

## Local Election Lowdown

### **VOTERS WILL SELECT THREE COUNCILMEMBERS APRIL**

Election Day for the Town of Somerset is Monday, April 2, for three Councilmembers. Incumbents Judy Frankel and Richard Kessler have stated they will run again. Nat Finkelstein said he would not be running this time. At the Town Council meeting on March 5, nominations for the incumbents and other candidates will be accepted for the two-year terms. Additional nominations may be made by petition of 20 registered voters filed with the Clerk-Treasurer no later than 4 p.m. March 19.

The Town Charter requires its elected officials to be:

- Citizens of the United States
- Residents of Somerset for at least 18 months preceding the election; and

Qualified voters in the State of Maryland.

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### **REGISTRATION DAY IS MARCH 5**

A member of the Board of Elections will be at the Town Hall on Monday, March 5, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. to register new voters. In addition, Town residents may register at the Town Hall any Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by mail (call Tom Carter, 301-657-3211, to mail the registration form to you). The deadline to register for the April 2 election is 4:30 p.m. on March 26. If you are currently registered in Montgomery County, you are eligible to vote in the Town of Somerset.

To vote in the Town of Somerset you must be:

- At least 18 years old by April 2, 2001
- A resident of Somerset for 14 days preceding the election (actual residency is required except for individuals absent from the Town only temporarily and intending to return, such as students, military and other overseas government employees
- A citizen of the United States or an alien legally authorized to reside in the country; an

·Registered to vote in the Town of Somerset and/or Montgomery County.

If you have any questions about whether you are registered in the Town or know former residents who are still registered in Somerset, call Tracy Truman, chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections, at 301-652-4596.

## **MAYOR'S DEN**

**By Walter J. Behr**

## **REAL, LIVE ASSESSOR WILL APPEAR IN TOWN**

Residents, who are puzzled or upset about their recent assessments will have a unique opportunity to hear an assessor supervisor in person explain the procedure and answer questions. John W. Brennan will appear at the Town Council on Monday, February 5, at 8:35 p.m.

He has promised to respond to the following four questions which were raised at the last Council meeting as well as other questions from the floor:

What is the average increase in Somerset as compared with the average increase in Montgomery County and in the State?

Why the great range in percentage of increase within Somerset – from virtually zero to fifty percent?

Are the properties in the immediate vicinity of a new or newly enlarged house affected more than similar houses within Somerset, but a block or two away?

What is the most effective method of appealing an assessment?

In the meantime, you may want to review the "comparables" below, which are used as the basis for setting rates in Somerset. The comparables, are officially known as the Assessor's Area Sales Analysis Report.

## **WINTER ISN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER**

It was most gratifying to walk through Town the day after the Inauguration with little fear of slipping since most residents had cleared snow from public sidewalks. Whether the shoveling was done by abutting residents or neighboring boys and girls or by our contractor is not important. What is important is that most residents complied with the law and made our sidewalks safe for pedestrians -young and old, healthy and disabled.

If you are going to be away in February or March, and have a Town sidewalk in front or on the side of your yard, please arrange for snow removal in your absence because winter isn't over yet. The most snow ever recorded during a single month in the D.C. area was 30.6 inches in February

of 1978-79. As recently as 95--96 we had 15.2 inches in the shortest month. Over the years, January and February tie for the most snow, averaging 5.2 inches in each of the two months.

Neighborhood young people who are available for snow shoveling are listed under "Odd Job Helpers" on page 13 of this *Town Journal*. If you prefer, you may still arrange of our Town contractor, Mulheron Tree Experts, to clear and sand for you at the following rates: \$22.50 for snow 1 to 4 inches deep, \$31.50 for 4.1 inches to 8 inches and \$48 for over 8 inches (heaven forbid!). Sanding costs \$6.

To subscribe for this service, send a deposit of \$100 (payable to Town of Somerset) to Tom Carter at Town Hall and sign a Request form. Tom will pay Mulheron for all participants and return any unused portion of the deposit in April.

