lanes) into their neighborhoods? Sutherland strongly encouraged SRCA members and others to become involved in the process to determine the future of cars, buses, bikes, and pedestrians on Duke Street.

The next phase of the process will be gathering public input during October. A few meetings will present alternatives and include listening sessions. This means **there is a short 28-day window for those who are concerned to be involved and voice their opinion**. The city's transportation staff will also seek input online. "No Change" is not an option, so for citizens that use Duke Street it is important to express their ideas and concerns because change is coming.

There are several ways you will be able to learn more and give your input:

To start, simply **search 'Alexandria Duke Street In Motion'** or click this

link: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion#DukeStreetTransitwayAdvisoryGroup>

More information will become available through that website.

- 1. View the kick-off webinar: Available online beginning on October 1**
- 2. Share your input using the online feedback form: Available online beginning on October 1**
- 3. Learn more at an in-person gathering (details below)**
 - Segment 3* (Roth Street – King Street Metro Station): October 12, 6:30-8:30pm, Bishop Ireton Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria

- Segment 2* (Jordan Street – Roth Street): October 17, 6:30-8:30pm, Bishop Ireton Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria
- Segment 1* (West End Alexandria – Jordan Street): October 20, 6:30-8:30pm, Patrick Henry Rec Center, 4653 Taney Ave, Alexandria
- Corridor-wide Open House (no presentation at this meeting): October 26, 5:30-8:30pm (drop in any time), Patrick Henry Rec Center, 4653 Taney Ave, Alexandria

**Note that you can learn about and provide feedback on all segments at each meeting.*

Other important announcements and matters of interest discussed at the Annual Meeting:

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School (SSSAS) Homecoming Game will take place this Saturday afternoon, October 1, on the football field of the SSSAS Upper School campus. Also, a Homecoming dance will take place in the Upper School gym on Saturday night. Thus, there will be more cars than usual in the neighborhood on Saturday. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Beth Chase, SRCA Liaison to SSSAS, at bchase@sssas.org.

The Seminary Ridge Halloween party and parade will return on October 31! This year's Halloween party and parade will be held in the Hardee Place cul-de-sac starting at 5pm. SRCA will provide pizza and drinks for trick-or-treaters. We also plan to have a fire truck and police car for the kids to see and sit in as well, but this is always dependent upon availability. If you would like to help with set-up and/or clean-up, please email Katie Dominick at dominick.katherineross@gmail.com.

Feedback Requested on Delivery Format for SRCA Directories: The SRCA directories and addendums are becoming difficult to juggle in the printed format. The Board asked for input at the SRCA picnic about whether people would like to receive the next copy of the SRCA Directory electronically (sent directly to the emails on file; NOT posted in any public forum) or printed. 30 responses were received: 21 in favor of electronic, 9 in favor of printed. Please note: **The Board would like to request additional feedback from the community, so please email news4srca@gmail.com and indicate your preferred method of delivery (electronic or printed) by Thursday October 5 so the Board can determine how to proceed moving forward at the October monthly meeting.**

Alexandria Police Department Updates: Mr. Basset, Sgt. Moore, Sgt. Macaro, Officer Saks, and Officer Watts-Cerrato from the Alexandria Police Department attended the annual meeting and participated in a lengthy Q&A session. Q&A discussions included topics such as recruiting challenges, APD's new system for determining prioritization and allocation of services, traffic monitoring in Seminary Ridge, the new law that went into effect July 1 regarding modified mufflers, the biggest new crime involving catalytic converters, the violence in Bradlee shopping center now that school is back in session, how we can support the police department and much more. The full Q&A will be

included within the Annual Meeting minutes that will be posted on our website once approved by the Board. Also, **the APD is hiring!** Police and civilian unit positions are available, even some part-time volunteer positions at as few as three hours a week. There is no age limit to apply. Volunteers can help out in any office – fingerprinting, creating brochures, etc.

Seminary Hill Association (SHA) Updates: Our SHA liaison, Paul Judge, updated us on what SHA is and what their big issues are right now: housing density, the sale of Inova Hospital on Seminary Road and the fact that the City will likely re-zone the current Inova hospital property, proposed transportation changes to Duke Street, creek restoration, and light and noise ordinances.

Update on the City's Plans for Strawberry Run: Joe Sestak provided an update on the status of the City's proposed stream restoration of the Strawberry Run stream in the section that runs right through our community (between Fort Worth and Duke Street along Fort Williams Parkway). An all-day meeting was held on September 10 where the City produced several new designs for review. SRCA proposed our position, which is to do nothing except stop erosion of the stream where it endangers the property of a home. We have two houses that are potentially impacted by erosion – and neither of them are actually within SRCA – but we are recommending protecting them using a natural material (wood), rather than boulders that harm the ecology and habitat. If you would like to learn more about this matter, please visit the 'Issues of Interest' page on our website, <https://www.seminaryridge.net>.

Beth El Polling Place Reminder: Our liaison between the Beth El Hebrew Congregation and SRCA, Jeremy Flachs, was unable to attend the meeting but wanted to remind existing residents and inform new residents that **Beth El is the voting location for Seminary Ridge residents no matter what type of election.**

Request for Original Pulte Documents: Historian, Mike Brookbank, is responsible for capturing events in the community since its establishment. Should any residents have original design plans by Pulte, he'd love to have them since we've seen a lot of change since the early days. As people clean out their homes, he'd like to preserve these old SRCA and Pulte documents for history.

Quorum Established: SRCA's Bylaws require an Annual Meeting, at which the members elect officers for the coming year and transact other business that may arise. To take any such action, the Bylaws require a quorum (present in person or represented by proxy) of 10% of the owners of the 237 lots in Seminary Ridge, which is 24. The quorum requirement was met at the annual meeting by 35 attendees in person plus 40 via proxy, for a total of 75 homes represented.

Voting Results: Votes were taken on two matters and members had been urged to vote in writing prior to the meeting. Ninety-one (91) ballots were received. First, a set of proposed revisions to SRCA's Constitution and Bylaws, circulated in advance, received the required two-thirds majority, with 81 votes in favor, 9 votes opposed, and

one blank ballot. These changes will therefore be incorporated into a revised version of the SRCA Bylaws and Constitution. Second, the entire slate of officers proposed by the Board received 91 votes, with no write-in candidates offered. The new Board's members are:

- Richie Weiblinger, President
- Krista Ludwig Poretz, First Vice President
- Katie Dominick, Second Vice President
- Karen Meade, Secretary
- Scott Sutherland, Treasurer
- David Pritzker, Parliamentarian
- Jeanne Jacob, Immediate Past President