

SOUTH FOUR CORNERS



Citizens Association

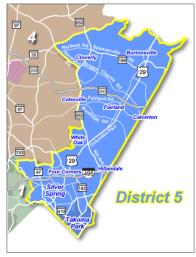
November/December 2014 Newsletter

Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, November 10th - 7:00 p.m. at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road

November 10 Meeting to Feature County Council District 5 Nominee Tom Hucker

The November 10 SFCCA meeting will feature guest speaker Tom Hucker, who in June 2014 was elected as the Democratic nominee to represent District 5 on the Montgomery County Council. He faces no opposition on the November 4 ballot.

The District 5 seat on the Council represents parts of Silver Spring (including South Four Corners), White Oak, East County and Takoma Park.



For the last eight years, Mr. Hucker has represented Silver Spring and Takoma Park in the Maryland General Assembly;

he will remain one of our representatives there until he resigns that post on November 30, in order to be sworn in to the County Council seat on December 1.

Tom will share what he sees as priorities going forward.

He is also looking forward to hearing your thoughts and answering any questions you may have on matters that come before the County Council.

Please plan to attend and to take advantage of this opportunity for information and input!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 10, 2014——7p.m.—Community Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road

November 10-24, 2014——Leaf Collection, check your street's day

at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/leaf/index.html

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

December 6, 2014—5 p.m.—Tree-lighting Ceremony, Lanark Way and Rogart Road **January 19, 2015**—7pm—SFCCA Community Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road (NOTE new date on **third** Monday!)

Save the Date: Tree Lighting Celebration will be held on December 6

The South Four Corners Annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6th at 5pm.

The event will be held at the corner of Lanark Way and Rogart Road.

Join your neighbors and friends for cookies, hot cocoa and lots of holiday cheer.





Pat Wills

Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc. • 4650 East West Highway / Bethesda, MD 20814

Office: 301.907.7600 / Cell: 301.219.2668 / Email: pat.wills@LNF.com

www.patwills.com

Let experience and personal care come first when hiring a real estate professional. After all, taking care of your most valuable possession, whether selling or buying a new home, should be top priority! Just call me and I will provide a complimentary Market Analysis of your home, and give my undivided attention to your real estate needs.













Selling South Four Corners in 1/2 the time and for 3% more than the competition!

Featured South Four Corners Homes

CONTRACT!



9921 Rogart Road • \$500,000 Exceptional 3 BR, 2 BA home with high-end KIT and bath renovations. Superb home!

JUST LISTED!



1016 Stirling Road • \$495,000 Lovely 3 BR, 2 BA four-level Colonial renovated to the 9's! Pristine thoughout.

COMING SOON!



1024 Strout Street • Price TBD Exquisite 3 BR, 2.5 BA expanded Colonial. Too many updates to mention.

COMING SOON!



1001 Roswell Drive • Mid-\$400s Handsome rambler with 3 BR, 3 BA and potential LL in-law suite. Georgeous lot.

HAT & MITTEN DRIVE

Throughout November

It's supposed to be another cold and snowy winter. Let's help everyone stay warm! We're collecting hats, mittens, gloves & scarves to be donated to A Wider Circle. To donate, please contact us to arrange for a drop off or pick up. New and gently used items are welcome. Thanks for your help!







Ranked Among "America's Best Real Estate Agents 2014" by Real Trends and the Wall Street Journal.

Top 12 of Long & Foster's 14,000 Agents www.tamara4homes.com • (301)580-5002 cell • (202)966-1400 office

IT'S TIME TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR THE COOLER TEMPS By Betty Batty

Here are a few winter home maintenance tips to get you started:



- Clean your gutters and downspouts. This will prevent ice dams and water damage to your home.
- Disconnect hoses and close outside faucets. Shut off water to hose bibs and open each hose bib to allow any remaining water to drain. Disconnect hoses and place them in the shed or house until Spring.

is

- Schedule a furnace tune-up. Many local companies are running specials for less than \$100 for a furnace tune-up. Take few minutes and talk to the technician. You'll be surprised how much you can learn about maintenance and prolonging the life of your furnace.
- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This simple and only costs a few bucks but saves so many of lives every year.
- Recharge or replace fire extinguishers. It's also recommend that you have them inspected by a professional annually.
- Change your furnace filters once a month. Dirty furnace filters force your furnace to work harder to heat your home\
- Schedule a chimney cleaning. Our homes were built more than 50 years ago. When was the last time your chimney was cleaned or Inspected? This is an annual cleaning you don't want to miss.
- Replace worn out weather strips. Weather stripping around your windows and doors are easy to install and you'll recover the expense in a short period of time. This simple tip can significantly increase your home heating costs.

