

Volume 45, No. 9 March 20, 2001

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## **5 VYING FOR 3 COUNCIL SEATS**

Five candidates are competing for three seats on the Town Council. Voting will take place at the Town Hall on **Monday, April 2**, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Nominees, in alphabetical order, are:

Tom Eldridge

Judy Frankel

Richard Kessler

Rob McGarrah

Jeffrey Slavin

Absentee ballots are available in the Town Hall. Qualified voters who will be absent from Town on election day, or who are incapacitated, may obtain absentee ballots from the Clerk-Treasurer by writing him at 4510 Cumberland Avenue or by calling 301-657-3211. Ballots will be counted if returned to the Clerk-Treasurer or the Board of Supervisors of Elections before 9 p.m. on election day, April 2.

Please turn to page 10,11 and 12 for statements by the candidates.

## **Mayor's Den**

By Walter J. Behr

## **TOWN'S FINANCIAL FUTURE APPEARS ROSY**

Even with a suggested property tax reduction of 43 percent for the next fiscal year (FY-02), the Town's combined fund balance for the next five years should remain between \$1.5 and \$1.9 million. This is the bottom line of the Five-Year Plan, the first step in our annual process of adopting a budget and property tax rate. A summary of the plan appears on page 5 of this *Town Journal*.

Town property taxes this year (FY-01) are 22 cents per \$100 assessed value. For the next five years they are projected at 5 cents, but as a result of a new State law, the rate will be applied to a different (higher) base beginning next fiscal year. In the past, the tax rate has been applied to **40**

**percent** of assessed value. Starting with FY-02, which begins July 1 of this year, property tax rates will be applied to **100 percent** of assessed value.

Our largest source of income by far is a portion of State income tax paid by Somerset residents and returned to the Town by the Comptroller's office. The rebate this year will approach \$700,000, as compared with property tax of \$165,000.

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## **Two Projected General Fund Expenses**

**Salary** increases for our hard-working staff are projected at 6 percent for next year and 5 percent per year thereafter.

The \$15,000 annual increase in **Snow and Sand** expense, to \$40,000, starting next year is based on the assumption that clearing and sanding all Town sidewalks will be done by a contractor rather than by residents whose property abuts the sidewalks.

## **Major Capital Expenses**

**Town Hall, Garage** - \$20,000 in FY-01 is for planning the renovation and minor expansion of the Town Hall to make the second floor more accessible and useful. \$120,000 in FY-02 is for implementing the plans.

**Streets, Storm Drains, Curbs, Sidewalks** - \$70,000 this fiscal year is for replacing damaged sidewalk squares, repaving the wavy approach to the stop sign on the south side of Dorset at Deal for eastbound traffic and improving two storm drains. Included is the cost of sealing street cracks, completed last August. The \$450,000 in FY-04 will pay for milling and repaving all of our streets.

**Major Equipment** - Most of the \$37,000 in FY-03 is for replacing the 1-ton Town truck.

**Swimming Pool** - The bulk of the \$90,000 expense in FY-01 is for replacing about half of the crumbling decks of both main and wading pools, tiling the men's showers and urinal area and improving the lighting near the bridge. In FY-04, \$80,000 is included for repaving both pool parking lots at the same time we repave the streets.

**Tennis Courts** - Cracks in the courts are lengthening and widening year by year. \$60,000 in FY-01 will pay for covering all three courts with a rubber-like, slightly resilient mat that stops the cracks from reappearing. \$10,000 is included in FY-05 for color-coating.

**Erosion Control** - \$5,000 next fiscal year is for trees to supplement small plants to be installed this spring by the contractor under the erosion control project. \$121,000 in FY-01 is for that project. Over half the cost of the job, \$75,000, was paid by Chase Towers in lieu of installing a storm water control system on their property.

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Copies of the complete Five-year Fiscal Plan and a memo of explanation are available at the Town Hall. My proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2002, which begins on July 1 of this year, will appear in next month's *Town Journal*.

I am grateful to Tom Carter for performing most of the leg work and much of the brainwork involved in preparing both the fiscal plan and budget.

