



# **SOUTH FOUR CORNERS**

## **C i t i z e n s   A s s o c i a t i o n**



### **July/August 2013 Newsletter**

**Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.  
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road**

#### **July Meeting Agenda**



SFCCA Activities Update - *Betty Batty*  
Membership Update - *Eileen Broderick*  
Treasury Report - *Dick Messalle*  
Accessory Apartment Update - *Larry Dickter*  
Montgomery County Civic Federation Update -  
*John Holden*  
Neighborhood Issues and Announcements - *All*

#### **Planning a block party? It's easy.**

Block parties are a great way to meet neighbors and catch up with others you haven't seen in a while. Lots of streets in South Four Corners host block parties throughout the warmer months with great success.

You will find the application and details on our community web site <http://southfourcorners.com/resources/planning-a-block-party>.

We encourage you to apply for the permit 30-60 days prior to the event.

A few tips from some neighbors who've held block parties:

- Have a few families supply the burgers and hot dogs, water, paper products and then ask everyone to supply a side or dessert and their own beverages
- Consider ordering pizza to keep it really simple (local pizza places will give you a discount for large orders) and then place a jar on the table for donations
- Supply the kids with sidewalk chalk, bubbles, hula hoops, water toys and have them bring their bikes and scooters
- Bring out group games like croquet, cornhole, ladder golf etc.
- Make sure you have enough tables for food and a few for guests as well
- If you are grilling you might need more than one grill

And most important keep it simple and have a great time!

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

**July 8, 2013, 7 p.m.**—SFCCA Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd.

**July 13, 2013, 10 a.m.**—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

**August 6, 2013, 7-8 p.m.**—National Night Out, South Four Corners Park

**September 9, 2013, 7 p.m.**—SFCCA Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd.

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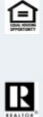
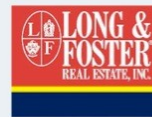
*Thanks again.*

*Dave*

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## **SFCCA Families Open Homes to Thunderbolts Players**

**David Nettleton**

Two SFCCA Families, the Francks on Harding Drive and the Nettleton/Ellis family on Hereford Place are hosting collegiate players from the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts baseball team, which is dependent on families housing players each year. In return, families get a free pass to all home games at Blair Stadium and a wonderful chance to assist our fine young men in baseball uniforms. Jamie and Valerie Franck are in their third year and Dave Nettleton/Jori Ellis in their first year of hosting. Both families are happy to say that their players are cleaning up their dishes, hanging up their towels and checking in with their families after each game.



The Thunderbolts have been around since June 2000. For the first 4 years the team played in what was known as the Clark Griffith League but in 2005 moved over to the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League. There are 12 teams in the League and they play in Washington DC, Northern Virginia (Herndon, Alexandria and Vienna) and Maryland (Silver Spring, Baltimore, Bethesda, Gaithersburg, Glen Burnie, Hanover, Rockville, and Waldorf). This League is one of the premier summer wood-bat leagues for collegiate players and one of only four that is sponsored by Major League Baseball. The players are NCAA eligible college players who fan out across the league to play a 44 game schedule in eight weeks in June and July.

If you are interested in hosting, you can find out more by visiting the T-Bolts website at [www.tbolts.org](http://www.tbolts.org).



## 2012 Audit Report Glen Richardson

On April 22, 2013 Christine Hutcherson and Glen Richardson performed an audit of the SFCCA Financial Records for January 2012 to December 2012.

The records we used for testing were monthly bank statements, copies of paid checks, receipts for expenses and the Treasurer's electronic spread sheet of transactions.



