



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

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



March/April 2014 Newsletter

**Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, May 12th - 7:00 p.m.
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road**

Our March 10 meeting will feature two guest speakers.

A spokesperson for Washington Gas will brief the neighbors on their upcoming project to replace gas mains and service lines within SFCCA.



**Washington
Gas**



Our second speaker is Mr. Mark Bittner, Project Manager for the Holy Cross Hospital expansion.

Mr. Bittner will brief us on the status of the project.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 15, 2014—10 a.m.—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

March 22, 2014—10 a.m. Gardening Class—Selecting plants, perennial (tools to be provided, 408 Gilmour Drive

March 25, 2014—Gardening class—Planting trees, shrubs and perennials (location TBD)

April 26, 2014, 8 a.m.—11 a.m.—SFCCA Community Yard Sale

May 12, 2014—7 p.m.—Community Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road

May 17, 2014—10 a.m.—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

May 18, 2014—3-7 p.m.—SFCCA Community Day

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Hi Pat and Chris.

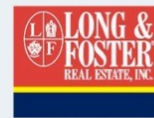
My wife and I thank you profusely for helping us navigate the real estate minefields of finding a new home and then selling the home that you led us to nine years ago.

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*Thanks again,
Dave*

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Eileen Broderick, Membership Chair

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You can pay by either check or PayPal.

To pay with PayPal, go to our website SOUTHFOURCORNERS.com, select the MEMBERSHIP tab and click on the DONATE button.

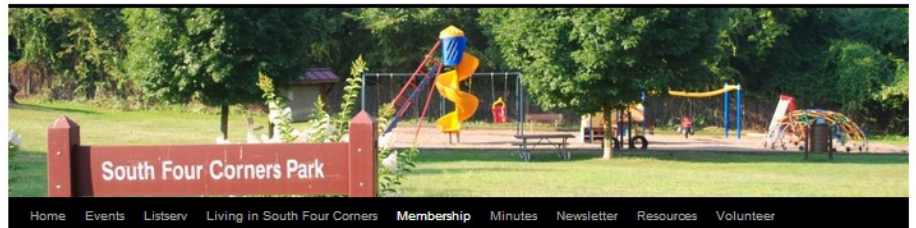
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Checks may be mailed to SFCCA Membership, PO Box 792, Silver Spring, MD 20918-0792.

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Recent Posts

- Washington Gas and Holy Cross Hospital reps to speak.
- Montgomery Blair Annual Stutch Sale
- Second annual SFCCA "Build a Snowman" contest
- Guest speaker announced for next meeting.
- Annual Tree Lighting – Saturday, Dec. 7

Recent Comments

There are no public comments available to display.

Archives

- March 2014
- February 2014
- December 2013
- November 2013
- September 2013
- August 2013
- July 2013
- June 2013
- May 2013

Annual Community Yard Sale *Betty Batty*

The sale will be held on April 26 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.

The association will advertise online and in local newspapers 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. We'll post tips and updates on listserv and Website.

We have scheduled A Wider Circle to pick up that day as well between 1-5pm. They will only pick up from one location so you'll have to bring your donations to a central spot. If you can volunteer your driveway as a drop off location it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Betty at battyrealestate@gmail.com or [301-832-7609](tel:301-832-7609)



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Lucky Dog Animal Rescue Adoption Event ♣

Sunday, March 16 • 12-2pm
Petsmart • 5154 Nicholson Lane

Help us make this the luckiest month ever for these adorable animals in need of loving homes! The Tamara Kucik Team is partnering with Lucky Dog Animal Rescue for an adoption event and fundraiser. The Team has pledged \$1,000 in donation matching, so your donations go twice as far. Donations can be made at the event or at www.luckydoganimalrescue.org.

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Jim Janssen introduced the speaker for this evening, Greg St. James of CERT, Montgomery County Community Emergency Response Team, who explained the services his group provides to prepare for emergencies of any kind - tornados, snipers, snow emergencies, automobile accidents, and other disasters. Jeff Alderdice, Carlos Santiso and Jay Wilson also participated in the presentation.

The CERT program was started in Los Angeles when Mexico was struck with an earthquake and emergency response was offered but of the volunteers, 20% of the responders were hurt trying to help those injured by the earthquake. It is now a



FEMA program and training is available in

Montgomery County. The 3 ½ hours training event is given free to groups of generally 50 or more. The next presentation is scheduled for March 29. Events are scheduled about six times per year and pre-registration is recommended.

Next one in Montgomery County is scheduled in April.

