Greater Olney Civic Association, Inc
2026-09-08 Representatives Meeting Minutes
APPROVED: OCTOBER 13, 2026

The 2026-09-08 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted in-person in the Brookeville Academy, 6 High St., Brookeville,, MD 20833 and online via Zoom Web teleconference

A quorum was present.. V= Attended virtually

Officers

- Curtis Chappell, President
- Matt Quinn, Exec Vice President (Cherrywood)
- Thomas Canavan, 1st Vice President
- (Hallowell)
- Nicolas Boss, Treasurer
- Kristen Quinn, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- Irina Norell, Immediate Past President (Norbeck Meadows)

Members

- Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm)
- Diane Littlefield (Olney Acres)
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Lou Welantetz (Preserve at Small's Nursery)

Guests

- Dawn Leudtke's office, Montgomery County Council, District 7
- Ginny ?
- Stacy
- Additional participants on Zoom, names not recorded

President Curtis Chappell called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm EST

Agenda/Minutes Approval

- September 8,, 2026 agenda accepted with no additions or changes.
- June 9, 2026 minutes approved with no additions or corrections:

Guest Speakers

Jennifer Fagman

Jennifer discussed neighborhood impacts of the Sandy Spring Friends House apartment project

- Support was expressed for the retirement community's expansion, noting the inclusion of an internal bridge to improve safety on Norwood Road.

Committee Reports

Public Safety and Governance Committee - Thomas Canavan, Chair

- **Olney Community Center:** The county is pivoting from the Capital One building to a larger bank building (former Ethan Allen store) to serve as a civic center and police substation. The facility is expected to be ready by January 2027.
- **Olney Golf Park Development:** There is significant opposition to a proposal for 235 townhouses due to environmental concerns (well water), traffic, and inconsistency with the Olney master plan. A planning board hearing is scheduled for September 24.

- **Zoning Amendments:**
  - **ADUs (2606):** Amendments regarding size, setback, and parking to align county code with state law
  - **Event Permitting (2611):** Removal of the 75% resident sign-off requirement for events in remote areas.
  - Thomas will follow-up on the ADU amendment to provide more information to our members.

Transportation Committee - Mindy Badin, Chair:
- School Bus Safety: Police issued 260 tickets in the first week of school; passing a bus can result in a $570 ticket
- Speed Limit Reductions: Limits have been lowered on Morningwood Drive (25 mph), Queen Elizabeth (30 mph), and Brink Road (35 mph).
- Traffic Enforcement: Red light cameras will begin doubling as "speed on green" cameras by the end of the year
- DUI Enforcement: The county disbanded the Alcohol Initiatives Unit due to a 200-officer deficit. Mindy urged members to write to the County Council to suggest using liquor store revenue to fund police hiring
- Members or other interested community members were encouraged to join the Transportation Committee.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements

September 15: **1:30 PM:** County Council hearing on the Capital Improvements Program for the new community building.
7:00 PM: D14 Democratic Club legislative town hall at the library
September 20: MedStar partnership event at the Farmer's Market
September 24: Planning board hearing for Olney Golf Park.
October 3: Friends House Fall Festival (11 AM – 4 PM)
October 4: Sandy Spring Museum event at the Farmer's Market.
October 13: Next GOCA meeting at 7:00 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:28 pm
Submitted by Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary