



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

Citizens Association



Building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time

Mar/Apr 2017

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mar 20, 2017 – 7pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

Mar 25, 2017 – 10am

Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Apr 29, 2017 – 8-11am

Community Yard Sale
(see page 6)

May 15, 2017 – 7pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

May 20, 2017 – 10am

Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Next SFCCA Meeting

Monday, March 20 at 7pm

Schweinhaut Senior Center 1000 Forest Glen Road

Join us for a unique evening of back-to-back guest presentations and Q&A

1. Al Bradford & Albert Nunez on Skylooker, A Solar Power Adventure



Bradford (center) with Nunez (right of center) with the team in front of Skylooker.

Join us when Al Bradford and Albert Nunez recount their experiences building Skylooker, a unique solar power tracking system built for the small home, that moves 180 degrees each day to catch the sun and generate power for Mr. Bradford's home on Renfrew Road.

Early in 2000, Mr. Bradford, a long-time SFC resident, embarked on a personal journey to combat climate change, fossil fuel dependence, and high electric rates by switching to solar power. His reasons for building Skylooker were not only practical, but philosophical. He sees his individual effort as an example for others to take some form of action toward more sustainable energy approaches. In 2005, Mr. Bradford joined forces with Mr. Nunez, a respected expert on solar power and solar power installations, David Wells, physicist and engineer who designed Skylooker, and others, to build Skylooker. Built in Mr. Bradford's back yard, Skylooker generates all of his electrical power for ten months of the year. A Pepco meter tracks the power given to and taken from the power grid. Mr. Bradford often marvels when he sees the meter running backwards, an indication he is giving more power to Pepco than he is taking.

In addition to sharing their experience building Skylooker, the speakers will share their enthusiasm for renewable resources and offer advice for those interested in using solar power.

2. Montgomery Parks on Upcoming Initiatives

As neighbors to the Montgomery Parks Headquarters and users of the Sligo Creek Stream Valley area, SFCCA is excited to welcome guests from Montgomery Parks to share information and gather comments on their new parks campaign, **"Parks and Recreation of Future: Voice Your Vision."**



Plan (EPS FMP) and Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The Montgomery Parks team will briefly review

This consolidated outreach initiative solicits input from people about what they want in their parks. The responses will be used to inform three separate but related projects all seeking public input: 2017 PROS Update, the Energized Public Spaces Functional Master

each project and then offer a Q&A session. These programs and plans are essential to the future growth of the park system, and to better meet the needs of our growing community. If you're unable to attend the March SFCCA meeting, you can still help make the parks better by using the online survey and commentary tool at MontgomeryParks.org. Please join us at the March SFCCA meeting for an in-person opportunity to voice your vision about this important campaign.

President's Corner

Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign!

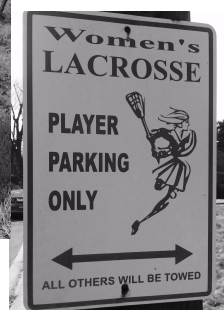
As a kid, I used to love listening to my grandma recite the humorous rhyming poems that Burma-Shave posted on small, sequential road signs in the 1930s. Developed as an advertising gimmick to sell more shaving cream, each subsequent sign revealed the poem's next line. My favorite was: Does your husband / Misbehave / Grunt and grumble / Rant and rave / Shoot the brute some / Burma-Shave.

Perhaps for this reason—the nostalgia of it all—I love driving through South Four Corners and seeing all of the signs neighbors post in their front yards. To me, the signs represent the things neighbors are committed to—children, social justice, even Lacrosse! They signify active engagement, personal conviction, and create a discussion point for those reading them.

I'm proud to live in South Four Corners where I hope people from all walks of life and political viewpoints are welcome. Thanks for doing your part to share your convictions and to engage in civil discourse with folks who have differing views. Listening to each other is a good place to start. If there are things you want to share about our community, I'm listening.

Carolyn Stanek Lucy

SFCCA.president@gmail.com



Important Phone Numbers:

Montgomery County General Information & Service: 311 / Outside of Montgomery County: 240-777-0311
TTY (for hearing impaired): 240-773-3556 / Police & fire emergency: 911 / Fire non-emergency: 240-776-4700
Police non-emergency: 301-279-8000 / 24-Hour Emergency Preparedness Hotline: 240-777-4200
Power outages, downed wires: Pepco 877-737-2662 / Website: <http://www.pepco.com/outage-center/>



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SFCCA Officers and Chairpersons

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Marie Girardot, Recording Secretary

Larry Dickter, Vice President
Richard Messalle, Treasurer

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Eileen Broderick, Membership
Jane Jannotta, Newsletter Editor
Dave West, Listserv Manager
John Holden, Welcome Bags
Michael Lucy, Public Works
John & Peri Evanoff, Diversity & Inclusion

Nghi Nguyen, Neighborhood Safety
Dave Nettleton, Newsletter Distribution
Betty Batty, Website/Social Media
Jenny Cannon, Social Events
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY, Community Day
Jeanne Berman, Gardening

SFCCA Addresses and Social Media

Like our page on Facebook!

