



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

Citizens Association



Building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time

Nov/Dec 2018

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Nov 10, 2018 – 9-11 am

Go Green Day! Recycling Event
<https://tamara4homes.com/events/>
Argyle Park

Nov 19, 2018 – 7 pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

Nov 24, 2018 – 10 am

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

Dec 1, 2018 – 5:30 pm

Tree Lighting Celebration
(details page 7)

**** DATE CHANGE ****

Tues, Jan 22, 2019 – 7 pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

Jan 26, 2019 – 10 am

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

Next SFCCA Meeting

Monday, November 19 7–8:30 pm

Schweinhaut Senior Center 1000 Forest Glen Road

Featured Guest Speaker:

Delegate-elect

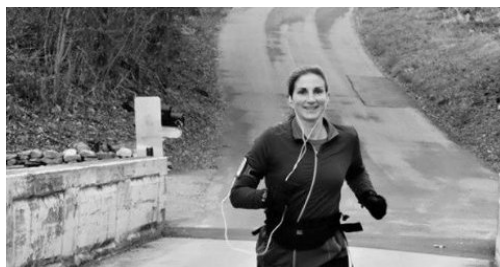
Lorig Charkoudian

Maryland State Legislative District 20

Please join us as we welcome newly elected District 20 Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, who will represent us in the Maryland state legislature once it convenes this coming January. She will preview what we might expect during the legislature's annual 90-day session, while sharing with us her own goals and priorities as a first-term Delegate. Following her presentation, you are encouraged to ask questions, express your concerns and suggest to her what issues you would most like her to focus on in Annapolis.



Dr. Charkoudian, who holds a Ph.D. in economics from Johns Hopkins University, is the long-time Executive Director of Community Mediation MD which develops ways to address social challenges and works with state agencies to implement those approaches. Over the years, she has worked on dozens of legislative initiatives in Annapolis, championing issues such as support for small businesses, criminal justice reform, and healthy food for low-income communities.



Dr. Charkoudian has served in leadership roles with numerous community organizations, including Crossroads Community Food Network, Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research, and the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Food Co-op. She has coached youth baseball and is an

avid runner, having recently completed a 70-mile run over two days from Hagerstown to Baltimore to raise funds for the Maryland state re-entry mediation program.

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. SFCCA meetings now end promptly at 8:30 pm.

SFCCA Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

Carolyn Stanek Lucy, President • Laurence 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 • Emma Bennett, Website/Social Media
John Holden, Welcome Bags • Jenny Cannon, Social Events
Michael Lucy, Public Works • Earl Shoop, Community Day
John & Peri Evanoff, Diversity & Inclusion • Jeanne Berman, Gardening

SFCCA Addresses & Social Media

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Silver Spring, MD 20918-0792

Website: www.southfourcorners.com

Editor: SFCCAeditor@gmail.com

SFCCA Yahoo Group Listserv:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/SFCCAMembers

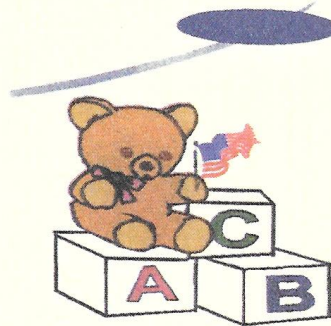
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Volunteer Needed

Make A Difference Close to Home!



SFCCA is looking for talented people who are inspired to make a difference in our community. We are currently in need of a **Secretary**. An elected position,

the Secretary 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.

Advocacy

BUS RAPID TRANSIT UPDATE

By Karen Michels

The US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) met for the last time on October 18. The CAC included representatives from the neighborhoods, including South Four Corners, along US 29 (Colesville Road in our neck of the woods) that may be impacted once BRT is implemented along the highway sometime in 2020.

Although the purpose of the CAC was to provide neighborhood insights into the BRT planning process, Montgomery County Department of Transportation officials and their consultants were often unresponsive to the recommendations and concerns of CAC members representing Four Corners and other neighborhoods as well. And even though ground on the BRT project was officially

broken on October 25, more than a few questions remain unanswered and some of the impacts on our community have yet to be either studied or addressed.

