



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

C i t i z e n s A s s o c i a t i o n



July/August 2014 Newsletter

**Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, July 14th - 7:00 p.m.
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road**

July 14 meeting to feature two guest speakers

The July 14 SFCCA meeting is currently scheduled to begin promptly at 7:00pm with a brief update from Jason Rich, the Washington Gas Construction Supervisor for the ongoing project to replace gas mains and service lines within South Four Corners.



**Washington
Gas**

He will also be available to answer questions from those present.



Montgomery County Police Officer Joy Patil will also speak, providing summer crime prevention updates and advice. As a Community Services Officer and our neighborhood's primary contact with the police department, Officer Patil will be available to answer questions on topics such as: any impacts of the new police station; forming a Neighborhood Watch group; traffic calming strategies; rules related to sharing the road with bikes, cars and pedestrians; or other issues raised by those attending.

Please plan to attend to hear both of these guest speakers!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 14, 2014—7 p.m.—Community Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road

July 19, 2014—10 a.m.—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

August 5, 2014—7 p.m.—National Night Out, South Four Corners Park

August 23, 2014—Ice Cream Social, Lanark Way

September 8, 2014—7p.m.—Community Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road

September 13, 2014—10 a.m.—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Highlights from the May 12, 2014 SFCCA Meeting Provided by Pat Wills

David Meininger showed those in attendance the new SFCCA canvas bags, with larger lettering. These bags are intended for SFCCA volunteers and for new residents.

Plans and preparations were described for much-anticipated Community Day on May 18, which will be held rain or shine. Many volunteers had already contributed, and Becky Lupes had posted on the listserv a link to an electronic sign-up for additional volunteers.

Larry Dickter reported on the very well-attended Montgomery County Council District 5 Candidates Forum held on May 7. A very nice SFCCA banner had been made for the event, to go with similar banners from the other two sponsoring associations. Larry noted that the County Council can also double as the Board of Health (passing the smoking ban, for example), and it appoints the Chair of the Planning Board, a powerful position. The forum session was recorded.

In accordance with association by-laws, the annual election of SFCCA officers was held at the May meeting. Dick Messalle and Pat Wills agreed to be nominated to continue as Treasurer and Recording Secretary, respectively. Dave Nettleton nominated John Holden to be President, and Larry Dickter as Vice President. The nominations were seconded, and all four persons were elected unanimously by the members present.

Taking over as chair of the meeting, John Holden thanked outgoing officers David Meininger and Glen Richardson for their service to the association and neighborhood. He also thanked the other officers, committee chairpersons, and other volunteers throughout the neighborhood for their many contributions, citing numerous examples (e.g., Marty Maher and David M. for placing signs advertising Community Day).



Pat Wills

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Back by popular demand! We're hosting another Dumpster Day for all our neighbors and friends! We'll supply a dumpster, a free-cycle area, donuts and coffee. Plus, A Wider Circle will be onsite accepting donations that will help local, impoverished families. (Please visit www.awidercircle.org/get-involved to see their wish list.) Clean out your basements and closets and join us for Dumpster Day on Saturday, August 23!



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Crime Prevention Tips for Summer

Contributed by John Holden

Here are some tips to help you keep yourself and your home safe during the summer months. (They are adapted from tips from a federal agency's Office of Security and Law Enforcement.) And remember: **If you witness any suspicious behavior, contact the Montgomery County Police (non-emergency: 301-279-8000).**

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the backyard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; lock your back door when you are in the front yard.
- During the summer weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front yard and backyards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification, and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.

Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can spot criminals and alert the police and the community to their presence. Get involved in your community, and help your summertime to be happy and safe.

Important Phone Numbers



Montgomery County General Information & Service Request, Call 311
Outside of Montgomery County, call [240-777-0311](tel:240-777-0311)
The TTY (for the hearing impaired) number is [240-773-3556](tel:240-773-3556)



Police & Fire Emergency, 911
Fire Non-Emergency, [240-683-6520](tel:240-683-6520)
Police Non-Emergency, [301-279-8000](tel:301-279-8000)



24-Hour Emergency Preparedness Hotline, [240-777-4200](tel:240-777-4200)



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Electric power outages or downed wires, [1-877-737-2662](tel:1-877-737-2662)

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Date: Saturday, August 23rd

Time: 3-4:30pm

Location: Lanark Way between Portland
Road and Portland Place.

Join your neighbors for our annual ice cream social hosted by the
South Four Corners Citizens Association

Fun for all ages! We encourage each of you to invite two neighbors!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS!

August 5, 7:00p.m.: National Night Out

An annual event designed to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships across the nation.

August 23, 3p.m.: Ice Cream Social

October 26, 4p.m.: Halloween Parade

Join us for a parade and sweet treats at the South Four
Corners Park

December 6, 5p.m.: Tree Lighting Celebration



For more details visit www.southfourcorners.com

Safety Tips for Storm Season

Based on a notice from the Montgomery County Office of Public Information, **Contributed by John Holden**

June is traditionally the start of the summer storm and hurricane season. That's why County officials are urging residents to take precautions to stay safe, including heeding storm warnings issued by the National Weather Service, and taking shelter when appropriate.

One free and easy step to take to help keep yourself and family safe is to sign up for Alert Montgomery to receive up-to-date information on hurricane watches and warnings and other storms.

