

Vote for Mayor, Council Members April 1

Election Day for the Town of Somerset is Monday, April 1, for Mayor and two Council members. Nominations were received for Walter Behr for Mayor and Peter Gubser and Jeffrey Slavin for Council members. Voting will take place at the Town Hall on Monday, April 1, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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 may be picked up by the voter or anyone with written authorization from the voter. They will be counted if returned to the Clerk-Treasurer or the Board of Supervisors of Elections before 9 p.m. on election day, April 1.

See pages 11,12 and 13 for statements by the candidates.

Please Return Crime/Security Survey Pronto

By Birdie Rovner Pieczenik, Chairman Security Committee

Every resident in Somerset would like to live in a community that provides security for his and her family. Depending upon whom you talk to in Town, however, crime is either on the upswing or much less than it was 10 years ago; more Town and residential security is needed or there is as much as is appropriate for the crime that exists.

Two months ago, when the Mayor and Town Council established a Security Committee to look into the cost and liabilities associated with hiring an off-duty police officer and/or security service to provide additional security to Somerset residents, the committee realized that while the information was available, there was no context in which to evaluate it as a necessary security measure. That is why the committee decided to design a Crime and Security Survey.

Speaking for the committee, I encourage you to assist us in one of our tasks - - gathering information on the nature and extent of crime and security in Somerset - - by completing the questionnaire which is enclosed with this *Town Journal*. Your input is critical to recommendations the committee will make to the Town Council.

To meet our reporting deadline to the Town Council, please **return the original questionnaire by April 10th to the Town Hall, or mail it (two stamps required) using the Town addressed envelope. Please be assured that your response to this questionnaire will be both CONFIDENTIAL and ANONYMOUS**, unless you choose otherwise.

The Security Committee's recommendations to the Town Council will be based, in part, on an analysis of the completed Somerset Crime/Security Survey, as well as on information on crime and

security obtained from the Montgomery County Police and nearby neighborhoods, and opinions expressed by residents on the Long-Range Planning Committee's questionnaire.

The Security Committee thanks you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter and looks forward to providing the Town Council with valuable information.

Mayor's Den

By Walter J. Behr

Plan Continues 5-Cent Property Tax Rate

As you will see on the summary of our Five-Year Fiscal Plan on page 7 of this *Town Journal*, the proposed Town property tax remains at the very low current rate of 5 cents per \$100 assessed value for the next five years.

The fiscal plan is the first step in our annual budget and tax rate process. Copies of the complete Five-Year Plan and a memo of explanation are available at the Town Hall. My proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2003, which begins on July 1 of this year, will appear in next month's *Town Journal* and will be the subject of a hearing at the Town Council meeting on May 6.

By far our largest revenue source continues to be a portion of Maryland income tax paid by Somerset residents and refunded to the Town by the State. Note, however, that the \$406,000 expected this year is a whopping 38 percent lower than last year's \$660,000.

Three Residents Reported Income of \$37 Million

The drop in income was due to a number of factors including the recession, which resulted in lower capital gains. In tax year 1999, funds from which we received last fiscal year, three Town taxpayers accounted for \$37 million or one-third of Somerset's total net taxable income of \$112 million. We are now receiving funds based on income tax returns for the year 2000. A new top three accounted for \$7 million out of \$87 million net taxable income, a meager 8 percent. The three families who reported the \$37 million for 1999 earned \$4 million in 2000.

Proposed salary increases for next fiscal year average 7.5 percent, with individual raises varying from 3 percent for one laborer to 20 percent to Enrique Cabrera, who is our unofficial foreman. Out years are calculated on an average annual increase of 7 percent.

Inevitably a long-range fiscal plan cannot be prepared without making assumptions - some major - especially about capital projects. The three largest ones included are \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2006 (FY-2006) for repaving all Town streets and parking lots; \$300,000 for remodeling the second floor and slightly enlarging the Town Hall; and \$80,000 for white-coating (plastering) the Town swimming pool. A smaller out-of-ordinary assumption is a contribution of \$10,000 for the Somerset Elementary School Foundation (which could well be a low guess for what the Council may decide).