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### **CONSULTANT RECOMMENDS NO NEW SPEED HUMPS**

In a six-page with five attachments report, traffic engineer Joseph Cutro recommends no new speed humps, but does prioritize sections of streets for humps in case the Council is persuaded that new humps should, indeed, be installed. Cutro met with the Council on January 2 and discussed his findings. Action on the report is schedule for the February 5 meeting at 9:40 p.m.

The essence of the expert's report is stated in the following two paragraphs and attachment "A", which appears on page 6 in this *Town Journal*. Copies of the complete report are available in Town Hall.

"On the basis of the calibration testing, it appears that new speed hump projects would not significantly reduce traffic speeds on Somerset streets. In other words, prevailing speeds are low enough that speed humps would be ineffective in reducing them further. While no new speed humps can be recommended at this time, relative importance can be assigned to prospective projects. Attachment 'A', which entails previously completed speed humps as well as new projects, summarizes these relative priorities."

"Attachment 'A' lists 11 new speed humps within 8 projects. New projects are assigned Priorities 'A' (highest) through 'C' (lowest). All projects within a priority group should be considered together for maximum effect and to help prevent the shifting of traffic flow to other locations. As can be seen, the priorities roughly follow segment length in order, but not strictly so. As has been explained, the rankings utilize traffic volumes and physical constraints as secondary factors."

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### **BOTTOM LINE: POOL COST \$240 PER HOUSEHOLD**

The Town swimming pool financial report for the 2000 season appears on page 14 in this *Town Journal*. For those of you who would rather swim or do almost anything other than peruse a financial report, here is the bottom line:

Operating cost last year was \$85,000 or \$205 per Somerset household.

Total cost, including capital expenditures, was \$110,000. Our only source of income was guest fees, almost \$10,000. Therefore, net total cost was \$100,000 or \$240 per household. For the second year, all expenses were paid by the Town, in other words, by your State and local taxes rather than membership fees.

If you have any question about pool finances, feel free to call Tom Carter at Town Hall.

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### **EROSION CONTROL PROJECT VIRTUALLY COMPLETED**

Creek erosion control planning and permitting (from four authorities) took almost two years. Work, except for planting to be done in April or May, took less than three weeks. The contractor on the \$115,00 project is Environmental Quality Resources of Gaithersburg.

I am extremely grateful to Jeff Lape of Dorset Avenue who contributed his expertise and time as the Town representative on the site. Jeff is Chief of the Water Quality and Industrial Permits Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A companion project by Montgomery County, planned at our request, is expecting permits at any time. Dan Harper, project manager, still hopes to do the job before spring. The work will include digging a 60-foot channel below the Town swimming pool bridge to shift the Little Falls Branch flow away from the North Park and Irene Apartments.

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### **DORSET PROPERTY ON NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER**

For the first time, a house in Somerset - at 4722 Dorset Avenue - has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places, a division of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

It appears on the National Register as the Wiley-Ringland House. Dr. Harvey Wiley, one of Somerset's founders, built the Queen Anne-style house in 1893, but never lived in it. Wiley was the force behind the Pure Food and Drug Act, which led the way to the creation of the Food and Drug Administration.

From 1938 to 1978 the house was occupied by the Arthur Ringland family. Ringland was the founder of CARE, an organization that attacks the underlying causes of poverty throughout the world. Arthur and Dorothy Ringland with daughter Susan lived in the house when it was severely damaged by fire in 1978. It has been unoccupied ever since.

Laura Will and Joe Lipscomb purchased the property about a year ago and have started construction of an addition in the rear, to be followed by restoration of what remains of the original house.

The significance to the Town of the National Register designation is that the property will never be subdivided.

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### **4<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS: WIN FAME AND SAVINGS BOND**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) invites 4<sup>th</sup> grade public school students throughout the State to advise the 157 towns and villages in Maryland what the children would do if they were running the local government. A winner will be selected from each of the State's 11 Congressional districts and presented with a plaque at the Governor's Municipal Government Week proclamation ceremony at the State House in Annapolis. Winners will also receive a \$250 savings bond at the Bowie Baysox baseball park on Municipal Night, April 28.

Essays must begin with: "If I were Mayor, I would..." and not exceed 250 words. Entries will be judged by the MML and the Maryland Mayors' Association on creativity, clarity, knowledge about the role of a real Mayor and good English. Entries should be submitted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, who will send them to MML in Annapolis.

