



SOUTH FOUR CORNERS

Citizens Association



Building a stronger community, one neighbor at a time

July/Aug 2019

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 13, 2019 – 10 am

Adopt a Road, Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

July 15, 2019 – 7 pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

Aug 6, 2019

National Night Out
(time TBD)

Sept 14, 2019 – 10 am

Adopt a Road, Forest Glen Rd
(meet at Argyle Park tennis courts)

Sept 16, 2019 – 7 pm

SFCCA Community Meeting
Schweinhaut Senior Center

Looking Ahead:

October, 2019

Halloween Parade
(date & time TBD)

Next SFCCA Meeting

Monday, July 15 at 7pm

Schweinhaut Senior Center 1000 Forest Glen Road

Community Social Hour

Meet & Greet

In a departure from past practice, our next meeting will be an informal one, providing all of us a greater opportunity to get reacquainted with our neighbors and to meet new residents who have recently moved to South Four Corners.

Following introductions and a brief business meeting, the remainder of our time together will be devoted to catching up with old friends and getting to know new ones.

For those of you who would like to bring a dessert to share, please do so. Beverages will be provided.

Please join us on July 15 as we socialize together, while welcoming new residents to the neighborhood!

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

TIME BRINGS CHANGE

Dear Neighbors,

On May 20, next year's officers for South Four Corners Citizens Association were elected. Laurence Dickter and Rickard Messalle kindly agreed to continue their dedicated service to our neighborhood as Vice-President and Treasurer, respectively. I was elected the new President, a position I held a long time ago (1979 to 1994). Much has happened since then, and South Four Corners has been represented and protected by several able presidents and a lot of community members through many challenges and changes. Challenges and changes seem to be part of our destiny.

In those early times, I spent years attending State Highway Administration (SHA) meetings that were trying to find a solution to the traffic bottleneck at Four Corners. Many proposals were suggested, but the solution chosen was the jug handles. They were constructed to eliminate left turns off of Colesville Road. They direct traffic into a right turn off of Colesville Road to go around the church or the McDonald's island and then on to University, west or east. That was also the time when the Four Corners communities successfully fought off a massive commercial and residential development proposal for the area that became the new Blair.

We are faced with very serious challenges now. I and others from the Four Corners communities have attended years of meetings concerning former Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett's plan to institute a Bus Rapid Transit

(BRT) system on Route 29, from Burtonsville to Silver Spring. In spite of major opposition from the communities south of New Hampshire Avenue, a reduced version of the original plan is now beginning to be implemented. Costs are astronomical and will largely be paid for by the county residents. Discussion of that project has been on the SFCCA listserv.

In addition, as you probably know, Governor Hogan has decided that I-495 and I-270 will be expanded with two toll lanes in each direction. He is calling it a Traffic Relief Plan. These lanes will be constructed by private investors who will then receive the tolls for 50 years. The cost estimate at this time is 11 billion dollars. The SHA has held "workshops" to try to explain what might happen. Nothing definite can be presented, SHA says, because the investors will be making the decisions. However, SHA presented 15 alternatives that it said were possible. You can look at the SHA website (<https://495-270-p3.com/>) to see what was presented. In reality, only one alternative was on Governor Hogan's list. On June 5, the Board of Public Works (Governor Larry Hogan, Comptroller Peter Franchot and Treasurer Nancy Kopp) voted with opposition from Ms. Kopp, to call for bids from private investors for this project. The vote is premature because the legally required Federal Environmental Impact Statement will not be released until December or January. The two communities on both sides of the Beltway at Colesville Road will be heavily impacted if the current plans continue to be developed. The web site

mentioned above offers an interactive map that will show you where your house sits in the plans. Look especially at the bridge over Colesville Road (try 9900 Colesville Road). Current plans have a toll lane entrance and exit off of, and onto, the bridge in the center of the Beltway, although the map does not show how vehicles would enter and exit, and where they would come from, or leave, the area. Since nothing is final yet, local residents and groups like Citizens Against Beltway Expansion (<https://www.cabe495.com/>) are expected to continue leading the opposition to the Governor's proposal.

