

Volume 45, No. 10 April 25, 2001

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ELDRIDGE, FRANKEL, KESSLER WIN

By Ellie Fink, Member, Board of Supervisors of Elections and Nyal Conger, former Member

The Town Hall was the scene of a remarkable show of community spirit as two-thirds of Somerset's registered voters (483 out of 761 voters) cast their votes to elect Town Councilmembers on April 2. Incumbents Richard Kessler and Judy Frankel and newcomer Tom Eldridge were the winners in a field of five. The other candidates were Rob McGarrah and Jeffrey Slavin.

The election was extremely close, with a difference of only 61 votes between the highest and lowest vote totals. A surprising 131 absentee ballots were counted. One absentee ballot was unsigned on the sealed envelope and therefore invalid.

Candidates spoke at a well-attended Town Hall forum and actively electioneered, going door-to-door and sending out flyers. Despite the lack of controversial issues in the election, voter interest was widespread and intense. This was a welcome change from Somerset's sometimes apathetic elections. Was interest high because of the wealth of information about the candidates or did last fall's close presidential election make voters realize the importance of their individual votes? Some voters may have been energized by feeling that it was time for a change; yet both incumbents were reelected. There has been much speculation but few answers.

It is the Board of Election's hope that many candidates will run in future Town elections and arouse similar voter interest and involvement. Thanks to Elections Board member Bonnie Thomson and Phyllis Wiesenfelder, who volunteered to staff the polls in Tracy Truman's absence.

Actual count was as follows:

Tom Eldridge 273

Judy Frankel 272

Richard Kessler 289

Rob McGarrah 228

Jeffrey Slavin 240

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

By Nat Finkelstein and Gayley Knight

At its May meeting, the Town Council will consider the establishment of a Long-Range Planning Committee. This idea has been considered for some time and was the subject of the recent candidates forum. Nat Finkelstein and Gayley Knight have agreed to formulate a proposal, which the Council is scheduled to consider at 10:10 p.m. on May 7.

The primary purpose of this committee will be to develop a long-term plan for Somerset, with the goal of maintaining and improving the quality of life in Town. The committee will be looking at facilities and equipment, budgeting, human resources, Town rules and regulations including permitting requirements, communication vehicles and parks and natural resources. It is anticipated that the committee will be comprised of Town residents selected from various backgrounds, including location in the community, age, years of residence in, and past experience with, the Town. We propose that there be non-voting members, including but not limited to, the Vice President of the Council and the chairmen of the Pool and the Parks and Natural Resources Committees.

Once the committee is formed, we anticipate conducting a series of meetings so residents will have an opportunity, either orally or in writing, to submit suggestions on planning issues. When the fact-finding stage is completed, the information compiled and the committee deliberations completed, a report will be submitted to the Council with suggestions for consideration and implementation of plans and ideas that have been formulated during the process. It is further anticipated that the committee will have an ongoing function and will meet periodically to consider various changes in the budget and facilities as they arise.

Following action by the Town Council anyone who is interested should contact the Town Clerk for details. There will be a simple form to fill out to enable the Town Council to select a committee that represents a wide range of interests and knowledge.

Mayor's Den

By Walter J. Behr

PROPOSED TAX RATE DOWN 43 PERCENT

A public hearing on my proposed budget and property tax rate for Fiscal Year 2002 will be held at the Town Council meeting on May 7. The hearing is scheduled for 9:25 p.m. Further discussion and action will take place at the June 4 meeting.

Property taxes this year (FY-01) are 22 cents per \$100 assessed value. The projected rate for FY-02 (which begins on July 1 of this year) is 5 cents, but that rate will be applied to a different, higher base mandated by State law. Beginning in FY-02, the rate will be applied to 100 percent of assessed value instead of the 40 percent in effect in FY-01 and previously. In actual dollars

and cents, the proposed 5-cent rate would result in a 43 percent reduction in your Town tax if your property had not been reassessed within the past year.

State Income Tax No. 1 Income Source

Property taxes will yield about \$98,000. In contrast, we expect seven times that amount in the form of a refund from the State of a portion of Maryland income tax paid by Somerset residents.

The largest expense line item in the proposed budget is \$122,000 for staff salaries, which allows for a six percent increase for our five hard-working, loyal employees. Despite the increase, salaries and wages will total \$19,000 less than this year since, at this time, we are not planning to replace Gardener/Horticulturist Jonathan Dawkins.