Borrowing Not Contemplated

If these and other proposed expenses are approved and if our income tax rebate from the State does not exceed the conservative estimates, we will still have a Combined Fund Balance (Reserve) of \$265,000 in mid-2007 without having to borrow for our half-million dollar repaving project or other capital improvements.

Please note that nothing is included for providing extra security, which could well turn out to be a wrong assumption. If this assumption is wrong, we could pay for it with an increase of a few cents in our 5-cent property tax.

Also missing are funds for undergrounding our overhead wires and cables even though this is an improvement that I strongly believe should and will be implemented. It is simply, in my opinion, too soon to estimate the cost. It seems likely that when we do proceed, it will be necessary to borrow funds.

Spree of Thefts from Vehicles

Residents of seven Somerset households entered their cars - nine in all - on Thursday morning, February 28, to discover they had been ransacked during the night. In most cases, coins were missing, in one case, a cell phone, tennis racket and some CDs. Three victims live on Trent Street, two on Grantham and one each on Falstone and Greystone.

All of the vehicles were parked in driveways, **and all were unlocked!** Need more be said?

No Tree Removal Without Insurance

Two proposed amendments to the Town Code on the agenda for the April 1 Council meeting concern tree removal. Both were drafted to assure some minimal protection to residents.

The first proposed amendment was introduced at the March meeting and is scheduled for action on April 1. It would require applicants for tree removal permits to supply the name of the contractor and his Maryland tree expert number. A license is not issued unless the contractor has liability and property damage insurance. Maryland contractors without expert licenses as well as tree people from outside Maryland would have to submit evidence of the same kinds of insurance coverage.

In either case, if a tree were to injure an individual or property of the applicant or a neighbor, insurance would provide some protection. If enacted, this requirement would parallel the building permit rule under which an applicant must submit the contractor's name and Home Improvement Commission number, one requirement for which is insurance.

Dead Tree Exemption Would End

The second proposed tree amendment is scheduled for introduction on April 1 and action in May. It would, for the first time, require a permit to take down a dead tree. Again, the Maryland tree expert license number or evidence of insurance would apply. The thinking behind this suggested change is that a

dead tree has as great a chance as a live tree, or even a greater chance, of falling in the wrong direction and causing property damage or injury.

For living and dead trees no permit is now required, or would be, for trees less than four inches in diameter measured four feet from the ground.

State law makes it illegal for a contractor to **prune** trees in Maryland without a Maryland tree expert license, but does **not** require a license of any kind to **cut down** trees - living or dead.

Little Falls Parkway Improvements

MEDIAN MARKING. As a result of a meeting Judy Frankel and I had recently with Parks Department people, two improvements will be installed to make it easier to turn left at night onto Little Falls Parkway from Dorset Avenue in Somerset and from Arlington Road. To compensate for the lack of street lights, reflectors will be placed at the ends of medians and broken lines will be painted on the pavement to guide left-turners so they miss the medians.

BRIDGE. A broken beam caused the closure last May of the right lane on the bridge between Dorset Avenue and Hillandale Road. Design of a new deck will start soon and take an estimated 15 months to complete. Then will come a number of reviews. Actual construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2004 and will take between six months and a year.

In other words, if all goes according to schedule, the bridge should open in the spring of 2005, four years after the problem was discovered. The project will be funded 80 percent by the federal government and 20 percent by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

PAVING. Next spring, Little Falls Parkway will be repaved from Massachusetts Avenue through the Dorset Avenue intersection. Except for pothole repair, the northern section will not be improved until completion of the new bridge deck.

Health Fair Planned for Saturday, May 4

By Council Member Anne Proctor

Wondering how to use the Town's recently purchased automatic external defibrillator (AED)? Interested in finding out about exercise routines that will keep you fit, no matter what age you are? How about ideas for eating more healthfully? Or what are some of the issues now before Congress relating to funding of disease research? Did you know that volunteering could become your Fountain of Youth?