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Editor: SFCCAeditor@gmail.com

SFCCA Yahoo Group Listserv:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFCCAMembers>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southfourcorners/

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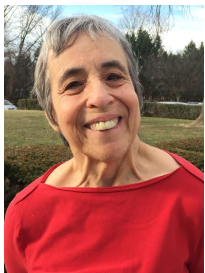
*Bring this ad in to receive
a free consultation*

New! Opening Doors

By Sandra Gutierrez, sandra.n.gutierrez@gmail.com

The idea for an **Opening Doors** column was born during the first meeting of our new **Diversity & Inclusion Committee**. Our goal is to learn more about each other and to celebrate and embrace the diversity of our neighborhood. In every newsletter, we will "open the door" to a new neighbor's life experience by asking her or him the same seven questions. We hope that their answers will help each of us develop greater insight into the lives, challenges and aspirations of members of our diverse community, and foster unity and understanding among us all. If you are interested in being profiled please feel free to email me.

Meet new neighbor, Lauren Summers:



1. How long have you been a resident of South Four Corners? My husband, Earl Shoop, and I moved to the neighborhood in October, 2016. We have been in the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Area since the 1980's.

2. What do you do? I work at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as Project Director for the Entry Point! program, which recruits, screens and refers college students with disabilities for government, industry, and university research internships.

3. What makes you special? As a woman with cerebral palsy that affects my coordination and speech, the challenges of creating a rewarding social, professional, and intellectual life has made for an interesting adventure.

It is sometimes difficult to feel welcomed in a homogeneous environment, where everyone seems to look and think like everybody else. Yet, I am determined to keep building a life full of fun, adventure, and love.

4. What brings you joy? I love long walks and laughing with my husband; conversations with friends that challenge my mind; being with my daughter and her family; and having some "special" time, alone to write poetry, weave, and have lots of music all around me!

5. What are the strengths and challenges of being who you are? I refuse to give up on my search for more tolerance for individuals who are "different". I like being challenged to go beyond what others think I can do. I like hurricanes and snowstorms and stores that temporarily run out of food. They make my own challenges appear less dramatic.

6. In your opinion, what can we do to be a more inclusive community? We have an amazing opportunity to discover the commonalities we have with others who have different lifestyles and perspectives. All of our voices and perspectives matter and building very diverse and inclusive relationships will make us stronger and more powerful in our determination to create change. It is only through "walking in each other's shoes" that we can cut through the biases that try to divide us and make us small.

7. Share with us a quote that inspires you. What does it mean to you? "If clarity (is) the essence of style, it is also the heart and soul of truth, and it is for want of truth that human freedom could perish." (Phillip Dunne, 1986) It means everything!!

Neighborhood Safety

By Nghi Nguyen

In recent months, the South Four Corners neighborhood has been hit with a rash of car break-ins. Always remember to lock your car doors, turn off the lights, and remove all valuables. Don't leave any electronics in your car such as iPods, cell phones, etc.

Also important is to never leave your car unattended with the engine running. **Please remember that you will be ticketed in Montgomery County if you leave your car running outside.** During the winter months,

when the weather is cold outside, some neighbors might turn on their car and go back inside the house to stay warm. This is illegal in the state of Maryland, even if it is only for two or three minutes. While some people might think this law is nonsense, remember that this is to help cut down on car thefts. Outside of keeping your car safe, please ensure you lock all doors and windows in the morning when you are leaving for work.