In contrast to the proposed lower staff total is a suggested increase of \$23,000 in Snow and Sand. This will provide for a contractor to clear and sand all Town sidewalks following next winter's snows, provided this service is authorized by the Town Council.

Town Hall, Tennis Court Renovation Proposed

The Capital Projects Fund proposal for the new fiscal year includes two large increases. The first is \$130,000 for renovating the Town Hall to make the second floor more accessible and useful and to add a bit more space to the meeting room. The second is \$60,000 for solving the problem of the ever lengthening and widening of the tennis court cracks by applying a rubber-like mat over all three courts. Neither of these projects has yet been authorized by the Council.

Estimated revenue for FY-02 will exceed proposed expenses by \$82,000. This will result in an estimated combined fund balance, or "rainy day" fund, of \$1.6 million.

A summary of the budget, operating surplus and fund balance for Fiscal Years 00, 01 and 02 appears on pages 10 and 11 of this *Town Journal*. Copies of the complete General Fund and Capital Projects Fund budgets and a memo explaining many of the line items are available at the Town Hall.

COUNCIL TO ACT ON BUILDING CODE CHANGES

Three proposed amendments to the Town Building Code were introduced at the April Town Council meeting and are scheduled for further discussion and action on May 7 beginning at 9:45 p.m. Summaries follow. Full texts are available at Town Hall.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. Requires some building permit applications to include the following information not previously mandated: front setback of neighboring houses, height, percent of lot coverage and a photo of the property.

FRONT SETBACK. The proposal would slightly modify the County rule. Whichever resulted in more restrictive (greater) setback would apply.

The **County rule** is 25' or the established building line as determined by average front setbacks within 300' in same block, excluding setback of corner houses.

The **current Town rule** is similar to the County's except that the setback of the entire block is considered and some Somerset blocks are as long as several normal blocks; e.g., the north side of Cumberland extends all the way from Somerset School to Little Falls Park.

The **proposed Town rule** is 25' or the average setback on the same side of the street, within the block, but also within 300' or four consecutive adjacent lots, whichever distance is greater. Side yard setbacks of corner lots are included.

ACCESSORY BUILDING SETBACK. At present, only **County rules** apply in Somerset. Garages, tool sheds, etc. must occupy no more than 25% of the rear yard, must be at least 60' from the front lot line and at least 5' from rear and side lot lines.

Under **County rules**, additional setback is required if the building length or width exceeds 24'. In that case, the setback on the effected side is increased 1' for every 2' that the building exceeds 24'. Also, if the building is higher than 15', side and rear setbacks are increased 1' for each foot of height over 15'.

The **proposed Town rules** are considerably more restrictive than County rules. For building height over 10' up to 15', setback would be 5' plus 1' for each foot or fraction over 10'. Height over 15' would require a setback of 10' plus 2' on both sides for each foot or fraction over 15'.

The proposed amendment would require that accessory structures **over** 24' long or wide would have to be set back on both sides 5' plus 1' for every foot or fraction in excess of 24'.

Exceptions to the above proposed rules would apply to lots with frontage of less than 60', lots that back up to County parkland and lots that back up to Drummond Avenue.

PAVING CONTRACTOR COMPLETES POOL DECK

Our paving contractor has completed work on the swimming pool deck, replacing about half of the surface because of cracks. Workers are now removing damaged and misaligned sidewalk squares, which will be replaced with new concrete.

If you have been thinking you need a new driveway, driveway apron or walk, it is not too late to get a bid from the Town contractor, C.R.H. Concrete Service. Call 301-887-0353 or 301-343-7140. I suggest that you get one or two other bids from reputable contractors in order to compare them with the C.R.H. price, which theoretically should be lower because their equipment is already here.

Sidewalk squares to be replaced are marked with an orange splotch. If the sidewalk between your driveway and apron is marked, the adjoining driveway and apron are probably cracked and deteriorating. It might well make sense, aesthetically and financially, to replace either or both at this time. Please remember that you need a Town permit for apron work — since it is in the Town right-of-way — but not for a new driveway or walk.

WANT TO BE ON TV?

Fox Channel 5 (WTTG) would like to host a forum in Somerset. A portion of the 30-to-60 minute event would be included in the 10 p.m. program the same evening as the forum. A minimum of 30 residents must be present.

There seem to be three goals for the forums. First, Fox wants to know what kind of events the public wants more or less of, e.g., crime, local, state and national affairs, sports, weather, etc. The second goal is to capture news of what is happening in Somerset. Finally, Fox wants to hear about problems in the vicinity such as traffic gridlock, speeding, pollution and over-development.

