



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

Citizens Association



Building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time

July/Aug 2017

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 17, 2017 – 7pm
SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

July 22, 2017 – 10am
Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Aug 1, 2017
National Night Out

Sept 18, 2017 – 7pm
SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

Sept 23, 2017 – 10am
Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Oct 22, 2017
Halloween Parade

Next SFCCA Meeting

Monday, July 17 at 7pm

Schweinhaut Senior Center 1000 Forest Glen Road

SFCCA Community Open House
Featuring Officer Joy Patil



Summertime and the livin' is... easy?

Maybe for some of us, but for others—particularly families with school age children—summer schedules can become a juggling act full of activities like camp and

vacation. So this year, in lieu of SFCCA's regular July meeting, we are hosting a Community Open House on Monday, July 17, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the Schweinhaut Senior Center.

Come join us for an informal conversation with **Community Service Officer Joy Patil** of the 3rd District. Officer Patil serves as the focal point for communication with the police department and facilitates a cohesive, proactive approach to problem solving by the department. She does this by identifying community concerns, developing strategies to address those concerns, accessing the appropriate agency, department, or personnel with the resources to positively affect a resolution, and evaluating the effectiveness of those efforts on an ongoing basis by regularly following up with community and staff members. Those of you who attended last year's Community Day may know Officer Patil already. She is an excellent resource for our neighborhood.

The Community Open House will include **light refreshments**. We hope to see you there!

President's Corner

At SFCCA's May meeting we had a great conversation about neighborhood talent. One of the things we discussed was highlighting the talents of neighborhood kids and teens at future SFCCA meetings. We envision future meetings beginning with a short performance, maybe 10 minutes, followed by a featured speaker and SFCCA's regular business meeting.

If your student sings, plays an instrument, acts, juggles,



etc., please email SFCCA.President@gmail.com to get on the 2017-18 meeting schedule. We hope this new feature is yet another example of how we are *“building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time.”*

Carolyn Stanek Lucy

SFCCA.president@gmail.com

Advocacy

COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES EXPRESS BUS SERVICE FOR US 29

By Larry Dickter

In response to a vigorous grass roots lobbying effort led by Four Corners civic leaders and other Silver Spring neighborhood activists who favor enhanced transit options in the eastern portion of the County, the Montgomery County Council finally agreed to fund limited stop, Ride-On Express service along the US 29 (Columbia Pike/Colesville Road) corridor beginning in early 2018. The new bus service will run from Burtonsville to the Silver Spring Transit Center every 15 minutes during the morning (5:30-9:00 am) and evening (3:00-7:00 pm) rush hours, at a cost to the County of less than one million dollars a year.

Ironically, the same special interest groups and individuals who have been leading the charge for a controversial “bus rapid transit” (BRT) network projected to begin operating along US 29 in 2020 at the earliest (and at an eventual cost of tens of millions of



dollars, if it is ever actually implemented) were “missing in action” during the campaign, opening the way for others to push for immediate transit improvements along the corridor.

Those activists who spearheaded the campaign for Express bus service had to overcome the resolute opposition of Council President Roger Berliner (who represents Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Potomac), as well as the steadfast resistance from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and its Director, Al Roshdieh.

The success of this campaign demonstrates once again that grass roots

mobilization, led entirely by volunteers without any financial backing, can and does effectively influence public policy and how our elected officials vote. Like other campaigns before it, this was a tightly focused, data-driven effort that managed to engage a support network of like-minded “ordinary citizens,” including some from our own neighborhood, who sent emails and letters to Councilmembers, as well as placing phone calls to Council offices.

On any given issue, Councilmembers and their staff do track constituent communications. That is not to say they can be persuaded by public opinion in each and every case. But one thing is certain: If you do not convey your views to your elected representatives and key government officials, and do so in a clear and convincing manner, your views will not count.

For related articles, please refer to www.southfourcorners.com/advocacy

Important Phone Numbers:

Montgomery County General Information & Service: 311 Outside of Montgomery County: 240-777-0311
TTY (for hearing impaired): 240-773-3556 Police & fire emergency: 911
Police non-emergency: 301-279-8000 Fire non-emergency: 240-776-4700
24-Hour Emergency Preparedness Hotline: 240-777-4200
Power outages, downed wires: Pepco 877-737-2662 Website: <http://www.pepco.com/outage-center/>



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SFCCA Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

Carolyn Stanek Lucy, President • Larry Dickter, Vice President
Marie Girardot, Recording Secretary • Richard Messalle, Treasurer

Chairpersons:

Eileen Broderick, Membership • Nghi Nguyen, Neighborhood Safety
Jane Jannotta, Newsletter Editor • Dave Nettleton, Newsletter Distribution
Dave West, Listserv Manager • Betty Batty, Website/Social Media
John Holden, Welcome Bags • Jenny Cannon, Social Events
Michael Lucy, Public Works • VOLUNTEER NNEDED, Community Day
John & Peri Evanoff, Diversity & Inclusion • Jeanne Berman, Gardening

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Maurya Brenneman, LCSW-C

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Membership

Support our community by becoming a member of the **South Four Corners Citizens Association!** SFCCA is the voice of our residential community. Its vigorous advocacy and events make South Four Corners safer, more beautiful and more connected.

Join today! Only \$15 per year:

- Pay by cash/check at the upcoming SFCCA meeting
- Pay by check payable to SFCCA, send to: SFC Membership
PO Box 792 Silver Spring, MD 20918-0792
- Pay online using credit card or PayPal at
<https://southfourcorners.com/membership>



For more information contact Eileen Broderick, Membership, at eileen@starpower.net

Minutes

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MAY 15 SFCCA MEETING

Thank You & Volunteering: A thank you was given to those present for their commitment to our neighborhood and Association. There are 49 dedicated volunteers actively involved in our community. Please contact Carolyn if you are interested in volunteering or have new ideas for our community.

Elections Postponed: 9 people were in attendance plus 3 officers. Carolyn suggested postponing the elections due to lack of a quorum - 20 dues-paying members are required by the by-laws to hold elections. A decision was made to postpone until the July 2017 meeting.

On the Ballot:

Carolyn Stanek Lucy for President
Vice President (**open position**)
Dick Messalle for Treasurer
Recording Secretary (**open position**)

If there is a role you are interested in, please contact Carolyn Stanek Lucy.

Community: Jon Evanoff is leading the Diversity and Inclusion Committee; more potluck gatherings in the future; John Holden talked about the Welcoming Committee.

Old Business: BRT revisited: for more info, read the article written by Karen Michels in the April/May newsletter and on the SFC website; all BRT updates will be posted on the website under Advocacy. Please contact

Tom Hucker to express your views on the BRT. Sustained advocacy is crucial on this issue to put an end to the BRT.

SFCCA is currently seeking a volunteer to spearhead the planning and organizing for the next Community Day.

Postal Truck Access: Marty Tucker, a neighbor who resides on Rogart Road, came to the meeting to request our support to stop postal trucks from accessing the post office from Rogart Road. The volume of traffic and speed on the dead end street of Rogart has gotten out of hand. According to the original development plans, postal trucks are to enter the post office property from the University entrance. Marty has been contacting our local representatives seeking assistance with this issue, with little success. He will keep the neighborhood apprised of the situation via the listserv.

Discussion & Suggestions: Carolyn began a discussion of why those of us in attendance are present, and what we would like to see from the Association. Suggestions will be posted on the website by Carolyn and/or communicated to the neighborhood via the listserv.

Future Agendas: Please contact Carolyn Stanek Lucy to get issues (new or old) added to the SFCCA meeting agenda. Carolyn's email is: SFCCA.president@gmail.com.

For full meeting minutes, please refer to
www.southfourcorners.com/minutes

Public Works

SUMMERTIME AND THE MOBILITY IS EASY

By Michael Lucy

Hope your summer is going well and that this time of increased activity and celebrations is your best ever.

With kids out of school and vacations wrapped up or on the horizon, summer is a great time to remember how good and easy we have most things here in South Four Corners.

With our good roads, occasional sidewalks, the greenway on Lanark, trails in Sligo Creek and along the Northwest Branch, access to major thoroughfares, and multiple public transportation options, mobility is usually pretty easy. Sometimes it's a bit too easy, as some people drive faster than the speed limit, especially when cutting through.

Hats off to Marty Tucker and the other community members on Rogart Road who are working hard to encourage the US Postal Service to use the entrance on University Blvd, instead of our residential road. And thanks to another

community member along Dennis Avenue who is working to see if speed humps can be installed to slow traffic down. Maybe you could reach out to them through the list serve (sfccamembers@yahoo.com) to lend your voice. Or perhaps there's another mobility issue that you want to address.

If you have any ideas or requests, please call 311 and let them know, and/or reach out to some neighbors and start a working group of your own. If you're a member of Waze, or other navigation apps, make sure to add any accidents or delays to our neighborhood if you see them so less people cut through.

