

Volume 46, No. 11 May 22, 2002

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Volume 46, No. 11  
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May

## **Making Waves**

*Long Wait Ends; Pool Is Open*

By Norman Schneider, Chairman, Pool Committee

After all these nice warm days of spring, it's nice to know that you can finally wander down to the Town pool for a swim. The pool is heated when the sun does not bring the water temperature high enough, so don't be afraid to swim on cloudy days, too.

As always, we are trying to maximize pool usage for residents of all ages. There are quiet and busy areas, picnic and private areas. The pool has new chairs in the sun and in the shade, under cover and out in the open. The main pool area has numerous active sports, including diving, pool basketball, four square, tetherball, and ping-pong. Please be considerate of others when playing these games. When using the water slide, you must travel down the chute feet-first.

The wading pool is available for the younger set, but there is no lifeguard on duty there. There is some playground equipment (and mats) in the wading pool enclosure and this equipment is reserved for toddlers.

Remember, if you need a lap swimming lane, just ask the lifeguard.

Futura Stone flooring has just been applied in the bathhouse dressing rooms to make the floor less slippery and more attractive. Please be careful at first when walking on this surface and report any problems to the lifeguard at the front desk.

Smoking is not permitted at the pool. It is limited to the upper parking lot beyond, and away from, the bridge, and smokers are required to dispose of their smoking debris. (Isn't this summer a good time to quit?)

## **Pool Hours Limited Until School Closes**

Generally, the pool is open every day from Memorial Day weekend through the second weekend after Labor Day. Additionally, the facility is open just on weekends for the two weeks following. During school

days, it is open from 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., and once school is closed, it operates from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., except on Saturdays, when it stays open until 10:00 p.m.

There are special events, including swim team home meets, a swim team party and an adult party which alter the closing times, but you can generally count on the pool being open during these times. Please see the calendar included with this month's *Town Journal* and watch for signs and bulletin board postings for changes in the schedule.

### **Coed Water Aerobics, Swimming Lessons**

The 'No Sweat Exercise,' a.k.a. water aerobics, was extremely successful last season. Our heated pool makes it comfortable to start in June, and we hope that men as well as women will sign up. We have 'noodles' for all and plan to add more equipment as the need arises. If you have any questions or want the latest information, please call Florence Gang. Don't forget to look at the bulletin boards for updates.

The pool offers two swimming lesson option. Group lessons (4-6 children per class) are available in three one-week sessions starting June 24. Classes are 30 minutes, from 10:00 to 10:30; 3:00 to 3:30 or 3:30 to 4:00. They will be taught by swim team coaches Tara Courchaine (nee Zimmerman) and Jessica Routt.

Tara is a public school teacher who coaches for us in the summer. She has years of experience coaching and teaching children swimming. Jessica comes from the Olney swim center, where she has taught swimming for two years. She also taught stroke and turn clinics. The cost is \$40.00 a week. Sign up at the front desk. Call Tara at 301-984-1966 or Jessica at 301-871-3669 for more information.

Private lessons are also available from any of the guards or coaching staff for \$20.00/half hour. You can call the staff directly or make arrangements with them at the pool. All pool personnel are required to charge the same hourly rate.

If you have any questions or comments about the pool, please call me during business hours at (202) 347-5141 and at **nschneider@kamerowlaw.com** or at home at (301)652-5509 and at **kaneschn@mindspring.com**. It is generally easiest to reach me during the day at my office.

Let's have another great summer at the pool!

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***Dolphins Start Training***

By Sarah Morse, Swim Team Representative

By the time you read this, the Somerset Dolphins will have already started the season with the preseason party Friday, May 24, and the first practice Tuesday, May 28.

The coaching staff is all in place. Head coaches Tara and Ben are joined by assistant coach Jessica Routt. We are very happy to welcome Jessica, who has two years' experience teaching swimming and stroke and turn at the Olney swim center. Somerset's own Adam Bookman, Maurie Kathan, Bess Pickar and Tristan Kessler will also be returning to coach this year.