If you are interested in participating in a Fox 5-forum in Somerset, please let Tom Carter know by May 15. The event will not be scheduled unless we can promise a gathering of at least 30.

Making Waves

LET'S ALL ENJOY THE POOL THIS SUMMER

By Norm Schneider,

Chairman, Swimming Pool Committee

If you walk by the pool, you will see that the concrete deck has been repaired, the creek has been rerouted to prevent erosion and new plantings and riprap have been installed to protect the banks, the pool is being filled and chairs are being put out. What does all this mean? The Town swimming pool is almost ready to open for the summer. The first day for swimming at the pool will be Saturday, May 26, and there will be a pre-opening event for all returning and prospective swim team members on Friday, May 25, starting at 6:30 p.m. Don't forget that the pool water is heated, so even if the day is a bit chilly, stop by and enjoy.

Until June 20, the first day of public school vacation, Saturday hours will be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sundays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and weekdays, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Once school is out, the pool will be open from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily except Saturdays, when it will remain open until 10 p.m.

Raft nights will again be a highlight of the pool season. We have changed the dates and times to avoid conflicts and to provide for greater usage. Raft nights will be held every Thursday from 6:15 p.m. until 9 p.m. and on Saturday nights from 6:15 p.m. until 10 p.m. unless there is a conflict from a pool-wide event such as the adult party (on July 14) or the swim team banquet (on July 21). Other special events include a school's out party on June 19 starting at 6 p.m., a tot party on June 2 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and grill nights on June 21, July 5 and July 19. And don't forget to plan to swim and enjoy the movie nights, scheduled for June 30, July 28 and September 8. A complete schedule will be posted at the pool and will be included in the *Town Journal*.

Committee Wants Your Views

A questionnaire has been included with this month's *Town Journal*. Please take the time to fill it out and return to me at (5509 Greystone Street) or to the Town Hall. The Swimming Pool Committee will use the questionnaire in making recommendations to the Long-Rang Planning Committee and to the Town Council on possible changes to the pool program and physical facilities.

The Pool Committee will be meeting regularly throughout the summer. Please check the message board at the pool for the dates and times. If you have any questions about the pool or comments or complaints, please feel free to call me at (301)652-5509 (home 6 — 9 pm) or (202)347-5141 (office 9 am — 5 pm) or e-mail to nschneider@kamerowlaw.com. I look forward to any feedback so that we can make this pool season as smooth as possible.

Don't Forget to Register

If you are new to Town this year or have added a family member, please contact Tom Carter at Town Hall to arrange for a new or updated pool registration form. The pool is free to all resident of the Town, but you must fill out the form and return it with pictures of each pool user (or arrange for your pictures to be taken at the Town Hall). Please complete the form and return it to Tom Carter before you come down to the pool for your first swim.

SWIM TEAM NO. 1 GOAL IS FUN

By Sarah Morse

Swim Team Representative

New swimmers, returning swimmers and developmental swimmers: Somerset's swim team, "The Dolphins," starts the season with a **pizza party and team sign-up Friday, May 25, at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to meet the coaches, ask questions, sign up for the team and buy uniforms. Our heated pool will be open only for the swim team, so anyone who is interested in joining the team is encouraged to attend.

You may be wondering just what is the Somerset swim team. The Somerset Dolphins are a member of the Montgomery County Swim League. The team has practices every weekday morning and afternoon. There are meets every Saturday morning from June 16 to July 21. We also have two Wednesday night B-meets and one big relay carnival. At the end of the season, we have a banquet with trophies, skits and swimming. We also have weekly social events.

There are no tryouts for the team. All children ages 5 to 18 who live in Town can pass the deep water test may join. We swim in a non-competitive division where the emphasis is on having fun and developing each swimmer. We want this to be an enjoyable community activity, not an elite group of fast swimmers.

No Need to Practice Every Day

It is not necessary for every swimmer to come to practice every day and participate in all the meets. The team is a huge time commitment and some kids can't go to everything. There are several practices during the day, so that children can work them into their schedule. Even if you can only swim for part of the season, we still want you on the team.

For youngsters who cannot pass the deep-water test, there is a developmental team, the minis. Mini swimmers must be between 5 and 9 years old and able to swim 15 yards. The minis practice three days a week. There is also one mini meet. Minis swimmers are an important part of the swim team and should attend all the social events. They get a trophy at the end of the season.