Teachers or students (who need not live in Somerset) with questions should feel free to call me at 301-654-1258.

### **Town Hall Tidbits**

By Tom Carter

### **TAX TIME AGAIN; REMEMBER: "TOWN OF SOMERSET"**

Somerset's largest source of revenue is a portion of the State income tax paid by Town residents. Unfortunately, Somerset will not get its share of income taxes unless its name appears on the Maryland income tax form in the box marked, "City, Town or Taxing Area." A sample of the form appears below. Please don't forget to complete this section when filing your taxes.

### **2001 TENNIS ID CARDS**

Tennis ID cards for 2001 are available from Tom at the Town Hall office. Fees are still only \$5 per family for the annual card. Please make your checks out to "Town of Somerset.."

When playing, be sure to hang your card in the clipboard on the south fence. The purpose of the cards is to identify you as a Somerset resident and discourage non-residents from occupying the courts. ID cards should be displayed whether or not you signed up for the court in advance. Also, don't forget to sign your name, street and time on the whiteboard outside the fence.

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**FOUND**

On December 26, an eagle-eyed Somerset student spotted a Volvo car key with a unique chain on the Little Falls bike path near Langdrum Lane. Call Tom at the Town Hall (301-657-3211) if you think it belongs to you.

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## OBHEY OUR STOP SIGNS

Incidents of stop sign running in Somerset are up again. Please consider the danger this presents to our children and other pedestrians as well as other drivers. Be aware that we have asked the County police to monitor our intersections because of this problem.

### Making Waves

## SWIM TEAM NEEDS NEW COACHES

By Sarah Morse

**What's New for 2001.** It's never too early to start thinking about summer vacation, so here's an update on what's happening with the swim team. The good news is that after a fabulous 4-1 season last year, we remain in the M division, with Parkland dropping down a division and Chevy Chase Rec moving up. We are seeded fourth and swim, in order of ranking, Forest Knolls, Chevy Chase Rec, Tanglewood, Connecticut Belair and Old Farm.

The bad news is that none of our coaches are returning. Ian has taken a job as head coach at Mohican, Jake and Nina are in England and Malika is pursuing her photography career. So we are searching for new blood. Please let me know if you have any ideas.

**Meet Schedule Set.** The season starts early this year. The first meet is Saturday, June 16, before school is out. We also have a B-meet scheduled for Wednesday, June 20. Meets continue every Saturday morning, with Divisionals on July 21. The All-Star events are Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29. The relay carnival has not been scheduled yet, but probably will be sometime during the last week in June. We are also still trying to schedule two more B-meets on Wednesday nights and one or two Mini meets.

Social events are scheduled as follows: Friday, May 25, pre-season party; all old and potential swim team members are invited. Saturday, July 21, team banquet. More events will be scheduled as the season grows closer. For more league information, check out their web site at [www.mcsl.org](http://www.mcsl.org).

**Who Can Join the Team?** As always, the swim team is open to all Somerset residents ages 5 to 18. There are no tryouts; everyone who can pass the deep-water test is welcome. Practice is every day for an hour, either from 4:00 to 5:00, 5:00 to 6:00 or in the morning at 8:30. There is also a developmental team, the Minis, for kids under 8 who can swim at least 15 yards. These younger swimmers practice only three days a week. So when you're making your summer plans, leave some time for the swim team. It's Somerset's only sports team.

**Swim Classes.** Kids of all levels will be able to take group swim classes at the Somerset pool this summer during June and July, five days a week, with professional instruction. The classes will expand and complement the Somerset swim team's B Mini groups but will not be competitive. Plan on joining us and taking the swimming up a notch this summer.

## **SOMERSET HIGHLIGHTS IN 2000**

By Judy Frankel

Vice President of Town Council

Careful preparation by all concerned insured that we had no Y2K problems, and the new Millennium brought the prospect of a challenging, rewarding year for the Mayor and Council.

### **BEAUTIFICATION AWARD**

The efforts of our gardener/horticulturist and the Parks and Natural Resources Committee earned us the top award in the County beautification contest for the Wisconsin/Dorset Avenue plantings.

