



## It's almost time for the annual South Four Corners Yard Sale!

Annual Community Yard Sale will be held on April 23, 2016

**When:** Sat., April 23rd from 8-11a.m.

**Location:** We ask that each neighbor set up in their own yard or coordinate with your neighbor and host in their yard.

**Advertising:** The association will advertise online and in local newspapers. We will also post signs at major intersections throughout the community. We encourage each street to make sure there is a sign at the end of their block directing traffic to their sale.

### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE AND HANG SIGNS

We need someone to volunteer 1-2 hours of their time making and hanging signs for the yard sale. Ideally two volunteers would be great.

Questions? Email Erin Caporellie at [sfcca.social@gmail.com](mailto:sfcca.social@gmail.com).



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## Highlights from the November 16, 2015 SFCCA Meeting

We were fortunate to have two guest speakers for our January South Four Corners Citizens Association (SFCCA) meeting. First, Clay Kaufman from the Siena School shared with us the exciting changes that are happening at the school. Prepared with charts and graphs, here is what Clay had to say:

“As I mentioned at the recent SFCCA meeting, we are excited to be launching the next phase of our building this summer. Beginning in June, we will construct "Phase II", which was approved as part of the Special Exception process.

The new wing will be built behind the school, and will include one story underground (including a music room and black box theater) and two stories above ground (including new classrooms, two new science labs and some administrative space). The project is scheduled to take 10 months. We hope to complete most of the structural work over the summer when school is not in session. We have already worked on a parking plan for construction workers, as well as for staff, if needed, when the project captures some spaces temporarily. All contractors and subcontractors will be under strict orders not to park in the neighborhood (I knew you were going to ask about that!).

Although the new wing will not be visible from the street, it will look very nice from our parking lot, with a roof that mimics the curved roof of the gym. We plan to incorporate some of the style of Siena, Italy.

A small piece at the back of Phase IIa will be added after IIa is complete, and the completed Phase II will allow us to enroll approximately 160 students, towards our cap of 225.

The Siena School invites members of the SFCCA to attend their grand opening, the date TBA. Clay also encouraged us to contact him with any questions before, during or after the construction process. Clay Kaufman can be reached at the following: Clay Kaufman, Head of School, telephone: 301-244-3600; email: [ckaufman@thesienaschool.org](mailto:ckaufman@thesienaschool.org). The Siena School, 1300 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901; [www.thesienaschool.org](http://www.thesienaschool.org)

Our next speaker, Harriet Quinn, was introduced by Larry Dickter. Ms. Quinn, a Four Corners resident, is Vice President of the Woodmoor-Pinecrest Civic Association and also serves in various leadership roles in the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF). She is widely regarded as one of Montgomery County's most knowledgeable and effective citizen advocates for sustainable growth policies and for common sense, affordable solutions to our County's transportation challenges.

Ms. Quinn is also a past recipient of the Federation's "community hero" award for her invaluable assistance in helping to protect the residential character of our neighborhood when it was being threatened by commercial development.

Ms. Quinn began by telling the group about MCCF ([www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org)). This organization, of which the SFCCA is a member, recently celebrated 90 years of service representing civic groups throughout the county. The MCCF represents 100 organizations, approximately 150,000 people, including condominium homeowners associations as well as civic groups similar to SFCCA.

The MCCF meets the second Monday of every month. John Holden added that our own meetings were moved to the third Monday every other month in order to avoid conflicting meeting times. Currently, the MCCF is meeting in the Montgomery County Executive Building Auditorium.

## Highlights from the November 16, 2015 SFCCA Meeting (cont.)

If you are interested in following the MCCF on twitter, the twitter feed is: @mccivicfed

Ms. Quinn then began to discuss the redevelopment approved by the County for the White Oak area, just north of Four Corners, and what the implications are for our immediate area, which already suffers from some of the worst traffic congestion in the state. If completely built out as planned, this development would have as much commercial space as Tysons Corner, VA, in addition to thousands of new residential units without the infrastructure to support it.