Come to the Town Hall on Saturday afternoon, May 4, any time between 1:30 and 5:30 for our Town's very own Health Fair. There will be a demonstration on use of the Town's AED, a Rescue Squad vehicle for kids to explore, advice on how to shop, cook and eat more healthfully, and lots more. If you

have suggestions on ways we can make the Health Fair informative and fun, don't hesitate to call Anne Proctor at 301-652-4717 SOON. Or drop your idea in her e-mail box at anneproctor627@erols.com.

Batting Cage - Come and Use It

By Laura Kennedy, Chairman, Batting Cage Committee

The Somerset batting cage is new and improved. These are the new features:

- **EASY USE:** You no longer have to drag the heavy ball-throwing equipment in and out of the storage closet for every use. It will already be set up in the batting cage for easy use at all times.
- **LONGER HOURS:** The batting cage will be open from 10 a.m. until dark every day.
- **LOWER COST:** We eliminated the requirement for the \$100 key deposit, plus the \$40 maintenance fee, and replaced it with only a \$25 key deposit and \$5 maintenance fee.
- **EASIER SUPERVISION:** Sixteen-year olds may use the batting cage without adult supervision. They may also supervise children between the ages of 10 and 15. However, children under the age of 10 must be supervised by an adult 18 years or older.

Here's how to use the batting cage - it's easy.

- Go to the Town Hall and sign an Application and Waiver Form, pay \$30 and obtain a key to the storage closet. The storage closet contains the bats, balls, helmets and electrical cord you need to use the cage.
- The storage closet also contains a copy of the Rules of Use and a Sign-In Sheet. Please remember to sign the Sign-In Sheet when you use the batting cage.

On April 14 (rain date April 21), we will have a kick-off party to celebrate the opening of baseball season and the new, improved batting cage. We will have great refreshments and demonstrate the use of the cage. Come and learn about all the different benefits of the batting cage!

MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR APRIL 14 AND COME USE THE SOMERSET BATTING CAGE.

Making Waves

Free Doughnuts for Swim Team Parents

By Sarah Morse, Swim Team Representative

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 hard to ensure the best

summer yet. We have hired coaches; we have scheduled B-meets. Now we need your input at the annual parents meeting to be held on Saturday, April 27, at 9 a.m.

The organizational meeting for parents will be at 4920 Dorset Avenue. Doughnuts and coffee for the first 50 people. Now that the team is so large, we really need another team rep to manage the B-meets. We also need someone to work with the developmental program to ensure that it is the best it can be. Please consider signing up for these jobs. We also need more certified officials this year. Because we are doing B-meets, we have more meets to provide officials for. Four new stroke and turn judges would be ideal, bringing our total up to 10. The stroke and turn certification clinics are scheduled on several dates in June. Check the Montgomery County Swim League Web site, www.mcsl.org for the exact dates. Call Sarah Morse if you have questions about the meeting or items for the agenda.

Save Saturdays for Swim Meets

We will be swimming in the K division this year. The first meet is on Saturday, June 22. The season continues with meets every Saturday until July 27. Four B-meets are being planned for this year, all on Wednesday nights in June and July. We will swim Little Falls, Eastgate, Wildwood Manor and have a B-Relay carnival. A full season schedule will be included in the May *Town Journal*.

The Somerset Dolphins are pleased to announce that we have rehired Tara Zimmerman, Rachel Benjamin and Ben Graham as coaches. This fantastic team took us to the top as division champions, so it promises to be a great summer.

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

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 at 301-907-3298 to learn about Somerset's only Town-sponsored sport. If you would like to be on the team's e-mail list, please e-mail me at momomorse@hotmail.com and I will make sure you get all the mailings.

Pool Committee Will Meet on April 15

Swimming Pool Committee meetings generally take place at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of every month from February through October, which means that the next meeting is scheduled for April 15. During the off-season, meetings are held at Norm Schneider's house, 5509 Greystone Street. During the pool season, the sessions are held at the swimming pool.

Please call Norm Schneider at 301-652-5509 one week prior to any meeting if you have any items you wish to place on the agenda. Also call him if you plan to attend a meeting so that the date and location can be confirmed (as there are sometimes last minute changes due to holidays, inclement weather and other generally unforeseen difficulties). The committee looks forward to your participation.