The first meet is June 22; the first social event Friday, June 21. We'll be serving breakfast with the coaches that morning and every morning until June 28. Other meets in June are scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, at home vs. Lakeland and Saturday, June 29, at home vs. Quail Valley. Upcoming social events include the annual school's out party on June 20 and a raft, movie and grill night on June 28. Check the team bulletin board for complete information.

If you are interested in the swim team, it is not too late to join. Talk to the coaches who are on deck during practice Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 6:00, or call Sarah Morse, 301-907-3298. There are also forms and information packets at the front desk. We have nine meets - three Wednesday night when everyone swims and six on Saturday mornings when coaches choose the swimmers.

You don't have to be a good swimmer to be on the team. There are no tryouts, only passing the deep-water test. There is also a developmental team for younger swimmers who cannot pass the deep-water test. This is a community team, so we want everyone in the community to join. As Somerset's only Town sponsored sports team, it is a good opportunity for neighbors to meet and children of all ages to interact. Come join the fun.

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### ***Adults Will Party at Pool***

Mark your calendars and line up baby-sitters - on Saturday evening, July 13, the Town will host its annual adult pool party. The party will feature an old-fashioned All-American barbecue, music, dancing and pool games for the daring - all you need to have a great time with old friends and new neighbors.

Tickets (\$25 per person) will be sold in advance by members of the Pool Committee and will also be available at the Town Hall Fourth of July celebration. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ann Brown (301-986-8811: [amsbrown@aol.com](mailto:amsbrown@aol.com)).

### **Mayor's Den**

By Walter J. Behr

*Action on Budget, Tax Rate Set for June 3*

The Town Council is scheduled to hear any last-minute comments and then act on a budget and property tax rates for Fiscal Year 2003 at 8:55 p.m. on June 3. A hearing on both subjects was held at the May 6 meeting.

As published in last month's *Town Journal*, the proposed real property tax rate is 5 cents on each \$100 of assessed value of house and lot. The purposed rate for 'personal' property, which applies to utility companies and businesses with a Somerset address, is 22 cents. Both rates are those in effect this fiscal year.

Far and away the largest proposed capital expense is \$300,000 to improve the Town Hall. The proposal includes making access to the second floor comply with the building code, improving the second floor for storage of Town records, modernizing the upstairs bathroom, installing a sprinkler system throughout the building, upgrading heating and air conditioning, slightly enlarging the cramped office and conference room and repairing and painting the outside of the structure. Please note that the proposed budget does not include a line item for security although it does provide \$70,000 for contingencies.

A summary of the budget and fund balance was published last month. The summary, complete budget and explanatory notes are available at Town Hall.

### ***Somerset School: Plus a Gym, Minus a Principal***

When the new Somerset Elementary School opens in early 2005, it will include a gym as a result of a unanimous vote earlier this month by the County Council. Thanks to Howie Denis, Council member from our district, a portion of the funds raised from the new transfer and recordation tax on real estate will be used to build the gym, which will be on the north side of the new structure. Like the rest of the building, the gym will be available for community use when school is not in session.

At his request, Principal Alfred Sklarew is transferring from Somerset to Candlewood Elementary in Rockville, which is much closer to his home. Alfred steered the school and community through the very difficult process of designing a new school on an exceptionally small site that will meet the students' needs without unduly disturbing neighbors. We wish him the very best at Candlewood. The Board of Education is scheduled to name a new principal for Somerset in June after considering recommendations of a special Somerset School committee.

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### ***Saving Our Creek and Parkland***

Last Friday, a crew of half-a-dozen workers from Environmental Quality Resources, Inc., of Gaithersburg completed work -- at least for now - to control erosion in Little Falls Branch in Somerset. They removed invasive vines on the creek banks and planted 118 assorted trees and shrubs to prevent or slow down damage from future storms.

On the same day, we received our first bid to remove a dense and extensive stand of bamboo from Vinton Park between the creek and the rear of three properties on Warwick Place - 5609, 5611 and 5613. The project was recommended by a State forester in order to save native trees and understudy plants from the highly invasive bamboo.