**We found the records were complete and accurate. All expenses were fully documented and accounted for.**



**10010 Kinross  
13 Offers!**



**9922 Markham  
\$489,900**



**10016 Sidney  
Multiple Offers!**



**9224 Mintwood  
Sold for \$30k over list**

***In the last three months, the Tamara Kucik Team has sold 23 homes in the 20901 zip code:***

- ***11 of those homes went under contract in multiple offers***
- ***Sold for an average of 104.37% of list price***
- ***Sold in an average of 17 days***
- ***We sold more homes than our top four competitors combined!***



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This is not meant to solicit property if it is listed with another broker. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

***Just a sample of Betty's recent South Four Corners activity.  
Not to mention the other 25 homes she's sold this year***



**Under Contract  
810 Lanark Way  
Multiple offers in 4 days**



**Sold - \$525,000  
10009 Dallas Ave.  
Represented Buyer**



**Sold - \$491,000  
10014 Lorain Ave.  
\$16,000 over asking**

After 10 months we found our family the perfect place to call home. "Betty was exceptionally patient throughout our long home search and eventually found us a home that was not even on the market. She did a fabulous job negotiating with the sellers who were unrepresented and, at times, challenging. Having interviewed multiple agents before beginning our home search, we feel very lucky to have selected Betty - she's the best!" - **Barham family**

My testimonials speak for themselves!

**See more at [www.bettybatty.com/testimonials](http://www.bettybatty.com/testimonials)**



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**Did you know that 35 homes have sold in  
South Four Corners since January?**

**The average sales price was \$464,701  
and the home was on the market for  
an average of 32 days.**

Call or e-mail **Betty Batty** for a **free** copy of recent sales and a **no obligation** consultation  
on a wide range of real estate topics.

I am happy to chat about a renovation, sale of home or purchase.

\* All information deemed reliable

Betty Batty reported that the yard sale was a huge success—remember that next year and turn that stash of household items into cash!

Last year the membership had 124 paid members. If you haven't joined you can do so at the ice cream social. It's only \$15 a year.

The Forest Glen project has been stymied because of staff turnover in MNCPPC.

**The requirements and procedures for the creation of accessory apartments have changed. Before any rental license is issued by Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, the applicant must, as before, first be in compliance with all housing code and zoning standards. The new procedure retains some role for public notification and comment, though it does place a greater burden on neighbors than it used to.**

Pepco hired Pike Electric to replace the wires so we should not experience power outages as often in the future. The wire they are using is known to hold up to trees that fall, also improved cross members have been installed on many poles

Kudos to Mary Pat Spoon for her newsletter contributions; she will be missed when she moves.

Donna Westerfeld is a new neighbor on Portland Place. She absolutely loves the neighborhood and is so thankful to be close to the Metro and great bike trails.

We are still looking for volunteers to contribute a bit of their time for our neighborhood.

A motion by Larry Dickter was made to keep our current officers, and that was seconded by many. The current officers were reelected.

### Remembering Bob Silberstein

#### *Larry Dickter*

It saddens us greatly to report the passing of our friend and neighbor, Bob Silberstein, who was 81 at the time of his death on April 15.

Bob and his wife Maggie moved into their home on Grayson in 1989. According to Maggie, the proximity to Sligo Creek Park was one of their reasons for moving here. At the time, Bob was first chair reed in the Kennedy Center Opera House orchestra, where he played for many years prior to his retirement. He was a "doubler," meaning, in his case, that he switched between playing flute, saxophone, and clarinet.

Bob also taught music in the Prince George's County public school system, and many students took private lessons from him as well. Raised in Washington, DC, Bob was a graduate of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY and served in the U. S. Army band during the Korean War.

In addition to his music, Bob was an avid movie buff and loved to travel. And closer to home, he was an active member of the South Four Corners Citizens Association, often attending community meetings and events. He and Maggie also helped to deliver this newsletter to homes throughout the neighborhood.

I will always remember Bob for his grace and dignity, as well as for his gentle manner. Though I was never one of his students, I could see why he must have been a patient and memorable teacher. He was unfailingly friendly whenever I encountered him, and I'm sure there are many of us who will sorely miss his presence in the neighborhood.

In addition to Maggie, Bob is survived by a large family, including one son, four stepchildren, and many grandchildren.