Help Arrange Summer Movie Nights

The Swimming Pool Committee is looking for people who would like to plan and put on a film festival at the pool this summer. We would like to expand the current occasional movie nights to a scheduled event. We need film buffs (of any age) who are interested in selecting the movies and running the projector.

Please contact Sarah Morse, 301-907-3298, if you are willing to help.

Long-Range Planners Want Your Input

Residents are urged to attend three meetings of the Long-Range Planning Committee to discuss results of the questionnaire returns and committee research. Sessions will be held at the Town Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. on the following subjects and dates:

- Facilities, Monday, May 13
- Governance, Sunday, May 19
- Development, Monday, May 20

MVA ON A ROLL

The Motor Vehicle Administration's MVA on Wheels will be in Friendship Heights at the corner of North Park Avenue and Friendship Heights Boulevard on Monday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You may renew your driver's license, obtain a duplicate or receive many other documents.

Call 1-800- 950-1682 with questions.

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 both jurisdictions receive the proper payments from the State.

Office Hours

Tom will be in the office on a half-day schedule the week of March 25-29. If you plan to come to the office this week, please call first to be sure he or Corrie Morsey is in.

Spring Yard Work

Lawn and garden 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 or paper bags on the curb, **not in the street**, for Tuesday and Friday collection.

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.

Somerset Quiet Hours

As the weather improves, don't forget Town noise limitations between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. 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 at 7 a.m.

Permits Granted

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

William Brenner, 5509 Surrey Street, to remove a decaying red maple tree from his rear yard.

Vicky Blooston, 4821 Cumberland Avenue, to remove small trees on the west property line so that a fence can be erected.

Legislation

At the March 4 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Passed an amendment to the Town Code to require a finished side of any new or replacement back yard fence or wall to face the nearest neighbor unless the fence or wall is not visible from that neighbor's property.
2. Introduced an ordinance amending the Town Code to formalize the requirement that notice of committee meetings be posted on the Town Hall bulletin board and broadcast on the Town e-mail network.
3. Introduced an ordinance amending the Town Code to require applicants for tree removal permits to supply the name of their contractor and Maryland tree expert number or evidence of liability and property damage insurance.

Council Activity

At the March 4 meeting, the Council:

1. Transferred the following funds:

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
\$3,000	CPF Contingency	CPF Streets
\$4,500	CPF Contingency	CPF Major Equipment
\$63,100	CPF Town Hall	CPF Erosion Control

2. Heard the Mayor's presentation of his Five-Year Fiscal Plan.
3. Extended the following building permits:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Extension</u>
Keith Robinson	4812 Essex Avenue	9/1/02
Joe Lipscomb/Laura Will	4722 Dorset Avenue	8/31/02
Ted Woodings	4923 Dorset Avenue	6/30/02
David Stern/Tracy Hughes	5806 Warwick Place	9/15/02
Walter Auburn	4719 Falstone Avenue	4/1/03
Otis and Haydee Barnes	5402 Greystone Street	10/4/02

4. Received nominations from the floor for Walter Behr for Mayor and for Peter Gubser and Jeffrey Slavin for Council members.

5. Authorized use of the tennis courts for round robin tournament play on Sunday, May 5; Saturday, June 29; and Saturday, August 31.
6. Approved a six-month trial under revised rules for use of the batting cage.
7. Authorized \$700 for the Security Committee to survey residents and extended the deadline for their committee report until the June Town Council meeting.
8. Proclaimed April 1 as 2002 Arbor Day for the Town.
9. Authorized purchase of an iMac G4 computer for office Internet use from Apple Computer, for \$1,900.

Committee Will Gather at Mini Park

The Parks and Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a meeting for Saturday, April 6. Committee members will be meeting at 9 a.m. in the Mini Park, located across from 4728 Dorest Avenue. The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss work needed to be done in the Mini Park. Interested Somerset residents, as always, are welcome to attend.