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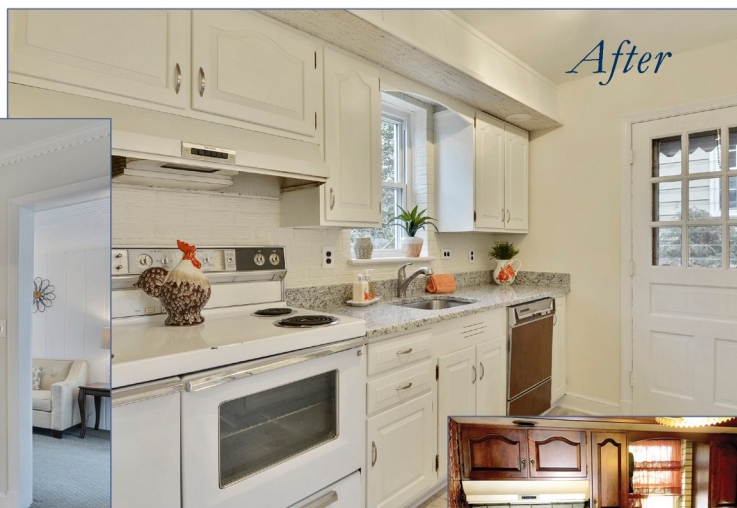
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Upcoming Events

SOUTH FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, April 29 from 8-11am



Save the date! Each neighbor will set up in their own yard or coordinate with a neighbor to host in their yard. Please note there will be no charity pick up this

year. We'll post signs on streets and intersections the week of the sale. If you're available to make and post signs please contact jenny.cannon@gmail.com



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THUNDERBOLTS BASEBALL IS BACK!

18th Season

Come Join the Silver Spring/Takoma Park Thunderbolts for their 18th season of baseball. The first home game is on June 9, 2017. Check out the complete schedule and information about their new players at www.Tbolts.org

BASEBALL CAMPS – The Thunderbolts will be offering week-long camps for boys and girls ages 7-14: June 19-23, June 26-30, July 3-7 (no camp on July 4), July 10-14, and July 17-21, from 9 am to 3 pm. There will be holding three-day specialty camps for boys and girls ages 11-16 (min. age: rising 5th grader) on June 19-21, June 26-28, and July 5-7 from 9 am to 2 pm. Register early for discounts. Multi-week and multi-sibling discounts are also available. Check their website at www.Tbolts.org/Camps for registration information, including their new on-line registration system. All camps will be held at **Blair High School**.

FUN DAY - The 8th annual Thunderbolts Fun Day will be held Sunday June 4, 2017 from 1 to 3 pm at Blair Stadium. This is a free baseball clinic for boys and girls ages 7-14. Special activities and prizes. No pre-registration is needed.

INTERN AND BAT BOY/GIRL POSITIONS - The Thunderbolts are now accepting applications for their summer management and field operations interns and bat boy/girl positions. Management interns must be ages 15-22; field operations interns ages 16-22; bat boys/girls ages 10-13. Positions are unpaid, but students may receive SSL hours or college work/study credit. Application deadline is May 1, 2017. Go to www.Tbolts.org for information.



GAME DAY PARTIES -

Schedule an event at Blair Stadium during Thunderbolts games. For kids' birthdays, the birthday boy or girl can celebrate by throwing out the ceremonial first pitch (and get to keep the ball!). The price includes food and drinks, admission to the game, and reserved grandstand seating. If you wish, they can help you order a birthday cake from a local bakery. Reservation forms are available at www.Tbolts.org/parties

SEASON PASSES are available, which will be good for all regular season Thunderbolts home games. The prices are \$50 for an individual and \$75 for a family (which is good for all members of the immediate family). Go to www.Tbolts.org/Joinus for more information.

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Advocacy

TRANSIT STUDY COMPLETED

By Karen Michels

On February 25, 2015 Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett established a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) for the US 29 corridor. BRT is defined as a "rapid mode of transportation that can provide the quality of rail transit and the flexibility of buses." It includes elongated special buses, special stations in limited locations, fare collection at the stations outside of the buses, dedicated bus lanes. The BRT system would be a separate entity from METRO and Ride-On, funded and administered separately by Montgomery County.

The Route 29 study was one of three established. The other two were on Viers Mill Road to 355 in Rockville and 355 to Clarksburg. The studies were to be conducted by three groups of independent consultants hired and paid for by the county.

On January 28, 2017, two years after

the study began, the consultants presented a draft report of their findings that included a dedicated lane for the BRT buses or a dedicated lane for the BRT buses, other buses, and perhaps HOV. The draft report showed very little or no time saved below New Hampshire Avenue but at a cost of millions of dollars to buy the buses and build the stations. It said nothing about the traffic time for individual drivers in vehicles after a lane is taken away for the fancy buses.

Several days before
January 28, Mr.
Leggett closed down
the CAC/BRT study.