The project would include cutting and removing the bamboo, installing a root barrier of heavy polypropylene and applying two herbicide applications. We expect two other bids before the June 3 Town Council meeting. Action authorizing a contract is scheduled for 9:20 p.m.

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### ***Changes in Tree Law Will Protect Residents***

The Town Council has recently passed two amendments to Somerset's Tree Ordinance for the purpose of protecting applicants for tree removal, their neighbors and the property of both.

Already in effect is the need to supply the name of the company or individual who will remove the tree or trees and his Maryland Tree expert license number. In order to get a tree expert license, an applicant must have liability and property damage insurance. As an alternative to a Maryland license, a contractor may submit a copy of his liability and property damage insurance.

Effective June 12 (unless petitioned to referendum) is a rule that dead trees - as well as living trees - may not be removed without a permit. As mentioned above, this procedure assures the applicant that his or her contractor has liability and property damage insurance. The thought behind this amendment was that an incompetent contractor is just as likely to cause damage removing a dead tree as a living one.

There is no change in the size of trees that are exempt from regulation. Trees less than four inches in diameter measured four feet from the ground may be removed without a permit.

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### ***More Thefts From Cars - and a Bike***

We have received reports of seven more cars being ransacked the night of April 30 on the following streets: 'Little' Cumberland, Deal, Greystone and Trent Street. As in the similar crimes in late February, mostly coins were stolen, although in one case a gym bag was taken from the luggage compartment. Some of the vehicles were parked on the street, others in driveways, **BUT ALL WERE UNLOCKED**. Need we say more?

Early this month a locked mountain bike and a pair of pruning shears were stolen from a house on Surrey Street. A new bike was left next door, between the two houses. Call 240-497-1848 if you think it might be yours. To prevent theft of bicycles, they should be chained to a post or other secure object or, if possible, kept inside a locked garage.

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### ***Rescue Squad Opens Satellite Facility***

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad has opened a branch mini-station in Friendship Heights and responded to 65 calls in its first month of operation. Staffed during weekday business hours, the facility was set up to reduce response time for calls in Friendship Heights and nearby communities, including Somerset.

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### ***New Charge on Property Tax Bill***

A new item will be added to the property tax bill you receive next July from Rockville, a water quality protection charge, tentatively set at \$12.75 per house per year. As a 'charge' rather than a tax, it will not be deductible.

Funds will be used to provide for a comprehensive stormwater facility maintenance program that will ensure the ongoing inspection and maintenance of stormwater management facilities within the County.

The charge will pay for continued maintenance of Somerset's storm drain system by the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation. It will also pay for maintenance of facilities not found in Somerset such as sand filters, infiltration trenches, oil and grit separators and underground storage structures.

### ***Experience Surprise, Antique Cars on July 4***

Somerset's biggest celebration every year is the Independence Day picnic-plus, which starts in the Town Hall yard at noon on July 4 and ends up at the swimming pool. This year will be no exception, with patriotic music, public officials, recognition of Somerset School graduates, emergency vehicles, antique cars, land and water games galore and a surprise that will be a secret until next month's *Town Journal*.

If you have an antique car or know about one in Somerset or the vicinity that is at least 20 years old, call Howard Byron at 301-656-9496. Howard runs the annual antique car show, which fascinates aficionados of all ages at the Town celebration.

Call Joan Rabin or (301-986-5961) if you would like to assist with decorations or refreshments. Call Bob Bookman (same phone number) or Frank Loversky (301-951-7533) to lend a hand with the games.

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### **Town Hall Tidbits**

By Tom Carter

### *Office Schedule in June*

Tom will be out of the office June 24-26, attending the Maryland Municipal League convention. Corrie Morsey expects to be in the office during Tom's absence except for June 26. During these dates, please call first to be sure someone is in the office before coming over, or leave a message on the answering machine and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

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### *Town Maintenance Vehicles and Men*

Please use caution when driving behind the Town tractors and trucks. They are often moving very slowly as the men work alongside or in front of the vehicles. Kindly resist riding on their bumpers; give them some space and yourself room to see around them so you are sure it is safe to pass. Also, be particularly cautious when passing the maintenance men working along the streets with power equipment and wearing ear protection. They cannot hear approaching cars.