### **FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS DEVELOPMENT**

Efforts to reduce the overall proposed density of the Geico, Hecht's and Chevy Chase Land Co. sites continued in cooperation with the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights. Redevelopment of Geico has been delayed, Hecht's is working towards final approval later this spring and there still are several issues under review for the Land Co. site. Chase Towers, previously approved, is under construction on Willard Avenue. Traffic problems are being looked at with the District of Columbia. More counts have been taken; possible action depends partially upon recommendations of the hearing examiner.

### **CREEK EROSION PROJECT**

The Town's project for controlling erosion of Little Falls Branch has been completed except for planting, which will occur in the spring. The County project behind the 4620 and Irene Apartments has not been granted all necessary permits, but the engineer in charge still hopes to complete the job this winter. For environmental reasons, work is normally not permitted in waterways between March 1 and June 15.

### **COUNCIL ELECTION**

Mayor Behr was reelected for a 2-year term, as were Councilmembers Peter Gubser and Anne Proctor.

### **BUDGET AND TAXES**

The Town property tax rate was set at 22 cents per \$100 assessed value, down 12% from FY 2000. The total budget for the year is \$1,269,529. The Mayor's honorarium was increased to \$15,000. The budget includes funds for repairing Somerset sidewalks and street cracks and for

the creek erosion repair project. Cracks in the street paving were sealed, but it was decided to postpone street repaving until after construction at Somerset School is completed. The expected use of big trucks and heavy equipment could cause damage.

### **SWIMMING POOL, SWIM TEAMS**

Many family and community events have been added for the summer season, including adult and children's parties, movie and raft nights and a new water aerobics class.

The swim team continues to grow, with 80 Dolphins and 40 Minis enrolled. Somerset finished the season with four out of five wins, and many individual records were set.

### **SCHOOL MODERNIZATION**

Two site plans for modernization of Somerset Elementary School have been released by the architect of the Feasibility Study. Both opt for either retaining the newest portion of the structure, built in 1971, with significant additions or an entirely new building. Both would be three stories. The proposed site plans differ in how the property would be used for parking, traffic control, entrances, placement of the buildings and the playing field.

Public meetings to explain the site plans and consider public reaction to them are expected to begin in March. Demolition and construction are still scheduled to begin in June 2002.

### **SNOW**

For the first time, residents were offered the option of having their Town sidewalk cleared of snow and/or sanded - as the Town Code requires - by Mulheron Tree Experts. Arrangement should be made through the Town office.

### **UNDERGROUNDING OF WIRES, CABLES**

We are continuing to explore the feasibility of relocating overhead utility lines underground. Preliminary estimates indicate it could cost between \$4 and \$8 million just for Pepco wires. We are looking into possible ways to share the costs, perhaps through action in the State Legislature, working with other municipalities, the County and the utility companies.

Electricity for the Town's needs now is being supplied by Washington Gas Energy Services at "below offer service" rates, through an arrangement with County agencies and some municipalities. The lower rates are not available to individual residents.

### **TRAFFIC STUDIES IN SOMERSET**

A proposed Town Code amendment to change parking on Uppingham from the north to the south side of the street was not approved by the Council. The Traffic Committee report on possible changes needed within the Town, based on a questionnaire circulated to residents, recommended that no changes are required at this time. A traffic consultant looked at the need

for speed humps to help control speeding throughout Somerset and recommended no changes at this time.

### **THIS AND THAT**

- We celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July starting at the Town Hall with family picnics, celebrities, games and antique cars, then paraded to the swimming pool for more fun and games. Former Town Councilmembers and residents who had just graduated from Somerset School were honored.
- We welcomed 11 new families to Somerset.
- Enrique Cabara joined our maintenance staff.
- The Lipscomb-Will house at 4722 Dorset Avenue has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Correspondence from Residents**

#### **OPEN HOME AND HEART TO EXCHANGE STUDENT**

How would you like to be a host family for an exchange student and bring a part of the world to Somerset? Youth For Understanding (YFU) International Exchange, whose mission is to prepare young people for the challenges and opportunities in a changing, interdependent world, is seeking host families for international high school students for the academic year starting next August. As a field director at YFU, I am seeking families interested in giving students from around the world the opportunity to experience the warmth and support of the Somerset community.

