



# **SOUTH FOUR CORNERS**

## Citizens Association



### **March/April 2012 Newsletter**

**Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, March 12 at 7 pm  
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road**

#### **March Meeting—Councilmember Elrich, Volunteering, Membership and Prizes**

During the March 12 meeting, Marc Elrich, one of our At-large representatives on the Montgomery County Council, will brief us on some of the pressing issues confronting the County today, including: traffic congestion and transit solutions, public safety, economic growth and sustainable development and Montgomery County's budget priorities. Moreover, he is especially eager to hear about the specific needs and concerns of neighborhood residents during a Q & A session that will follow his presentation.



As this is a rare opportunity to engage in a candid dialogue with one of our top elected officials, you are encouraged to attend this meeting and participate along with your neighbors. Please bring your neighbors with you—they might win a \$20 gift certificate to Woodmoor Bakery, Chipotle, Subway or Santucci's! A \$25 Fajita Coast gift certificate will go to the person who brings the most new neighbors!

The remainder of the meeting will focus on strengthening our community through volunteering, block parties, using the SFCCA website, joining the List-serv, gardening tour and all the great benefits of SFCCA membership.

#### **Child Day Care Center Update**

*Glen Richardson*

On January 12, at the 5th session of the Hearing Examination for Special Exception S-2781, the applicant presented two witnesses (Storm Water Engineer and Day-Care Operator) who had been recalled by the Hearing Examiner to clarify earlier testimony, and two rebuttal witnesses (Traffic Manager and Land Use Planner) to address the November and December testimony from the neighborhood.

Louis Leibowitz ably represented us, and cross-examined all witnesses.

Written closing arguments were submitted on February 3, 2012 and the Hearing Examiner has until early March to issue her report with a recommendation (approval, approval with conditions or denial.)

This is a very close case and any of the possible recommendations can be expected.

After the Hearing Examiner's report and recommendation, the Board of Appeals can grant the application, grant the application with conditions or deny it.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**March 17, 2012, 10 a.m.—**Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts).

**April 21, 2012, 8-11 a.m.:** Community Yard Sale. (See article on Page 4)

**May 14, 2012, 7 p.m.:** SFCCA Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road.

## Editor's Corner

**Ben Gross**

The times they are a changing! Due to increased interest in ads, people becoming more active and so many great things happening in our community, your humble newsletter has grown to six pages. The additional space allows me to increase font size (making it easier to read) and include great articles, written by you and your neighbors.

I'm pleased to share the following reader submission :

*Early in December I noticed a resident of South Four Corners picking up trash and junk from our corner of 193 & 29. While the county empties the trash can on that corner every week day, people do not bother to put their discards into the trash can and newspapers and other debris gather around the bus stop. When I talked to him about his effort, he said that he could no longer stand the mess. I have not seen him there again, although he may repeat this grand gesture on a regular basis. Thank you, sir. I am sorry I do not know your name to thank you personally.*

*Karen Michels, Rogart Road*

Feel free to email me with Shout-Outs (celebrating births, graduations, weddings, etc) suggestions and other comments at for the next newsletter [SFCCAEditor@gmail.com](mailto:SFCCAEditor@gmail.com).

## Membership Matters

**Eileen Broderick**

Several neighbors suggested that we could increase membership in our association by using PayPal to collect dues & donations - and we listened!

Simply visit the South Four Corners website ([www.southfourcorners.com](http://www.southfourcorners.com)), click on the membership page, then on the "Donate" button on this page & follow the instructions. If you have a PayPal account, you can pay with a credit card or an e-check. If you don't have a PayPal account, payment can still be made with a credit card. Of course we will still accept payments by check, payable to SFCCA, PO Box 792, Silver Spring, MD 20918-0792 or payments by cash at the SFCCA meetings. Thank you!



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### Officers of the South Four Corners Citizens Association

David Meininger, President  
John Holden, Recording Secretary

Betty Batty, Vice President  
Richard Messalle, Treasurer

### South Four Corners Citizens Association Chairpersons

Eileen Broderick, Membership  
Ben Gross, Newsletter Editor

Doug Bailey, Neighborhood Watch  
Dave Nettleton, Newsletter Distribution  
Coordinator

**Box 792, Silver Spring, MD 20918-0792 / [jdavidm@juno.com](mailto:jdavidm@juno.com)**

President **David Meininger** chaired the meeting, which was attended by more than 50 people. He began by posting for viewing a personal letter that he had written (with input from **Marty Maher**) to Pepco. Depending on the response from Pepco, David may send a follow-up letter on behalf of SFCCA. (No letter was sent last year to Pepco on behalf of SFCCA.)