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### **NEED A NEW DRIVEWAY AND/OR APRON?**

If your driveway or your driveway apron has seen better days and you would like to replace either or both, we *may* have a deal for you - but we can't make any promises.

The Town has just signed a contract that involves repaving damaged sidewalk squares (marked with splotches of orange paint), about half of the swimming pool decks and correcting several smaller street and storm drain problems. While the contractor is here, he is interested in doing work for homeowners, and *in theory*, the price should be lower than if he came to Somerset to do just your job.

Although the contractor has been highly recommended, the Town cannot get involved in any arrangements for private work. We strongly recommend that you get at least one or two bids from other contractors so that you can make an informed decision. If you need to names of other contractors, call Tom at the Town Hall.

Our contractor is Cris R. Herrera, who does business as C.R.H. Concrete Service. His phone numbers are 301-887-0353 and 301-343-7140.

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### **LAST CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

April 12 is the deadline for two \$1,500 scholarships offered by the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League. Preference is given to residents of Somerset and the 20 other incorporated Towns and Villages in the County.

High school seniors and students already in college are eligible, provided they have at least average grades and are involved in more than token community service. Also, they must be planning on a career in government or public service. Applicants must submit an essay on the importance or function of municipal government, transcript of scholastic records and two letters of recommendation.

Announcements and application blanks are available from Tom at the Town Hall, from high school counselors and the Montgomery College Office of Financial Aid.

If you have questions, feel free to call me at 301-654-1258.

### **Town Hall Tidbits**

By Tom Carter

#### **FINAL REMINDER ON STATE TAX RETURNS**

Somerset's largest source of revenue is its share of the State income tax paid by Town residents. But 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." Please make sure you fill out this box and the "Maryland County" box correctly so that Somerset and Montgomery County receive the proper payments from the State.

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Tom will be on vacation the week of April 9-13. Administrative Assistant Corrie Morsey plans to be in the office on April 9, 10 and 13.

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#### **TOWN GARDENER/HORTICULTURIST RESIGNS**

Jonathan Dawkins, our Town Gardner/Horticulturist for the past ten years, resigned effective March 23. Jonathan will be remembered for his diligent tree work and landscaping of the Town entrances, parklands, swimming pool surroundings and the Mini-Park at Surrey Street and Dorset Avenue. He recently numbered all Town street trees and most of the park trees in an effort to simplify identification for maintenance purposes by our contractor, Davey Tree Expert Company.

Under Jonathan's direction, we have gone from a Town with significant tree problems, as evidenced by the 1989 storm, to minimal damage to Town trees in the storm this March 13. We will also miss him for all the odds and ends he did around the Town.

Jon has not announced his plans, but in any event, the Mayor and I wish him well.

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#### **FOUND**

A Maryland license plate, 649494G, was found in front of 4901 Dorset Avenue on March 13. Please call Tom at 301-657-3211 if it belongs to you.

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#### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

We have changed the rules slightly for classified ads for the *Town Journal*. \$1 now gives you 25 words. From 26 to 50 words costs \$2.

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### TOWN E-MAIL SYSTEM A GO

Don't be left out of the loop. The Town has successfully implemented an e-mail notification program. If you are a Somerset resident and would like to be included, please notify Tom at the Town Hall. Call 301-657-3211 or send an e-mail to [CLERK@TOWNOFSOMERSET.COM](mailto:CLERK@TOWNOFSOMERSET.COM).

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### PERMITS GRANTED

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

Trees: Gordon Smith, 4911 Dorset Avenue, to remove two mulberry trees from the east side of his house.

Frank and Ruth Ephraim, 4906 Essex Avenue, to remove a severely damaged hemlock from their front yard.

Fences: David and Tanya Herbick, 4519 Cumberland Avenue, to erect a picket fence on the west side of their lot and up to the rear edge of the house enclosing the back yard.

Jeffrey Slavin, 5706 Warwick Place, to erect a cedar fence around his back yard.

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### SPRING CLEANUP

Cleanup has begun in Town. Please remember the following:

Do not put your yard waste in plastic bags; use paper bags or marked trash cans. Place your receptacles or paper bags on the curb, **not in the street**.

