



# **SOUTH FOUR CORNERS**

## Citizens Association



### **September/October 2015 Newsletter**

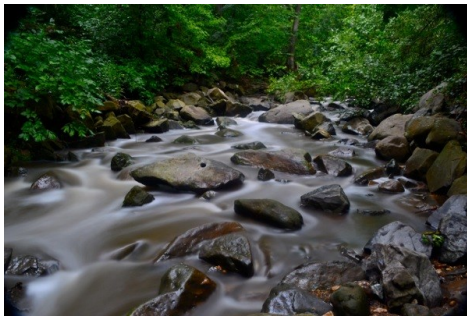
Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, Sept. 21st - 7:00 p.m.  
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road

#### **SEPTEMBER 21 COMMUNITY MEETING TO FOCUS ON SLIGO CREEK**

Our next community meeting, to be held at 7:00 PM, Monday, September 21, at the Schweinhaut Senior Center on Forest Glen Road, will feature guest speaker Kit Gage, President of the Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC).



FOSC is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to protecting, improving, and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed.



Ms. Gage, a notable horticulturalist and expert on storm water management will discuss the activities of FOSC and update us on issues such as the recent stream bed and sewer line restoration in Sligo Creek near Colesville Road and the new meadow and wetland project under-way between the Beltway and the soccer fields in Sligo Creek Park.

Other community updates and Association business will follow Ms. Gage's presentation.

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

**September 21 , 2015—7p.m.**—SFCCA Community Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road (NOTE new date on third Monday!)

**September 26, 2015—10 a.m.**—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

**October 25, 2015—4 p.m.**—Halloween Parade South Four Corners Park

**November 23 , 2015—7p.m.**—SFCCA Community Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road (NOTE new date on third Monday!)

# National Night Out a Success!

Marie Girardot

Despite the torrential downpour that began around 4:00pm on September 4, just before the start of the annual National Night Out, several brave neighbors came out to join over 37.8 million neighbors across 16,124 communities across the US.

We were joined by professional fire fighters, park police, a cavalcade of Montgomery County motorcycle officers and other beat officers from police District 3 that keep our neighborhood safe.



Thank you to Marty Maher for putting up the signs, Eileen Broderick for the popsicles, David Meininger for coolers and Peter McDonald for providing ice cold water.

See you next year!



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## What's the value in hiring Betty?

our family home ourselves. After lots of preparation and discussion we decided that with life commitments we just didn't have the time. We sought out and prepared to interview several realtors. We interviewed Betty and immediately felt the energy we sought. She provided us with a sound strategy on pricing, information on what to expect, etc. Betty quickly (we had a very aggressive time frame to get listed) arranged for pictures, marketing materials etc. Our home hit the market on a holiday weekend so we expected a slow weekend. We

**H**aving sold homes without a realtor we prepared to sell

were the most toured home online in our zip code, largely due to the marketing. Within 5 days we had a full price offer. We initially thought the realtor expenses were primarily for the showing service. Boy were we wrong!

After the contract is where Betty really shined. An unforeseen issue at inspection appeared to be a deal breaker for both sides with no solution in sight. Betty used her network of professionals, along with her negotiating prowess and solved the issue. During the process Betty systematically and personally communicated with us and provided information related to each phase of the sale. We strongly recommend Betty to anyone considering selling their home.

— Chuck and Joanna

Betty's recent client shares their thoughts.



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## Fall Home Maintenance Checklist

*Betty Batty*

What's on your "To-Do" list this Fall? Here are a few tips to prepare your home for the upcoming season.

1. Inspect roof for missing, loose or damaged shingles, repair as needed.
2. Clear gutters and downspouts. Confirm the downspouts as drain away from the home.
3. Test and replace batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and check fire extinguishers.
4. Clean out your dryer vent.
5. Schedule your annual furnace inspection and service appointment.
6. Schedule chimney sweep.
7. Examine tree branches, trim if they are within two feet of your roof and gutters.
8. Clean behind your refrigerator.
9. Check and winterize all windows and doors.



## Ice Cream Social—A Sweet Time for All!

*Betty Batty*



The Annual South Four Corners Ice Cream was another sweet success!

