



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

Citizens Association



Building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time

Mar/Apr 2018

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mar 19, 2018 – 7pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

Mar 24, 2018 – 10am

Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Apr 28, 2018 – 8am

Community Yard Sale
(see page 4)

May 21, 2018 – 7pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

May 26, 2018 – 10am

Clean-up of Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Jun 16, 2018 - time TBD

Movie in the Park
Argyle Park

Next SFCCA Meeting

Monday, March 19 at 7pm

Schweinhaut Senior Center 1000 Forest Glen Road

Featured Guest Speaker:

Brian Anleu on

**A Civics Refresher: Local
Government 101**

Please join us for the next SFCCA meeting when our invited speaker will be **Brian Anleu, Deputy Chief of Staff** to Montgomery County Councilmember Tom Hucker.



Brian is a community advocate and public policy professional whose policy portfolio includes public safety, planning, housing and economic development issues. Prior to working at the Council, Brian worked on the Obamacare rollout at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and he served a stint as a legislative aide in the Maryland General Assembly.

As a community advocate, Brian co-founded the Coalition to Fix MD 198, which called on the State Highway Administration to make traffic and safety improvements to MD 198. Brian also serves on the boards of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and the Friends of Maydale (FOM). During his service on the FOM, Brian has helped secure state and local funding to restore nature center programming in East County. A lifelong resident of Montgomery County, Brian lives in Burtonsville with his wife and two children.

Careful to avoid partisan politics, Brian will present information on the broad structure of the Council; how the Council's capital budgeting process impacts the community; relationships between the County and the State; and the important role civic associations like ours play in the County's policy, planning, and design decisions.

We look forward to seeing you at 7:00 pm on March 19th. **Please remember, SFCCA meetings now end promptly at 8:30 pm.**

SFCCA meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Monday of January, March, May, July, September, and November at Schweinhaut Senior Center, 1000 Forest Glen Rd. When the third Monday of the month falls on a federal holiday, the meeting is postponed, space permitting, to the following day.

President's Corner

Another Call for Social Wellbeing

*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing
and rightdoing there is a field.
I'll meet you there.*

*When the soul lies down in that grass
the world is too full to talk about.*

~ Rumi

I am writing this piece mere days after Nikolas Cruz killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The devastation of that event is so incongruous with the first hopeful signs of spring that I find myself holding a strange mixture of grief and gratitude – grief for the Florida victims and their loved ones, and gratitude for the emerging crocus and daffodils. What strange sensations.

In the face of the immense suffering in our world—genocide, racial tension, famine, and environmental degradation, just to name a few—it's a wonder that any of us ever gets out of bed. And yet, when it feels like the very fabric of our world is coming undone, it's the perfect moment to redouble our efforts to mend it, close to home where it matters. Some small things that can improve our feelings of social wellbeing and connectedness include:

- Making eye contact and smiling at strangers
- Offering a kind word to the grocery store clerk or checkout person
- Walking a mis-delivered piece of mail to the home of the proper recipient and saying hello

- Introducing oneself to a new neighbor
- Talking to unknown neighbors walking down the street (one of my husband's favorites)
- Offering a helping hand to someone in need, regardless of whether we know them
- Giving a friend (or better yet, an enemy) a few extra moments of our time
- Empathizing with the door-to-door canvasser who's just trying to make a living
- Accepting an invitation that feels like just a little too much work
- Stepping outside of our own comfort zones in service to others



We can all do seemingly small things to mend our collective soul. The first step is daring to reach out and extend ourselves to others. Simple kindness goes a long

way, as does our loving presence. We can alleviate so much pain in our world if only we try.

I remain grateful to each and every one of you for **“building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time.”** Let's be in touch.

Carolyn Stanek Lucy

SFCCA.President@gmail.com
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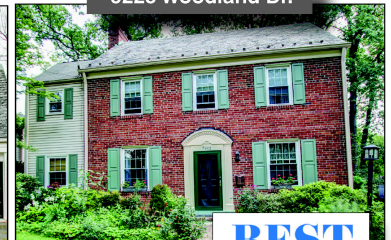


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9223 Woodland Dr.