Do not dump your yard waste at the swimming pool parking lot or at the end of Warwick Place. Please remind your yard workers of this, too.

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.

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## PACKING POPCORN

Please be sure to seal any boxes or bags containing packing popcorn before setting them on the curb for the trash haulers. We have had a couple of incidents recently where the wind upset boxes of these little Styrofoam objects and scattered them throughout the neighborhood. Needless to say, the neighbors were not happy picking up the mess.

If you would like to recycle your “popcorn,” many commercial companies, like Parcel Plus, will gladly accept them, but you will have to deliver them. The closest locations are 7128 Arlington Road (301-718-6121) and 5257 River Road (301-986-1196).

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## SOMERSET QUIET HOURS

As the weather improves, don't forget Town noise limitations between the hours 9 pm and 9 am daily. This applies to noise from sources associated with residential living, such as blowers, power mowers and chain saws.

The same hours apply to construction on weekends and holidays; that is, it may occur only between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. On weekdays, it is legal to start construction at 7 a.m.

### Legislation

At the March 5 meeting, the Town Council postponed two proposed actions amending the Town Building Code until the April 2 meeting.

### Council Activity

At the **March 5 regular meeting**, the Council:

1. Heard the Mayor's presentation of his Five-year Fiscal Plan, which is summarized on page 5 of this *Town Journal*.
2. At the applicant's request, postponed until the next meeting action on building, tree removal and fence permit applications by Jeffrey Slavin, 5706 Warwick Place, to erect a shed in his back yard.
3. At the applicant's request, postponed until the next meeting action on building and tree removal permit applications by Rodd and Jodi Macklin, 4817 Dorset Avenue, to construct a garage and additions to their house.
4. Approved building and tree removal permit applications by Walt and Jill Auburn, 4719 Falstone Avenue, to widen their garage, renovate their front porch, extend the rear of their house and remove two trees. Three setback waivers were included in the building permit approval.

5. Postponed until the next meeting action on an application by Sandy Spring Builders to modify their plans for a garage at 4717 Essex Avenue by reducing the width of the front dormer and adding a dormer to the rear.
6. Received Councilmember nominations from the floor for Tom Eldridge, Judy Frankel, Richard Kessler, Rob McGarrah and Jeffrey Slavin.
7. Rejected the request by Cathi Davis and Frank Loversky, 5609 Warwick Place, and Marshall and Mary Lasky, 5611 Warwick Place, to acquire the right-of-way between their houses.
8. Authorized an additional \$1,425 for the erosion control project at Little Falls Branch.
9. Proclaimed April 1 as 2001 Arbor Day for the Town.
10. Approved a request by the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights for a contribution of \$2,000 toward the goal of \$12,000 to oppose commercialism of houses on River Road and Wisconsin Avenue. (Vote: Frankel, Kessler, Gubser and Proctor for; Finkelstein opposed.)
11. Designated Richard Kessler as Town representative on the Design Advisory Committee for Somerset School modernization.
12. Set a special Council meeting date of Monday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. to authorize funds for a paving and storm drain contract and to authorize funds for tiling the men's showers and urinal area at the pool bathhouse.
13. Postponed action on a proposal to include an 11' x 25' extension of the Town Hall meeting room in the current renovation project plans.

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At the **March 12 special meeting**, the Council:

1. Approved the bid of C.R.H. Concrete Services to repair numerous sidewalk sections, half of the pool deck, two street pavement problems and two storm drains for up to an estimated \$80,000.
2. Postponed until the next meeting action on a proposal to tile the men's showers in the pool bathhouse.
3. Heard a report from the Mayor of his emergency authorization of \$2,262.20 for AAMCO to repair the Town one-ton truck transmission.

# LET'S ALL ENJOY THE POOL THIS SUMMER

By Norm Schneider

Chairman, Swimming Pool Committee

The swimming pool is one of our community's greatest assets. The Pool Committee is hoping that everybody comes to enjoy the pool for swimming and schmoozing, for playing and resting, for picnics and sun worship, for the festivity and for the solitude. Most of all, we want everybody to enjoy the pool as a summer meeting place where residents can count on seeing friends. We've been working to get the pool ready for what we hope will be the best summer yet.