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### *Reminders on Recyclables*

Please remember to remove the caps from your recyclable bottles before you place them in the blue bin. The caps are **not** recyclable.

Also don't use plastic bags for your recyclables. J&J will not pick them up. Plastic bags are recyclable through many grocery stores, but not through J&J. Additionally, newspapers should not be placed loose in the blue bins. Please put newspapers and mixed papers in separate paper bags. If any papers are commingled with the real commingled (glass, cans, plastics and aluminum foil), J&J will not pick them up. It takes them too long to sort into the truck.

### *Beware of Con Artists*

With spring weather here, the annual visitation of itinerant con artists to the area is at hand. Be sure you do not fall for their excuses to get in your home. They will sometimes engage you in conversation or distract you while a partner enters the house and steals cash and valuable small items. Sometimes they ask to use your restroom. Never allow strangers into your home. Always keep your doors locked, even if you are just in your yard. Call the police if you see someone suspicious hanging around your neighborhood.

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### *Pool Membership and Guests*

Don't forget to register any new family members or care providers at the Town Office. If you have anyone registered with your family who is no longer eligible, please notify Tom as well.

We will be using the same two types of guest passes for the pool as last year:

Weekly: A 7-day pass for out-of-town houseguests that can be purchased at the Town Hall for \$5 each.

Daily: A 5-visit pass for one-day for short-visit guests that is sold at the pool for \$10 (\$2 per visit).

Remember, these passes must be purchased with a check made out to the 'Town of Somerset.' Cash cannot be accepted.

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### *Parking*

Residents should advise lawn services and guests that it is illegal and dangerous to park on the 'NO PARKING' side of the street. Our streets are congested enough with the numerous ongoing construction projects.

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### *Hazardous Waste Disposal*

Saturday, June 22, is the next date for collection of hazardous waste at the Westland Middle School on Massachusetts Avenue west of Little Falls Parkway.

The following materials will be accepted between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.: pesticides, oil-based paint, brake fluid, fuels, herbicides, solvents, antifreeze, photographic chemicals, paint thinners, motor oil, auto batteries and household batteries.

**PLEASE, NO LATEX PAINT:** Tens-of-thousands of tax-dollars are spent each year disposing of latex paint, which is not hazardous. In fact, latex paint can be safely dried up and put out for regular refuse collection. Simply remove the lid and place it in a safe, well-ventilated area. Cans that are one-fourth or less full will dry in a few days. For cans with greater volume, add mulch, cat litter, shredded paper, or waste paint hardener available at hardware stores.

For more information, call 240-777-6410 or visit [www.mcrecycles.org](http://www.mcrecycles.org).

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### *Contractors File*



Tom maintains a listing of contractors who have provided excellent service in the past to the Town or Town residents. Give Tom a call at 301-657-3211 for a referral if you are stumped over what to do. We welcome any referrals you might have, good or bad, for our records. Keep in mind that the Town is not responsible in any way for work done by any of these contractors. The decision on whom you choose to do your work is solely up to you.

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### *Somerset Rain Gauges*

A few Somerset 90th birthday rain gauges are still available at Town Hall for \$3.00 a piece. Call Tom at 301-657-3211 or stop by Town Hall if you would like to purchase one for your garden.

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### *Town History*

Copies of the Town history are available at the Town Hall office. The first copy per household is free. Additional copies are \$3.00 apiece. Please contact Tom at 301-657-3211 if you are interested in obtaining this informative document.

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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:** Dan Hirsch and Brenda Gruss, 4901 Dorset Avenue, to remove a decayed hackberry on the left side of the house.

**Dumpster:** Robert and Jeanette Kreiser, 4702 Falstone Avenue.

**Curb:** Steve Harris, 5603 Surrey Street, to put in a new driveway and apron.

### *Pedestrian Safety*

This is to remind driver's that cars must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. It is a State law. Montgomery County Police recently conducted a campaign to educate drivers in Bethesda of this law. The penalty for failing to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk in one point, a mandatory court appearance, and a fine of up to \$500 and/or 60 days in jail. We all need to ensure the safety of pedestrains in our community!