The swim team is the best neighborhood activity for children in Town. Because it takes 36 parents to run a meet, it provides a wonderful opportunity for children and adults to meet their neighbors. Weekly social events help strengthen community ties and integrate the children into the neighborhood. The swim team is fun because so many kids are on it; if you have any hesitations about your child's time commitment or swimming ability, please call me at (301)907-3298, or speak to one of the coaches to discuss how she/he could fit in. We would like every kid in the neighborhood to be on the team.

We invite everyone to check it out. Any questions? Please call if you can't make the pizza party Friday, May 25.

Somerset Dolphins Season Calendar

Fri., May 25 - 6:30 — 8:30, Pre-season pizza party and team sign-up.

Tues., May 29 - Practice begins!

Sat., June 9 — Time trials, early in the morning

Sat., June 16, 9:00 am — Away against Forest Knolls

Wed., June 20, 6:30 pm — B meet, away against Eastgate

Thurs., June 21 - Morning practice begins! Breakfast with the coaches every day until June 29.

Sat., June 23, 9:30 am — *Home meet against Old Farm*

Sat., June 30, 9:00 am — Away against Chevy Chase Rec

Mon., July 2, 6:00 pm — Relay carnival, at Old Farm. Rain date, Thursday that same week.

Sat., July 7, 9:00 am — *Home meet against Connecticut Belair*

Wed., July 11, 6:30 pm — B-meet, away against Rock Creek

Sat., July 14, 9:00 am — Away against Tanglewood

Sat., July 21, 8:00 am — **Divisionals** at Connecticut Belair

Sat., July 21, 6:00 pm — Team banquet!

All-Star Events — July 28 (relay) and 29 (individual); remember that any team placing first in the relay carnival goes on to the all-star relays.

Calendar is subject to change. Look for signs and e-mails announcing weekly social events.

YOUR CHOICE OF SWIM LESSONS

By Andrew Resnick

Plan on starting or improving your kids' swimming technique at the Somerset pool this summer. The schedule for the three levels of children's classes follows. If there is sufficient interest, masters, baby/toddler or lifesaving classes will also be conducted.

Classes for Children. Children's swim classes will be held daily, Monday through Friday, for week-long sessions between June 25 and July 20. The cost is \$30 per session (week) per student payable at registration (no refunds for withdrawing; if a class is undersubscribed, payments will be fully refunded). Teacher will group children by ability at the start of each week. Class size is limited to six children.

Beginner: 4:05 — 4:30 pm. Starting class teaches basic strokes. Children must be at least four years old and comfortable in the water without a parent.

Advanced Beginner: 3:35 — 4:00 pm. Class will develop technique and confidence in basic strokes. Child should know some strokes.

Intermediate: 3:05 — 3:30 pm. Focus on stroke development and water safety. Teaches survival techniques and all strokes except butterfly. Students must be able to swim at least a lap of basic stroke.

Parent and Child. In these classes the parent is in the water (in bathing suit!) with the child. Develops child's enjoyment of the water through games while teaching. These will be daily (Monday through Friday), week-long sessions, at a cost of \$50 per session (week). Class size is limited to 10 children.

Water Babies 10:30 — 10:55 am. For babies six to 18 months of age.

Aqua-Tots 10:00 — 10:25 am. For toddlers 18 months to three years old.

Master Classes. Swim lessons for adults at all levels. Schedule to be determined.

Lifesaving. Full instruction in lifesaving techniques. Schedule to be determined.

Register at the Pool Starting Opening Day, May 25th!

POOL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS PURCHASE OF TENT

By Alan Proctor

Member, Swimming Pool Committee

The Pool Committee has recommended that the Town purchase a professional-quality tent to be used for major Town events such as the annual adult party and newcomers reception at the pool. The proposal will be considered at the Town Council meeting Monday, May 7, at 10:35 p.m.

The 20' x 60' tent that the committee has proposed the Town purchase for \$6277 is an attractive, new, high-quality, heavy-duty tent comparable in quality and durability to tents used by rental companies (for which they typically charge for a single event from \$750 to \$900). The tent is designed so it can be set up by as few as two or three people (such as our Town employees), and can be configured for a range of sizes (20 x 20, 20 x 30, 20 x 40, 20 x 50, or 20 x 60) depending on the event for which it is being used.

We have proposed that the Town purchase the tent for two key reasons — benefit to the Town and attractiveness of owning versus renting.

