



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

Citizens Association



May/June 2012 Newsletter

**Next SFCCA Meeting: Monday, May 14 at 7 pm
at the Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Road**

May Meeting—Elections, The Importance of Insurance and Stump Marty

While we have no guest speaker, the May 14 meeting is very important for the future of the SFCCA. We will elect the Officers who will see the Association through the next year. See the bottom of page 2 for the list of officers.

Additionally, David Meininger will explain what Certificate of Liability Insurance is, and why it is needed for third-party doing work on properties in the neighborhood. Look for more roundtables and a rousing session of “Stump Marty!”



Yard Sale Success

Betty Batty

Thanks to everyone who participated in the community yard sale on April 21. The sun was shining and it was a huge success. So many shoppers commented on the great neighborhood event. I've heard from neighbors who picked up some great treasures and others who were delighted we scheduled a pick up from A Wider Circle.



We filled a medium moving truck with kitchen items, baby and kids clothes, toys and furniture to help this Silver Spring-based charity.

Many families will benefit from your generosity. Thanks to everyone for their work. South Four Corners is such a great place to live with so many happy and generous neighbors.

Finally a big thanks to Mary Jane Costlow who made more than 25 signs for the yard sale, and thanks to those who helped display and remove them following the sale.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

May 19, 2012, 10 a.m.—Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd (meet at Argyle Park tennis courts).

June 2012—Ice Cream Social at South Four Corners Park (date and time TBD).

Editor's Corner

Ben Gross

Survey Says? South Four Corners!

If you are an avid follower of the listserv or South Four Corners web site visitor, you may have seen an invitation to take an SFCCA survey about membership. If you are one of the 75 households that has taken it already –THANK YOU! If not, there's still time; simply visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/XD8975D.

We're just trying to learn a bit more about the community, so SFCCA can ensure maximum value for your membership dollars!

As always, you can reach me at SFCCAEditor@gmail.com.



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Elections will be held at the May 14, 2012 meeting. Anyone who is a current, dues-paying member of SFCCA is eligible to run for any of the four offices listed below. Only dues-paying members may vote listed.

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

Child Care Center Update

Glen Richardson

On March 5, 2012, the Hearing Examiner issued her report recommending approval of a child day-care center with 24 operating conditions. Although not the result we had hoped for, it still represents a significant achievement for the neighbors.

The proposal for 150 children, 40 staff and a building the size of Safeway has been cut in half. If the neighbors had not contested the original application, there would be 200 automobiles entering and exiting the neighborhood twice a day.

The Examiner's conditions include limits on the number of children (76), limits on staff (15), limits on operating hours (7:00 am – 6:15 pm) and limits on evening activities. The complete list of conditions begins on page 66 of the Hearing Examiner's report. The complete report can be viewed at: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/zah/pdf/2012_Reports/S-2781.pdf

The Board of Appeals will review and vote on the special exception on May 30, 2012 at 9:30 am. This meeting will be at the Stella B. Werner Council Office Building in Rockville. Everyone is welcome to attend, but county rules limit who may participate. No new written evidence such as letters, emails or photos are admissible. Oral presentations are limited to individuals who participated in the previous sessions in Rockville. Louis Leibowitz will contest the Examiner's recommendation.



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The Gardening Guru: Jeanne Berman

(Disclaimer: I do not know all things, but I will try to get you the best information possible. I do know more than my husband.)

It is May and there is a lot to do in the garden. You may do some, all or nothing. Beware that Mother Nature knows you are excited about getting outside to do all of your gardening chores and she will win EVERY TIME you try to beat her or get an early start on your garden!

There is so much we can learn about gardening if we just take the advice from someone who has already learned by their own successes and failures. So, listen to your own neighbors.

May is a great time to do a lot of garden work that will pay off during the summer months. Preparation of the garden beds is the most important thing you can do before you're at the nursery and want to plant everything you see.

Gardeners - be forewarned that there is a saying in the trade: "\$5.00 plant, \$10.00 hole," meaning preparing the soil and the garden bed usually takes the most time, and is more expensive (but well worth the investment!)

For detailed help with spring bulbs, blooming shrubs, perennials, annuals, hydrangeas and more, please see the full article at www.southfourcorners.com.


I also want to extend a special thanks to Kris and Alex on Harding Drive for inviting us into their lovely garden on April 15th. We were happy to be there and share with you our knowledge. We hope that you will tell other neighbors to invite us in for a community gathering so that we may all learn from each other. We trust you had fun, learned a lot and that we didn't overwhelm you with too much information.