### **Legislation**

At the May 6 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Passed an ordinance amending the Town Code to require permits for removing dead trees 4 inches or more in diameter measured 4 feet from the ground.
2. Introduced an ordinance amending the Town Code so that alleys are considered streets for purpose of granting fence permits.
3. Introduced an ordinance amending the Town Code to require fence permit applicants to show their plans to adjoining neighbors.

### **Council Activity**

At the May 6 regular meeting, the Council:

1. Reelected Judy Frankel as Vice-President of Council for a one-year term.
2. Agreed on the following special responsibilities:
  - Swimming Pool Committee - Richard Kessler, primary; Tom Eldridge, alternate
  - Parks and Natural Resources Committee - Judy Frankel, primary; Peter Gubser, alternate
  - Special Events - Jeffrey Slavin, primary; Judy Frankel, alternate
  - Technology - Tom Eldridge, primary; Jeffrey Slavin, alternate
  - Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights - Peter Gubser, primary; Richard Kessler, alternate
3. Confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Harry Freeman to the Audit Committee to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of Rowland Roberts, who has moved from Somerset.
4. Recommended approval to the Historic Preservation Commission and approved the revised landscape plan for Rodd and Jodi Macklin, 4817 Dorset Avenue, with the addition of a fourth canopy tree on the property and a completion date by June 2003.
5. Recommended approval to the Historic Preservation Commission and approved construction of a 40-foot trellis for Laura Will and Joe Lipscomb at 4722 Dorset Avenue. (Vote: Eldridge, Frankel, Gubser and Kessler for; Slavin opposed.) No action was taken on their application to remove four redbud trees pending receipt of a reforestation plan at the June Council meeting.
6. Approved a building permit for Steven R. Mann, 5413 Surrey Street, to replace his deck in the rear of the house with a larger deck.

7. Heard the Mayor's presentation and conducted a hearing on the proposed budget and real and personal (business) property tax rates of 5 cents and 22 cents for FY-03.
8. Approved a contract with Connecting Links to manage the Town Web site for an annual fee of \$7,800.
9. Postponed until June introduction of a proposal to restrict parking of commercial vehicles, buses, trailers and boats on Town streets.
10. Approved a request by the Swimming Pool Committee for \$2,500 to be used for miscellaneous expenditures, primarily social events and aerobics classes this summer.
11. Adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the County regarding emergency management.
12. Adopted a petition that the Town ask our General Assembly delegation to seek an investigation of pinhole leaks in water pipes and that we elicit support from other Montgomery County communities.
13. Approved a contract with A&A Painting & Carpentry, Inc., to paint the rear of the bathhouse, the men's shower room, the railing on the east side of the main pool and the tennis courts fence for \$5,000.
14. Heard a report by the Mayor of emergency authorization of \$1,1123 to repair the Town pickup truck.
15. Approved a building permit for Tim and Phyllis Alexander, 4607 Dorset Avenue, to change the front entrance, construct two trellises and remove two mulberry trees.
16. Approved a building permit for Robert and Jeanette Kreiser, 4702 Falstone Avenue, to raise their roof to accommodate interior renovation.

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### ***Last Chance for Long-Range Input***

In May, the LRPC hosted two public forums as part of their mandate to get as much resident input as possible before completing its report and recommendations. The final forum will be Monday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m., and will include governance, personnel and communication.

On the agenda will be the type of government the Town currently has and options for change; the role of the Mayor and Council; Town personnel, in particular the number of staff we employ, and when/if to contract projects; and communication and technology.

The May meetings focused on Facilities and Development (summaries of both meetings are available on the Town Web site), in particular highlighting undergrounding of utility wires, landscaping, pool renovations and growth, Town Hall renovation and usage, streets, street lights, signs and sidewalks as well as discussion of trees and tree ordinances, new home and renovation construction, restrictions on home-based business, Somerset's historic district, property values, development outside Somerset which impacts us and, most importantly, traffic issues.