One major impact would be the result of the current plan to install a traffic light on Colesville Road at Lanark Way, with a left hand turn signal for traffic traveling north on Colesville, thus facilitating even more dangerous cut through traffic up and down Lanark, where large numbers of pedestrians, school children waiting at their bus stops, and local motorists are already imperiled by a steady stream of speeding cars racing through our neighborhood on their way to University Boulevard West.

The proposed turn signal and related issues will be discussed at the Nov 19 SFCCA community meeting. ■

GIVING Thanks

I am grateful for your continued support, business and friendships.

Thanks again for another successful year.

And I look forward to working with you in 2019.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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Advocacy

BELTWAY WIDENING AND TOLL LANE STUDY GETTING FAST-TRACKED

By Laurence Dickter



Gantries with electronic tolling equipment



**Endangered?
Argyle Park and Schweinhaut Senior Center**

For better or for worse, elections have consequences. One consequence of the November 6 election for Maryland Governor is that the prospects for widening the Capital Beltway (I-495) to make room for privately operated toll lanes are alive and well.

Larry Hogan's re-election to another four year term means that the proposal he rolled out last year to add up to two lanes in each direction on I-495 will continue to be studied. The Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration is expected to spend much of 2019 evaluating and paring down its alternatives from among 15 proposals for "traffic relief" on the Beltway.

Montgomery County planners, other local officials and many citizens are concerned that the state's selection criteria, together with its purpose and need statement, are heavily tilted in favor of Governor Hogan's Beltway widening and toll lane option over alternatives which do not involve building additional lanes.

And since at least 10 of the 15 alternatives involve adding one or more lanes in each direction on the Beltway, residents in its path are preemptively mobilizing in opposition to any option that would cut a swath through residential neighborhoods and parkland adjacent to the highway. The principal organization coordinating this effort is Citizens Against Beltway Expansion (CABE). "Don't Widen Interstate 495" yard signs may be ordered through CABE's website at www.cabe495.com.

Since many homes in South Four Corners, along with our small businesses, two parks, a recreation building and the Schweinhaut Senior Center, currently back up against the Beltway, any widening of it puts us directly in the crosshairs. There has been much discussion on our listserv as to the wisdom of this approach and its adverse impact on our neighborhood and beyond.

Further discussion about the issues raised by adding toll lanes to I-495 occurred at our Association's September 17 community meeting. That discussion culminated in the introduction and unanimous passage of the resolution:

Resolution Adopted by the South Four Corners Citizens Association September 17, 2018

Whereas widening the Capital Beltway (I-495) through South Four Corners and other neighborhoods in its path may require the demolition of an untold number of homes, the taking of land from numerous other residential properties, and the devaluation of many additional residential properties in the vicinity of the project, and

Whereas widening the Capital Beltway (I-495) through South Four Corners poses a grave threat to numerous, irreplaceable amenities and other community assets, such as the Silver Spring YMCA, several long-established small businesses, the Sligo Golf Course, the Schweinhaut Senior Center, Argyle Park and Recreation Building, tennis courts, the South Four Corners Park, the Sienna School, soccer fields, and Holy Cross Hospital, and

Whereas there are compelling environmental and legal constraints regarding encroachments through our stream valleys—most notably Rock Creek, Sligo Creek and the Northwest Branch—that may prove insurmountable, and

Whereas widening the Capital Beltway through South Four Corners and other neighborhoods

may consume innumerable acres of precious parkland immediately adjacent to the highway, and

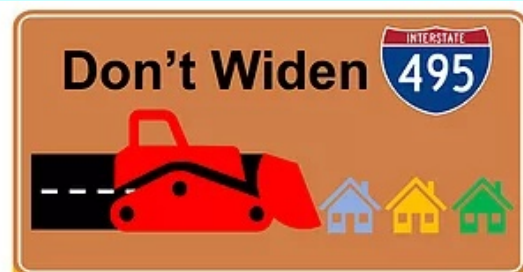
Whereas widening the Capital Beltway through South Four Corners and other neighborhoods in its path may require the demolition of long established small businesses, and

Whereas no amount of additional Beltway lanes will alleviate congestion on our already overwhelmed secondary road network, and may overburden them and other neighborhood roads even more; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the South Four Corners Citizens Association (SFCCA), representing 1200 households in Montgomery County, MD:

1. is unalterably opposed to any and all proposals to widen the Capital Beltway beyond the walls and sound barriers that currently separate the highway from the communities adjacent to it; and
2. agrees to forward this resolution to Maryland Governor Lawrence J. Hogan and other public officials at an appropriate time.