Chuck Montrie has again been contracted to manage the pool. Karen Kay will be back as pool manager for her third year. Tara Zimmerman will be the new head swimming coach. Tara is a Head Start teacher in Montgomery County, grew up in the County and swam at Flower Valley. Chris Danes, who was at the Mohican Hills pool last summer, will be the new assistant manager. Most of last year's lifeguards will probably return.

The pool deck is being repaved, the picnic area is being reseeded and more tables will be added, the bathhouse is being refurbished, and the water will soon be turning from its winter brown to the sparkling clarity of summer. Opening day will be Saturday, May 26, and the season will last well into September. And don't forget: the pool will be heated, so don't worry about that shock of cold water when you jump in the first time!

## **Social Events for All Ages**

As with last year, we hope to have many events during the summer. Mark your calendars for the annual adult party, which will occur on July 14. Last year, almost 100 attended and we expect a similar crowd this year. We also hope to have some teen events, movie nights and a party for small children. All events and dates will be publicized well in advance. There will again be raft nights and a Fourth of July spectacular. We hope to limit the times that pool and lap lanes are closed, and the Pool Committee will strive to keep the pool available for both the casual user and the dedicated swimmer.

If we have enough interest, there is a possibility of having a master's swimming program where adults get coaching and possibly enter competitions. There would probably be a fee for this program. We also will probably have aerobic exercise and lifesaving classes.

Each family in Somerset is entitled to use the pool throughout the summer, but don't forget that you have to register and have your picture taken if you are new to the Town or have new family members. Details will be published next month. Guest fees are \$2.00 per day, with a special weekly \$5.00 pass for visiting family members.



We look forward to seeing everyone at the pool this summer.

## **DOLPHINS EXPECT GREAT SEASON**

By Sarah Morse

It may seem like summer will never come, but rest assured that planning for the Somerset Dolphins swim team is already going strong. All winter long, we have been working to ensure the best summer yet. We have hired coaches, scheduled B-meets and prepared for the annual parents meeting on April 28.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Tara Zimmerman as head coach and Ben Graham as head assistant coach. Tara is a teacher in the MCPS system. She has five years' experience as Joe Flaherty's assistant coach at Flower Valley. She's getting a graduate degree this summer and is looking forward to many years of coaching our team. Some of you may know Ben Graham from Little Falls. He was their head coach for years. Demands of his job have made it impossible for him to continue as head coach, so we were able to hire him as an assistant coach. Between these two, we are looking at years and years of coaching experience. It promises to be a great summer. We are still looking for one more assistant coach to round out the staff.

For the minis team, we would like all our teenagers back and others interested in working with younger kids. Tara has lots of experience with running a developmental program and will work closely with the teenage coaches to ensure a terrific program for the minis. Teenagers should contact Sarah Morse, 301-907-3298. We have money for a small stipend or can offer community service hours as payment.

Three B-meets are being planned. We will swim against Eastgate on June 20 and Rock Creek on July 11. We are still negotiating with either Little Falls or Palisades for a third meet.

### **Doughnuts, Coffee for 50 Parents**

The organizational meeting for parents is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, April 28, at 4920 Dorset Avenue. Doughnuts and coffee for the first 50 people. Now that the team is so large, we need another rep to manage the B-meets. This is a good year to take this job as the coaches have considerable experience with B-meets and will be able to guide us on how to run them efficiently. We also need someone to work with the developmental program to ensure that it is the best it can be. Tara has many good ideas on this subject, so again this job will be that much easier. Please consider signing up for these jobs.

Because we are doing B-meets, we need more certified officials. Four new stroke and turn judges would be ideal, bringing our total to 10. Stroke and turn certification clinics are scheduled on several dates in June. Check the MCSL web site, [www.mcsl.org](http://www.mcsl.org), for the exact dates.

Finally, for those of you who don't know that Somerset has a swim team open to all swimmers ages 4 to 18, here is your invitation to find out all about it. Please feel free to call Sarah Morse, team rep, at 301-907-3298 to learn about Somerset's only Town-sponsored sport.