In any case, let's "mobilize" slowly and easily when in our cars, bikes or on foot. If we all create some gaps in car traffic when we drive, and slow down when we're in the lead, others will naturally do the same. **Have a great, safe summer!**



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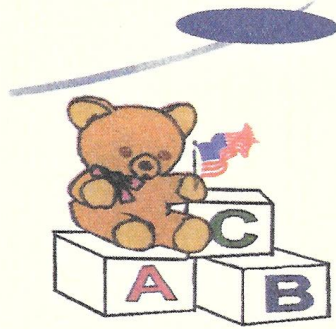
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Opening Doors

MEET NEW NEIGHBORS, SHONELLE AND CHRISTA MAPP



1. How long have you been a resident of South Four Corners? We moved to South Four Corners from Brookland (DC) in January 2017. After exclusively searching for homes in DC, we stumbled across our neighborhood when

visiting a close friend. The tree-lined streets and well maintained brick homes were almost picturesque. We looked online and were pleasantly encouraged by the relative prices. And although we were eager to stay in the city, once we saw our current home the decision was instant.

2. What do you do? Christa has a background in land economy and facilities management, and works at the International Monetary Fund as a Senior Facilities Officer with contract management, data analysis and vendor management responsibilities. Shonelle has a background in industrial engineering and business management. She has held positions in both public and private sectors managing occupational, health, and safety compliance. She recently transitioned from her position as a Safety Engineer for the Senate to a self-employed Occupational Safety & Training Consultant.

3. What makes you special? As a couple, we are a walking billboard for diversity. Both of us are immigrants. Shonelle was born in Barbados and immigrated to MD over 30 year ago. Christa was born in Ghana and immigrated to VA just 4 years ago. Both of us have experience working in male-dominated industries, environments with diverse or sensitive populations and teams in which we have been the "minority."

4. What brings you joy? We love spending time together at home, entertaining friends, and exploring the many opportunities unique to living near the nation's capital. We are also huge foodies and enjoy Ethiopian, Indian, Thai, Brazilian and coastal cuisines.

In addition, we are avid travelers and have made it our priority to visit somewhere new at least once per year. Our most recent trips include Iceland, Costa Rica, and Panama. The thing we enjoy most about travel is immersing ourselves in the local sites, tastes, and sounds. There's so much beauty in this world, if one dares to push outside comfort and embrace the present.

5. What are the strengths and challenges of being who you are? As women of color, we have experiences in which our

abilities, expertise, and decisions are dismissed or devalued by others in the workplace. As lesbians in a largely heteronormative environment, we encounter insensitivity, disapproval, and ignorant comments. Sometimes these occurrences provide opportunities for dialogue. It is important to identify biases and address them with the individuals directly. We do not believe in letting hurtful language or behavior persist. Unfortunately it can be contagious. People tend to flock to the familiar and find comfort in commonality. Of all the challenges mentioned above, avoidance can sometimes be the most hurtful. We are both social, fun-loving and happy individuals, so that often means that we have to make the first step by approaching neighbors and new people. Usually once people get to know us as individuals, instead of labels, it's impossible to stay away.

6. In your opinion, what can we do to be a more inclusive community? There's no simple answer to that question. We did have one neighbor in particular who introduced himself right away. He had a sincere kindness to his character that was apparent from our very first meeting. Christa wasn't with me at the time when I introduced myself. I mentioned "my wife" during our exchange. He gently raised an eyebrow, seeming only mildly surprised by my mention of her, and continued to ask questions about the house and where we were from. In the days and weeks that followed, he offered us a few household items while we waited for our things to arrive. There are countless other ways that his small gestures have made us feel welcomed. Although we only talk a few minutes each week, our perception of this neighborhood has been shaped for the better by him. To answer the question, not so simply, an inclusive community begins with each neighbor. Let's all just treat each other a little less like strangers.

7. Share with us a quote that inspires you. What does it mean to you? *"Your beliefs don't make you a better person. Your behavior does."* This quote is pretty self-explanatory. We've seen lots of great diversity signage in and around the neighborhood. They definitely are a first step in letting the community know who you are and where you stand. Just don't forget, those beautiful words about inclusiveness also can be put to action by getting to know each other and engaging with each other individually.

The idea for an Opening Doors column was born during the first meeting of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. In each newsletter, we will "open the door" to a new neighbor's life experience, helping each of us develop greater insight into the lives, challenges and aspirations of members of our diverse community. If you are interested in being profiled please email Sandra Gutierrez, sandra.n.gutierrez@gmail.com