Get the word out!
Order your lawn
sign today
www.cabe495.com



Citizens Against Beltway Expansion



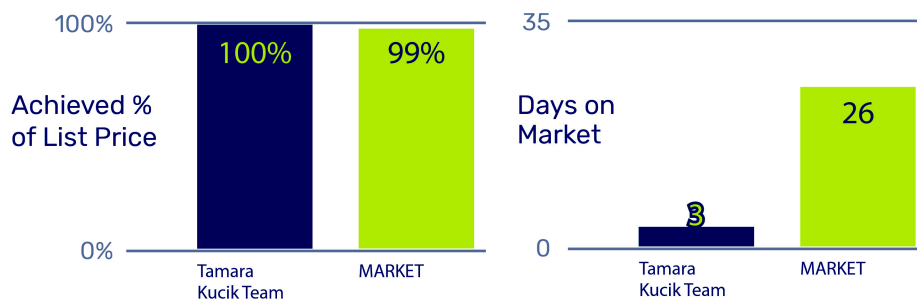
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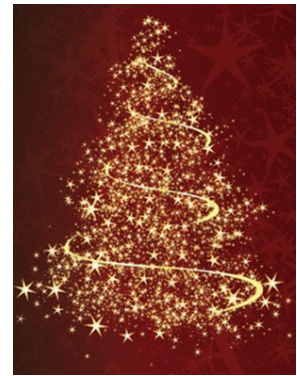


Upcoming Event

NEIGHBORHOOD TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 5:30 PM

Join us for the annual 2018 Neighborhood Tree Lighting at the **corner of Lanark and Rogart**. The lighting will happen promptly at 5:30 and neighbors will gather earlier for hot chocolate and cookies. This is a great tradition celebrating light, friendship and good neighbors! **Thanks to the Wilson family** for being the tree hosts each year.



Event Recap

COMMUNITY DAY & HALLOWEEN PARADE

“I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank all of those involved with the planning and execution of community day and the Halloween Parade. Your hard work and dedication keeps our community strong and alive. The amount of effort and planning was evident all around and such an incredible turnout, truly inspiring. Thank you from our family on Forest Glen Road.”

Community Day 2018 on Saturday, Oct 20, was a fantastic event. The clouds and rain cleared, and sunshine prevailed. Hundreds of neighbors gathered inside and out to enjoy a diverse array of activities.

Inside the senior center's Almost Café, many community organizations—including A Wider Circle and Citizens Against Beltway Expansion—shared information at expo tables, and the Folklore Society of Greater Washington even hosted a song circle! In the main auditorium, kids of all ages enjoyed fall-themed crafts, looming, a Guess the Pumpkin's weight contest, and a cake walk.



touch, Pumpkin Putt Putt, face paint, and many other family activities. At 4pm, ghosts, ghouls, princesses, and superheroes gathered for our annual

Halloween Parade. Families paraded up Portland Road, through the bioswale, and down Dallas Avenue, meeting at the playground for sweet treats.

Along with all of the festivities, there was plenty of pizza, cake, and drinks to be enjoyed.

Community Day could not have been possible without the generosity and enthusiasm of our neighbors. A **special thank you** goes out to the planning committee, who worked for months to organize the festivities, as well as to those who helped on the day-of to make it a seamless event! ■

Outside, we had a great turnout for our Plant and Seed Swap; while kids and adults alike gathered to enjoy a fire truck and ambulance



Recap and photos courtesy of Emma Bennett



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:
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- Pay online using credit card or PayPal at
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For more information contact Eileen Broderick, Membership, at eileen@starpower.net