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

### **MAYOR**

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

### **CLERK-TREASURER**

Tom Carter

**TOWN HALL** - Open 9 to 4:30  
301-657-3211/Fax 301-657-2773  
E-mail: [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com)

### **MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Judy Frankel, Council V.P.,  
5528 Uppingham St., 301-657-8875

Nat Finkelstein, 5527 Surrey St., 301-654-0322

Peter Gubser, 4517 Cumberland Ave., 301-654-5137

Anne Proctor, 4900 Cumberland Ave., 301-652-4717

### **Deadlines:**

**Ads: April 18**

**Copy: April 20**

### **School Modernization**

### ***SOMERSET: 8 TOWN RESIDENTS ON NEW COMMITTEE***

Somerset Elementary School Principal Alfred Sklarew has appointed a 21-member Design Advisory Committee, which he will head, to make recommendations for the size, appearance and

location of the modernized building as well as fields, parking and playgrounds. County staff will make final decisions.

Councilmember Rick Kessler is the official Town representative on the committee. The following Town residents will also serve: Tim Bloomfield, Sandra Hughes, David Kahn, Bonnie Lewin, John Mesirow, Zola Schneider and Paige Whitley.

The schematic plan must be completed this coming June. In order to meet this deadline, Dennis Cross, the Public Schools project manager, and the principal have scheduled four work sessions for the committee and three community meetings - one this week (before you receive this *Town Journal*), the second on **Thursday, May 3**, and the final one, **Thursday, June 14**. Community meetings will be held in the school music room beginning at 7 p.m.

Cross, the project manager, advises checking meeting dates prior to attending as “dates and times may be revised.

If all goes as expected, construction will start in June of 2002, and the new school will open in September 2003.

### ***B-CC HIGH SCHOOL: RENOVATION SERIOUSLY DELAYED***

The modernized Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School will not be ready to open next September, as planned, according to a March 16 letter to present and future B-CC parents and students from Frank Stetson, Community Superintendent. He is unsure at this time if the new opening date will be January or July 2002.

Why the delay is not clear from Stetson's letter, but he does write that “the firm that is managing the construction work has implemented numerous measures to address the issues that have caused the schedule delays.” Stetson adds construction is bogged down despite the fact that extra funds have been spent to speed things up.

A community meeting is scheduled for April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Northwood, the “holding” school, to present contingency options and receive comments from the community. A decision on the contingency plan is promised by May 1.

### **B-CC Bricks Still for Sale**

Mary Allen of Cumberland Avenue reminds fans of our neighborhood high school that the modernization delay means there is still time to support B-CC by buying a brick for the school's inner courtyard. So far, over 600 pavers have been purchased by grads, students, parents, teachers, administrators, families, clubs and communities - including the Town of Somerset.

Bricks cost \$60 and can be engraved with two lines of 15 characters each. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. Checks should be made out to B-CC PTSA (Parent Teacher

Student Association). Checks and lettering should be mailed to Mary at 4715 Cumberland Avenue or to B-CC PTSA, B-CC High School, 919 University Boulevard West, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

### **Statements of Council Candidates**

**THOMAS R. ELDRIDGE, 4806 ESSEX AVENUE**

I am 37 years old. I live at 4806 Essex Avenue with my wife, Jennifer Marron, our three kids, and our dog Madeline. We have lived in Somerset for six years.

I am currently an Assistant State's Attorney with the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office. I am Team Leader of the Bethesda team of community prosecutors. My responsibilities include investigating and prosecuting all serious crimes committed in the Bethesda District and working with the police, citizens and civic groups to solve public safety problems.

Before working in Maryland, I was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, D.C. for seven years. I prosecuted the first hate crimes case brought in Washington, D.C., and received an award from the U.S. Secret Service for groundbreaking prosecution work in the fight against telephone fraud.

During 1994-1996, I served on the Board of Just-Us-Kids, the Justice Department's innovative child-care center, and served as president in 1995.

From 1990-1991, I clerked for a federal judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York.

I am a graduate of Dartmouth College (B.A. 1985) and New York University School of Law (J.D. 1990).