**Larry Dickter** introduced Maryland state delegate Jeff Waldstreicher, who represents Silver Spring in the General Assembly. Among the topics he discussed were the responsibility of the Public Service Commission to enforce the Pepco reliability standards, public schools funding, cell phone use while driving and redistricting for the Maryland legislature. Before fielding questions, Waldstreicher offered a preview of the 2012 Legislature - paying for sewer repair, ethics laws and some social issues. He also addressed questions.

**Millie D'Antuoro** and her two daughters, Carmela and Connie, shared delicious homemade cookies as an expression of their appreciation for the community's support when Millie's house on Lanark Way burned down in late January, 2011.

They plan to rebuild another house, a more modern colonial, on the same plot.

Representatives from Holy Cross Hospital provided updates, shared site plans and answered questions about the hospital's expansion plans—which were put forth in 2008 primarily in response to changes in area demographics. Attendees expressed concerns about the impact of the construction traffic on newly paved Forest Glen Road.

**Doug Bailey** (who is stepping down as our contact person with MCPD) introduced Officer Joy Patil—our Community Services Officer—who shared recent crime reports and updates, and provided some important safety tips

Finally, David shared that at the January 6th hearing on the Siena School's special exception application for use of the Boys & Girls Club building on Forest Glen Road, the Siena School agreed that all of its publications and other written communications will remind students, faculty, staff, and parents not to park in the surrounding neighborhood.

Full meeting minutes are available at [www.southfourcorners.com](http://www.southfourcorners.com)



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## South Four Corners Community Yard Sale to be held on April 21

That's right, we are putting the popular neighborhood yard sale back on the calendar! The sale will be held on Saturday, April 21 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 will also provide a drop off location in the neighborhood after the sale for those wanting to donate any unsold items to charity and we'll have the charity pick up on Monday. Check the Yahoo group, Facebook page and [www.southfourcorners.com](http://www.southfourcorners.com) for more details and tips on having a successful yard sale.

### The Gardening Guru: Jeanne Berman

As a gardener I love the winter but always look forward to the arrival of spring. Some of your plants are starting to wake up. I too, am ready to return to my garden and hopefully yours with an invitation.

Last year, we had some nice garden tours, and hope to have many more in 2012. Let us see your trees in bloom or vegetable garden producing your favorite crop.—maybe boast about your beautiful blooming azaleas.

For the more novice gardeners out there, we can help suggest the right plant in the right place', and possibilities that could occur in your garden space!


Also, please be mindful of our elderly and sick neighbors who may need our help in their yards and gardens—it could be a tree that needs some pruning, leaves that need cleaning up or even a county roadside tree that should be checked.

Finally, I'd love to start a spring and/or fall "plant swap" at community events, where we can bring seedlings and or divisions of plants and trade with other neighbors.

If you are interested, please contact: Jeanne Berman at 301-593-2264 or [jz8berman@yahoo.com](mailto:jz8berman@yahoo.com)

#### Spring Gardening Tips:

With the arrival of spring, start buying seeds of plants you want and begin your spring cleaning in your yard so you can enjoy all those lovely spring blossoms as they appear. If you want to get outside to prune some of your trees, you may prune summer blooming trees and shrubs now (crepe myrtles). Wait until spring blooming trees and shrubs bloom (azaleas) before you prune those. Also KNOW the plant and cultivar of the plant you want to prune. There are many great on-line resources if you know the correct name of the plant.



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## SFCCA Volunteer Positions

*David Meininger*

Ever wonder how things get done in our community? Interested in helping out? Here's a handy list of activities, contact persons and ways you can help!

