

Everyone Invited to Welcome Party

By Bonnie Lewin, Chairman, Welcoming Committee

The Town of Somerset is a wonderful place to live and is actively sought out by many house hunters. Over the past year, 16 new families have moved in. So, once again, it's time for the annual welcome party where old residents greet new residents who have moved in more recently.

The party will take place at the Town swimming pool, back in the grassy area under the tent on Sunday, September 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Come early for a swim, bring your favorite CDs and then relax with a glass of wine or soda and some other light refreshments provided by the Town. Children can enjoy the pool while adults greet newcomers and catch up with old friends.

Please call Bonnie Lewin (301-907-4772), Ellen Butts (301-652-2454), Linda Kanefield (301-652-5509) or Jeffrey Slavin (301-654-6767) if you can help with arrangements.

Mayor's Den

By Walter J. Behr

DEADLINE FOR HOUSE NUMBERS IS SEPT. 15

House numbers will be painted or repainted throughout Town next month as a convenience for guests and delivery people and as an aid to emergency vehicle drivers. **If you want the contractor to skip your house, call Tom at the Town Hall by Wednesday, September 5.**

Even with the fresh curb numbers, it is important to post your house numbers near your front door or in another conspicuous place. In fact, the County Zoning Ordinance requires numbers at least six inches high on a contrasting background. For your safety, please check to be certain that your house numbers are not hidden by shrubbery.

2 MORE SOMERSET FAMILIES SUFFER BURGLARIES

Unfortunately, two more burglaries have occurred in Somerset since last month's *Town Journal*, increasing the total number of attempted and actual break-ins to eight within a 10-week period. On the basis of several

conversations with Commander Luther Reynolds of the Bethesda Police District, I am convinced that his people are making every effort to apprehend the housebreakers, but so far they have not succeeded.

A family on Falstone Avenue, including two young children, returned home Sunday night, August 5, to find that a piece of gold jewelry and a supply of coins had been stolen - no other jewelry, no video or TV. Entry was through a side door with a deadbolt lock that had been forced open by breaking the doorjamb.

On the same night one or more burglars pried open a locked kitchen window on 'Little' Surrey Street and ransacked most of the empty house. A cat sitter discovered the crime the following morning. The owners returned shortly thereafter and do not believe anything was stolen.

The house has a burglar alarm, but it had not been set as a convenience to the cat sitter. Since the incident, improved locks have been installed on windows and doors.

If you would like an expert to inspect your home and provide suggestions for beefing up security, the Montgomery County Police provide this service at no cost, of course. Call Community Relations Officer Dana Mathis at the Bethesda Station, 301-657-0019. A resident of Dorset Avenue availed herself of this service recently and found the advice very helpful.

WEST NILE VIRUS STILL A POSSIBILITY

Labor Day is almost here, but health authorities suggest continuing precautions to prevent West Nile Virus at least until the end of September.

The first precaution is to keep mosquitoes from breeding. Mosquitoes become infected with the virus by biting birds that are infected - mostly crows and bluejays. When infected mosquitoes bite people, the people may become infected and some may get sick. To date, there have been no human cases of West Nile Virus in Montgomery County. In fact, the only victim in the country this year has been an elderly Florida man, and he is recovering.

Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Here are some common-sense ideas for preventing stagnant water:

- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens;
- Remove standing water on flat and almost-flat roofs;
- Turn over children's wading pools, canoes, wheelbarrows and trash can lids;
- Eliminate puddles from air conditioners;
- Flush birdbaths and saucers under potted plants at least twice a week.

Cover up and Use Insect Repellent

Despite your best effort to prevent mosquitoes from breeding, you may well encounter them when you go out. Therefore, public health specialists advise wearing long-sleeve shirts and long pants and using insect repellent.

Several residents have encountered dead birds and wondered whether and how to report them for testing. The toll-free number to call is **1-866-866-CROW**, but call only if it is a bluejay, crow or other large bird and only if the bird appears to have died from natural causes, not from injury such as flying into a window or being attacked by another bird. If the State West Nile Virus hotline (1-866-866-CROW) is busy, call the County Health Department at **240-777-1555**. Only two crows in Montgomery County have tested positive for the virus this year, and both were in Takoma Park.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO WRITE

This is a reminder of your 'right to write' the *Town Journal* and have your letter published, subject only to the guidelines below. Letters **will be published**, provided the are:

- About Somerset or vicinity;
- 150 words or less;
- Signed (although your name may be withheld if requested);
- Not repetitive of another letter published in the same issue;
- Not slanderous, libelous or profane.