## The Gardening Guru

Jeanne Berman, Horticulturalist

### Bugs, Edible Flowers, Garden Visits and Cicadas?

#### Bugs (my top 10 "good" and "bad" bugs)

I am not an entomologist (and the term bug is used loosely) but as a gardener I considered some "bugs" good and some bad. You should always be certain that you know the bug or insect before you spray or apply insecticide. The bug/insect world will usually take care of this before you have to bring out the pesticides so always ID the bug/insect first. [www.bugoftheweek.com](http://www.bugoftheweek.com) is a good resource, but I suggest trying some natural control methods before you spray possibly harmful and toxic chemicals on your plants.

Some "bugs" that I LOVE in the garden are; lady bugs, spiders, assassin bugs, dragonflies, ground beetles, green lacewings, honeybees, fireflies, praying mantis, butterflies. Many of these "bugs" pollinate our vegetables and flowers and some of them will eat the "bugs" that ruin our favorite garden plants.

Some of the "bugs" I don't like to see in my garden are; aphids, mosquitoes, slugs, squash bugs, cutworms, cucumber beetles, tomato and tobacco hornworms, scale, tent caterpillars. Some of these for obvious reasons.... Many of these will chew your flowers and vegetables not only leaving them looking unsightly but many of them will ruin your vegetable crops. Many of these have natural pest controls that are worth trying.

#### EDIBLE FLOWERS

Just for fun try some of these edible flowers in your salads or as a garnish to a beautiful meal. BUT DO NOT TRY ANY FLOWER OR PLANT UNLESS YOU KNOW FOR CERTAIN IT IS EDIBLE and organic.


Anise hyssop, basil, bee balm, chives, lavender, eastern redbud, pansies, nasturtium, roses, squash blossoms, scented geraniums, roses, violas, yucca.

\*There are edible flowers available in a small packets in the herb section at Whole Foods Market and other grocery stores.


\*Pansies spices also has a variety of dried edible flowers you may use in baking.

#### INEDIBLE FLOWERS

Always check- but these flowers are on the DO NOT EAT LIST. Some will cause different reactions in different people so be careful and do your research. Azalea, boxwood, clematis, cosmos, daffodil, foxglove, iris, lily of the valley, morning glory, sweet pea, wisteria.



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## Garden Classrooms

Thank you to our neighbors the Gablers, Carol Mapes and the Janssens for hosting classroom visits on June 8<sup>th</sup>. We went home with plants, and we tasted an early crop of snap peas. We saw a pre-historic garden and beautiful perennials in the Gablers garden. Carol wasn't able to show us her blooming iris' but she certainly has a lot of them and I am looking forward to seeing them bloom next spring. She also has a beautiful stone edged garden bed in her back yard and you could see all her hard work has paid off. Many of her plants were in bloom and there were a lot of questions asked and answered. The Janssens are re-hauling their garden and invited us to watch it from the start. (we will get to visit it again later to see the progress and then again when Jim says it is finished). He has taken down some very large trees and is building more vegetable beds. Carol's favorite clematis and New Dawn rose were both in bloom and we all loved her idea of the potato tower she built next to her tomatoes so that they are not competing for nutrients. Very informative for all of us. And as I say "Any day spent in the garden is a good day"

Cicadas—are they coming?

Magiciada periodical cicadas (aka 17 and 13 year cicadas) have been sighted in some portions of northern and central Virginia and southern Maryland. But the metro area for the most part has been unaffected.

The weather may play a role in the late arrival. "It's been a strange spring with hot and cold and hot but mostly the cicadas will not emerge until the weather is consistently warm or hot," says Gary Hevel, a Smithsonian Entomologist. So keep a look out for them and listen to their beautiful song atop the trees. At this writing we have been without, however I have been in gardens in Virginia where I have seen them. Not as many as predicted are out so there hasn't been any complaints so far about damage. Our area is supposed to see them but so far no luck. Go to [www.cicadamania.com](http://www.cicadamania.com) for an update.