I believe the aim of government is the search for solutions. My experience in government and in court has taught me that confrontation is rarely the best way to resolve problems, that there are two sides to most stories, and that people in positions of authority need to keep an open mind and hear all sides before making a decision.

**JUDY FRANKEL, 5528 UPPINGHAM STREET**

Somerset has been my home since 1967. I have been pleased to serve our community on the Town Council and to contribute to the quality of life in our Town. I now serve as Vice President of the Council, acting as Mayor when necessary. As a longtime resident of the Town, I have enjoyed the challenges and rewards of service. I have the time, interest and energy and a solid understanding of the issues, to undertake the responsibility of a Councilmember.

As a Councilmember over the years, I have been actively involved with the following, among others:

1. Beautification/Parks Committee; plans for street and park trees, ornamental plantings, picnic area at the pool.
2. Plans for creek restoration.
3. Review of Town insurance coverages from a commercial carrier and making the change to Montgomery County Insurance Pool, which has saved us a lot of money.
4. Personnel Committee; organizing personnel policies on annual and sick leave, pension and health plans and preparing a manual for Town employees.

I have attended and testified at many public hearings on the County level on zoning changes, granting of special exceptions, the Friendship Heights development plans, meetings about the school renovation.

I have always been a good listener, keeping an open mind and working towards consensus when acting on Council matters. My concern has been to represent all the citizens in order to maintain the quality of life we enjoy.

I appreciate the opportunity that has been given me to serve our community. I ask for your support in the upcoming election.

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RICHARD J KESSLER, 4914 CUMBERLAND AVENUE

We have lived in Somerset for ten years. I have served on the Council for six. I am an involved community member with three sons who attended Somerset Elementary and Westland; my youngest, Duncan, is in Somerset's third grade. I am a member of the Design Committee for the school's modernization. My sons are on the Somerset swim team where I time races. I am a Den Leader for the Pack 52 Somerset cub scouts and teach Sunday School.

On the Town Council, I try to improve the quality of life for all residents, such as pool amenities, modernizing Warwick Place tot's playground, Town beautification, and improving streets and sidewalks. I have been the Council's representative on the Coordinating Council, the Pool Committee, and the Somerset PTA. As part of the Friendship Heights development review, I advocated a baseball field on the Geico site and a community center with a basketball court on the Hecht site. I testified before the Planning Commission on the traffic impact on Somerset. My main concern now is ensuring a modern school that fits into the neighborhood.

I am the Democratic Subcommittee Staff Director concerned with national security and civil service issues on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. Prior to joining the Congress in 1989, I taught and worked at think tanks. I have a doctorate in international relations and served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, receiving the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal. My wife, Pamela Cox, works at the World Bank.

ROB McGARRAH, 4608 DORSET AVENUE

I'm running for Town Council because I want to protect what's best about our Town - its sense of community, kids, and old trees - while restraining the kind of irresponsible development we've seen on Essex Avenue, where Sandy Spring Builders submitted false building plans in violation of the Town and County Codes, and neighbors were subjected to a contractor's dog scaring children and defecating on their property.

Somerset is a jewel. We need smart, accountable growth to keep it that way. I'll do everything I can to ensure that construction in Friendship Heights and at the School improves the quality of life in Somerset without overwhelming it with traffic and pollution. My work as a consumer and union attorney on tax, health care, municipal and state government over the past 29 years has prepared me to deal with the issues the Town faces. I'll use that experience to build support for the Town's agenda throughout Montgomery County.

I was one of the leaders of the successful referendum that preserved our community by de-annexing Somerset House and strengthening our single-family zoning. I helped start Somerset's program to protect our children from speeding traffic with speed humps and more policing. I will continue to work on our traffic problems.

We moved here in 1984 and each of our children - Annie, Patrick and Michael - proudly walked to Somerset Elementary School and went to the soccer practices I coached in Capello Park and at the School. I now want to give something back to the Town. I'll work for even greater opportunities for Somerset to remain a model of smart growth for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.