Hosting an exchange student is a wonderful opportunity to learn about different cultures, to make friends from around the world and to help promote cross-cultural understanding. Students would attend B-CC High School, and spaces are limited for next year. If you are interested in hosting with YFU, please call me as soon as possible at (202)895-1147. There are also many other volunteer opportunities, so please feel free to call with any questions.

Josh Kreiser Falstone Avenue

#### **"WEED WARRIORS" WANTED**

Invasive plants from other lands have become a regional and, indeed, national problem, prompting the Montgomery County Planning Board staff to ask for volunteers to help with control. A forest ecologist provides a short training session on identification, removal and control techniques and helps identify target areas. Then "weed warriors" can work at their own pace and on their own schedules. Some of the most widely recognized invaders on the "Dirty Dozen" list are Japanese honeysuckle, multiflora rose, kudzu vine and English ivy.

For further information you can contact me (301-652-0632) or the coordinator and trainer in the program, Carole Bergmann (301-949-2818), 2000 Shorefield Road, Wheaton, MD 20902.

Sue Prindle Cumberland Avenue

### **Our Middle School**

#### **WESTLAND MAY CONVERT TO IB PROGRAM**

Principal Ursula Hermann announced this week that our neighborhood middle school, Westland, has been selected to begin the one-or-two-year planning process for converting to the International Baccalaureate program that begins in the sixth grade. Julius West Middle School is the only County school in which this prestigious program is already operating.

The middle school program is completely different from the *optional* IB diploma program in two County high schools, including Bethesda-Chevy Chase. In contrast, the middle school version applies to *all* students in the school.

Dr. Hermann thinks of the program as a middle school adaptation of a liberal arts education. It is an approach to teaching and learning that embraces and goes beyond traditional school subjects. In brief, the middle school International Baccalaureate program shuns the fragmentation of knowledge. Rather, it takes a holistic approach to education.

#### **RESIDENT EXHIBITS AT GLEN ECHO**

The Yellow Barn Gallery in cooperation with the National Park Service will be exhibiting wood sculptures by Len Harris of Trent Street, Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard. Opening reception will be held Saturday, the 10<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 6 p.m. Gallery hours both days are noon until 6 p.m. Len describes his work as "maximum expression – minimum image, ribbons-of-wood sculpture."

On exhibit with the sculptures will be a collection of oil painting entitled "The Joy of It" and touted by the gallery as "exuberant." The artist is Jo-Ann Clayton Townsend of Cabin John.

### **Obituary**

#### **THEO van HEMERT, DUTCH DIPLOMAT, DIES**

Theo (Ted) van Hemert, who lived in Somerset with his family from 1948 until 1978, died at his home in Olney on December 25 at age 81 of congestive heart failure. He and his family lived in three homes in Somerset - 4728 Dorset, 4721 Essex and 4711 Cumberland Avenue.

He was born in Dordrecht, the Netherlands. In 1938 he joined the Netherlands Merchant Navy. Shortly thereafter the Germans invaded his homeland while he was at sea. During the early part of World War II, he served aboard troop ships. One was bombed in the English Channel after rescuing Allied troops from Dunkirk at the behest of Churchill, and a second ship was later torpedoed from under him in the Mediterranean.

He arrived in the United States and was assigned to the Naval staff of the Netherlands Embassy in 1941. Later he was transferred to the Communications Department of the Embassy, where he was named to the Diplomatic staff and become head of that department. In 1984 he retired. He was a recipient of the Netherlands War Memorial Cross and was knighted by Queen Juliana in 1971.

Survivors include his wife, Wini of Olney; a son, Maarten of Mt. Airy, and three daughters, Corrie Morsey of Somerset, Anita Tapscott of Olney and Christine Mullis of Poolesville; a brother; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to Special Olympics Montgomery County, PO Box 1809, Rockville, MD 20849 or Montgomery County Humane Society, 14645 Rothgeb Dr. Rockville, MD 20850.

