



# **SOUTH FOUR CORNERS**

## Citizens Association



**March/April 2013 Newsletter**

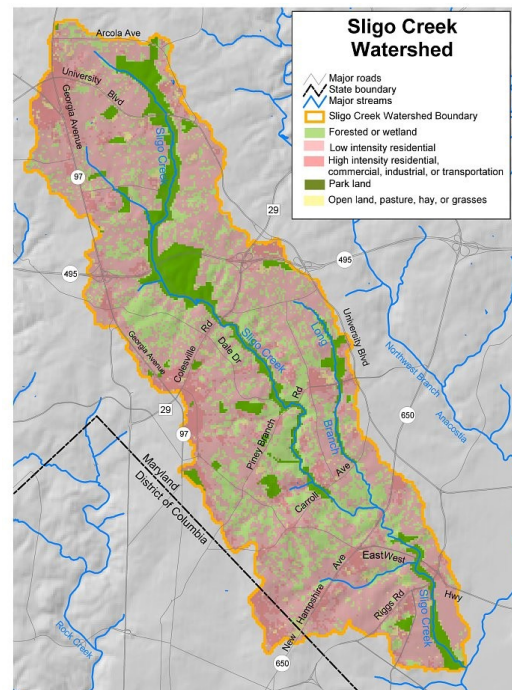
**Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.  
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road**

### **March Meeting Speakers**

We will welcome two speakers to the March meeting, both experts in watershed with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). They'll help us better understand our impact on the Sligo Creek Watershed and discuss some scheduled work on the area.

Jennifer St. John (Jenny) is a watershed planner with the County's DEP, Watershed Restoration section. Jenny graduated from the University of Maryland in 2006 with a degree in Environmental Science and Policy. Jenny helped to develop DEP's Green Street initiative through her work on the right-of-way LID project in the Forest Estates community. Here, rain gardens and bio-retention swales were installed along the roadways to capture and treat stormwater runoff closer to the source before it entered into the Wheaton Branch of Sligo Creek. A similar effort is currently underway to treat Dennis Avenue stormwater runoff.

Mark Wilcox is a senior engineer at the DEP, Watershed Restoration section. Mark graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a degree in Marine and Environmental Sciences in 1996 and Portland State University in 2002 with a Master's degree in Civil (Environmental) Engineering and Graduate Certificate in Hydrology. Since joining in 2004, he has managed numerous capital watershed restoration projects including the Sligo Creek Recreation Center LID project, the Dennis Avenue Health Center LID project, the Arcola Greenstreets project, and the Dennis Avenue Greenstreets project.



### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**March 11, 2013, 7 p.m.**—SFCCA Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd.

**March 16, 2013, 10 a.m.**—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts).

**April 20, 2013, 8-11 a.m.**—SFCCA Community-wide Yard Sale

**May 13, 2013, 7 p.m.**—SFCCA Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd.

## 2013 Community-wide Yard Sale

### Betty Batty

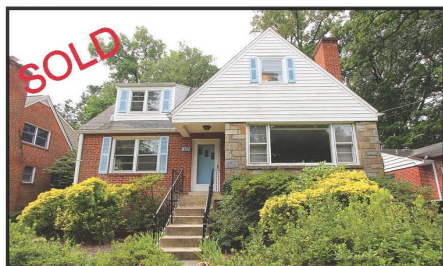
Based on the success of last year's event, the 2013 community-wide yard sale will be held on April 20 from 8-11a.m. and we're making it really easy for you. We ask that each neighbor set up in their own yard or coordinate with your neighbor and host in their yard.

SFCCA will advertise online, in the local newspaper and will post signs at all entrances to the community. We encourage each street to make sure there is a sign at the end of their block directing traffic to their sale. Additional details and tips will be posted on Website and listserv.

We are looking for a volunteer to oversee the yard sale and few individuals to make and hang signs. Please contact Betty Batty at [betty@smartlivingteam.com](mailto:betty@smartlivingteam.com) or 301-832-7609 if you are interested in volunteering.

# YARD SALE

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## Calling All Volunteers!

### David Meininger

All current SFCCA volunteers—please contact me immediately via email: [jdavidm@juno.com](mailto:jdavidm@juno.com). Also, your attendance at the March meeting would be greatly appreciated!



## Editor's Corner

Ben Gross

While our snowfall has been minimal to date, the first-ever SFCCA "Build a Snowman" contest is still open! The categories are: Biggest Snowman, Most Creative Snowman and Best Snowman Built by Kids Under 10.

Winners will receive a special prize from a local business. Take a photo of your creation and e-mail it to me at [SFCCAEditor@gmail.com](mailto:SFCCAEditor@gmail.com).