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JEFFREY SLAVIN, 5706 WARWICK PLACE

It has been a privilege to meet and learn from so many of you since the campaign began. Somerset is truly a wonderful place. I am an advocate for participation by everyone as we try to strengthen this fine community.

I have worked on civic issues and in non-profit and political organizations on a volunteer basis for all my life. I have acquired skills that I will put directly to work. I served eight years as president of a condominium association just steps from Somerset and gained knowledge in management, contracts, budgeting, landscaping, personnel and architectural design review. Most importantly, I learned to listen to the residents and represent their views fairly.

I served on the staff of a local Member of Congress and a DC Councilmember. Working directly with the public, I learned how responsive government needs to be. It is important that our Council works closely with other Town bodies, citizens groups and County and State officials.

I sharpened my knowledge of our community in the class and on the board of Leadership Montgomery and on the Friendship Heights Task Force - a coalition of individuals representing Somerset and neighboring Towns.

On the Council I will work hard to increase communications with all residents. I want to solve problems and ensure that all voices are respected.

I am a native of Bethesda-Chevy Chase and attended Radnor Elementary, Landon School, Tufts University and the Georgetown University Law Center.

Voting is a duty. I would be honored to have your support.

## **MIDGE O'SULLIVAN DIES**

Word has been received of the death of Mildred (Midge) O'Sullivan in a nursing home in Colorado. She was a longtime resident of Falstone Avenue who left the area in 1992.

### **Residents Speak Up**

## **LARGE ACCESSORY STRUCTURES TOO CLOSE**

The substantial new and large construction surrounding us in Somerset in recent years is reason for us to consider the defining features of our community that are important to preserve. Preservation of trees and green space is certainly one. In the case of residential blocks, this has meant preserving the swath of green space through the middle of each block, so that all neighbors can enjoy both the green and the privacy. Currently construction has made it clear that Town and County rules regarding accessory buildings may be too weak to preserve this important Town feature.

Accessory buildings, originally intended to include small, one-story structures such as garden sheds and garages, are now including new construction of two-story structures resembling small houses in their height, design and square footage. As long as no kitchen facilities are installed (at the time of construction), the rear setback for these structures is the same five-foot rear setback required for a garden shed.

The Town is not permitted to be more restrictive than the County in its definition of an accessory building; however, we may enact more restrictive setback rules. I suggest that the Town consider enacting a two-tiered approach to bylaws regulating rear property setbacks for accessory buildings: that we maintain the current five-foot setback for small, single story structures with no heating or plumbing to make them habitable, but enact a new rule requiring increased setbacks for large accessory buildings.

I invite comments to: [swargood@aol.com](mailto:swargood@aol.com), and request that the Town Council place this as an item for discussion on the April Town Council agenda.

Deborah J. Goodings  
Dorset Avenue

*A draft amendment of the Town Building Code to require increased setback for large accessory structures is scheduled for consideration at 9:30 p.m. at the April 2 Town Council meeting.*

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### **SPRING CLEANING - DON'T DUMP, DONATE!**

As we tackle spring cleaning, we often wonder where to get rid of salvageable items. I found myself in that position with regard to old computers - both Apple and PC. In the process of researching, I discovered some places to donate computers and computer parts, as well as reacquainted myself with places to donate building materials.

Start with the Montgomery County web site and Shady Grove Transfer Station (<http://www.mcrecycles.org/facilities/transferstation.htm>) and move on to the nonprofit Loading Dock (<http://www.loadingdock.org/> - building materials that get recycled) and Washington Apple Pi (Apple computer products at [http://www.mcrecycles.org/recycling/how\\_to/computers.htm](http://www.mcrecycles.org/recycling/how_to/computers.htm)).

Then check out the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Tech Club - e-mail them at [compdrive@techie.com](mailto:compdrive@techie.com) (Jonathan Horn of Surrey Street is president) - whose goal is to foster an interest in technology within the B-CC community. Their first project is an annual B-CC computer drive to help advance the technological skills of individuals who have never before had access to a computer. Donations are tax deductible.

These web sites are lined from the Town site, which you can access at <http://www.townofsomerset.com>; then click on spring cleaning.