Communications over 150 words may be published as submitted, but may be cut as space and readability demand. If you want to make the editor happy, please double-space your contribution.

Making Waves

14 SOMERSET STARS SWIM IN FINAL MEETS

By Sarah Morse, Swim Team Representative

Fourteen swimmers attended the last meets of the swim season as they competed in the All-Star Competitions at the end of July.

The boys 8 and under 100 medley team surprised the competition by shaving 7 seconds off their seed time and finishing third for a bronze medal in the All-Star Relays. Matt Bookman, 8, swam fly; Mark Berry, 9, swam back stroke; Freddy Mondale, 8, swam breast; and Joey Kathan, 7, brought it home swimming freestyle.

On a day that was probably the wettest and coldest in the entire summer, Katie Steller cut almost a second off her 100 M freestyle time to finish sixth in the 15 - 18 age category at the Individual All-Star Meet. Katie also had a 15th place finish in the 100 M individual medley. Matt Bookman, braving the steady rain by wrapping lots of towels around himself, finished 16th in the boys 8 and under 25 M breaststroke.

Team Drops 14 Seconds From Seed Time

Most impressive was the boys 11 - 12 200 M medley team of Kevin Young, Miles Batson, Nick Kessler and Michael Lape. This team dropped 14 seconds from their seed time despite the absence of original team member Toby Kathan. The girls 14 and under 100 M medley team - Sarah Sullivan, 14; Clare Hanlon, 11; Leah Loversky, 9; and Natasha Belikove, 7 - bettered their seed time by 2 seconds for a 1.21:55 finish. Also representing Somerset was a mixed freestyle team of 8 and unders with Natasha Belikove, Zoe Loversky, Freddy Mondale and Matt Bookman.

The 2002 division assignments have been made, and Somerset swim team has advanced to the K division. After years in the M division, strong swimming and good coaching have moved the team up two divisions. Seeded fourth in the K division, we will be swimming Palisades, Fallsmead, Glenmont Ashton and Quail Valley next year. Congratulations to all the

swimmers who made this our best season ever! We hope to see everyone back next summer.

SUMMER MEMORIES FADE, BUT POOL STAYS OPEN

By Norm Schneider, Chairman, Swimming Pool Committee

For those who have been away, welcome back and remember, especially on cool evenings, the pool is heated. So come on down and see your friends. The pool will remain open for two weeks past Labor Day and then will reopen on the following two weekends, closing for the season Sunday, September 30, with the dog swim at 6 p.m.

There are movie nights on Saturdays through September 15, there are raft nights beginning at 6:15 every Thursday and Saturday through September 15 and there is the end-of-summer potluck on Saturday, September 8 (rescheduled from September 1). The Pool Committee will provide hot dogs, drinks and paper goods, but you should bring your own food and something to share.

Also, there is the party to welcome new residents on Sunday, September 9. See enclosed flyers for potluck and welcome party details.

How It Used to Be

Seeing how busy and fun the pool has been this summer reminds me of my childhood. I grew up in Somerset, moving here in 1962, when I was four and starting kindergarten. At that time, not only was there no pool, but there were beautiful woods, a clean creek and a village of Friendship Heights with Sears houses and small cottages. I remember walking along Wisconsin Avenue looking up toward where the Somerset House apartments are at the Victorian houses across from a large field that soon became Saks. We kids would wander through the woods, along the creek and then pop out near Friendship Heights where the bus station sat atop trolley tracks next to a Howard Johnson's restaurant, across from the Woodward and Lothrop building that became Hechts. The D.C. side of Western had an open field and an old Esso station where Mazza now stands and a row of small shops and liquor stores across Wisconsin.

It was a sleepy little area. But there was a huge threat from developers planning to take over the woods (then called 'The Bergdoll Tract') and

destroy the peacefulness in the name of progress. There were plans to build what was claimed the tallest building between Philadelphia and Atlanta and proposals to develop the area far more than it is now. The Town officially opposed the development. To quiet the Town, the developers offered to give the Town a buffer zone, and thus the Town received 12 of 30 acres in the tract, the land along the creek including the parcel where the Town swimming pool is located. While individual citizens, including my family, continued to fight the development for the next decade, the Town began building the swimming pool, which opened just about the time I graduated from Somerset School.

Back then, there were dozens of kids about my age and we spent hours at the pool. I could always count on my friends being there, even when we didn't make plans to meet. I remember spending September nights doing homework with my friends at the tables on the open second floor of the poolhouse and then joining them in swimming or playing in the pool. The facility was an enchanting part of my childhood, and I hope that my children and the other children in Town will remember similar idyllic moments of living in Somerset.