Statements of Candidates

... FOR MAYOR

WALTER J. BEHR, 4809 Grantham Avenue

Personal

Somerset resident 46 years. Four children; all graduates of Somerset, Westland and B-CC. A.B., Oberlin College, Economics major. Graduate work, University Cincinnati and American University. Formerly Army Information and Education Officer, industrial relations division director with U.S. Government and area sales manager for California company.

Formerly president Somerset PTA, vice president Westland; member of B-CC Citizens Advisory Board; president, Temple Sinai; co-founder and chairman of Boy Scout troop at Bethesda Christian Church.

Accomplishments as Mayor

Acquired four parkland parcels, completing buffer between high-rises and single-family homes. This was made possible by two Open Space grants, one for \$622,000. Arranged creek erosion control projects.

Converted "Red House" into first Town Hall. Planned renovation of tennis and basketball courts and swimming pool bridge. Directed Somerset's largest public works project involving storm drains, streets, curbs, sidewalks and handicap ramps. Negotiated \$1 million loan to finance and renegotiated twice at lower interest rates.

Coordinated efforts which produced first Town Code in 60 years. Expanded *Town Journal*, which I edit, and established policy that guarantees residents the right to have letters published. Led successful effort to liberalize registration and voting process.

Supervised cleanup of debris from 1989 storm; arranged for State and County assistance. Instituted newspaper and mixed paper recycling years before County. Beefed up street lights in intensity and number and arranged for lights on bathhouse trail.

Expectations

I pledge to keep serving as a hands-on Mayor, working closely with Tom Carter, our very capable Clerk-Treasurer, and quietly resolving dog, noise, tree and snow problems. I promise to *listen* to residents and use my best judgment in making recommendations to the Town Council, knowing full well that all parties will not be pleased all of the time. I will continue to present Town positions to State, County and Planning Board officials. With the help of Councilmembers, volunteers and staff, I will strive to keep Somerset the sought-after community it has always been.

... FOR COUNCIL MEMBER

PETER GUBSER, 4517 Cumberland Avenue

As Council member for the Town of Somerset, my mission has been and will be to maintain and improve the quality of life in our community. Accordingly I strongly support Somerset's open landscape policy, our desire to contain commercial development as much as possible in the area, continued beautification (planting and caring for trees, shrubs and flowers), the emphasis on the protection of the environment, and our effort to improve the Town's security and perception thereof. In addition, I favor government that respects and interferes the least in citizens' private property, while rationally enforcing our laws and regulations.

In pursuit of the aforementioned principles and in close cooperation with the other Council members, the Mayor and Somerset's staff, I supported and participated in the following decisions in the last years:

- Reduction of the property tax rate over the past six years;
- Adoption of sound and prudent budgets developed in a transparent and an accountable manner;
- Elimination of the user fee for Somerset's swimming pool and reduction of fee for tennis courts;
- Upgrading the landscape design and plantings at the entrances to Somerset;
- Improvement of our swimming pool facility;
- Renovation of the young children's playground next to Somerset Elementary School and our contribution to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's information technology program;
- Enhancement of the Somerset Town garage to provide additional workspace for our maintenance staff and more storage space for equipment;

- Initiation of the citizen led exercise to look at the future needs of and the planning for Somerset.

With Council member Richard Kessler, I represent Somerset on the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights in its efforts, at times frustrated, to limit commercial overdevelopment in our larger community. I also serve on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee and other ad hoc committees.

JEFFREY SLAVIN, 5706 Warwick Place

Voting is a duty. I hope everyone will participate this year by voting on April 1 or obtaining an absentee ballot.

I am running for three reasons: long-range planning, improving communication and building an even greater sense of community for Somerset.

Over the past 12 months I have gained experience on Town issues. The Mayor appointed me to the Long-Range Planning and I have been chairing its Budget Subcommittee. I have also served on the Undergrounding Committee, Welcoming Committee and Mayor's Salary Committee. I have attended other committee meetings and the Maryland Municipal League Conference. Most importantly, I have attended every Council session (until the end).