Protection from Rain, Aesthetic Amenity

First, the Pool Committee has been working to expand the number of community events we hold for the benefit and enjoyment of Town residents, and there are a number of events for which a tent would be desirable, both for protection from possible rain and as an aesthetic amenity. Last

year, for example, there was the adult party, for which we rented a small tent for \$383, there was the teen party we cancelled at the last minute because of the threat of showers, and there was the fall reception for new residents, which we held even with the threat of rain. Of course, the Town also holds additional events now where a tent would be useful, such as the 4th of July celebration and other gatherings at the Town Hall. (Another benefit could be making the tent available at a reasonable fee for residents to use at events they hold at the Town Hall). We'd like to encourage these and other events in the future, and we can do so by having a tent available to support them.

Purchase More Sensible Than Rental

Second, the economics of tent purchase and rental makes purchase the compelling alternative for organizations like our Town, where we have recurring events over the years. Since we already have Town employees who would be able to set up and take down the tent, our only direct cost of the tent — which would have a useful life of 10 years or more — would be the initial purchase. Based on an average rental fee of \$800 per use, we would offset this acquisition cost with just eight uses. Moreover, in contrast to rentals, where binding, non-cancellable reservations are required long in advance of events (and reliable weather predications), owning our own tent would give us the flexibility of knowing that protection from showers is available a day or two before the event.

Given the benefits of having Town social events, the economics of buying versus renting, and the frequent threat we have of showers or rain spoiling an outdoor event, we think buying a tent makes sense. It would be a nice and cost-effective way to encourage and support opportunities for residents to gather at local events, and we hope the Council will authorize this purchase.

School Modernization

SITE PLAN WILL BE EXPLAINED ON MAY 3

By L. Paige Whitley

Member, Design Advisory Committee

After two meetings and intense discussion, the Design Advisory Committee for the proposed modernization of Somerset Elementary School unanimously agreed upon a site plan for the new school. There will be a community meeting on Thursday, May 3, at 7 p.m. in the school to present the plan to the public. All are invited.

The site plan strikes a compromise between many competing issues raised during the feasibility study, including green space, parking, playing fields, pedestrian safety and gym location. To summarize, the building footprint will be in the same location as the present building. The bus-loop will be retained, but will be narrowed by almost half, and traffic flow will remain the same as in earlier plans. There will be more gathering space in front of the proposed new building.

There will, of course, be changes. To the north will be the gym, the floor of which will be at the same level as the present playing field. This will result in a seemingly lower building whose roof level will be considerably below the present building's roof level. Extending westward into the current parking lot will be the media center, which will be adjacent to the building entry and will be one-story. The all-purpose-room (APR) will be located on the south end of the building. Its south wall will feature doors and windows, with terrace and steps extending toward the green space of the current lower playground.

In the southeast corner of the school grounds will be a parking lot accommodating approximately 40 vehicles. It will be accessed from Deal Place. This lot will extend southward partially into current green space while retaining an approximately 25-foot buffer to the southern property line. There will be NO drop-off for students in the lot.

To the west, the grassy playing field will be slightly larger than our present one and will be bordered on the west (between field and school building) by paved play areas.

An Easy Way to Help Solve a BIG Problem

By Councilmember Anne Proctor

Last Thursday evening, Montgomery County School Superintendent Jerry D. Weast came visiting elected officials from Somerset and other nearby Towns to share troubling news about some of our County's children and to suggest a way we can help. He reported that in pockets of our County that are heavily impacted with poverty and illiteracy, the number of students entering kindergarten unable to speak English, or even recognize more than a few letters of the alphabet, has risen sharply in recent years.

In one Silver Spring elementary school, Broad Acres, 63 percent of enrollment is Hispanic. Nearly 90 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced cost meals. More than 20 percent speak only broken English, and many enter kindergarten speaking no English at all. Children who begin school with poor language skills have a difficult time closing the achievement gap, especially when reinforcement of study skills is lacking at home. Too often, these children get trapped in a cycle of failure, missing opportunities to develop the self-esteem that drives the desire to succeed.

To respond to these challenges, Dr. Weast has put in place an intervention plan aimed at recruiting teachers with special training, including Spanish language skills. But he emphasized that real progress will be made only when children are better prepared to enter the school system. Parents, especially mothers, must learn to read and model the habit of reading to their children. To this end, Dr. Weast urged municipal leaders to find ways to mobilize support for parent literacy training.

Please consider helping by volunteering your time. Interested adults and high school students may contact me for more information.

