



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

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



May/June 2013 Newsletter

**Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, May 13th - 7:00 p.m.
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road**

May Meeting

While there are no scheduled speakers for the May meeting, the future leadership of the South Four Corners Citizens Association will be elected. Anyone interested in running for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary or Corresponding Secretary need only announce their intent at the May meeting. This is a great opportunity to get more involved in South Four Corners!

Support Local Youth Baseball—Attend a Thunderbolts Game

Looking for a fun family activity that is reasonably priced and practically in your backyard? Attend a Silver Spring-Takoma Park Thunderbolts game at Blair High School!

Monday—Saturday games start at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday games start at 6:00 p.m.
Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 5-17 and youths in softball/baseball uniforms and kids under 5 get in FREE!

Home Schedule (read horizontally)

Thursday, June 6 Gaithersburg Giants
Sunday, June 9 Bethesda Big Train
Friday, June 14 Youse's Orioles
Saturday, June 22 Presstman Cardinals
Wednesday, June 26 Baltimore Redbirds
Sunday, June 30 So. Maryland Nationals (DH)
Saturday, July 6 Alexandria Aces
Wednesday, July 10 D.C. Grays
Sunday July 14 Youse's Orioles
Wednesday, July 24 Bethesda Big Train
Sunday, July 28 Presstman Cardinals

Friday, June 7 Vienna River Dogs
Wednesday, June 12 Rockville Express
Sunday, June 16 D.C. Grays
Monday, June 24 Herndon Braves
Friday, June 28 Baltimore Redbirds
Wednesday, July 3 Vienna River Dogs
Sunday, July 7 Gaithersburg Giants
Friday, July 12 Rockville Express
Saturday, July 20 Alexandria Aces
Friday, July 26 Herndon Braves

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 13, 2013, 7 p.m.—SFCCA Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd.
May 18, 2013, 10 a.m.—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts).
May 19, 2013, 4-6 p.m.—Ice Cream Social, South Four Corners Park
July 8, 2013, 7 p.m.—SFCCA Meeting, Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd.

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for the Ice Cream Social!

Glen Richardson

Join your neighbors for some tasty ice cream and a great way to kick off the warmer months at the 3rd annual South Four Corners Citizens Association's Ice Cream Social on Sunday, May 19 from 4-6 p.m.

It will take place at the South Four Corners Park on Forest Glen Road (between Dallas Avenue. and Renfrew Road.)

Last year, dozens of families and individuals enjoyed their favorite frozen concoctions, chatted with their neighbors and had fun on the playground and the field! No RSVP is required, just a love of ice cream and South Four Corners!



Our team sold **28 homes** the first 90 days of 2013 Call Betty! You'll be thrilled!



Betty Batty has been a stellar representative for our family in the home selling and buying process. She provided a tremendous amount of expertise and she sold our home in 6 days at list price. She was always available and did a great job with all the details of the sale and purchase of our homes.

Betty is an exceptional realtor. - The Nadelhaft Family



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Top 10 Reasons to Participate in the Adopt-A-Road Clean-up

Sharon Cohany



1. Great family activity.
2. Cheaper than a gym membership.
3. You get to break in your new work gloves.
4. I only have to work one hour.
5. It gets my husband out of the house.
6. Community service credit for students.
7. Great opportunity to meet new neighbors.
8. Saturday morning TV is terrible.
9. It's easier than downward facing dog.
10. It's my neighborhood.

Adopt-A-Road clean-up occurs the Saturday following each bi-monthly SFCCA business meeting. Remaining dates for 2013 are May 18, July 13, September 14, and November 16.

Please join us at Argyle Park tennis courts at 10:00 am and don't forget your work gloves!



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.

Vote in the First Annual SFCCA "Build-A-Snowman" Contest

WOW! Thanks for all the great entries to the contest! We had so many entries, it's tough to decide which snowmen are the winners, so we'd like to hear from you. Between now and May 18, email your votes to sfccaeditor@gmail.com. We'll tally all the votes and announce the winners at the May 19 ice Cream Social at South Four Corners Park. Please include the category and entry number when emailing!

Children Under 10

Entry #1



Entry #2



Entry #3



Most Creative

Entry #1



Entry #2



Entry #3



Entry #4



Entry #5



Entry #6



Entry #7



Entry #8



Biggest

Entry #1



Entry #2



Entry #3



Notes from the March 11, 2013 SFCCA Meeting Provided by Pat Wills

The meeting was brought to order with 38 neighbors in attendance plus a guest speaker. The meeting opened with general announcements:

Mark your calendars for the ice cream social on May 19th; Volunteers are needed in the community. You'll receive a free all-purpose bag when you join up. It's up to us to keep our neighborhood healthy and looking manicured and beautiful.

David Meininger introduced Ben Bishop who has volunteered to assume the responsibility for posting SFCCA signs before each business meeting.