Ms. Quinn pointed out that the normal Montgomery County planning process requires that phased “staging,” with “hard stops” and strict, well-defined milestones be incorporated in order to guarantee that new development of any size be supported by adequate public facilities (roads, schools, police and fire protection, etc.). In approving the White Oak plan, the County Council took the unprecedented step of removing all staging requirements in order to satisfy the developer, who also would not have to pay for needed improvements.

According to Ms. Quinn, the sheer scope and density of the development threatens to overwhelm existing infrastructure, particularly existing transportation capacity. The question was raised as to why any business would locate so far from Metrorail when the commercial vacancy rate in downtown Silver Spring is in double digits and there already are empty office parks and additional empty office space throughout Montgomery County.

A question was also asked concerning what type of jobs will be created once the White Oak development is built out. Will they be high-paying, quality jobs or will they be low-wage jobs without benefits that they taxpayers will end up subsidizing through public assistance (food stamps, Medicaid, etc.) to those employees not even earning a living wage?

When or if it is ever built, the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network envisioned along Colesville Road (US 29) and elsewhere conceivably could serve the White Oak area, with the developer once again getting a “free pass,” while the County would have to raise hundreds of millions of dollars in additional tax revenues in order to fund it.

In briefly addressing the status of the BRT studies currently underway (also see past SFCCA newsletters for BRT-related material), Ms. Quinn said that no purpose or need for BRT along US 29 has been agreed upon yet and that any dedicated bus lanes through Four Corners could cause significant loss of private and commercial property. At the same time, carving a dedicated busway out of Colesville Road would cause traffic gridlock approaching the Four Corners intersection to deteriorate even further, with the 2-mile trip from Stewart Lane in White Oak to the Beltway ramp on Colesville Road taking 83 minutes during rush hour.

Ms. Quinn suggested numerous alternatives to address our transportation needs, all of which could be accomplished relatively quickly and cost effectively, and most of which would build upon what we already have. These might include limited stop bus service, improved and possibly free Ride-On service, and traffic signalization improvements utilizing available technology.

She said that an important step in the BRT study process will come this Spring when the public will be invited to an open house hosted by the Maryland Mass Transit Administration and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. She advised us to stay tuned, as this will be an opportunity for direct public input before the study process moves to the next step.



## Highlights from the November 16, 2015 SFCCA Meeting (cont.)

After Ms. Quinn's presentation, John Holden brought up the issue of pesticide applications to manage mosquitos. He voiced his concern over whether the use of these chemicals were also affecting pollinators like honey bees (who we depend on for much of the food we eat) and other vitally important insects. He suggested that there were other ways to manage mosquitoes that were less harmful to the environment. John said he will provide more information to be shared with the community via the next newsletter.

The meeting was concluded at 8:30 pm



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Electric power outages or downed wires, [877-737-2662](tel:877-737-2662)) <http://www.pepco.com/outage-center/>

## Pesticides, Public Health and Our Environment

by Mary Beaudoin, Portland Place

As the weather warms and spring approaches, South Four Corners residents start to plan for summertime outdoor activities. Many might also be planning ahead for the emergence of various pests in their yards, including mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are mostly annoying; in rare cases, they can also carry disease. (According to the CDC, no local mosquito-borne Zika virus disease cases have been reported in United States; there have only been travel-associated cases.)

Recently I came across an organization that provides helpful information on controlling all kinds of pests. Check out Beyond Pesticides ([beyondpesticides.org](http://beyondpesticides.org)) for resources that individuals and communities can use. In particular, note the program page on "Mosquitoes and Insect-Borne Diseases"; here is an excerpt:

*As local pesticide spray programs targeting adult mosquitoes with West Nile virus continue throughout the U.S., and with the new emergence of Zika virus, it must be recognized that spray programs are of very limited efficacy. That is, spraying is NOT an effective or efficient way to prevent death or illness associated with insect-borne diseases. A large part of this has to do with understanding the life cycle of mosquitoes and their biology. Another large part of this has to do with the inability, especially in an urban environment, to hit target insects with typical ground spraying from trucks or by aerial application. While recognizing the public health threat of Zika virus, West Nile virus (WNV) and other mosquito-borne diseases, and given the limited efficacy of adulticidal sprays, or pesticides meant to target adult mosquitoes, it becomes even more important to recognize the public health hazards associated with widespread pesticide exposure. This has become especially timely given the current discussion over the potential use of DDT to combat the Zika virus (See [Zika virus: Is DDT an option?](#), published on CNN.com). Researchers have linked DDT exposure to effects on fertility, immunity, hormones and brain development, while the pesticides most commonly used to target mosquitoes across the country are neurotoxic and have been linked to cancer and other illnesses. People with compromised immune systems, chemically sensitive people, pregnant women, and children with respiratory problems, such as asthma, are particularly vulnerable to these pesticides and will suffer disproportionately from exposure.*

Since 2006, honey bees and other pollinators in the U.S. and throughout the world have experienced ongoing and rapid population declines. Experts have noted that the continuation of this crisis threatens the stability of ecosystems, the economy, and our food supply, as one in three bites of food are dependent on pollinator services. Pesticides play a major role in this crisis.

It is important that all of us work together to protect ourselves from the potential adverse public health and environmental effects associated with the use and misuse of pesticides. Residents should question the suggestion by chemical companies that there are "safe" levels of these pesticides in our yards. We can use alternative approaches, such as insect repellants applied to the skin, and eliminating standing water that is breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Before you purchase a pesticide or hire a company, it is important to stop and do some research, in order to make informed decisions that protect our healthy air, water, land and food, for ourselves and future generations.

Speaking about DDT and other pesticides, Rachel Carson (local environmental-movement founder and author of *Silent Spring*) said, "We should no longer accept the counsel of those who tell us that we must fill our world with poisonous chemicals; we should look about and see what other course is open to us." Let's work together to make South Four Corners a safer place to live.

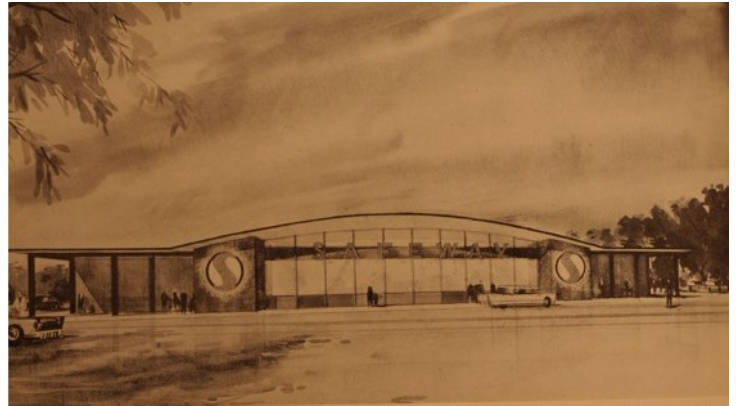


## The Four Corners Safeway: A Familiar Neighbor

By David S. Rotenstein

Unless you're a big fan of mid-century modern architecture, the Four Corners Safeway store probably doesn't seem like anything special. It's just the neighborhood supermarket. But if you're a 20th century architecture aficionado, the neighborhood Safeway store is a true gem.

The Four Corners Safeway is one of a dwindling number of distinctive supermarket buildings that the chain built in the Washington area after World War II. Architectural historians have dubbed the distinctive curved roofline and vaulted interior space "Marina Style" after the chain's 1959 prototype store built in San Francisco's Marina neighborhood.



*Architectural rendering for new San Francisco Safeway store. Credit: Allen, Peter. "A Space for Living: Region and Nature in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1939-1969." Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 2009.*

Safeway is one of several national supermarket chains that expanded to Washington and the Maryland suburbs in the first half of the 20th century. The Safeway chain was founded in 1915 in American Falls, Idaho. By the mid-1920s, there were more than 400 Safeway stores throughout the United States.



*Marina Safeway, San Francisco. Credit: Allen, Peter. "A Space for Living: Region and Nature in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1939-1969." Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 2009.*

In 1928 Safeway merged with the Sanitary Grocery Company, which operated stores in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. The merger created a national chain with more than 1,700 stores stretching from the Atlantic to the

Pacific and made Safeway one of the nation's largest supermarket chains, alongside Piggly Wiggly and A&P.