Suggestions Always Welcome

If you encounter any problems at the pool or wish to make suggestions, 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 me at

nschneider@kamerowlaw.com. Many of you have taken the time to speak and write, and I thank you for pointing out your concerns and making suggestions. I've been away part of August, so I'm still getting back to some of the messages. If you haven't heard from me, give me a call or another e-mail to remind me.

You are welcome to attend to Pool Committee meetings, which will take place regularly throughout the fall and winter. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Monday, September 24, at 5509 Greystone Street.

Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

SCHOOL IS OPEN

School will be back in session starting September 4. Please drive carefully, make complete stops at our stop signs and watch for children.

BACK TO SCHOOL CLASSIC 8-KM RACE

Don't forget the 8-kilometer race through the streets of Somerset sponsored by the Somerset Elementary School PTA on Sunday, September 30. The intersections of Dorset and Cumberland Avenues with Wisconsin Avenue will be closed from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m.

TOWN TREES

Don't forget to help us by watering the Town trees in your yards when no rain has fallen in several days. Water slowly so that the moisture penetrates the soil and gets down to the roots.

FOUND

A resident found three sets of keys at the intersection of Surrey Street and Falstone Avenue on August 9. One set is in a leather case, one is attached to an orange ribbon and the third has a car alarm attached to the ring. Please call Tom at 301-657-3211 if you think any or all of these belong to you.

RECYCLE BINS

Please be sure you wash out your blue recycle bins occasionally. If they are not relatively clean, our trash haulers can refuse to pick them up.

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

Bonnie Thomson, 5808 Warwick Place, to remove a damaged cedar in her front yard.

Nat Finkelstein, 5527 Surrey Street, to remove a dying hemlock and a scrub cherry from his back yard.

Legislation

At the August 13 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Introduced reenactment of the ordinance amending the Building Code to modify the front setback requirement for primary buildings.

2. Introduced reenactment of the ordinance amending the Building Code to increase the setback of certain accessory structures.

Council Activity

At the August 13 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Approved the following fund transfers:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
GPF Pool	\$29,100	CPF Streets	
Pool	\$ 5,100	CPF Contingency	GF

2. Renewed Town membership in Montgomery Municipal Cable Television by contributing the entire franchise fee payment from the County, which is based on the number of Somerset cable subscribers.

3. Confirmed the Mayor's appointments of Josh Bobeck, Adam Bookman and Ann Brown to the Swimming Pool Committee for three-year terms.

4. Approved the building permit application by Chester Finn and Renu Virmani, 5404 Surrey Street, to add a covered stoop, separate covered entry and bow window to the front of their house, subject to receipt of the County permit.

5. Recommended approval to the Historic Preservation Commission and approved a Town building permit for James and Dabney Goold, 5812 Surrey Street, to add three windows, a door and a stoop, subject to HPC approval and receipt of a copy of the County building permit application, the County building permit and a \$300 building deposit.

6. Approved the installation of a speed hump on the level part of the Essex Avenue, on the left side of 4817 (Peskovitz) and the right side of 4810 (Lasner).
 7. Held action on installation of a speed hump or humps on Uppingham Street until the September Town Council meeting when more Uppingham residents could be present.
 8. Voted to advise Montgomery County Board of Appeals that Somerset has no objection to the Chevy Chase Club's application for a special exception to build a large addition to its maintenance building and a small shelter with first-aid equipment and restrooms. (Vote: Frankel and Eldridge for; Gubser opposed.)
 9. Approved expenditure of up to \$5,000 to replace the deteriorating fence on the eastern (upper) edge of the pool property with black mesh fence similar to that in the picnic area.
 10. Tabled a request by the Long-Range Planning Committee to fund up to \$5,000 for a consultant to facilitate focus groups and prioritize recommendations until more information is presented on specific services the consultant would provide.
 11. Approved a resolution authorizing the Somerset Elementary School PTA's request to close the Wisconsin Avenue entrance of Town on September 30 from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m. for their annual 8-kilometer race.
 12. Approved changes to the Personnel Policies Manual to clarify and limit use of annual and sick leave in advance of days accrued.
 13. Discussed videotaping Town Council meetings to air at a later date on Channel 30.
 14. Heard the Mayor's report of emergency authorization of \$1,617 for new external sensors for the pool alarm system and \$381.07 for freight for lane lines for the pool.
 15. Voted to send a letter of support for Ruth Baker-Battist for a seat on the County Board of Appeals, as recommended by the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights.
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Long-Range Planning, Town Charter Added to Web

The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has had two meetings. For residents who are interested, the minutes are posted on the Web site, <http://www.townofsomerset.com>, along with other materials and reference papers.