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Carolyn Stanek Lucy, President • Larry Dickter, Vice President
VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR 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 NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY DAY**
John & Peri Evanoff, Diversity & Inclusion • Jeanne Berman, Gardening

*Like our page
on Facebook!*

SFCCA Addresses & Social Media

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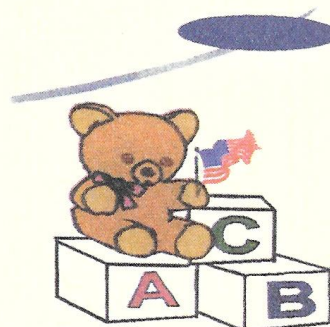
SFCCA Yahoo Group Listserv:
www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SFCCAMembers

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southfourcorners/

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Upcoming Events

SOUTH FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, April 29 from 8-11am

Save the date! Each neighbor will set up in their own yard or coordinate with a neighbor to host in their yard. Please note there will be no charity pick up this year. We'll post signs on streets and intersections the week of the sale. If you're available to make and post signs please contact jenny.cannon@gmail.com



THUNDERBOLTS BASEBALL IS BACK!



Summer is coming and with it our great American sport, baseball!! Come out and support the 2018 season of our Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts.

GENERAL INFO: Part of the Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate League, TBolts play games at Blair Stadium, with the first home game Saturday, June 9. Home games Monday – Saturday at 7 pm, gates open at 6 pm. Sunday home games at 6 pm, gates open at 5 pm. Adults \$5. Under 18, \$2. Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 yrs. FREE. Concession stand sells dogs, burgers, chips, drinks, peanuts and Cracker Jacks.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: The TBolts seek host families to house players during June and July. This is a great opportunity to get to know college baseball players from all around the US. Host families receive:

1. a free family season pass to all Thunderbolt home games;
2. free tuition to a Thunderbolts baseball camp during the season (for up to two host family children, for two weeks of basic camp);
3. invitations to attend special events sponsored by the Thunderbolts during the season.

Players provide their own lunch and dinner. Hosts are not required to provide transportation. For hosting guidelines please check Tbolts.org/Joinus at the top of the page - under "Join Us" choose the host families section. If interested, please contact **David Nettleton, Thunderbolts Host Family**

Coordinator at tboltshostfamily@gmail.com; or contact Tboltsbaseball@Gmail.com.

Whether you get yourself and the kids out for some fresh air and support college players from across our great country, or extend your family by hosting for two months, we guarantee that you'll be better for it.

BASEBALL CAMPS: For boys and girls. This year we offer five weeks of camps June 18-July 20 (ages 8-14); three-day specialty camps June 18-July 13 (ages 11-16, minimum age - rising 5th grader), and a new ½ day beginners camp June 18-July 20 (ages 5-7). Register early to ensure a spot. On-line registration at Tbolts.org/BaseballCamps for registration forms.

FUN DAY: FREE baseball clinic for boys and girls ages 5-14, on Sunday, June 3 from 1-3 pm at Blair Stadium. Kids get skills training, participate in special activities and win prizes.

INTERN AND BAT BOY/GIRL POSITIONS: For the child who LOVES baseball! Currently accepting applications for their summer management interns, bat boy/girl positions and field operations interns. Management interns (ages 15-22); bat boy/girl positions (ages 10-13); field operation interns (ages 16-22). Positions are unpaid. Students may receive SSL hours or college work/study credit. Application deadline is April 1, 2018. Go to Tbolts.org/Joinus for application information.

SEASON TICKETS: \$50 for an individual and only \$75 for a family (good for all members of the family). Go to Tbolts.org/Joinus for season pass information.

See you at the ball game!