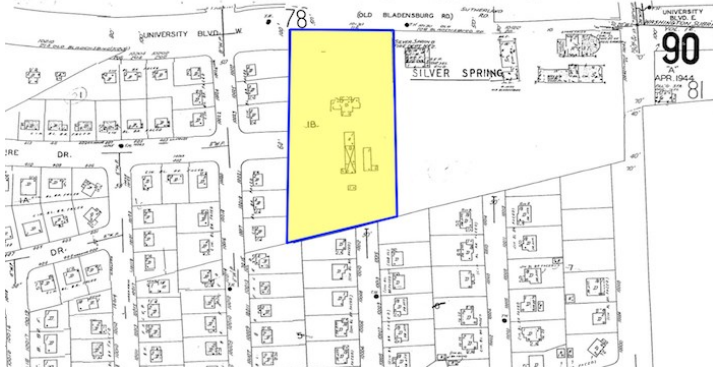
Responding to the postwar baby boom and suburban expansion, Safeway in 1949 embarked on an ambitious expansion plan. According to architectural historian Peter Allen, who has studied Safeway corporate architecture, the company focused on developing distinctive modern supermarkets geared towards selling lots of things in a single open space in buildings that created what he called a "unique visual identity."

That visual identity included a large open space under a single roof and bold signage that incorporated Safeway's distinctive corporate logo. Architectural innovations included expansive display windows that allowed for around-the-clock views into stores and the curved roof designed to make the building identifiable from roads as a Safeway.



Other architectural elements distinguishing the new Marina-style Safeways included the use of exterior stone walls or wood screens (like the ones in the Four Corners store façade).

These elements were designed connect the modern architecture to regional building traditions and, according to Allen, to humanize the stores by softening their “feel.”



**Sanborn fire insurance map (1944) showing location of future Safeway store.**

Historian Allen wrote that Safeway’s corporate branding effort embedded in its architecture was one of the most successful ways modernism spread rapidly across the nation, “bringing modern architecture” within reach of millions of Americans. Safeway built its Four Corners store on property owned by Barry and Martha Clark. The couple leased the property on the south side of University Blvd. to Safeway Stores, Inc., in July 1962.

Construction was completed by October 1962 and the store opened at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 3. The Four Corners Safeway was one

of two locations the company opened that month; the second was in Gaithersburg. Shoppers that first day could buy a one-pound bag of Nob Hill coffee for 53 cents or two 12-ounce cans of Bel-air orange juice for 59 cents.

According to advertising in the Washington Evening Star, the new Four Corners store featured a sparkling new design: “High curved roofs, expansive windows, combined with the very latest interior lighting fixtures” created what the company called a cheerful place to shop featuring “wonderful new shopping innovations.”

The Four Corners Safeway has remained a fixture in our neighborhood for more than half a century. According to one store employee, there are neighbors who have been shopping there since the store opened. Longtime residents recall the family that lived in a house on the property. They had a stable and horses. One resident told the manager that she could recall a house that once occupied the site, which was moved a few blocks away to Lanark Way to clear the lot for construction in 1962. Others remember seeing the house transported from the site on a flatbed truck.

After the store opened it became an essential community asset for household staples, first jobs, and socialization. Generations of Four Corners children learned to ride bikes in the parking lot Sundays and other remember riding go-karts there when the store was closed. Though the Four Corners store retains its distinctive curved roof and arched interior space, the property underwent a major facelift in 2011. That work included replacing the block lettering across the store’s main façade and interior improvements.



**Four Corners Safeway opening advertisement. The Washington Evening Star, October 4, 1962.**

## Editor's Corner

**Ben Gross**

Just a reminder that this is *your* newsletter!

I want to make sure that you continue to find it a valuable resource and welcome your participation. Feel free to submit stories (or story ideas) you think would be of interest to the community. You can send in photos of block parties, interesting neighborhood events or really anything that speaks to the South Four Corners Community spirit!

Feel free to reach out to me anytime at: [SFCCAEditor@gmail.com](mailto:SFCCAEditor@gmail.com).

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