Gayley Knight  
Cumberland Avenue

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### **TWO EVENTS WILL CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S INN**

You are cordially invited to "Essential Bridges: Using the Humanities in Medical and Therapeutic Settings"; a full-day colloquium which will bring together doctors, writers, researchers and therapists who are interested in using the humanities within medical and therapeutic settings.



The colloquium will be held Friday, April 27, at the Neurosciences Conference Center of the National Institutes of Health, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville. Speakers will include Dr. Wayne B. Jonas, former director of the NIH Office of Alternative Medicine, and writers Linda Pastan and Richard McCann. Registration fee of \$30.00 will cover all sessions, materials, breakfast, lunch and closing reception. Checks should be sent to The Children's Inn, 7 West Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814-1509, before April 6.

The kick-off for the colloquium will be a "Literary Tailgate Party Under the Stars" Thursday, April 26, 7:30 pm, at Chevy Chase Cars, 7725 Wisconsin Avenue. Pulitzer-prize winner Henry Taylor and Warren Brown, auto columnist, The Washington Post, will read their poetry along with participants in the Vital Signs Poetry Project of the Children's Inn. The picnic and reading will celebrate the Children's Inn and is free to the public.

For more information, call me at (301) 657-3282.

Davi Walders  
Essex Avenue

Nearby Diversion

## **WEDNESDAY CONCERTS IN FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS**

The April Schedule for free concerts in the Friendship Heights Village Center every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. follows:

**April 4** - The Doc Dikeman Big Band will play such favorites as In the Mood, Jersey Bounce and Moonlight Serenade.

**April 11** - Kenny Wright, bass guitarist, will feature jazz numbers.

**April 18** - Talented teenagers will perform as a quintet on cello, piano, viola, violin and double bass.

**April 25** - Ann Joseph and Natalie Ross will entertain with four-handed piano selections from Gottschalk, Brahms, Dvorak, Faure, Lecuona and Schubert.

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## **GARDEN CLUBS REV UP FOR SPRING**

Seven gardens in Kenwood will be open to the public on Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and include tea at one of the tour houses. For tickets call Andrea Nace (301-657-9393); for further information call Sheila Kelvie (301-657-9661).

Somerset residents are welcome to attend a Garden Club of Chevy Chase luncheon featuring John Sales, former head of gardens for the British National Trust for 25 years. It will be held Thursday, May 10, in the Chevy Chase Club. Half of the \$65 ticket price will support community projects and educational programs supported by the garden club. For tickets or information call Mary Denger at 301-652-2067.

### **County Matters**

#### **APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants for a position on the County Board of Appeals for the remainder of the term of Mindy Pittell Hurwitz (Democrat) who has resigned. The term held by Ms. Hurwitz will expire in September 2003. A person appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term must be a member of the same political party as was represented by the member who vacated the office. This position must be filled by a Democrat.

Duties of the Board of Appeals are: (1) hear and decide most applications for special exceptions as provided in the Zoning Ordinance, (2) hear and decide requests for variances from development standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance and (3) hear appeals from certain administrative decisions rendered by agencies of the County Government. Members receive \$12,635 annually.

Letters of application, including a resume, should be addressed to Council President Blair Ewing and must be received in the Office of the Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, 20850, no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 15. A financial statement of assets, debts, income and family property interests will be required of all applicants.

### **Share Somerset Memories**

Come to the Town Hall Sunday, April 1, at 1 p.m. to learn of the fascinating history of Somerset from photographs, posters, maps, clippings and, best of all, former residents who still live in the area.

At 2 o'clock, present and former residents who grew up here in the '30s and '40s will tell what it was like in Town before, during and shortly after World War II. Following the stories, enjoy refreshments while chatting with old-timers and friends. If weather permits, festivities will end with a group walk around Somerset to view the flowers, historic houses and some of the remarkable newer ones.

For further information, call the organizer of this special event, Donna Harman, at 301-652-7033.

*Little Falls Parkway*

One northbound lane of Little Falls Parkway about Dorset is closed indefinitely for repairs. A separated beam under the bridge was discovered during a routine biennial County inspection. The lane still open is safe, and there is no danger of the bridge collapsing, according to engineers.

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