**Newsletter Editor** (Ben Gross)

**Advertising** (VACANT) - solicits ads for the newsletter, tracks ad reservations and payments.

**Newsletter Distribution Coordinator** (Dave Nettleton) - receives and distributes newsletters to route carriers.

**Newsletter Carriers** (SEVERAL VACANCIES)  
Delivers the newsletter to individual homes six times per year.

The following routes are VACANT and require volunteers: Dennis Ave from Proctor Street to Sligo Creek Parkway, Dennis Court, Quinby Street, Quinby Court (6 homes), Roswell Drive .

**Membership** (Eileen Broderick) – solicits for and manages household memberships.

**E-Group/Listserv Moderator** (David West) - approves access to listserv.

**Neighborhood Watch** (SOON TO BE VACANT) - posts crime reports and organizes National Night Out in August.

**Welcome Bag** (Louis Leibowitz and one VACANCY) - provides new neighbors with informational welcome bags.

**Website/Social Media Editor** (VACANT - New Opportunity) - updates community website, posts relevant information of Facebook.

**Safeway Liaison** (VACANT)

**Public Works** (VACANT) - monitors condition of streets/curbs and reports to 311 service requests.

**Adopt-A-Road Coordinator** (VACANT)

**Community Day Coordinator** (VACANT)

**Social Events** (Betty Batty) - coordinates Ice Cream Social, Yard Sale, Halloween Parade, Holiday Tree Lighting and more.

**Gardening** (Jeanne Berman)

May is election month and there will be at least two elected leadership positions available for 2012-2013, including Vice-President and Recording Secretary.

**If you are a former or current volunteer, please attend the March meeting for special recognition!**

Full volunteer position descriptions are available on the website at [www.southfourcorners.com](http://www.southfourcorners.com)



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## SFCCA Audit Report

*Glen Richardson*

On November 21, 2011, a committee consisting of Eileen Broderick and Glen Richardson performed an audit of the SFCCA Financial Records for May 2004 to December 2010. The records used for testing were monthly bank statements, copies of paid checks, receipts for expenses and the Treasurer's electronic spread sheet of transactions. All records were complete and accurate and all expenses were fully documented and accounted for.

## Be Prepared

**Jim Janssen**

"Be Prepared" isn't just for Boy Scouts anymore. In today's world, with Pepco outages, tropical storms and hurricanes, it is crucial that each of us "Be Prepared."

But what does it mean to "Be Prepared?" At home, it means not having to rush out at the last minute to get milk, bread or toilet paper before a storm strikes - and already having a snow shovel, flashlights, food and water on hand.

"Being Prepared" means not having to worry about not having what we need because we have already thought about it and took the steps to be ready. We do not need to panic because we have a better understanding of unusual situations and know how to cope. We also know that we have to prepare our families to take care of themselves.

In future newsletters, I'll address additional preparedness issues, but hope that you find this Winter Checklist handy in helping you "Be Prepared."

In our area, the most common winter emergency is the loss of electrical power. Loss of electric means loss of lights, heating, appliances such as refrigerators, and sometimes cooking.

### WINTER PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

- Make sure you have battery-powered camping lanterns for lighting, along with at least two sets of back-up batteries.
- For heating, if your house has a fire place, have enough wood for ten days. If not, obtain a portable, fueled, space heater. Make sure the fuel is stored in an approved container in a safe place (not in the house!). Do not expect the heater to heat the whole house, and follow all safety directions.
- Pick a room and live primarily in that room, including sleeping, during the emergency.
- Do not open refrigerators unless necessary and be quick to minimize loss of cool air. If you are out of power for more than one day, consider moving the food to coolers and storing outside.
- For cooking/eating/drinking: know what will work on your range. Newer models may not allow you to use some or all of the features. Have an outdoor grill with plenty of fuel (gas or charcoal) and cook outdoors. Have ten days worth food and water (figure 1.5 gallons per person per day).
- Develop a good relationship with neighbors and share resources in emergencies.
- Have a place to go if you must leave your house.

## Time to Party!

**Betty Batty**

Spring is right around the corner and block parties are a great way to meet your neighbors and build a stronger community. Coordinating a Block Party doesn't need to be difficult. With some careful planning, shared responsibilities and lots of energy they are a great time! I can guarantee those who hold them regularly will agree – they are great fun; so I challenge some new streets to participate.

County regulations and application can be found at [www.southfourcorners.com/resources](http://www.southfourcorners.com/resources)

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