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4650 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814



**MARIANNE ZEGOWITZ
MARK ZEGOWITZ**
White Oak / Silver Spring Office
12520 Prosperity Drive, #105
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Marianne Direct: 301-388-2728
Mark Direct: 301-388-2751
Office: 301-388-2600 • Fax: 301-388-2601
mariannezegowitz@mrts.com
mzeg99@gmail.com



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Edited Notes from the March 12, 2012 SFCCA Meeting Provided by John Holden

President **David Meininger** chaired the meeting, which was attended by approximately 42 people, including guest speaker Marc Elrich of the Montgomery County Council.

Elrich, a member of the Planning, Housing, & Economic Development (PHED) committee, shared that a re-writing of the county's zoning laws will come to the council in the next year, and that associations such as ours will need to speak up on this topic. He also discussed the possibility of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in the county.

(Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/cex/transit for more info)

Marc can be contacted via e-mail at Councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov.

A motion was made by **Dave West**, and approved unanimously, to send a letter supporting the position of the Seven Oaks-Evanswood Citizens Association concerning land near the Silver Spring Library. A developer is proposing to build 63 townhouses, although the property is not currently zoned for that density. Those present at the SFCCA meeting emphasized the need to respect the Master Plans for our neighborhoods.

David Meininger briefly described the idea of a music program to showcase musicians from South Four Corners. He will propose this idea along with a \$600 budget for a space rental and paying two professional musicians who live in the neighborhood. He also highlighted the volunteer contributions of **John Holden**, and **Evelyn Joray** those of **Eileen Broderick**.

Gift certificates from Woodmoor Bakery, Chipotle, Subway and Santucci's were given as door prizes, and **Jim Janssen** (who tied with **Marty Maher** for bringing the most new neighbors) took home a \$25 Fajita Coast gift certificate.

Betty Batty spoke about the resources on www.southfourcorners.com. **Jeanne Berman** discussed garden tours, caring for our neighborhood's elderly and other outdoor topics.

The Siena School, a naming opportunity for the new elementary school on Hayden Drive and the response from Pepco to the personal letter sent by David Meininger were also briefly mentioned.

Full meeting minutes are available at www.southfourcorners.com



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Be Prepared

Jim Janssen

The old business adage "If you fail to plan, plan to fail" is not completely accurate in an emergency. But if one fails to be prepared for an emergency, life will be more difficult.

Making a plan is best done as a family activity, from the gathering of ideas, to their implementation, to the maintenance and practicing of the plan. Montgomery County has put together a beginning group of emergency preparedness items, called Plan 9, to help us prepare for emergencies. You may have seen Plan 9 ads on Metro busses and other places recently.

Let's look at the first three items on their list:

Water

While it is rare that we lose our water supply, if it does happen, I recommend more water storage than others. I recommend at least 1.5 gallons per person for the first five days. If planning for a longer time, consider 2+ gallons. Most people are not in the habit of using water judiciously, especially children. This water will be for cooking, drinking and personal hygiene.



Food

Have at least five days of balanced meals per person (also pets) of easy to prepare meals such as canned or dehydrated foods. Have a backup way to heat any items as needed. Most modern stoves need electricity to function, a problem in a power outage. Store comfort foods as well, as they help reduce stress.

Clothes

Have season appropriate clothes ready in case one cannot do laundry. Gloves and hats in the winter, light-weight clothes in the summer. Also, have extra seasonal items in each vehicle you own.

Remember, when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, it took FEMA over five days to get established in New Orleans and they had a population of well under 1 million; the immediate DC area is over 4 million.

Other resources to help you start making your emergency plans are available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov, www.fema.gov, www.ready.gov and www.redcross.org.

SFCCA Audit Report

Glen Richardson

On March 28, 2012, Larry Dickter and Glen Richardson performed an audit of the SFCCA Financial Records for January 2011 to December 2011. The records we used for testing were monthly bank statements, copies of paid checks, receipts for expenses and the Treasurer's electronic spreadsheet of transactions.

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

ANDRE'S LAWN SERVICES: High school student looking for lawn mowing, yard clean-up, leaf blowing and mulch spreading jobs. Also available to assist homeowners with their planting and yard chores. Has equipment and a pick-up truck. **Contact: drecalabrese@gmail.com**

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