Our Web site administrator has also configured the Town Charter and put that on the Web site. In the next few months, Town permits will be added ' and you will be able to fill them out on your computer, print them and deliver them to the Town Hall.

Obituary

GENE TILLMAN DIES AT 69

Willie Eugene 'Gene' Tillman, our loyal, outgoing Town maintenance man and foreman for 40 years, died at the age of 69 on August 1. He retired four years ago and was back in Somerset earlier this summer greeting old friends.

Larry Owens of the Town staff and the Mayor represented Somerset at the 'Celebration of Life' funeral in Forestville. Somerset sent a lovely floral arrangement in memory of its longest-serving employee.

Gene was born in Selma, North Carolina. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served during the Korean War. He was an ardent Redskins fan, a lover of all sports. He also enjoyed jazz.

Survivors include his wife, Roberta Tillman; a daughter, Paulette Tillman; two sons, Miguel Tillman and Gregorio Clarke; and four grandchildren.

The *Town Journal* is the official publication of the Town of Somerset, Montgomery County, MD. Post Office address: 4510 Cumberland Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. It is edited by the Mayor.

MAYOR

CLERK-TREASURER

Walter J. Behr, 4809 Grantham Ave., 301-654-1258/654-0224 Tom
Carter

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

TOWN HALL

Judy Frankel, Council V.P., 5528 Uppingham St., 301-657-8875 Open 9 to 4:30

Tom Eldridge, 4806 Essex Ave., 301-656-3354 301-657-3211/Fax 301-657-2773

Peter Gubser, 4517 Cumberland Ave., 301-654-5137 Web site: www.townofsomerset.com

Richard Kessler, 4914 Cumberland Ave. 301-654-2699 E-mail: clerk@townofsomerset.com

Anne Proctor, 4900 Cumberland Ave., 301-652-4717 TTY users call Maryland Relay

Deadlines: Ads, September 13; Copy September 14

KIDS WILL LOVE POLICE OPEN HOUSE

The Bethesda Police have planned an open house that will enlighten and entertain young and old. It will be held Saturday, September 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 2nd District Station, 7359 Wisconsin Avenue, at the corner of Montgomery Avenue. There is, of course, no charge.

Activities will include: child fingerprinting, station tours, command bus, police cruiser, demonstration of motorcycles, swat and K-9, child safety seat information, bicycle registration and McGruff. For more information, call 301-657-0119.

HELP YOURSELF TO FIREWOOD AND MULCH

Montgomery County Parks Department is now offering free uncut firewood and mulch on Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the first Sunday of every month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Saturday, December 22, at the

Bonifant Road Landfill, 1201 Bonifant Road in the Aspen Hill area of Silver Spring.

Loading and hauling are the responsibility of the recipient. To cut firewood into smaller pieces, recipients should bring their own chain saw and be prepared to sign a waiver.

Located next to the National Capital Trolley Museum, the Bonifant Landfill is owned and operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. For more information, call 301-670-8093.

COMMITTEE WANTS VIEWS ON REDISTRICTING

The Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting in Rockville to provide input into the redistricting process for Maryland's eight Congressional districts and 47 State legislative districts. Last of 12 such sessions, the meeting in Rockville will convene at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 6, in the Theater Arts Building of Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street.

Chairman of the committee, appointed by Governor Parris Glendening, is Secretary of State John Willis. Other members are Montgomery County Councilmember Ike Leggett, Maryland Senate President Mike Miller, Maryland House Speaker Casper Taylor and Worcester County Commissioner Louise Gulyas.

During the meeting, individuals will be invited to comment on any facet of the redistricting process and offer their suggestions on how to shape Maryland's political boundaries. Guidelines for submittal of redistricting comments and suggestions will be provided at the meeting. They will also be available online at **www.mdp.state.md.us** or by calling toll-free at **888-767-6272**.

Input collected during the meeting will be considered by the committee in making legislative and Congressional redistricting recommendations to Governor Glendening. Individuals wanting to participate in the redistricting process, but unable to attend the public meetings should submit their comments and suggestions to the Governor's Redistricting Advisory

Committee, c/o Ron Young, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning, 301 West Preston Street, Suite 1101, Baltimore, MD 21201, or by fax at 410-333-5079 or electronically at

Ryoungredistricting@mdp.state.md.us

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