Nearly 200 neighbors gathered at the park on a very warm day.

The kids were running around on the playground and shared their excitement for the first day of school while the adults had a chance to catch up with friends and meet new neighbors.

Great to see so many happy faces!



# Backyard Wildlife Certification Program Supports Habitat Restoration

By Mark Cleveland

People often think that wildlife is somewhere out in the distant forests or mountains, but important habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, and small animals like chipmunks and frogs is available in the green spaces around our homes and neighborhood.

A birdbath or other water feature, native plants that offer shelter and food -- these are some of the key elements of a wildlife habitat that can provide a nurturing backyard oasis for birds, insect pollinators, and other animals right here in South Four Corners.



For those who enjoy gardening or are concerned about nature some small steps can be taken to help beautify our neighborhood and restore habitat. By providing food, water, cover and a place for wildlife to raise their young you can help wildlife and obtain a durable metal sign from the National Wildlife Foundation that can be displayed to show that you have a certified wildlife habitat in your yard.

The National Wildlife Foundation offers guidance on the essential components required for a wildlife-friendly yard, which many people may already have in place. The main elements include the following:

- **Food.** Planting native flowers, shrubs and trees is a good way to provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds and nuts that many species of wildlife require to survive and thrive. Bird feeders and other food sources can be used to supplement the plants. Minimizing use of chemicals is important too.
- **Water.** Wildlife need clean water for many purposes, including drinking, bathing and reproduction. Water sources may include natural ponds, streams, springs; or human-made features such as bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, and installed ponds or rain gardens.
- **Cover.** Wildlife require shelter from people, predators and bad weather and as places to raise their young. Thickets, trees, flower meadows, shrubbery, and small ponds can offer protection and good sites for nesting and egg laying for birds, butterflies, and frogs.

If you have these elements for a healthy and sustainable wildlife habitat and are interested in having your yard certified, you can go to the National Wildlife Federation website <http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx> to see what is needed.

The certification sign costs \$30, which will support the National Wildlife Federation's conservation efforts. The application involves filling out a checklist that indicates the kind of habitat you have created in terms of food, water, shelter, and sustainability features. The signs are nice looking, and the process of determining what aspects of your yard support wildlife habitats is informative and educational.

## Important Phone Numbers

Montgomery County General Information & Service Request, Call 311 | Outside of Montgomery County, call [240-777-0311](tel:240-777-0311) | The TTY (for the hearing impaired) number is [240-773-3556](tel:240-773-3556).

Police & Fire Emergency, 911 | Fire Non-Emergency, [\(240\) 773-4700](tel:240-773-4700) | Police Non-Emergency, [301-279-8000](tel:301-279-8000) | 24-Hour Emergency Preparedness Hotline, [240-777-4200](tel:240-777-4200)

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### Highlights from the July 20, 2015 SFCCA Meeting

In the absence of vacationing Association President **Marie Girardot**, Vice President **Larry Dickter** called the meeting to order. He said how pleased he was to see such a large turn-out (approximately 60 people) for a mid-summer meeting.

Larry then introduced Woodside Park resident and Silver Spring historian Dr. Robert Oshel, who gave an illustrated PowerPoint presentation, complete with photos and maps, based on his latest book ***Silver Spring and the Civil War***. Drawing upon contemporary accounts and memoirs, Dr. Oshel recounted the period culminating in July 1864, when Confederate troops under the command of General Jubal Early swept through Silver Spring on their way to invading Washington, DC. Following his well-received presentation, Dr. Oshel answered questions from the audience and signed copies of his book.

**Cindy Shay** was asked to speak about the badly neglected triangular green space formed by the intersection of Brunett Ave. and Greenock Road, a well-used public space at one of the main entrances into our community. She and **Mark Cleveland** recently pulled together a group of volunteers from the neighborhood to help spruce up the area by cleaning it up, weeding, hauling out rocks, and planting colorful flowers that were then carefully mulched and watered in that triangle.