2 MAJOR COUNTY POSITIONS OPEN

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants for chairman of the Planning Board and member of the Board of Appeals. Deadline for applications are May 30 and May 15, respectively.

Detailed job descriptions are available at the Town Hall as well as at the County Council office (240-777-7900).

Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

SPECIAL TRASH PICKUP MAY 11

There will be a special trash pickup on **Friday, May 11**, for residents who have large items that cannot go in the regular trash collections. The Town now provides this service twice a year at no cost to residents. Residents wishing to participate need only notify Tom at Town Hall no later than **May 9**. This will be your reservation for the special collection service by our contractor, J&J Inc. **ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP WITHOUT A RESERVATION.**

Special trash should not be placed at the curb earlier than the night before the pickup. Special trash is defined as refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, freezers, stoves, hot water heaters, other major appliances; furniture or parts thereof; large toys, bicycles, swing sets (broken down into smaller parts); bathtubs, sinks and toilets; and iron pipe, gutters/downspouts and fence pieces under six feet long. If items are in bundles, they must be light enough for two men to carry.

Lawn mowers and other power equipment must be emptied of gas and oil. Refrigerators and freezers must have the Freon removed by an authorized agent and tagged appropriately. Propane tanks must be removed from grills.

Items that will not be picked up include: parts of junked cars, boats or trailers (including batteries and tires); loose glass; firewood, tree stumps, tree limbs or lumber; bricks and concrete blocks; paint cans; flammable or hazardous liquids or solids (including propane canisters); ammunition or explosives; large rocks; and dead animals.

GRASSCYCLING

Several copies of the grasscycling video are available at the Town Office for your use. The video demonstrates the benefits of leaving your grass clippings on the lawn. Please call Tom at 301-657-3211 if you would like to borrow one.

PERMITS GRANTED

The following permits were issued by the Mayor during the past month. (Building permits are approved by the Town Council.)

Trees: Stephen and Caroline Springer, 4824 Dorset Avenue, to remove a black walnut from their front yard.

Kathy Epstein, 5520 Tent Street, to remove two overgrown hemlocks, one on either front corner of the house.

Alexander and Melanie Krynitsky, 4902 Cumberland Avenue, to remove a damaged tulip poplar from their rear yard.

Alan Proctor, 4900 Cumberland Avenue, to remove two mulberry trees from his back yard.

Jim and Dabney Gould, 5812 Surrey Street, to remove a silver maple from their front yard and an American ash from their back yard.

Fences: Kathleen Kenyon, 4805 Grantham Avenue, to erect a wood picket fence along the west side of her back yard.

Walt Auburn, 4719 Falstone Avenue, to erect a wood fence along his east and west lot lines in his back yard.

Legislation

At the April 2 meeting, the Town Council introduced:

1. An amendment to the Building Code to require certain building permit applications to include information on front setback; height, percent of lot coverage and a photo of the property;
2. An amendment to the Building Code to modify the front setback requirement for primary buildings; and
3. An amendment to the Building Code to increase the setback of certain accessory structures.

Council Activity

At the April 2 meeting, the Council:

1. Transferred \$20,000 from General Fund Contingency to General Fund Tree Contract.
2. Authorized a spring large item pickup by our trash hauler.
3. Set the September Council meeting date for Tuesday, September 4.
4. Approved the building permit application by Jeffrey Slavin, 5706 Warwick Place, to erect a shed in his back yard.
5. Required Sandy Spring Builders to resubmit a complete building permit application, with all information being consistent, to modify plans for the garage at 4717 Essex Avenue by reducing the width of the front dormer and adding a dormer to the rear.
6. Approved the building permit application by Diane Bloom, 5500 Greystone Street, to construct a deck at the rear of her house.
7. Approved the building permit application by Haydee and Otis Barnes, 5402 Greystone Street, to build a small addition to the kitchen in the rear of the house.
8. Discussed establishing a Long-Range Planning Committee. Designated Nat Finkelstein to draft a proposed mission and composition for the committee.
9. Approved the \$15,850 bid by J.H. Peterson Plumbing to tile the men's showers and urinal area in the pool bathhouse.
10. Approved the \$2,110 bid by Mike's Fences to replace the Town fence along the 4507 Dorset Avenue property line and to repair the chain link fence on the east side of Town Hall that was damaged in the recent windstorm by a falling tree.
11. Discussed a proposal to pay for the Town Web site operation. Referred what should go on the Web site to the Long-Range Planning Committee .
12. Approved a \$2,000 budget for the Pool Committee to spend on social occasions during the 2001 season and authorized the Mayor to approve the purchase of a portable gas grill for use in the pool picnic area for special events.
13. Approved the \$1, 625 bid by Camelot Property Services to sweep the Town streets.
14. Heard a report by the Mayor on his emergency authorization of \$2,918.59 to repair the Town pickup.