Questionnaire results, the underlying focus group report, and committee minutes and research papers are available for perusal on the Town Web site [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) and at the Town Hall.

Included in the final meeting will be a discussion of how the budget impacts on Long-Range Planning Committee recommendations.

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### ***Somerset Wins Tree Award for 20th Year***

By Corrie Morsey, Chair, Parks and Natural Resources Committee

The Town of Somerset has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. It is the 20th year we have received this national recognition. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. The award is evidence of Somerset's continuing commitment to an effective, ongoing forestry program.

### **What's the Parks and Natural Resources Committee Up To?**

At its last meeting two major topics were covered. First was a request from the residents of 4519 Dorset Avenue for an evergreen shield between the Town Hall parking lot and the fence to the rear of their property to absorb noise from the tennis courts. The committee felt planting Nellie Stevens hollies on both sides of the fence would create an attractive, low maintenance barrier. But, before the trees can be planted, the residents first have to remove the bamboo growing at the rear of their property because it would be senseless to plant anything that would be overtaken by the aggressive bamboo. If the residents remove the bamboo, the trees could be planted in the fall.

The committee then moved to Vinton Park to discuss the second topic - the health of Vinton Park. They agreed to plant three suitable trees next fall in the wetland bowl area near the foot of the mulched path and across from the pool house. Then they moved near the site of the proposed bamboo eradication project proposed by the Urban Forester of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The committee was briefed on the status of the project, which will be on the agenda for the June 3 Town Council meeting.

***Save Date for Back-to-School Classic***

By Bridget Cowie

Somerset Elementary's 15th annual Back-to-School Classic 8K, 2K and fun run will be held on Sunday, September 29, at 8 a.m. This exciting and important community event has something for everyone: for running enthusiasts the 8K offers a USATF-certified course and will utilize the Championship technology this year; for the occasional jogger/health walker there is a delightful 2K course through our beautiful neighborhood; for children 11 and under there are fun runs; and for all there is a wonderful post-race brunch as well as numerous raffle prizes.

The Back-to-School Classic is not only a fun event, but it is the school's biggest fund-raising event of the year. The funds raised enable Somerset to offer a wide variety of educational opportunities, library and classroom resources, and cultural arts programs that help distinguish Somerset as one of the top elementary schools in Montgomery County. We are grateful to have such strong community participation - close to 1,000 people registered for last year's race, the majority of whom were from our local community.

In addition to fees from race registrants, over half of the race's revenue is the result of generous sponsorship from local businesses and individuals. This year Evers & Co. has once again graciously signed on as a title sponsor. Breads Unlimited is also continuing its primary sponsorship in addition to our new primary sponsors, Woodings Home Building and the Healthy Back Store. We are fortunate to have such a supportive community!

Business sponsorship, in addition to demonstrating a commitment to the children in our community, is also an effective advertising tool. Platinum sponsors' (\$2,000 or more) names and logos are printed on the race tee-shirts. In addition, starting at the bronze level (\$300 or more) a sponsor receives an advertisement in the Somerset Elementary School Directory, which is utilized by the school community on a daily basis. If you are interested in finding out more about sponsorship, please contact one of the race co-chairs, Bridget Cowie (301-654-7152 or **bmcecowie@aol.com**) or Laura Will (301-941-1248 or **laura.will@verizon.net**).

We hope to see you out on training runs this spring and summer and look forward to a fun-filled day on September 29th!

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### ***New Voting Machines Will Be on Display***

Easy new voting machines that will be used in the September 10 primary and the November 5 general election will be on display at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center from Monday, June 10, through Friday, June 14, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Center is at 4805 Edgemoor Lane in Bethesda (301-986-4325).

With the new machines, voting is as simple as touching the screen to make a selection. They make over-voting impossible. They can be used in either English or Spanish and are

accessible to many people with disabilities. B-CC Center staff members will be available to provide assistance and answer questions.

For more information or to try out the device on line, go to the Maryland Votes Web site at [www.mdvotes.org](http://www.mdvotes.org).