Important Phone Numbers



Montgomery County General Information & Service Request, Call 311 Outside of Montgomery County, call <u>240-777-0311</u> The TTY (for the hearing impaired) number is <u>240-773-3556</u>



Police & Fire Emergency, 911
Fire Non-Emergency, 240-683-6520
Police Non-Emergency, 301-279-8000



24-Hour Emergency Preparedness Hotline, <u>240-777-4200</u>; Electric power outages or downed wires, <u>(1-877-737-2662)</u> http://www.pepco.com/outage-center/

Highlights from the September 8, 2014 SFCCA Meeting Provided by Pat Wills

Clay Kaufman, Head of the Siena School on Forest Glen Road, provided an overview of the school's mission and an update on activities there. A new stone sign on Forest Glen Road is up and looks great. The school is zoned for a maximum of 225 students; they have 100 enrolled this year. The school's mission is to offer a rich educational program for bright, college-bound students who are challenged by language-based learning differences. Each year, Siena high school students undertake a two-week volunteer internship in the Washington DC area; if there is a need for an intern in our community in January, after their exams, please reach out to the school. On the grounds, the school has demolished the pool, which will allow for an eventual 3-story addition. On November 12th, they will be planting 12 red cedar trees near the beltway wall, and will have the assistance of an arborist.

The featured speakers for the meeting were **Jenny St. John** and **Carla Ellern** from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Jenny spoke about the Green Street projects, which are constructed in the right of way areas to mimic nature and allow storm water to soak in the ground or be filtered. Impervious substances do not allow water to infiltrate; instead heated and polluted storm water travels to creeks, rivers, and the bay, bringing on water quality issues. Carla spoke about various environmentally friendly landscapes, plus water permeable surfaces that can be used for parking pads, driveways, etc., all of which may qualify for a rebate through the RainScapes program. Go to www.rainscapes.org for more information; you can also contact Carla or another member of the RainScapes team (240-777-7756) for help with identifying a contractor to estimate and evaluate what can be done with your property.

John Holden reiterated that SFCCA expects to move its meetings to the <u>third Monday</u> of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, etc.), starting in 2015.

Larry Dickter noted that Washington Gas is continuing its work to install new gas mains along many of our streets and individual service lines from the mains to our homes. A contractor will be used for work on yard restoration on your property. The work on a given street or block will be spread over several weeks. Permanent road and sidewalk restoration will occur following the conclusion of the project. If you have questions or problems, the Washington Gas contacts are Jason Rich 703-408-2086 and Kelly Caplan 202-624-6335. See also the information on the www.SouthFourCorners.com website.

Larry also noted that the White Oak master plan approved by the County Council is a big concern for South Four Corners and other communities near us. Land development projects are being voted on without sufficient public review and input. (See article in the September / October newsletter.) SFCCA will work with other nearby neighborhood associations, but we all need to be informed citizens and voters, speaking up when necessary to ensure that future development proposals make sense for our communities.

Jim Janssen mentioned that, in the eastern part of South Four Corners where roads were just repaved in recent years, part of some roads are already deteriorating. Neighbors can report potholes and other problems by calling 311. It was noted that more substantial road repairs will not occur until after the gas line replacement project.

Marty Maher reported that Safeway had just begun extended hours until midnight. (This is despite a robbery that occurred there after a 10pm closing on August 15th.)

Mid-term SFCCA President's Report By John Holden

This report is to briefly highlight a few areas that I consider priorities as the SFCCA President this year. I first want to thank all those who give so generously of their time, ideas, etc., to serve the Association and to help make South Four Corners a great neighborhood in which to live.

1. Maintaining **safety** in our neighborhood is a top priority. If we do not feel reasonably safe in our neighborhood, then most of the other aspects of quality of neighborhood life are almost moot. This is why the July/August newsletter included articles on "Crime Prevention Tips for Summer" and "Safety Tips for Storm Season," and why I invited Police Officer Joy Patil to speak at the July meeting. As Officer Patil emphasized, if you see suspicious activity you should always call the police to report it (non-emergency number 301-279-8000, or 911 if a crime is taking place). Officer Patil also mentioned how valuable it can be to **set up a watch group with your nearby neighbors**; I can say from my own experience that **the rewards of this extend well beyond preventing crime** in our neighborhood.