David Meininger then introduced the evening's guest speaker, Jenny St. John from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) [Jenni-St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Jenni.St.John@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Ms. St. John, a member of the DEP Green Streets Team, presented a good deal of information on the "Green Streets in Your Neighborhood". Green Streets are roadway Low Impact Development (LID) designs that reduce and filter rainfall and pollutants that wash off surface areas (storm-water runoff), and enter our streams, degrading the water quality of our local streams and rivers.

The work on Dennis Avenue between Sligo Creek Parkway and Tenbrook Drive is part of the Green Streets effort to improve the Sligo Creek Water Shed. Untreated water flowing toward Sligo Creek gathers oil, dirt, trash and other solid waste polluting Sligo Creek. The goal of the Green Streets project is to treat the water as nature does before it enters the creek. For more information on the Dennis Ave project go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dennisgreenstreet.

You can help by not over fertilizing your lawns, and not dumping the car washing water and car maintenance liquids into our sewers and streams.

The BIG PICTURE....the county plans to improve storm-water treatment on 4,300 acres by February 2015. That is a lot of ground to cover, and a variety of approaches are needed to meet this goal, given the extent of development in Montgomery County.

Individual home owners can participate in the Rainscapes Rebate Program which promotes and implements projects that provide you with a rebate for having rain barrels, rain gardens, green roofs, etc. www.rainscapes.org for more information.

David Meininger then talked about the importance of volunteers in the neighborhood. If you are better to your neighbors, you'll have a better neighborhood. He also announced Michelle Kretkoroski has taken over management of the SFCCA website, SouthFourCorners.com. Recognition was given to Glen Richardson and Larry Dickter for contributing so much of their time to South Four Corners.



Maurya Brenneman, LCSW-C Clinical Social Worker

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The Gardening Guru

Jeanne Berman

Mulching Your Garden

Many gardeners, homeowners and landscapers ask what type of mulch they should use. Here is some information I have compiled, that should help make you a better gardener.


Shredded hardwood mulch and colored mulches purchased in bags are made from shredded tree bark. Bark mulch is low in nutrients such as nitrogen and high in carbon, which means that microbes may pull nitrogen out of the surrounding soil and will not improve your soil. **Colored mulch** is made of wood and not bark and dyed either red, black or brown and will not decompose easily.

Leaves make the perfect mulch, even if they don't make your garden look perfectly manicured. As leaves decompose, they release nutrients into the soil. Mulching mowers can turn your leaves into shredded leaves that work best, since whole leaves blow away in the wind. Turn the decomposing leaves into the soil when it is time to re-mulch and then add more shredded leaves. And the best part is that you have plenty of leaves in your own yard.

Hay contains lots of weed seeds and should not be used as mulch material. **Straw** will work if mulched heavily enough but decomposes quickly and will have to be replenished to keep weeds under control.

Pine fines mulch is made from pine trees. It is sold both as mulch and a soil conditioner. It has an acidic content, and is good for use in areas where acidic soil is needed. It is also a good soil amendment for clay soil. **Pine Straw** mulch is the needles from pine trees which many feel looks good but still very acidic for some of your landscape plants. Know your plants before you use this as mulch.

"Arborist" mulch is mulch obtained in bulk from a local arborist. This differs from wood chips purchased in bags because it contains bark, wood, and leaves. The combination of these materials is superior to bagged mulch from the garden center. Since it incorporates leaves, nature's best choice - it holds a more diverse set of biological material for decomposition.



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Mulching Your Garden (Continued)

Cocoa mulch. Many of the cocoa smelling mulches contain a substance called theobromine that can be lethal to animals; cats and dogs especially. If you like the fragrance of this mulch please check the brand you are purchasing to see if it contains theobromine.

Landscaping fabric is used for weed control and it can benefit your garden if the fabric is thick enough. However, using fabric as mulch can be a disadvantage to the soil below because organic matter cannot recycle into the soil. Soil needs to be consistently replenished with organic matter and it is difficult for the organic matter to penetrate landscaping fabric. The best weed control is hand weeding. (Another alternative for "weed fabric" is the use of newspaper to deter weeds. Put mulch over the layer of newspaper as it will breakdown into the soil.)

*The Takoma Park Department of Public Works offers free leaf mulch to those who pick it up themselves in containers or bags and haul it home. You can also have it delivered for a fee if it is available. Call 301-891-7633.

***Mark your calendars!!!** We have 2 garden classroom tours for those interested on June 8th. Our first classroom tour will begin at 10:30 am in the garden at 601 Forest Glen Road and then we will walk (or drive) to the corner of Markham Street and Gilmore Drive. See you then.

***No Date set yet,** but we plan to see a new garden on Dallas Ave. that has three rain gardens and some beautiful stonework installed by former neighbor Luke Jessup aka Father Nature.. Stay tuned to the SFCCA website and list-serv as Luke will give us a tour when the new garden is ready.

*Anyone wanting to offer their garden as a classroom for fellow neighbors please e-mail me at: jzberman8@gmail.com

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