**County Wants to Know**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY TRAFFIC PROBLEMS?**

If you are not 100 percent satisfied with traffic and transportation nearby and in the vicinity, the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation would like to hear from you. Enclosed with this issue of the *Town Journal* is a detailed questionnaire, which the department would like you to complete and mail (no postage necessary). It could help the County with its planning and also help you blow off steam about congestion, illegal parking, red light running and other transportation problems.

Do not be concerned about the "October 2000 Citizen Survey" heading. The Department of Public Works and Transportation did not notify us about the survey until this month. Department officials assure us that we are not late. On the contrary, they hope every Somerset resident will complete and return the questionnaire.

**TOWN OF SOMERSET**

**2000 SWIMMING POOL FINANCIAL REPORT**

INCOME AMT	1998 FEE   QTY   AMT	1999 FEE   QTY   AMT	2000 FEE   QTY   AMT
MEMBERSHIP	\$20   300   \$ 6,600	\$0   341   \$ 0	\$0   341   \$0
GUEST CARDS (5 Swims)	\$12   886   \$10,632	\$10   1,187   \$11,870	\$10   983   \$9,830
GUEST CARDS (Week Pass)		\$5   28   \$140	\$5   59   \$295
Subtotal – Guests		\$12,010	\$10,125
MISCELLANEOUS	\$1	\$3	\$6
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,633	\$ 12,013	\$10,131

DISBURSEMENTS  
OPERATING COSTS

Management Contract	\$49,500	\$50,490	\$52,500
Other			
Chem/Supplies	\$5,274	\$6,094	\$6,875
Gas/Elect/Phone*	4,717	8,207	9,598
Water/Sewer	2,840	2,548	2,341
Admin/Security	1,987	2,798	3,321
Subtotal-Other	\$24,632	\$30,586	\$32,663
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$74,132	\$81,076	\$85,163
OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)	(\$57,499)	(\$69,063)	(\$75,032)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$32,126*a	\$41,902*b	\$25,267*c
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$106,258	\$122,978	\$110,430
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	(\$89,625)	(\$110,965)	(\$100,299)
TOTAL INCOME AS % OF:			
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	22%	15%	12%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	16%	10%	9%

\*a, \*b, \*c, (below) list capital improvements

\*a: \$11,700 – Water Slide

\*b: \$16,545 – Plumbing/Shower Repairs

\*c: \$6,291-Picnic Area Improvements

9,000 – Pool Heater

5,959 – Picnic Area Improvements

6,344 –

Pool Furniture/Umbrellas

6,273 – Pumps & Repairs

1,747 – Landscaping/Trash

Cans

4,145 – Hair Strainer

2,376 – Pool Furniture

4,495 – Bridge

Repairs	3,244 – Diving Board/Anchors	1,350 – Sound System
3,167 – Pool Furniture	1,808 – Vats/Faucets	1,428 – Picnic Area
6,247 – Water Heater	1,386 – Electrical Improvements	
2,500 Architect (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Plan)	1,141 – Baby Pool Improvements	
1,245 – ADA Hand Rail/Ramp	909 – Entry Landscaping	

\* The substantial increase in this line item is due primarily to the pool water heater, which is fueled by gas, as is the heater for shower water. The first full year for the pool water heater was 1999. Gas costs for the past four years are: 1997, \$480; 1998, \$1,074; 1999, \$3,295; 2000, \$4,281.

***PREPARE FOR TREE SPRAYING FEBRUARY 12***

Davey, our tree contractor, will spray oak street trees to eliminate scale insects starting Monday, February 12, if weather permits. They plan to treat trees near Somerset School on President's Day, February 19, when schools are closed.

The spray will be a 2 percent solution of horticultural/dormant oil. It smothers insects rather than killing them chemically. Even though the spray is not poisonous, we recommend seeking cover during the process. This also applies to automobiles. The spray will discolor them until they are washed, but will not damage the paint.

"Obscure scale," the full name of the pest, can attack any tree, but pin and willow oaks are especially vulnerable. You may want to call your arborist for an inspection if you have deciduous or evergreen trees with a sparse, gray to dark-gray, unhealthy appearance.

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