2. An important part of SFCCA's mission is to act as a voice for South



Four Corners residents, serving as a liaison to our elected representatives and other government officials at both the County and State level. To support this objective, Vice President Larry Dickter and I have been striving to inform the community about ways to monitor and address those issues that may affect our neighborhood's residential character and/or quality of life. For example, with the approval of the membership, SFCCA has taken public positions on the White Oak master plan and its related transportation elements, because actions by the County Council in these areas will have very real impacts on our local traffic and natural environment. We have also invited County Council District 5 nominee Tom Hucker to speak at our next SFCCA meeting on November 10. It is now up to each individual neighbor to take advantage of the information and

opportunities -- to learn more, to communicate regularly to elected representatives and other government officials, and to vote in

every election.

3. SFCCA is an association of **volunteers**. As noted above, many neighbors give very generously of their time (and also the \$15 annual household dues). Whether the contribution is big or small, more visible or behind-thescenes, these volunteers and their actions are essential to our life together as a community. If you are not already involved with your neighbors and/or the association, I encourage you to **identify one or more new ways to contribute**



-- and perhaps make some new friends at the same time. For ideas, look at the list of calendar items on the front page of the newsletter, or visit the **SouthFourCorners.com** website.

Plenty to do in the Garden! Jeanne Berman, Horticulturalist

<u>Trees and Shrubs</u> If the month is dry, watch for watering needs during dry spells so that trees and shrubs will go into dormancy well hydrated – especially newly planted or transplanted ones. Evergreens – both the conifers and the broadleaf types – are particularly vulnerable to winter-burn from lack of hydration. Trees and shrubs can be planted until the ground freezes. And lots of them are on sale or reduced in the garden centers. Late fall is also a great time to fertilize trees and shrubs, after the first hard frost when plants are dormant (in or-



der to avoid stimulating new leaf growth now). Newly planted and very young trees and shrubs benefit the most from tree fertilization. Trees that are surrounded by lawn get some fertilizer when the lawn is fed, and don't need additional feeding.

<u>Pruning</u> Late winter is best, deciduous (leaf-dropping) trees can be pruned this month after they drop their leaves and go into dormancy – it'll be easier to see the structure of branches and determine what pruning needs to be done. Begin pruning by removing all dead, diseased branches and then make any necessary cosmetic cuts. Don't prune spring-flowering shrubs now, though (except to remove dead or broken branches) or you'll just cut off their blooms. Wait til just after they've bloomed to do it. Be sure to use sharp pruners or loppers; otherwise the cut may not heal properly, leading to disease and insect problems. And remember, try not to remove more than one third of the overall branches of a tree or shrub at any one time. Don't prune evergreens now – wait until late winter or early spring (March or April). Rhododendrons and conifers are showing yellowing and dropping of some of their older leaves – that's normal for this time of



Plenty to do in the Garden! (Cont.)

<u>Edibles</u> Spinach, lettuce, arugula, kale, and other cool-season crops can be protected from freezing with a cold frame, plastic sheeting or floating row cover to extend their productivity. Be sure to vent the cold frame or plastic cover on sunny days to prevent excessive heat build-up. Carrots, parsnips, and turnips can be overwintered by covering the bed with a deep straw or leaf mulch. These root crops can be harvested through the winter, as needed. Plant garlic soon after the first frost.

This is a good time to incorporate organic matter into garden beds. You can use shredded leaves to keep the beds covered over the winter to minimize the risk of soil erosion and nutrient run-off. Grow a cover crop to improve the soil for the next season and protect the soil from erosion and run-off all winter. In the spring turn the crop into the soil, it adds organic matter and the roots break down the heavy compacted clay soils.



Outdoor Bulbs, including Tender "Bulbs" It's not too late to plant spring-blooming bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. If you can't get to them all right away, do the daffodils and small bulbs as soon as possible; the tulips can wait until December if need be – as long as the ground isn't frozen.

Dig cannas, dahlias and other tender bulb-like plants before the killing frost if you want to save them for next year and store them in a cool dry place. After the frost has turned the foliage black, cut the tops back to 2-3" (or for cannas and dahlias, 4-6"), dig up the "bulb", brush off the soil and let it dry for 1-3 weeks to sure. Store in a dry spot that's ideally 40-50 degrees – perhaps an unheated basement or a crawl space – in boxes, pots, or mesh

bags filled with bark chips, peat moss, vermiculite or perlite. Check periodically for shriveling or decay. Store caladiums, dahlias and tuberous begonias in slightly moistened peat moss. Gladiolus requires an 8-week chilling period at 35-41° F. This may seem like tedious work but well worth your investment.