It has been exciting to be involved with the long-range planning process because it has involved so many of our residents. The recommendations that the committee will make will ensure our high quality of life for years to come, while preserving the Town's unique character. These recommendations will help us meet the challenges of traffic, parking, development and Town services.

Technology provides us with even greater ability to keep each other informed. As a Council member, I would promote regular use of e-mail to alert citizens to community developments and upcoming events.

Council member Anne Proctor initiated innovative activities - - such as brown bag lunch at Town Hall and a community service project involving adults and children. I would like to continue these programs.

As a professional property manager running my own business for 15 years, with many years of service on boards of directors of local non-profit organizations, and having served for eight years as president of a condominium association, I have the necessary knowledge and experience to work for the Town.

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

I would be honored to have your support.

Explore Renovated B-CC High School

Katy Harvey, Principal, invites the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School community to celebrate the dedication of its beautiful, renovated building Sunday, April 28, from 4 to 7 p.m. The formal

dedication ceremony will take place in the school auditorium from 4 to 5 o'clock followed by an open house beginning at 5 and a grand finale from 6 to 7 featuring students from Westland and other cluster schools.

Local vendors and school groups will sell refreshments. The school is located at 4301 East-West Highway, and the closest public parking is at Waverly and Montgomery Avenues, two blocks away. Parking for the handicapped is available at the school.

To purchase a commemorative brick for the new courtyard (to be installed next fall), call Carole Brand at 301-657-2547 or Diane Kartalia at 301-657-2482.

Obituaries

Arthur Scheiner Dies of Cancer

Arthur Scheiner, 84, died of cancer on February 20 at Casey House Hospice in Rockville. He lived on Falstone Avenue for 44 years and served as president of the Somerset School Parent Teachers Association.

He was born in New York and graduated from New York University and Columbia Law School. During World War II, he served in the Army.

Arthur moved to Washington 55 years ago. During the 1940s, he was on the legal staff of the Federal Communications Commission, where he was chief of the Rules and Standards Division when he left in 1949. With Wilner & Scheiner, he worked on copyright issues for the Motion Picture Association and on TV and radio matters with, among others, publisher and Ambassador Walter Annenberg. He was with the law firm of Holland & Knight for a brief period before retiring in 1990.

Survivors include his wife, Marian of Falstone Avenue; two sons, Stanley of Uppingham Street and Matthew of Houston; and four grandchildren.

REMINDER FROM A RESIDENT: When you are leaving Somerst on Dorset Avenue at Wisconsin Avenue, stop at the stop line (well back from Wisconsin), or the signal will not be activated to turn green.

MacDonald Salter Dies at 91

Retired Foreign Service officer and Trent Court resident MacDonald Salter, 91, dies of respiratory failure February 18 at Brighton Gardens in Friendship Heights. He had Alzheimer's disease.

Born in London, he came to the United States in 1928. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Pomona College and did further graduate study at the University of Chicago, Princeton and Stanford.

During World War II, he served in the Navy and from 1947 to 1951 was on the staff of General MacArthur in Tokyo. From 1951 until retiring in 1972, he worked on foreign aid programs in Washington, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Phillips-Salter of Trent Court; two sons from his first marriage; two granddaughters; and three great-grandsons.

Expect Disruption on Wisconsin Avenue

Installation and reconstruction of handicap ramps and sidewalks on Wisconsin Avenue in the Bethesda Central Business District started this week at Bradley Boulevard and is scheduled to continue through next August. The object of the \$1.2 million project is to provide greater accessibility for persons with disabilities.

If you have any questions or problems as the work proceeds, call Richard Earp of the County Department of Public Works and Transportation at 240-777-7272.

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 they are:

- About Somerset or vicinity;
- Not repetitive of other published letters;
- 150 words or less;
- Signed (although your name may be withheld if requested);
- 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.

Something new on Next Tax Bill

The next property tax bills from Montgomery County will include a water quality protection charge based on the average impervious surface of single family houses in the County. Funds raised will be used to maintain the County stormwater management program. The first year’s fee (not a tax and, therefore, not deductible) will be between \$15 and \$30. It will increase in future years.

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