Beautifying Public Spaces

SOMERSET RECEIVES TWO TREE AWARDS

For the 19th consecutive year, the Town has been named a Tree City, USA, by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Somerset also was given a Green Award by Maryland PLANT Community, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service and the Maryland Community Forest Council. (PLANT stands for People Loving and Nurturing Trees. The Green Award is the highest distinction.)

Both of these awards confirm our continued commitment to trees and the environment.

NEW STREET TREES WILL BE PLANTED

Within the next month, our Town staff will be planting replacement street trees. Stakes will be put in the ground at planting locations. Below is a list of addresses and types of tree being planted. Tree species are specified in the Town's adopted monoculture plan.

American Yellowwood Scarlet Oak

4513 Cumberland Avenue 4817 Essex Avenue

Little Leaf Linden Willow Oak

4709 Dorset Avenue 4905 Dorset Avenue

Red Sunset Red Maple Yoshino Cherry

4812 Essex Avenue 4800 Falstone Avenue

4900 Falstone Avenue

Obituaries

LESLIE GRANT; DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

Leslie A. Grant, 86, who was Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Agency for International Development from 1963 until retiring in 1975, died on April 18 at Sibley Hospital. He had stomach cancer.

Les was born in Chicago, earned B.A. and law degrees at the University of Minnesota. He graduated second in his class at law school. During World War II, he worked in the Office of

Price Administration. After the war, he served in Germany and Austria with Defense and State Departments before joining A.I.D.

In the early 1950s, Les and his wife, Mooza, moved to Dorset Avenue. Soon thereafter two daughters, Mooza and Linda, were born — both victims of autism. The parents cared for the girls at home for more than 40 years. Both are now residents of the American Foundation for Autistic Children Living and Learning Center in Brookeville. Les and Mooza established the Foundation, which operated its first training facility in what is now the Somerset Town Hall.

Mooza Grant Sr. died of cancer in 1998. There are no immediate survivors.

NYAL CONGER DIES OF CANCER

Nyal Dokken Conger, 86, a resident of Grantham Avenue for the past 31 years, died at her home on April 21. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer. She was a native of Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Nyal was a graduate of the School of Government, George Washington University. She served as a Naval officer in the WAVES during World War II. After the war she rejoined the State Department and later was commissioned as a Foreign Service Officer, serving in Frankfurt, Tehran and in what is now Harare. She later lived in Geneva, Switzerland, and Cali, Columbia. While overseas, she was active in the American Women's Club and community churches.

In Somerset, Nyal served on the Board of Supervisors of Elections, assisted with the administration of flu shots and earlier this month, with Ellie Fink, wrote the article on the April 2 Town election appearing in this *Town Journal*. She loved dogs and cared for dozens of them when their Somerset masters were on vacation. She was a bridge enthusiast and for the past 20 years, a docent at the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington.

Nyal is survived by her sister, Corlan Dokken Glaws of Washington, a brother, James Dokken, of Salem, Oregon, and several nieces and nephews. Her marriage to John Conger ended in divorce.

A memorial service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery. The date has not yet been set.

GWEN BOND DIES AT 84

Gwendolyn Stenejem Bond, 84, died of complications from a stroke at her Dorset Avenue home on March 31. She had moved here in 1997 and helped with drama productions at Somerset School.

A native of North Dakota, Gwen received a bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University in 1939. She moved to Washington in 1944 and helped write and produce a soap opera called "Country Journal," a treatment of wartime conditions on the home front. In the late

'40s she relocated to New Jersey, returning to the D.C. area in 1990 after the death of her husband of 45 years, Patterson Bond.

Survivors include a daughter, Dr. Elinor Martin of Drummond Avenue, and two other daughters.

WILFRID MANN, 92; NUCLEAR PHYSICIST

Wilfrid Basil Mann, 92, who lived on Warwick Place until 1998, died on March 29 of cardiac arrest at a retirement community in Towson, MD. From 1951 to 1980, he served as chief of the radioactivity section of the National Bureau of Standards and received a Gold Medal for Exceptional Service from the Department of Commerce.