<u>Indoor Plants, including Bulbs</u>: Bring houseplants, tropicals and other tender plants inside before the killing frost. Check for mites, mealy bugs, scale or white fly.

It's a prime month for potting up paperwhites, Amaryllis and other bulbs to "force" to bloom indoors over the winter. You might stagger a batch every couple of weeks for flowers all winter. For your regular houseplants, be careful not to over-water them over the winter – let the soil dry out between watering. It is not necessary to feed your houseplants during the winter months.

<u>Lawn: You can still apply a lawn fertilizer</u>, up until November 15. After that, it's illegal to apply fertilizers to lawns and gardens until spring (March 1). Don't let whole leaves accumulate on your turf – they can smother and kill it. Those leaves are a great source of nutrients and organic matter for your lawn, however – if you just chop them with a mulching mower and allow them to decompose over the fall and winter.

<u>Perennials and Borders:</u> It's not too late to add pansies to your garden or outdoor pots. There's also still time to plant, divide, or transplant perennials (especially peonies, which should only be divided in the fall). Remember not to plant your peonies too deeply or cover them with too much mulch as they will have difficulty in setting their blooms in the spring.



Leave the large seed heads of black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, and native grasses for birds to feed on over the winter. They also add interest to the winter garden, as do non-native ornamental grasses. They can all be cut down in late winter, or after a snowstorm has flattened them. Other dead seedheads you might want to leave standing are perennials, biennials and annuals that you want to self-sow – or just shake their pods around before removing the remains of the plant.

Don't begin mulching your perennials until after the first hard freeze, usually around mid-November. The mulch should be 2-3 inches deep and surround the plant crowns. Cover any bare soil with mulch or groundcovers, to prevent erosion over the winter. Fall is an ideal time to add organic matter to your borders by mixing in 6-8 inch layer of leaf compost or well-rotted manure and then covering with a layer of shredded or mulched leaves.

Hemlocks that look like they are coated with spray-on snow are likely infested with the super-destructive wooly adelgid. If seen, they should be sprayed with horticultural oil anytime between now and March, provided the temperatures will be above freezing for 24 hours after application. Heavy infestations cause considerable damage or kill trees and should be treated with a registered systemic insecticide. Adelgids are particularly attracted to trees that are fertilized with too much nitrogen.

<u>Spruce spider mites</u> are active this time of year on evergreen trees. You can check for them for tapping branches while holding a piece of white paper underneath, then looking for moving specks. They can be controlled with horticultural oil. Note: If sprayed on blue-needled evergreens, the oil will take the wax off that gives them their blue color. Only the older needles will be green, however; new growth will be blue.

Drain hoses, Winterize outside faucets by cutting the water off from the inside of the house.

If you don't do this, your faucets and pipes could freeze and crack over the winter.

Even the laziest of gardeners can make a compost pile.

Instead of dumping all your leaves at the curb, put them in a big pile in the corner of the yard. By the end of summer next year, they will have decayed for the most part, and you can spread the compost on your garden.



In Praise of 'Vintage' Suburbs

by Carole Barth of Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association (adapted by permission from her article in Dec 2013 "Northwood News")

Vintage is all the rage: vinyl records are selling again, as are vintage-inspired clothes, home decor, furnishings, and design. At the same time, the historic preservation movement is beginning to address postwar buildings ranging from Usonian-inspired modern homes to the commercial exuberance of Doo Wop and Googie. (As the Doo Wop Preservation League website proclaims, "It's Cool! It's Hip! It's Retro! It's Wildwood!")

So let me predict the next big style craze: vintage suburbs. I'm talking about the inner-ring suburbs, begun in the 1930s but primarily filled out in the mid-twentieth century. To my mind, these neighborhoods combine some of the best features of urban and suburban living, while avoiding the excesses of either extreme.

A short distance from urban centers, vintage suburbs offer a variety of commuting options, unlike the sprawling, car-dependent suburbs that came later. Small lot sizes and proximity to neighborhood shopping, parks, and schools promote



neighbor-to-neighbor interaction, enhance walkability, and provide urban convenience. At the same time, however, mature trees and green space provide a peaceful ambiance, kids have yards to play in, and there's space for gardens, decks, and Florida rooms. One has both urban bustle and quiet retreat.

Many of these communities were developed a few houses at a time, leading to a diversity of housing styles and sizes. This stylistic diversity created an eclectic visual character, which contrasts starkly with the monotony of both the tract-mansion developments and the cookie cutter mixed-use developments which are prevalent today. (For example, the only place I've ever seen houses with round screened-in front porches is Woodmoor.)