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## Safety Tips for Storm Season

*Based on information from the Montgomery County Office of Public Information and PEPCO*

June is traditionally the start of the summer storm and hurricane season. That's why County officials are urging residents to take precautions to stay safe, including heeding storm warnings issued by the National Weather Service, and taking shelter when appropriate.

One free and easy step to take to help keep yourself and family safe is to sign up for Alert Montgomery to receive up-to-date information on hurricane watches and warnings and other storms. Alert Montgomery sign-up information is available online at the County's Call Center ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311)) or by

calling 311 or 240-777-0311, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Alerts can be sent to one or more electronic devices, including cell phones, text pagers and wireless PDAs, along with home and work emails.



While many of the electrical wires have been replaced in South Four Corners, lightning, heavy rain and strong winds can still bring tree limbs and branches down onto them, potentially causing electric service interruptions.

Here are some steps from PEPCO that you can take now to be prepared:

- Have a corded landline telephone and/or a fully charged cellular phone available.
- Keep a three-day supply of bottled water and nonperishable food items on hand.
- Assemble a storm emergency kit that contains a first aid kit, flashlights, fresh batteries, a battery-operated radio or television, emergency telephone numbers and other personal necessities.
- Safeguard your electronic equipment by using surge protectors.
- Be ready to evacuate special needs and elderly persons to alternate locations with power if necessary.
- Prepare a family emergency plan and review it periodically.
- Keep Pepco's Outage Reporting Number handy – 1-877-PEPCO62.

Lightning is the third-leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States. Don't become a statistic, follow these safety tips from the National Weather Service:

- Get to a safe place. If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately move to a safe place. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing provide the best protection. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning. If a sturdy building is not nearby, get into a hard-topped metal vehicle and close all the windows.
- Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.
- If you hear thunder, avoid talking on the phone. If you must use a phone, a cordless or cell phone is preferred at home over a landline.
- Before going outdoors, check the forecast for thunderstorms. Consider postponing activities to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.



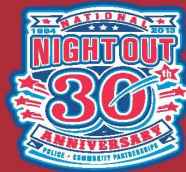
# National Night Out

*Marty Maher*

On August 6, SFCCA will host National Night Out at the South Four Corners Park. Activities will be from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

For the children, there will be police cars and uniformed officers from both Montgomery County and the Maryland National Capital Park Police.

Adults will have the opportunity to meet the officers and discuss neighborhood issues. Light refreshments will be served.



## A GOOD NIGHT TO GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Help build a stronger, safer community by attending the annual  
National Night Out. For more information, go to  
[NationalNightOut.org](http://NationalNightOut.org).





## Sweet & Greet SFCCA Ice Cream Social *Glen Ruchardson*

The third annual SFCCA Ice Cream Social was a sweet time for all.

Approximately 150 neighbors attended the June 16 social at South Four Corners Park.

We met new neighbors, caught up with old friends and enjoyed ice cream and snow cones from L-J Mobile Ice Cream.

Hope to see even more of you out there next time!





## Crime Prevention Tips for Summer

*John Holden*

Here are some tips to help you keep yourself and your home safe during the summer months.  
(They are adapted from tips from a federal agency's Office of Security and Law Enforcement.)

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the backyard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- During the summer weather, many people open windows sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front yard and backyards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification, and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.



Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools.

Watchful, attentive neighbors can spot criminals and alert the police and the community to their presence.

Get involved in your community, and help your summer-time to be happy and safe.



**Officers of the South Four Corners Citizens Association**

David Meininger, President  
Pat Wills, Recording Secretary

Glen Richardson, Vice President  
Richard Messalle, Treasurer

**South Four Corners Citizens Association Chairpersons**

Eileen Broderick, Membership  
Ben Gross, Newsletter Editor

Marie Girardot, Neighborhood Watch  
Dave Nettleton, Newsletter Distribution

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