He was born in England and earned a doctorate in physics from the Imperial College of Science and Technology. In the late 1930s, he came to the United States, and he became a U.S. citizen in 1959.

His wife, Miriam Tueller Mann, died in 1998. A son, Peter, died two years earlier. Survivors include daughters Janet Powers of Towson and Kristine Kullberg of Anchorage, a sister and six grandchildren.

FAITH CLARK; USDA ECONOMIST

Faith Clark, 89, an economist with the Agriculture Department from 1936 to 1970, died April 5 at the Collington Episcopal Life Care Community in Mitchellville. She had Alzheimer's disease.

When she retired, she was the director of the consumer and food economics division of the USDA's research wing.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Faith received a bachelor's degree in 1933 from the College of Wooster in Ohio. She received master's and doctoral degrees in food economics from the University of Chicago.

She lived in Washington and Silver Spring before moving in 1956 to Surrey Street, where she lived until moving to Collington in 1988.

She was a member of the Argyle Country Club and was its women's golf champion during the 1970s.

There are no immediate survivors.

Residents Speak Out

APPRECIATION FROM CANDIDATE JEFFREY SLAVIN

Thanks to everyone who came out to vote on April 2. As it was one of my goals to increase participation and interest in Town issues, I hope my grassroots campaign for the Council position made a significant contribution.

I want to acknowledge the many people who helped me, especially those who accompanied me on my walking tour or hosted an event: Lucy and Harry Freeman, Alex Dunn, Lilian Paul, Janet Lowenthal, Gayley Knight, Alex Acosta, Bonnie and Marty Lewin, Cathi Davis and Frank Loversky and Bill McPherrin. Their support and friendship I will always cherish.

In the upcoming months I will attend Town meetings in order to convey to the Council the opinions and concerns from the many residents I met and spoke to. I also will be an active participant in Town committees.

I congratulate the winners, Rick, Tom and Judy, and look forward to working with them.

Jeffrey Slavin

Warwick Place

Agenda

REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

MONDAY, May 7, 2001 — 7:30 P.M.

1. Administration of oath of office to Councilmembers Judy Frankel, Richard Kessler and Tom Eldridge 7:30
2. Election of Vice President of Council for one-year term — 7:40.
3. Approval of minutes of the April 2 regular meeting — 7:45.
4. Acceptance of financial report and approval of the following fund transfers: — 7:50.
5. Action on building permit application by Sandy Spring Builders to modify plans for garage at 4717 Essex Avenue by reducing width of front dormer and adding dormer with clerestory windows in the rear — 7:55.
6. Recommendation to Historic Preservation Commission and action on building permit application by Margaret Farrell, 4719 Cumberland Avenue, to reduce the depth of the addition to the west side of her house as approved by Town in 1999 — 8:05.
7. Action on building permit application by Jim Losey and Alex Acosta, 4700 Essex Avenue, to add a porch to the front, a concrete patio to the rear and a bay window to the east side — 8:10.

8. Action on building permit and tree removal permit applications by Rodd and Jodi Macklin, 4817 Dorset Avenue, to construct a garage and additions to their house — 8:20.
9. Action on building permit application by Jerry and Donna McDougal, 5015 River Road, to erect a shed in their back yard — 8:30.
10. Mayor's report — 8:35.
11. Report on developments/plans in vicinity of Somerset by Peter Gubser — 8:50.
12. Update on modernization plans for Somerset School by Richard Kessler — 9:00.
13. Report on April 17 meeting of Friendship Heights Transportation Management District (TMD) by Jeffrey Slavin — 9:10.
14. Suggestions and questions from residents — 9:15.
15. Public hearing on Mayor's proposed budget and property tax rate for FY-02 — 9:25.
16. Action on amendment to the Building Code to require certain building permit applications to include information on front setback, height, percent of lot coverage and a photo of the property — 9:45.
17. Action on amendment to the Building Code to modify the front setback requirement for primary buildings — 9:50.
18. Action on amendment to the Building Code to increase the setback of certain accessory structures — 10:00.
19. Action on establishment of Long-Range Planning Committee — 10:10.
20. Action on resolution authorizing consent to and approval of the Seventh Amended and Restated Local Government Insurance Trust Agreement — 10:15.
21. Action on proposal by Connecting Links to manage existing Town Web site for annual fee of \$8,400 — 10:30.
22. Action on recommendation of Swimming Pool Committee for purchase of 20' x 60' tent for use at swimming pool parties and events at Town Hall (price: \$6,127) — 10:35.
23. New business — 10:45.