Jeanne Berman's Entry!

## How Can I Stop The Gazette? Based on an article by John Holden

Some of us love receiving free newspapers, while others toss them right in the recycling bin. If you are tired of picking up that publication you never read or are going on vacation, you can end delivery with one simple phone call to the Gazette's circulation department at 301-670-7350.



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## Shall I Stay or Shall I Go: Emergency Preparedness

**Jim Janssen**

As we recently saw in Super Storm Sandy and witnessed in hurricanes Rita and Katrina, there are times that a decision must be made whether to stay in our homes or evacuate. Often, those decisions are made for us. The process to evacuate though begins well before the event happens. Being prepared for leaving our homes has a number of steps that need to be undertaken.

The first major step is to determine where to go. I recommend you choose two different possible locations. One location should be northwest of this area and one southwest so that you have options allowing for the tracking of the event.

The second step is to contact the friends or family where you would like to go to and ask to them to allow you and your family to come and stay during an emergency.

The third step is to map out and travel to these places to see how long and what the possible obstacles may be in getting there. Map out alternative routes in case of blockages. Plan on using secondary roads to get out of the immediate area as major routes will likely be jammed.

The last step is to develop a list of items to take and set up a pre-prepared "Go-Bag". More on Go-Bags and other items in a future article.

If possible, before the event, make sure the car has enough fuel to get to where you are going or at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  tank of fuel.

Call ahead or as you are leaving to notify your destination that you are coming. Not only will this put them on notice, but if you are late, they may be able to alert authorities that you may be missing. When deciding to leave, do so quickly. The longer one waits, the more traffic one will encounter. At a certain point, it will probably be better to just stay put as a mass evacuation out of our area will cause gridlock. In addition, be sure to secure your house before you leave.

***NOTE: Daylight Saving Time is coming on March 1. Check your home detectors' back up batteries and your emergency supplies.***


***It would also be a good day to review emergency plans and practice them.***



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## Notes from the January 14, 2013 SFCCA Meeting Provided by Pat Wills

The meeting was brought to order with 36 neighbors in attendance and two guest speakers.

SFCCA president David Meininger made a motion to elect Pat Wills to the vacant position of Recording Secretary. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote of members in attendance.

Mark Bittner, the Project Director for the Holy Cross Hospital construction shared that the expanded parking garage in the front will be assembled in four weeks from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup> and completed by August. The new tower in the rear will be completed in the fall of 2015.

Clay Kaufman brought us up to date on the Siena School, which opened on January 28<sup>th</sup>. School is from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. with 80 students in grades 4 to 12. The Boys and Girls Club can still use the facility for eight years although the youth football program will no longer be there.

Michael Lucy, Jeanne Berman and David Meininger presented a discussion regarding the vanishing tree canopy in South Four Corners. There are watershed and landscaping improvements underway in the neighborhood with a goal to replace all public trees on Forest Glen Road from Sligo Creek Pkwy to Godwin Dr. SFCCA neighbor, Dominic Quattrocchi, an arborist with the M-NCPPC is helping with the project. Individuals wishing to plant trees on their property can get rebates from the county or state if they plant native trees. Dial 311 and tell them you want a tree but before planting, dial 811 for a free utility survey.

Glen Richardson gave a status report on Keep SFCCA Residential. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Appeals had their last hearing on the special exception. They declined to reconsider their vote of last July that denied the special exception. The applicant did not appeal the decision to the Circuit Court. We can't consider the matter closed until five houses are built on the location.

Larry Dickter provided an update on accessory apartment legislation being considered by the County Council. Some recommendations provided by SFCCA and the Montgomery County Civic Federation have been included in the current version of the proposed ordinance.

Dick Messalle, SFCCA Treasurer, provided a budget update for 2013. Based on 150 members, revenues are estimated at \$2,250 from membership and \$4,000 from advertisers. Advertisers support the newsletter, please support them!

Expenditures for 2013 are budgeted to be \$4,826. Budgeted expenditures include \$1,908 for six newsletters, \$1,300 for community events, \$600 for membership promotions, and \$500 for meeting room rental. Should the need or opportunity arise, SFCCA has some flexibility to spend money that is not budgeted.

The meeting closed with SFCCA President, David Meininger, reminding everyone that volunteers are needed. It's only a couple of hours every two months. Please help your neighborhood and give a little time!

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## The Gardening Guru

*Jeanne Berman*

I am looking for neighbors to volunteer their yards / gardens for this season's "**Garden / Classroom**" **program**. You tell me/us when you would like us to come and we will listen to your garden concerns, learn about your favorite garden items and help offer suggestions and advice that many of us have learned the hard way. Please e-mail me at [jzberman8@gmail.com](mailto:jzberman8@gmail.com) and please put 'garden classroom' in the subject matter. We like you to choose day and time so that everyone has an opportunity to visit gardens throughout the season. Even late summer evenings might be fun in the garden!