Mr. St James suggested the following when coming upon the scene of an accident: Know the mile marker for the location to call emergency responders; do not get into a car as the airbag may inflate; stop downstream from the accident scene so as not to be hit yourself.

CERT has instructions available for children four and older called Ready Pirates. Groups are separated for ages 4 to 6 and 7 to 10 with activities tailored to each group.

Storm Camp for 200 maximum trainees is under the Office of Emergency Management providing training for Storm Shelters. It is staffed by Red Cross or CERT volunteers and information on upcoming presentations can be obtained by contacting Mr. St James at 240-777-2407.

Larry Dickter provided some background to the recent Listserv discussion concerning plans by Washington Gas (WG) to replace gas lines throughout our neighborhood, cutting through streets that were reconstructed in 2012. Although the county has a three year moratorium on pavement cuts after roads have been repaved or reconstructed, there are exceptions for emergency utility work. Permits to this perform this work are issued by Montgomery County's Department of Permitting Services (DPS) for a period of 18 months, with the ability to request a 12-month extension. If the work begins during the moratorium, the utility company is required to restore the street, curb to curb, to the condition it was in when they started. They can't just patch up the area around the trench they dug.



If you are dissatisfied with road conditions left behind by the gas company, or by WSSC (the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, our water and sewer utility), you should call 311, the number for all Montgomery County government information and services. DPS is supposed to see to it that prompt, corrective action is taken by the utility. Some neighbors have complained recently about lumpy patch work done by WSSC.

It is imperative that DPS be made aware of any unsatisfactory work if we want to hold the utilities accountable.

The appearance of graffiti in the community has also been a recent topic of discussion on the Listserv. This is another matter that can be reported to 311 for follow up. Montgomery County Police may also be contacted, as they may want to determine if the graffiti is gang related.

Larry called attention to the information in the last newsletter (available on the SFFC website at <http://www.southfourcorners.com/>) on the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network that would run down major County arteries, with the Route 29/Colesville Road corridor being a priority route. While there is no funding in sight for this project, it could have a major impact at Four Corners if it does move forward. The County plans to conduct an official study of what would be involved in building the network. In the meantime, the Association will continue to monitor a major undertaking that will impact Four Corners - the "White Oak Science Gateway," an area slated by the County to become a major center of growth. This would include expanding the area around the FDA campus into a center for medical and life science research, as well as allowing a massive expansion of housing, jobs, and commercial space.



The concern at the moment is that this will be approved before the infrastructure improvements (e. g., transit options) needed to sustain this development is in place. Already the County is considering raising the threshold for "acceptable" traffic congestion in order to move forward with its vision. Needless to say, this will inevitably have a ripple effect in and around our neighborhood.

Larry also mentioned that the controversy surrounding development up county in Clarksburg, near the headwaters of the nearly pristine Ten Mill Creek also deserves our attention. This Creek is the source of the emergency drinking water supply for the entire DC Metro region and many scientists and environmentalists are alarmed at the threat posed to the Creek's water quality by development in such an environmentally sensitive area. Unfortunately, our own beloved Sligo Creek, which remains severely distressed after years of attempted restoration, is a testament to the "bulldoze now, remediate later" mentality.

January 13, 2014 SFCCA Meeting Notes (cont.)

Jim Janssen reported an attempted break-in at a neighbor's home at 3:05 PM. Police caught the two teens. Watch for anyone walking too closely to automobiles as they may be checking for unlocked doors.

Karen Michels mentioned there had been four to five boys and a girl wandering down Sutherland to Rogart. Also, police had two teens on the ground surrounded with lots of police cars. At Halloween, on Dallas one house down from Forest Glen, a deer had tried to get into the back hard and impaled himself on a fence. Police cruisers were called.

Another neighbor mentioned four or five teens riffling through blue bins at night.

Dave Meininger used his map of the community to indicate where tree plantings will be taking place through March 2014. The current tree canopy is 60 to 80 years old. Trees will mature in four or five years. New requests for trees will start in November 2014.

Do not forget the pruning demonstration and discussion in Dave's yard on February 22 at 10 AM. There will be a meeting on Community Day at the end of the month. Last Thursday of the month, there is a 7 PM meeting at Dave's house for advisors to the President.