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### ***County Needs Election Judges***

Montgomery County's Board of Elections is seeking individuals to serve as election judges on Primary Election Day, September 10, and General Election Day, November 5. Judges must be registered to vote in the County and must not hold or be a candidate for public or party office while acting as a judge.

Training will be provided, and judges will be paid \$100 to \$130 a day for serving.

Democrats should call Eileen Finnegan at 240-777-8572 or Paulette Polite at 240-777-8571. Republicans should contact Sarah Davis at 240-777-8577 or Margarita Torres-Rodriquez at 240-777-8576.

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### ***Visit Bookmobile in Bethesda Library Lot***

While the Bethesda Regional Library is closed for renovation, the Bookmobile will be in the library parking lot on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Users are invited to stop in to borrow and return materials and pick up or place reserves on books or other items. Patrons are reminded that parking meters are in effect until 2:00 p.m.

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### **Gain Fame With Your Camera**

Attention, amateur photographers! Montgomery County is sponsoring a photo contest to show off your skill and the beauty of our area. Only one entry per person will be accepted. Deadline is June 15.

Winners will be selected for each of the following five categories: Montgomery County - By Day, By Night, Landmarks, Her People and At Work.

Pictures up to 8 x 10 inches will be accepted. They must be dry mounted on mat board. No entry fee is required. Photos will not be returned. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in the fall. All entrants will receive a certificate of recognition.

Further details and application blanks are available at Town Hall and Web site [www.dpwt.com](http://www.dpwt.com), or you may call 240-777-7155.

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*B-CC Teacher James Biedron Retiring*

Many Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School alumni remember a popular social studies teacher by the name of James Biedron, who is about to retire. They are invited to a reception honoring him on Friday, June 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the home of Bridget and Lees Hartman, 7214 Ridgewood Avenue in Chevy Chase.

For more information call Susan Mitchell at 301-654-6210.

**TELEPHONE CARD ENCLOSED**

*Your Year 2002 edition of the Town and emergency telephone card is enclosed with this issue*

*of the Town Journal. We suggest that you post it in a strategic spot. We promise it will come*

*in handy.*

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**See Preview Screening on George Washington**

A preview of the upcoming PBS documentary, 'Rediscovering George Washington' will be presented on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. at the Friendship Heights Center. Somerset film maker Michael Pack and his wife, Gina, will be present to discuss the film and lead a conversation on the first President.

'Rediscovering George Washington,' hosted by Richard Brookhiser, takes the two-dimensional man out of our wallets and explores his character. This non-linear film essay brings deadly battles and quiet turning points to life. Pace and Brookhiser talk to a former President, anti-tax rebels, and the descendants of slaves; they go to industrial Brooklyn, the Oscars, and a 200-year-old whiskey still. They explain what made George Washington a successful and honest revolutionary. The show will air on PBS on July 4th at 9:30 p.m., after the fireworks.

Families and older children are welcome to attend the screening; the 90-minute film is suitable for ages 9 and up. Popcorn and lemonade will be served. There is no charge for the event, but call the Center at 301-656-2797 to reserve a seat.

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### *Enjoy Free Concerts in Nearby Park*

Friendship Heights Wednesday evening concerts move outdoors to Hubert Humphrey Park in June. Price, time and duration remain unchanged: they're free, they start at 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday and they last about an hour. The park is at South Park Avenue, Hills Plaza and Friendship Boulevard. Lineup for June is as follows:

**June 5, U.S. Navy Commodores.** Eighteen of the Navy's premier musicians will combine the best of jazz and popular music.

**June 12, Silver Strings.** In the space of an hour, this quartet will squeeze in a bit of blues, waltzes and rock n' roll along with Bach, Mozart and Strauss.

**June 19, Alexandria Klezmer.** This group combines klezmer with other genres to create a wonderfully unique and enjoyable sound.

**June 26, Savoie Faire Cajun Band.** This six-piece combo specializes in the music of Southwest Louisiana, which combines syncopated dance rhythm with old-time and country influences.