Our corner of all of this turmoil remains a charming, desirable, interactive community. It is you and your neighbors who make it that way. Always, the Civic Association seeks volunteers to maintain the charm. Currently it needs a Secretary and a Community Day Chairperson. If this sparks your interest, contact me or come to the next meeting on July 15. Watch for the newsletter to be delivered to your house before that date. It will contain more community information.

Karen Michels

SFCCA.President@gmail.com

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JUST LISTED



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JUST LISTED



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Silver Spring, MD 20910

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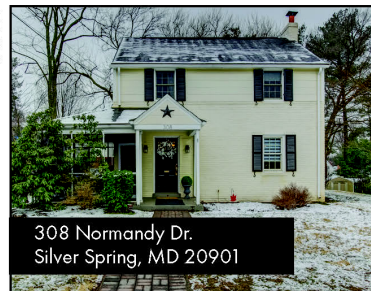
10008 Dallas Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20901

UNDER CONTRACT



10112 Dallas Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

SOLD



308 Normandy Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20901



Summer Maintenance List

- Inspect your gutters, down spouts and roof shingles.
- Don't forget to change your filters monthly!
- Pressure wash the area and stain and seal your wood deck to make it last longer.
- Make sure it's safe to swing. Check kids' outdoor play structures and tighten bolts if needed.
- Visit the attic to confirm there are no signs of leaks.
- Trim the trees.

SOLD



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TOLL LANES THREATEN NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPS

By Laurence Dickter



Forest Glen Shopping Center

Shortly after moving to South Four Corners many years ago, I was walking through the neighborhood when I spotted three small shops backed up against the Beltway sound barrier where Forest Glen Road takes a sharp curve and turns into Sutherland.

My first thought was how out of place these shops seemed. How and when did they get there? According to a former neighbor who lived here in the 1950s, these shops and others were there in the days before construction of the Capital Beltway (I-495) cut a swath through our neighborhood and at a time when Forest Glen extended out to Colesville Road. (The Beltway was completed in 1964.)

These shops have been tightly woven into the fabric of our community for decades, and they continue to serve our neighborhood to this day, while providing livelihoods for their owners and jobs for their employees.

However, if Maryland Governor Lawrence Hogan's proposal to widen the Beltway by adding four toll lanes is implemented, it is almost certain that the barber shop, the dry cleaner, and the grocery/deli/convenience store on Forest Glen will all have to be demolished. (Len the Plumber, which currently operates in some 20 locations throughout the Washington, DC region and beyond, will also lose its building on Forest Glen Road.)

A couple of years ago, the *Washington Post* published an

excellent article about the demolition (to make way for a Purple Line "staging area") of the entire Spring Center strip mall on Sixteenth Street near East-West Highway and downtown Silver Spring. Most of the merchants interviewed were immigrants with little to no financial resources to fall back on.

As Dario Orellana, owner of the late, great El Aguila restaurant said, "I built the business all these years and I counted on it for many more". Or, as Delamar Nelson, owner of Crest Opticians, put it, "This is my whole livelihood".

And as Bon Bon Nail Salon owner Trinh Nguyen and others hastened to point out, the amount of compensation the state offered to pay them for the loss of their businesses was "nothing" compared to the cost of starting over in a new location.

Recently, I decided to find out what the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has been telling our Forest Glen merchants about how widening the Beltway will affect them. According to dry cleaner **Sung Kang**, grocer **Moo Chin**, and hair stylist **Donna Doan**, whatever they know about Governor Hogan's proposal to add toll lanes to the Beltway they have heard mainly from their customers and/or on television.

None of them could say what they could or would do if the state put them out of business through eminent domain. At the moment, they are all basically in wait-and-see mode.