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2014 SFCCA Budget

SOUTH FOUR CORNERS CITIZENS ASSN
Jan 1, 2014 - Dec31, 2014

	Budget for 2014		Actual for 2013	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
INCOME				
Dues (goal 200 members)	3,000.00		2237.46	
Advertisers	4,000.00		3926.52	
Carry Over from 2013	982.40			
EXPENSES				
Newsletter Printing (\$530/issue+expenses)		3,500.00		2685.00
Schweinhaut Center Meeting room rental		420.00		420.00
Other Association Membership dues		120.00		115.00
web site fees		13.00		13.00
Post Office box		140.00		124.00
Misc Fees /Pay Pal		15.00		9.12
Office expenses/Supplies,Copying, Postage		100.00		56.07
Community events		2,800.00		1277.00
SFCCA membership promotions		600.00		482.39
TOTAL	7,982.40	7,708.00	6,163.98	5,181.58
Carry Over		274.40		982.40



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The Gardening Guru

Jeanne Berman, Horticulturalist

I have this great little gardening book that I purchased when I was in college.

It tells you what to do when and of course it is organized by the month, for years I have used this book as my garden bible. But if you are like most people today use this Garden planner checklist online from the Maryland Department of Agriculture:

www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/wintergardenplanner.pdf.

In March it is time to get outside and begin cleaning your garden. Rake up some of the winter debris, cut back some of the grasses and perennials you left for wildlife. Prune non-flowering trees and



shrubs before new growth begins. Pines and Spruces should be pruned just before new growth starts. Arborvitae and hemlocks can be lightly pruned any time but only prune up to 1/3 of the plant to reshape them. If you remove any bottom branches they will not grow back.



Blueberries do not need to be pruned for the first 3 years they are planted, cut away diseased or dead branches. Cut back 2-4 of the oldest canes to encourage new shoots that will fruit next year. Do not work in wet soil. Get your lawnmower blade sharp-

ened. Plant cool season crops (potatoes, lettuces, peas, spinach and kale. Note: to control crabgrass, apply a pre-emergent herbicide to lawn. Please look at the Fertilizer Act of 2011 www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/FertilizerLaw_Facts_final.pdf. To see how this legislation affects you as a homeowner.

In April: Continue to clean up the garden and start adding 1-2 inches of compost to the garden beds. Plant trees, shrubs and perennials. Get to the garden centers early to see what is available. More often than not the plants you are seeking are sold well before they bloom and may be out of stock before you get a chance to add them to your garden display. This is a great time to plant evergreens.

Remember ticks are active now. Re-seed bare spots in your lawn, When planting bare root roses soak them in water for up to 2 days before planting, cut away any broken roots or canes before planting. If any of the canes have leafed out, cut them back to 12".





Remember to prune dead, straggly, or weak wood in all shrubs and trees. Prune shrubs that flower on last year's wood immediately after they bloom so they have the longest growing season to develop.

They will flower better next year (IE: beauty bush, forsythia, barberry, lilac, mock orange, privet, spirea, deutzia,) . After the spring bulbs bloom, let the leaves turn yellow and dieback before trimming. (this allows energy to go to the bulb and will make pull-

ing the leaves easier on your back.) Clean all your pots and containers and be certain to use fresh potting soil.

*Earth Day is April 22, do something inspiring with your family to celebrate this day.

*Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. Plant a tree for any reason... the birth of a new baby, a birthday, graduation, retirement, Or just because There are many reasons/ excuses to plant trees. Use Arbor day as one of them.

For more information for vegetable gardens and landscapes, use these websites from the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension.

- Grow it Eat it, Maryland's Food Gardening Network : growiteatit.umd.edu
- Home and Garden Information Center : hgic.umd.edu
- Looking forward to warmer weather?

You may want to put MAY 7th on your calendar, this should be our last day for frost.

Now let's get in the Garden!!!

Anyone wishing to participate in our "Garden Classrooms"

please contact me, Jeanne Berman

202-359-1739

or [jzberman8@gmail](mailto:jzberman8@gmail.com)

(be certain to garden classroom is in the

subject line).

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Second-annual South Four Corners Build-A-Snowman Contest

Ben Gross

Thanks to all the South Four Corners families who showed their community spirit by entering the 2ns annual Build-a-Snowman contest!

We've had plenty of snow, and you guys really showed your creativity this year—we had snow-Minecraft Creepers, snow-Nats, snow-presidents, snow forts, tropical snowmen and lots of great “traditional”: snowmen.

The fifteen entries I received are on the following page.

You can vote for your favorites by sending an email to: SFCCAEditor@gmail.com. Please include the entry number in both the subject line and body of your email.

Winner will be announced at the May 12th SFCCA meeting.

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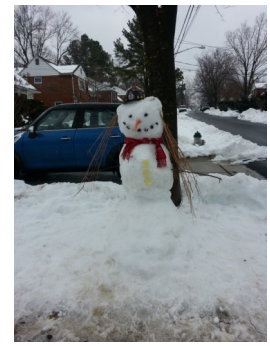
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