Cindy suggested additional steps that could be taken by the community to keep the momentum going, including mulching and chipping the walking path and adding more butterfly friendly plants. In addition to asking for additional volunteers to help maintain and improve this community space, she requested an initial appropriation of \$300 from the Association to help support this project. A motion was made to fund Cindy's request, seconded, and approved unanimously.

In addition to signing up a number of volunteers at the meeting, Cindy said she would continue recruiting volunteers and announcing more gardening and beautification opportunities on the SFCCA listserv.

## Highlights from the July 20, 2015 SFCCA Meeting (cont.)

Another proposal put forward was to install a small entrance sign at the triangle identifying the neighborhood as South Four Corners. Larry said he would look into what it would take to get approval from Montgomery County government to install a sign similar to the one marking the entry way into the North Hills of Sligo, near Colesville Road and Sligo Creek Parkway.

Larry said that SFCCA leadership monitors the listserv to see what recurring community issues and concerns are being expressed. He responded to several of those issues that have been recently identified:

- According to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), our local water utility, the salt used to treat our roads and sidewalks over the winter is the likely culprit if you have noticed your tap water taking on a brownish tinge.
- Complaints about mail delivery by the Post Office (USPS) can be attributed at least in part to funding shortfalls resulting in lower service standards (e. g. slower delivery) and the closure of scores of mail processing facilities around the country. As USPS is forced to cut back, fewer professional carriers and more contractors (who are unfamiliar with their routes) are delivering our mail, finishing at later hours and at times delivering mail to the wrong house. There is no statutory requirement that our mail has to be in our mailbox by a certain hour. In an effort to draw attention to the mail delivery problems some of us are experiencing, SFCCA President Girardot recently spoke to the Postmaster for our area.
- Washington Gas has completed restoration of neighborhood streets that were torn up during last year's natural gas line replacement project. Recently though, the company has been back to replace gas service to a number of homes on Markham Street. Temporary patches have been laid by Washington Gas contractors where the road was disturbed, and the supervisor of the project said he does not know exactly when they will be back to complete restoration.
- Thanks to the intervention of **Tom Hucker**, our District representative on the Montgomery County Council, there will be enhanced signage around the pedestrian crosswalk where the Sligo Creek Trail crosses Forest Glen Road.

**Marty Maher** explained the purpose of National Night Out and some of the activities planned for this year's annual event, to be held Tuesday evening, August 4, at 7:00, at South Four Corners Park.

For anyone who has not already paid their \$15 annual dues for 2015, Larry encouraged them to see SFCCA Membership Chair **Eileen Broderick** at the back of the room. He reminded everyone that their dues are what pays for the activities of the Association, such as the rental of the room in which our meetings are held and the annual ice cream social.

Eileen announced that the date and place for the upcoming ice cream social that was published in the July SFCCA newsletter was incorrect. **The annual SFCCA ice cream social will be held Saturday, August 29, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM at South Four Corners Park** on Forest Glen Road. The rain date is the following day, August 30, same time, same place. This is a great family event for the entire community and a wonderful opportunity to meet your neighbors.

**Karen Michels**, who is the Association's representative on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) for US29 South, and Larry Dickter, who is also involved through the Greater Four Corners Alliance, said there was little progress to report since our last SFCCA meeting. More activity by the CAC is expected this fall.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:30





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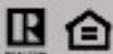
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## Coming up! DUMPSTER, DONATE & SHRED DAY

Sept. 26 • 9am-Noon • Argyle Park on Forest Glen Rd.

Get ready for our next community event! We'll provide a dumpster for your unusable items, A Wider Circle will be accepting donations, plus we'll have a shredding truck on-site. Don't forget—we always offer donuts and coffee! For more information, please visit our website.



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Ben Gross, Newsletter Editor  
Dave West, Listserv Manager  
Erin Caporellie, Social Chair

Nick Nguyen, Neighborhood Watch  
Dave Nettleton, Newsletter Distribution  
Michelle Kretkowski, Website/Social Media  
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**[SFCCAEitor@gmail.com](mailto:SFCCAEitor@gmail.com)**

**SFCCA Yahoo Group and Listserv | <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFCCAMembers>**

**Facebook | <https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Four-Corners-Silver-Spring/129740147057223>**



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