Today, public attention is more focused on issues other than the plight of local business owners, just as it was prior to the long-delayed start of Purple Line construction. While the potential threat that Beltway widening poses to homeowners, to parkland, to stream valleys and to nearby community assets such as the YMCA, Schweinhaut Senior Center, Sligo Golf Course and Argyle Recreation Center is real, we should not forget our neighborhood merchants Sung Kang, Moo Chin, and Donna Doan, all of whom face the prospect of losing everything they ever worked for.

The June 5, 2019 vote by the Maryland Board of Public Works formally designating the Hogan administration's proposal for "traffic relief" on I-270 and the Beltway as a

“public-private partnership” (P3) was just the first step in what promises to be a protracted struggle that may well result in multiple lawsuits, any one of which could take years to resolve. As important as the June 5 vote was, it only marked the beginning of the long, arduous and politically charged process that lies ahead.

Looking ahead, many of the same grassroots activists, civic leaders, environmentalists, transit advocates and others who have thus far led the opposition to widening the Beltway are expected to continue pressing their case for multi-modal, fiscally responsible, environmentally sound and community-friendly alternatives to relieving traffic congestion in our region, as opposed to a “roads only” approach.

In the meantime, our neighborhood merchants will, for the foreseeable future, have to deal with great uncertainty while decisions way beyond their control are being made about their lives. Although there may be little we can do to demonstrate our support for them, this may be a good time at least to stop by their shops to express your appreciation for their many years of service to our neighborhood.

Sung Kang, Moo Chin, and Donna Doan have been integral members of our community for **11, 30 and 19 years**, respectively. And in the increasingly cookie-cutter world in which we live, it is the small, independent, “mom-and-pop” type businesses they operate that contribute so much to the distinctive character of South Four Corners. ■

Our Neighborhood Merchants



Clockwise: Customer service counter, Forest Glen Cleaners; Sung Kang; Donna Doan; neighborhood resident, Sam Schavione, in the barber's chair. (Moo Chin preferred not to be photographed for this article.)

BELTWAY EXPANSION UPDATE

By John Holden

On May 22, 2019, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) issued the list of *Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study - Revised* (ARDS) for the I-495/I-270 "Managed Lanes Study", and requested concurrence from the Cooperating Agencies by June 12. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), as a Cooperating Agency, reviewed the ARDS and issued a June 12 letter which says that it does not concur with the document, for many reasons detailed in its letter. Below are a few

excerpts; to see the full letter and its appendix, go to:
<https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Non-Concurrence-on-State%E2%80%99s-Recommended-ARDS-3.pdf>.

The top of page 2 of the letter states: "SHA has previously been advised of M-NCPCC's many issues with the ARDS. In M-NCPCC's experience, these concerns are attributable mostly to SHA's approach that omits a comprehensive analysis; fails to incorporate best practices in

transportation, environmental protection, and land use planning; and also works at odds with M-NCPCC's statutory obligation to make well-reasoned and informed decisions regarding parkland, cultural resources, and historical resources held in trust for residents of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The ARDS also represents SHA's imprudent narrowing of the scope of environmental review—which contravenes the revised Purpose and Need Statement that must guide and inform its review—such that further

(continued on page 7)

JUST LISTED!



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environmental review will not adequately assess the impacts of the project on protected parkland managed by M-NCPPC."

The letter goes on to document four Elemental Reasons Supporting M-NCPPC's Non-Concurrence (Segmentation and Phasing; The Study Area; Transit and Transportation Demand Management; and Parkland Management), plus "other substantive comments and concerns" in the Appendix. The first seven of the 19 'other comments' include the

following, each of which is detailed:

1. The ARDS do not take into account local planning needs.
2. The ARDS recommendations do not include an Environmental Justice analysis as required by the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process.
3. Parkland impacts have been underestimated.
4. Stormwater management along the entire Study corridor must be considered as part of the selection of the Preferred Alternative.
5. Public transportation must be considered as an integral

element in design of the Preferred Alternative. 6. Evaluation of property impacts should address whether partial takings result in nonconforming uses under current environmental and zoning laws. 7. The impacts from any of the Build Alternatives will be incomplete without a local road system/interchange analysis.