We have two neighbors that I know of that have recently become "Weed Warriors." The program gives you an opportunity to learn about invasive species of weeds, how to identify what we want and do not want in our environment. Visit [weedwarrors.org](http://weedwarrors.org) to find out more - maybe you can become a card carrying Weed Warrior.

English Ivy is not always a good thing growing up on your tree trunks! It may look nice to some of you but when it grows upward it blooms and birds eat the berries and the ivy continues to spread. Ivy can damage the tree trunk. I recommend cutting the ivy at the bottom of the tree trunk and let it fall and die. Be a good neighbor and don't let it spread into other yards and gardens.

**Fertilizer users BEWARE!!!!** There are new laws protecting the Chesapeake Bay from excess nutrients entering its waters from parks, golf courses, athletic fields and yes our lawns.

In 2011, The Fertilizer Use Act was signed into law in Maryland, and will be in force by October 2013.

Excess fertilizers wash into waterways that feed the Chesapeake Bay. Once in the water it promotes growth of algae blocking sunlight from reaching Bay grasses, robbing the water of oxygen and threatening underwater life.

For us as homeowners: under this law, The University of Maryland has set guidelines to help homeowners establish healthy lawns and gardens without applying unnecessary amounts of fertilizers.

Here's what the new law covers: \*prohibits using lawn fertilizers on impervious surfaces, \*prohibits using fertilizers between November 15- March 1<sup>st</sup>. \*Prohibits using fertilizers within 10-15 feet of waterways. \*Restricts the amount of phosphorus applied to turf when soil tests indicate low or medium phosphorus levels, or when the homeowner is establishing a new lawn, repairing or re-stabling a new lawn. \*Establishes maximum application rates for total nitrogen, water-soluble nitrogen and for enhanced efficiency controlled-released products. \*Authorizes the county, municipally, or the Maryland Department of Agriculture to enforce these requirements.

There are new requirements for professionals and manufacturers as well. You can read more about it at: <http://www.mda.maryland.ov/fertilizer/>

**Winter Pruning** Be careful before getting outside to prune your trees and shrubs. The weather has been kind to us and some of you want to get busy in the garden but be certain you know which trees should be pruned and when. Not all trees and shrubs have perfect rules. However here are some common plants we have in our gardens that should be pruned in March and April.

**March:** Arborvitae, Bayberry, Beautyberry, Boxwood, Camellia Sasanqua, Vitex, Cherry Laurel, Clethra, Crepe Myrtle, Redtwig Dogwood, Deciduous and evergreen Euonymus, Hypericum, Juniper, Nandina, Privet, Quince, Serviceberry and Witchazel.

**April:** Japanese Camelia, Forsythia. Honeysuckle, Winter Jasmine, Mugo Pine, Blooming Spirea, Viburnums and Weigela.

## Siena School Update

**Marty Maher**

On January 28, several SFCCA neighbors toured the recently opened Siena School. The tours were conducted by Heads of School Clay Kaufman and Jilly Darefsky, as well as Bekah Atkinson, Director of Admissions.

For many years the Siena School was located at the Montgomery Hills Baptist Church at the intersection of Forest Glen Road and Georgia Avenue. Their new location, at the former Boys and Girls Club, provides many learning facilities not available at the previous location and the space to grow. The new location includes state of the art science labs and art classrooms. For the first time ever, students have an indoor gym and their own playground.

Renovation began in July 2012 and required considerable coordination with Pepco, WSSC, Verizon and Montgomery County to ensure completion of the project. Working within the footprint of the existing building, the interior has been completely remodeled with an emphasis on natural lighting and energy efficiency, including energy-saving water fountains. The interior is designed in a Tuscan style with arches in all the corridors. Classrooms are named for each of the 17 Contrade (neighborhoods) in Siena, Italy. There is the snail, eagle, wolf, owl, giraffe, etc.

A temporary crosswalk from the bus stop on Forest Glen Road across from the Siena School was installed. The old crosswalk was never replaced after Forest Glen Road was repaved this past spring. Several students have already taken Ride On #8, and have expressed gratitude to SFCCA neighbors who have helped with directions and instructions.

It has plans to expand the classroom space and number of students while working within the footprint of the existing building. Currently, 80 students (half girls and half boys) attend school from 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m. in grades 4-12 There is no food prepared on-site.

In the past two years, Mr. Kaufman and The Siena School have worked hard to establish a relationship with SFCCA. We welcome them to our community.

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