The variety of available housing also means that students, growing families, and empty-nesters can all be accommodated in the same neighborhood. It is hard to convey how much cultural richness this age diversity provides. I treasure the friendships I've made across the age spectrum in my neighborhood; I have learned from young and old alike. It's been a special joy to watch children grow as they participate in community life, from their first steps "helping" with a cleanup or tree planting to their adult pursuit of careers that enhance others' lives.

In fact, some of these developments were actually designed to include housing stock for a range of economic levels, and others were specifically designed to be affordable for first-time home-buyers. (Indeed, some of these communities are still among the most affordable in the County.)



This affordability also enhances diversity, enabling older residents to "age in place" while providing many immigrants their first chance to buy a home. This housing resource will become all the more important as the current rush to build tract mansions, luxury condos, and expensive townhomes further skews the housing market away from affordability.

There is history here as well. How many of you know that the five Art-Deco style homes on contiguous lots at 9900 & 9904 Colesville Road and at 9919, 9923, and 9925 Sutherland Road comprise what is called the "Polychrome Historic District" and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places? These homes were constructed in the early 1930s by Master builder John Joseph Early, who clad them in pre-fabricated mosaic concrete panels. The process he utilized, in which the concrete was stripped to expose brilliantly colored aggregate particles, was developed and patented by Early himself. A future newsletter article will feature these homes and their historical significance.

However, I think what I like best about the vintage suburbs are their human scale. They are cozy without being crowded. You are not dwarfed either by huge estate homes or high-rises; instead, it's more of a "village" feel.

Since these communities possess many of the attributes planners are ostensibly striving to promote (diversity, walkability, sense of place), you would think the County would be working to preserve them and help them thrive into the future. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

Instead, they are being treated as obstacles to get around, mere speed bumps in the way of the current fad for ultra-high density development and sprawl-enabling, long-distance transit schemes. To my mind, this is every bit as short-sighted as was the "urban renewal" movement and the paving over of many urban neighborhoods for freeways.

Thus, I predict that in the future, those vintage suburbs that survive obliteration will be "discovered" as the new cool place to live. But why wait? You, too, can be in the vanguard of the next wave: go vintage!



Officers of the South Four Corners Citizens Association

John Holden, President
Pat Wills, Recording Secretary

Larry Dickter, Vice President Richard Messalle, Treasurer

South Four Corners Citizens Association Chairpersons

Eileen Broderick, Membership Ben Gross, Newsletter Editor Marie Girardot, Neighborhood Safety Dave Nettleton, Newsletter Distribution

SFCCAEditor@gmail.com

Box 792, Silver Spring, MD 20918-0792 | www.SouthFourCorners.com SFCCA Yahoo Group and Listserv | http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFCCAMembers



Dog Care for Active Dogs with Active Owners Play dates, dog walking, sitting, & boarding

Jennifer Betts Moore

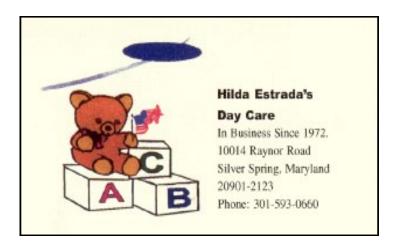
240-882-6411

Pack Leader/Owner jennifer@runandplaymd.com

4 ⁴

unandplaymd.com

P.O. Box 721 University Boulevard Silver Spring, MD 20918





Maurya Brenneman, LCSW-C Clinical Social Worker

Offering individual therapy for adults and adolescents

Treatment for:

*Depression

*Anxiety

*Loss and grief

*Relationship issues

*Major life transitions

10000 Colesville Road (Corner of Rt. 29 & Lanark Way, across from Blair HS) Silver Spring, MD 20901 Tel (301) 385-1591 Email: mrblcswc@yahoo.com

I accept Blue Cross Blue Shield and Aetna health insurance. Services are also available on a sliding-scale basis.

Save 10% on custom window treatments made locally with the highest standard of quality and craftsmanship guaranteed for life. Wood Blinds, Honeycomb Shades, Shutters, Roman Shades & more.

Visit our contact page at http://residencesbyrobin.com/location/ to request a price estimate or to schedule a shop at home appointment. Mention coupon code: NDB10.

Good thru December 31, 2014.

Law Offices of Robert Coyne

400 University Blvd. West Silver Spring, MD

(301) 681-5013

Charles J. Abraham, D.D.S.

11161 New Hampshire Ave. Suite 207 Silver Spring, MD 20904

(301) 593-6688