Neighbors are encouraged to monitor <https://www.cabe495.com/> for more information and ways to provide input to the ongoing process. ■

Transitions

NEIGHBORHOOD BIDS FAREWELL TO TWO FRIENDS

By Laurence Dickter

Clay Kaufman, the head of Siena School on Forest Glen Road for nearly ten years, is leaving the area to take a new position as Head of School at Eagle School in Greenwich, Connecticut. As Head of School at Siena, Clay always kept us well-informed on the latest developments at the school, while continually seeking opportunities to involve its students in the life of the community beyond its walls.



Siena is a private, for-profit school that provides an individualized education for students in grades 4 through 12 who have language-based learning differences such as dyslexia. 134 students were enrolled in the 2018-19 school year.

Whether it was working on a garden

at the senior center, removing invasive weeds in Sligo Creek Park, or helping to spruce up our neighborhood on Earth Day, one of Clay's priorities during his long tenure was keeping the school's students involved in local projects that often directly benefited our community.

Always an excellent communicator, Clay advised us recently that we can expect to see some storm water management work around the school this summer that will require digging up the walkway in front of its building. He expects the work to be completed sometime in August.

In announcing his departure, Clay wrote the following to the South Four Corners community:

"You all have been wonderful supporters of our students and our school, and we feel very blessed to be in the neighborhood. Please continue to keep in touch with us, as it is important to us that we are always good neighbors."



I will miss our collaboration . . . and the active, positive contributions you all make to keep the neighborhood thriving. I wish you all the best."

I know that Clay, a class act to the end, will also be missed by those of us who have had the pleasure of working with him over the years. Jilly Darefsky, who headed Siena with him, will remain as Head of School.

* * * * *

Have you ever wondered how the signs announcing SFCCA community meetings and Adopt-a-Road cleanups seem to appear, as if by magic, at strategic locations throughout the

neighborhood every other month? Guess no longer. For the past six years or so, these signs have been put in their places and then taken up again by none other than our great neighbor, **Ben Bishop**.

Sadly, Ben has just informed us that he is moving this month. But before he does, he has issued an appeal for a would-be successor. In writing that

“One hour every other month to drive the neighborhood is a fun and easy way to contribute to our community,” Ben captures the spirit behind organizations like South Four Corners Citizens Association (SFCCA) which run entirely on volunteers.

There are a myriad of ways in which one may contribute, but one thing is

for certain: without volunteers just like Ben, SFCCA would be unable to function.

Before leaving, Ben wants us to know that *“... we love this neighborhood and the great friendships we’ve made here. Fortunately those don’t have to end even when moving away.”* ■

SFCCA Members Listserv

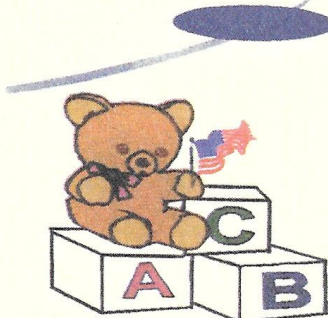
SAY “YES” TO BEING IN THE KNOW!

The **SFCCA listserv** is a great way to stay connected to our community! We encourage everyone who lives in South Four Corners to sign up and hear the very latest on community events, advocacy updates, crime reports, yard sales, and more. **Join in four easy steps:**

1. Go to Yahoo.com and register to get a free Yahoo! ID. (Yahoo also calls this process creating an account.)
2. Search for SFCCAMembers groups page at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFCCAMembers>.
3. Click on the box that says “Join This Group!”
4. Include your street name and block number (e.g. 10100 block of Brunett), so you can be approved as a member.

Having problems joining? Still have questions? Go to <https://southfourcorners.com/listserv/> for FAQs.

Another useful social network is **Nextdoor**, which connects with many surrounding neighborhoods. Visit <https://nextdoor.com/> to sign up.



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