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### *Hike Through a Conservation Park*

The public is invited to a hiking tour of Blockhouse Point Conservation Park conducted by a Planning Board staff member on Sunday, June 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. (rain date: Sunday, June 9). It will start at the large parking lot on the south side of River Road about 1.1 mile west of Pennyfield Lock and Esworthy Roads in Darnestown.

Located at 14750 River Road, the 630 acre park lies between the C&O Canal to the south and Esworthy Road to the north and is bisected by River Road.

Blockhouse Point Conservation Park contains a variety of exceptional environmental resources including mature upland forest, floodplain forest, wetlands, streams, river-rock outcrops and grand views of both the C&O Canal and the Potomac River. Hikers will see several rare, threatened and endangered plants and, in all likelihood, some animal life.

For more information, call Rob Gibbs at 301-949-2909.



The *Town Journal* is the official publication of the Town of Somerset, Montgomery County, MD.

Post Office address: 4510 Cumberland Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. It is edited by the Mayor.

**MAYOR**

**CLERK-TREASURER**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**TOWN HALL**

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

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

Peter Gubser, 4517 Cumberland Ave., 301-654-5137 Web site:  
**[www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)**

Richard Kessler, 4914 Cumberland Ave. 301-654-2699 E-mail:  
**[clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com)**

Jeffrey Slavin, 5706 Warwick Pl. 301-654-6767 TTY users call  
Maryland Relay

***Deadlines: Ads, June 13; Copy, June 14***

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**Preliminary Agenda**

*Regular Meeting of Town Council*

***Monday, June 3, 2002 - 7:30 P.M.***

1. Approval of minutes of the May 6 regular meeting ' 7:30.
2. Discussion of financial report ' 7:35.

3. Action on the transfer of: \$2,000 from GFC Contingency to GF Audit/Accounting and \$4,000 from GF Contingency to GF Recycling ' 7:40.
4. Reappointment of Tom Carter as Clerk-Treasurer for FY-03 ' 7:45.
5. Action on extension of building permit for Rodd & Jodi Macklin, 4817 Dorset Avenue ' 7:55.
6. Action on extension of building permit for Jim Losey and Alex Acosta, 4700 Essex Avenue ' 8:00.
7. Action on reforestation and landscaping plan and recommendation to Historic Preservation Commission and action on application by Laura Will and Joe Lipscomb for removal of four redbud trees at 4722 Dorset Avenue ' 8:05.
8. Mayor's report ' 8:20.
9. Development/plans in the vicinity of Somerset ' 8:35.
10. Suggestions and questions from residents ' 8:45.
11. Action on ordinance adopting budget and real and personal (business) property tax rates for Fiscal Year 2003 ' 8:55.
12. Action on ordinance amending Town Code so that alleys are considered streets for purpose of granting fence permits ' 9:10.
13. Action on ordinance amending Town Code to require fence permit applicants to show their plans to adjoining neighbors ' 9:15.
14. Action on bid of \$19,490 for removing bamboo from parkland between rear of houses on Warwick Place and creek, installing heavy polypropylene barrier and planting trees ' 9:20.
15. Introduction of ordinance amending Town Code to restrict parking of commercial vehicles, trailers, buses, motor homes and boats on Town streets ' 9:35.
16. Discussion of ways to mitigate parking and visibility problems on Dorset Avenue ' 9:50.
17. New business ' 10:10.

### **Larry Drieman Moves to Colorado**

Longtime Trent Street resident Larry Dreiman has moved to an assisted living facility in Colorado and would like to hear from

former Somerset neighbors. His address is 2562 Briarwood Drive, Boulder, CO 80305, and his phone number is 303-926-3949.

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## **Classifieds**

### **MVA on a Roll**

The Motor Vehicle Administration on Wheels will be in Friendship Heights next to the Village Center Monday, June 17, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you have questions, call 1-800-950-1682.

Some of the most popular services are:

- Renew or obtain a new driver's license;
- Apply for or renew a photo identification card;
- Obtain a certified copy of your driving record;
- Convert out-of-state driver's license;
- Renew vehicle registration.

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