It is known that gridlock along the Route 29 corridor south of New Hampshire Avenue will only get worse, with or without BRT, once the new residential and commercial

community just above White Oak is built out. More immediate alternatives to BRT do exist to give some relief to the congested commuter traffic, costing the county significantly less money. They were not studied by the CAC/BRT because the stated purpose of the CAC/BRT was to look at the feasibility of putting the large buses, with stations, on Route 29.

Several days before January 28 when the draft report was given, Mr. Leggett closed down the CAC/BRT study. The draft report was given as scheduled, but the study is over. As BRT on US 29 transitions from planning into design, Montgomery County's Department of Transportation will assume full management responsibility for the project.

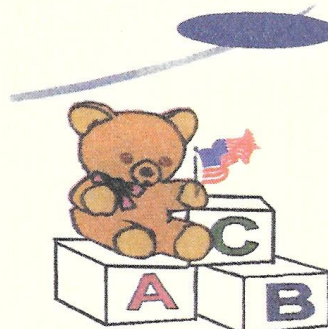
For full transit study article,
please refer to
[www.southfourcorners.com/
advocacy](http://www.southfourcorners.com/advocacy)

Highlights from the January 17 SFCCA Meeting

Guest Speaker: Harriet Quinn - neighbor, member of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, past guest speaker - shared with us updates on the White Oak Development, BRT issues, and updates on cell tower zoning and short-term rentals.

Business: Discussed the new Diversity & Inclusion committee and the Welcome committee. Glen Richard will audit the treasurer again this year, and needs one more volunteer to review SFCCA's accounts. Please contact Carolyn Stanek Lucy for any newsletter and meeting agenda contributions.

For full meeting minutes, please refer to
www.southfourcorners.com/minutes



**Hilda Estrada's
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Public Works

By Michael Lucy, sfcca.publicworks@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting our SFC public spaces & resources! People have been calling the **County's 311 line**, logging in on-line at the MC311 Web portal www.mc311.com, and calling or meeting with our Council representative Tom Hucker. Together, everyone is making this neighborhood even greater than it already is.

And as the seasons change, we are moving forward into a more active time of the year. Spring & summer breaks are being planned, plants are blooming, and trees are starting to bud. As you notice all these changes, I invite you to get out and enjoy a walk or bike ride on your street, visit one of our local parks, check in with a neighbor to re-kindle your friendship or plan a street party.

Maybe there is a literal or figurative fence to mend, or perhaps you've

noticed something that limits getting around in SFC – a missing sidewalk, sign or speed bump that would help – or a pothole, clogged stormdrain or missing street tree in front of your house that could be planted. Or perhaps you smell natural gas, see a water leak or notice there are power or low-voltage lines down.

If you see any of these public facilities in need of attention, please call 311 and let them know. You can also get a service request number to follow up on your concern if it's not addressed quickly. The more we all call 311 and share our concerns, the more improvements in SFC we'll see!

Many of our new street trees are a result of people calling 311 in 2014 – in fact, we had 83 new trees planted



that year. Trees provide hundreds of benefits, from cleaning our air and water, to reducing crime and significantly increasing property values. Trees provide a lot – and now is the perfect time to plan for them. More information about many of their benefits can be found at: <http://canopy.org/tree-info/benefits-of-trees>

If you would like a tree planted in the public right of way in front of your house this spring or next fall - please call 311 as soon as possible! Their list is apparently filling up quickly this season. More information about MDOT tree services can be found at: <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-highway/tree/index.html>

Please also consider joining the next **Adopt a Road clean up on March 25 at 10 am**. We'll meet at Argyle Park Tennis Courts. See you there!

Membership

Support our community by becoming a member of the **South Four Corners Citizens Association!** SFCCA is the voice of our residential community. Its vigorous advocacy and events make South Four Corners safer, more beautiful and more connected.

Your financial support helps SFCCA:

- develop and maintain an informed, productive membership dedicated to serving the interests of our residential community
- notify, inform, and involve residents in decisions that affect our neighborhood
 - cultivate unity, pride, and good communication
- foster nonpartisan, nonsectarian activities that improve our shared quality of life
- promote beautification and environmental sustainability in our neighborhood
 - Take part in the greater SFC community



Join today! Only \$15 per year:

- Pay by cash/check at the upcoming SFCCA meeting on March 20
- Pay by check payable to SFCCA and send to: SFC Membership PO Box 792 Silver Spring, MD 20918-0792
 - Pay online using credit card or PayPal at <https://southfourcorners.com/membership>

For more information contact Eileen Broderick, Membership, at eileen@starpower.net