Important Phone Numbers:

Montgomery County General Info & 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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8805 Lowell Place, Bethesda



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5208 Albemarle Street, Bethesda

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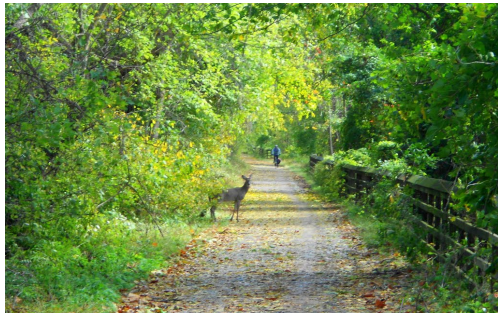
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Then & Now

RAIL TO TRAIL, BACK TO RAIL

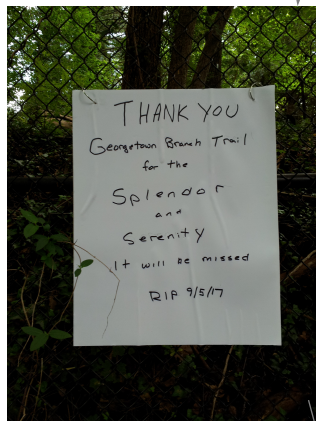
By Larry Dickter



Georgetown Branch Capital
Crescent Trail 1997-2017



Georgetown Branch Capital
Crescent Trail 1997-2017



2017



2017



Freight Train Line
1910-1985

Bethesda—was a rare oasis of tree-lined, shaded green space, as well as a vibrant nature sanctuary, in our otherwise densely developed corner of Montgomery County.

In its 20-year history, there were few better places for families—often parents pushing strollers or supervising preschoolers learning to ride new bicycles—to spend some quality time together while enjoying the outdoors and gaining a sense of environmental awareness.

In what trail users consider to be an irreplaceable loss, the trail was closed to the public this past September in order to make way for the 16.2 mile Purple Line, a “light rail” public transit line running from New Carrollton in Prince George’s County to Bethesda, at a total cost of \$5.5 billion to the state of Maryland over the next 35 years. In order to prepare for construction, the heavily wooded trail and its canopy of thousands of mature trees—beech, sycamore, maples, tulip poplars, and black walnuts among them—were bulldozed and clear-cut soon thereafter.

We are being told that, if all goes according to plan, a trail will be “rebuilt” adjacent to the train tracks in four to five years -- without any tree canopy and shelter for the wildlife that inhabited the former trail. And with trains rushing past at 7.5 minute intervals, the serenity experienced by so many users of the recently closed trail will be a thing of the past.

For years, the long-delayed Purple Line was mired in one controversy after another, with the inevitable demise of the trail being just one of many. Now that the project is finally underway, only time will tell whether its proponents or its critics were correct in their assumptions about its efficacy and value.



Today



2023?

Transitions

JOHN PIKET, 1932-2018

Johannes (“John”) Piket, one of our long-time neighbors, passed away on January 16, 2018. Having lived for some time with dementia, he died peacefully at home where Janet, his devoted wife of 51 years, cared for him until his death.

John immigrated to the United States from the Netherlands in 1963 and became a U.S. citizen five years later. His first employer in this country was the historic Statler Hilton Hotel (known today as the Capital Hilton) at 16th and K Streets in downtown Washington, where he worked in dining room management for ten years.

John and Janet moved to their home on Grayson Avenue in 1978 and continued raising their family there while Janet

worked at Vitro Labs, a major defense contractor and, for a time, Montgomery County’s largest civilian employer.

For many years, John’s and Janet’s front lawn prominently displayed a Dutch windmill, one of the signature features of John’s country of origin. John enjoyed the outdoors and loved to garden. On my frequent walks through the neighborhood, I would often stop in front of his house to chat with him. John was one of the friendliest, most approachable people I have ever known, and no doubt many of us will miss his sunny presence among us in the months and years ahead.

Submitted by Larry Dickter

Opening Doors

MEET NEIGHBOR, RABIA HELU



1. How long have you been a resident of South Four Corners?

We moved from the San Francisco Bay area to a downtown Silver Spring rental apartment in 2014 because a number of our friends from college lived in the area. A few months later, when we decided to buy, we visited several

neighborhoods and thought that the Silver Spring area was the most diverse and welcoming. We ended up deciding to buy in South Four Corners about a year later because we wanted to be close to friends and the metro, the area is right between our jobs, and we liked the neighborhood feel.

2. What do you do? I am an environmental engineer who works in international development. Early in my career, I learned about poor health outcomes and deaths caused by lack of access to clean water and sanitation around the world, and proceeded to develop skills so one day I could contribute to the solution. In my current role, I evaluate US-funded international programs that aim to improve living conditions for residents in developing countries, including improvements in water and sanitation. Right now, I am working in Zambia, Honduras, Kosovo, and Timor-Leste.