Alert Montgomery sign-up information is available online at the County's Call Center (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311 and enter 'Alert Montgomery' in the Search box) or by calling 311 or 240-777-0311, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Alerts can be sent to one or more electronic devices, including cell phones, text pagers and wireless PDAs, along with home and work emails.



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The Gardening Guru

Jeanne Berman, Horticulturalist

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Gardening early this season has been questionable. Many gardeners are still wondering if their hydrangeas will bloom this year or if their crepe myrtles will recover.

Veggies are having trouble with this very cool and wet beginning to the summer, which means your produce will arrive later than expected. The winter snows kept our plants sleeping longer than usual and may even have killed some of our marginal hardy plants. **HAVE PATIENCE and keep digging!**



There is something very relaxing and pleasurable when gardening on a warm summer day. You breathe in the fresh air that is scented with blossoms that continue to change throughout the seasons-you might enjoy the rustling leaves in the trees on a breezy day while listening to the birds sing. Some prefer watching wildlife that gathers in the garden, the bees and butterflies going from flower to flower. Squirrels and rabbits hiding under bushes.

Many of us new to gardening do not know where to begin. There are many items to consider such as design, choosing the right plants, and can you create a friendly atmosphere for wildlife. You will also need to consider what physical work you will need to do and your concern for safety in creating a new garden. If you want to look after a garden but do not consider yourself a gardener, Please consider sharing your garden as a classroom and many of us who had to begin somewhere may be able to help you. Others of us can give you ideas like trying some gardening in pots and if you like it you can expand on it next year. We have a lot of experts in our neighborhood and we share this information in our garden classrooms. So if you are new to the whole idea why not share your thoughts and your garden with us?

Anyone wishing to share their garden with other SFCCA neighbors as a classroom please contact me by e-mail Jeanne Berman: jzberman8@gmail.com

I would also like to extend a BIG Thank you to all the gardeners who shared their extra plants to swap at Community Day.

Let's Take the First Step, Together!

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Community Day 2014

Jeanne Berman

"We couldn't have asked for a nicer day", was heard often throughout the day from friends and neighbors who attended our Community Day on Sunday May 18th. It was a beautiful spring day filled with many activities for kids and adults. Many neighbors brought their favorite side dishes as the "potluck" to go with pizza, subs and chicken dishes courtesy of our neighbors from Jerry's Subs and Pizza, 4Corners Pub, and Nando's of downtown Silver Spring.



Upon arriving outside many of us were fascinated by Paul Dugard creating bubbles everywhere - small ones and large ones which left some of us wondering if we have ever seen that many bubbles and how did they grow so large. Inside, the entertainment began with an amazing magic show from our neighbor and magician, Andrew Dicell. Everyone in attendance was happily asking, "How did he do that?" Many were welcomed by our neighbors Eileen Broderick, Marty Maher and Shantell Stroman at the SFCCA membership table.



Walking into our "dining room", the beautiful and colorful decorations created by our neighbors, Ruth and Bob Hornickel, set the atmosphere to begin our festive day. While relaxing and eating, Thanks to Andrew Carrol and the wonderful sound system he provided which allowed attendees to enjoy the music of Suzanne Brindamour and John Previti, and later in the day, the sounds of Marty Tucker and Patrick Clark. The music was fabulous!

Children had a great time in the crafting room making beautiful pinwheels and paper flowers with Evelyn Lear and went home with their creative treasures. Some even made special cards with Danielle Rickwalder from Close to My Heart.

Adults had the opportunity to have their blood pressure checked by friends from Holy Cross Hospital and some were lucky enough to pick up a new composter or recycle bin from Recycle Montgomery.



If you weren't sure how to swing a golf club, you were treated to a golf lesson and some fun golfing games by neighbors (and pro golfers) Martin Zadravec and Adam Fishman.



Other neighbors challenged each other to a Bocce Ball game. Becky Lupes held old fashion children's games on the field and later in the day her husband, Matt, taught some of us a few tips on how to play Ultimate Frisbee during a game on the field.

Thanks to the many cake and cupcake donations, Jenny Cannon was able to have as many Cakewalks as the children delighted in as they continued to walk in circles hoping to win. The cakes lasted throughout the day so many were able to have a nice, sweet treat. Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 4903 who helped paint faces of happy kids while enjoying the outside activities.

Gardeners traded plants with advice and help from Jeanne Berman. Behnke's Nursery donated herbs, vegetables, and flowers to be planted by children (with the assistance of Nancy Baranek) in their own decorated pots to take home.

Community Day was a treat; it was a volunteer effort by friends and neighbors of our South Four Corners Civic Association. Thanks to all of the above named and those who helped and remain nameless. Please continue to be a friend and neighbor of SFCCA.



Please remember to thank (and patronize) these businesses who helped sponsor our efforts in this community wide event.

**7-11 | 4Corners Pub
Jerry's Subs and Pizza | Nando's of Silver Spring
Subway | Forest Glen Barber Shop
Behnke's Nursery**

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Pat Wills, Recording Secretary

Larry Dickter, Vice President
Richard Messalle, Treasurer

South Four Corners Citizens Association Chairpersons

Eileen Broderick, Membership
Ben Gross, Newsletter Editor
SFCCAEditor@gmail.com

Marie Girardot, Neighborhood Safety
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