3. What makes you special? That seems like a loaded

question! If you’re asking about what is special about my life right now, then I’ll say that I feel very fortunate to be at a point in life where I finally feel settled after a life of moving and reaching for the next thing. I’m excited each day to go to work, inspired by the mission of my agency. It’s all the more special that my partner feels the same way about his career. Having a dual-career family in the same location, each engaged in careers of their choice at the same time is a tough nut to crack. I feel pretty special that circumstances aligned to make this possible.

4. What brings you joy? Both my partner and I travel significantly for work, so spending time as a family and hanging out with our three-year-old brings me a lot of joy. Yesterday, the three of us went for a spontaneous walk down Sligo Creek. Our son is now old enough to not need the full trappings of infant-hood like a stroller and diaper bag all the time, so it was lovely to focus on just being together. Seeing my son pointing out puddles, dogs and birds was really joyful. Moments like this are incredibly special.

5. What are the strengths and challenges of being who you are? Throughout my life, what has made me strong is my ability to get up and keep going after each setback. People see me now as a capable and successful woman, but I have fallen down so many times in my life. There have been so many scrapes and bruises along the way. I am constantly working to keep myself strong so whenever I fall the next time, I can get up again and keep going. That is why I am trying to cultivate gratitude. Whatever life throws your way,

remembering to be grateful helps you to be more resilient and happy.

6. In your opinion, what can we do to be a more inclusive community? On the one hand, I think of your question as a policy question and want to ask you: What is your goal when you say "a more inclusive community"? Do we want to increase the diversity in the community? Or do you mean more community events? On the other hand, if I am thinking about your question from my personal perspective, I feel like my community here is my street. Friendship and connections happen because of proximity and unplanned frequent interactions, which is what my street has to offer.

7. Share with us a quote that inspires you. What does

it mean to you? *"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present."* This was said by Master Oogway in the movie Kung Fu Panda. It means trying to be mindful, present, and grateful about what you have today. It means not letting your anxieties about what may happen tomorrow prevent you from enjoying the moment.

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 featured please email Sandra Gutierrez, sandra.n.gutierrez@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed

Make a Difference Close to Home!



SFCCA is looking for **talented people** who are inspired to make a difference in our community.

Mentors are available for both positions!

Secretary

The Secretary, an elected position, takes the minutes during bi-monthly SFCCA meetings, types them up, and submits them to the Newsletter Editor for the next issue. This position is available to any SFCCA member in good standing, meaning you've paid your annual \$15 dues.

Community Day Chair/Co-Chair

Get involved and lead a team to organize Community Day, a bi-annual event last held in 2016 and expected in 2018.

Additionally, greater involvement, diversity, and leadership from new people are always welcome! You could **submit an article** for publication in the newsletter (as long as it's politically neutral, and doesn't promote a specific vendor). **Run for an officer position** in May. Become the **featured guest in the Open Doors** column, and so much more! The bottom line is SFCCA exists - or doesn't - because people take on roles to make it happen. While we have a structure with officers, committees, and members, our work is very self-generated with lots of room for creative expression.

Seasonal Tips

EFFECTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MOSQUITO CONTROL



Spring is around the corner, and with it, the mosquito. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection provides a "**Checklist to Reduce Mosquito Breeding**":

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Mosquito/Resources/Files/Mosquito-Checklist.pdf>

From the Maryland Department of Agriculture:

"Those mosquitoes killed by spraying can be replaced by newly emerged adults because of the rapid breeding cycle of the tiger mosquito..... **The most effective method of controlling tiger mosquitoes is reducing or eliminating the containers which are the source of the problem.**

Draining or removal of water holding containers, even on a localized basis, will produce remarkable long-term reductions in mosquito annoyance. The list of breeding sites is extensive and includes any water holding containers, but the primary sites in residential areas include clogged rain gutters, tires, buckets, cans, bottles, boats, flower pots, bird baths, outdoor statuary, ornamental pools, plastic or canvas tarpaulins, children's toys, rain barrels, and pet food and water dishes."

Submitted by John Holden