

You-All Come to Welcoming Party

By Bonnie Lewin, Chair, Welcoming Committee

Somerset remains a “hot” neighborhood for home hunters. This year, we have a record number of new residents - the 20 families listed on page 10 of this *Town Journal*. Please come to the annual welcoming party where you can greet them. This year, the party will be held at the Town Hall on **Sunday, October 6th, from 4 - 6 p.m.** All Town residents are invited!

We will have special entertainment for the children. Former Somerset resident and renowned puppeteer, Nancy Edson of Nanny Goat Productions, will entertain the children while the adults socialize and enjoy food and drinks provided by the Town. The puppet show and introduction of new residents by Mayor Behr will occur at 4:30 p.m. I hope to see everyone there. For further information, please contact me at (301) 907-4772 or Jeffrey Slavin (301) 654-6767, Ellen Butts (301) 652-2454 or Richard Furcolo (301) 718-4562.

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, October 5. Bethesda Fire Department open house, 1 to 4 p.m. B-CC Rescue Squad open house, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; restaurant “tastes” in Woodmont Triangle, 11 to 4; and antique car show at Chevy Chase Cars, 11 to 4. Community service project at Weller School, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Harvest festival, Agricultural History Farm Park, Derwood, 11 to 4.

Sunday, October 6. Welcoming party, Town Hall, 4 to 6 p.m.

Monday, October 7. Town Council meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 9. Notification deadline for special trash collection, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, October 11. Special trash collection, 7 a.m.

Monday, October 21. Special Town Council meeting to discuss Long-Range Planning Committee

report, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 26. Share the Health Exposition, Natcher Center, NIH, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Montgomery County community service day rally, Rockville, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, October 28. Special Swimming Pool Committee meeting to hear suggestions from residents, 5509 Greystone St., 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 29. Flu and pneumonia shots, Town Hall, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Emergency Vehicles

When you are driving and hear a siren, **pull over to the right and stop.** Never try to outpace a police car, fire engine or rescue vehicle.

Long-Range Planners Ready to Report

After a year of study, research, meetings and public hearings, the Long-Range Planning Committee will officially present its report to the Town Council and Mayor at the **October 7** Town meeting. This presentation will be brief as there will be a special Town meeting to discuss the report on **Monday, October 21**, in the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. The later meeting date will give residents time to peruse the report, which will be available on the Town Web site (www.townofsomerset.com) and in print at Town Hall.

The committee hopes that this will be the beginning of an ongoing effort by the Town to develop and follow a fluid blueprint into the future.

The report makes 50 recommendations, among which are immediate renovation of the Town Hall; changes to the Town Code; a comprehensive traffic flow plan including parking, safety and enforcement; a budget hearing held independently of a regular Council meeting; a Budget Committee to provide oversight function for the Council; and a Charter change to allow citizen initiatives with at least as restrictive criteria as the referenda and recall in our Town Charter.

Mayor's Den

By Walter J. Behr

Get Your Flu Shot at Town Hall

Flu and pneumonia vaccines will be available at the Town Hall again this year, but, for the first time, by **appointment only**. MedStar Health Visiting Nurse Association will be administering the shots from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Tuesday, October 29**. Call Tom Carter at 301-657-3211 for an appointment, and indicate whether you want a flu or pneumonia shot or both.

Flu shots will cost \$20; pneumonia, \$25. Net proceeds will support the charitable care programs of the Visiting Nurse Association. If you are not on Medicare, be sure to bring a check with you.

If you do have Medicare Part B coverage, you will not have to pay for either shot, provided you are not enrolled in an HMO. Be sure to bring your Medicare card with you.

Influenza vaccine is recommended for anyone 18 or older to reduce the chance of transmitting or becoming infected with the disease. It is considered especially important for anyone with underlying, chronic health problems, those receiving ongoing treatment, those age 65 and over, individuals 50 to 64 if they have certain chronic medical conditions, women in their second or third trimester of pregnancy and anyone who travels. Flue vaccine is made from killed viruses and cannot give you the flu.

Pneumonia shots will be given **only to those who have never had one**. Check with your physician to find out whether or not you should be vaccinated against pneumonia. Do not sign up for a pneumonia shot unless you are certain you want one. You will be expected to pay the \$25 even if you change your mind.

The following facts answer some of the most common questions about flu vaccines:

- Protective effects will kick in after one or two weeks, but will not protect every recipient. About 70 to 90 percent of healthy people who get a flu shot will be completely protected against the disease. The other 10 to 30 percent will have greatly lessened symptoms if they do contract the flu.
- Side effects of the vaccine are generally inconsequential and occur at low frequency. The most frequent side effect is soreness around the vaccination site for one or two days. This happens to less than a third of those vaccinated. A cool compress applied every 15 minutes usually relieves the discomfort.

If you are homebound and want a flu shot, call Tom, who will arrange for a nurse to come to your house.

We need volunteers to assist with paperwork and crowd control from 9:30 until 11:30, 11:00 until 1:00 and 12:30 until 2:30. Please sign up with Tom.

Water, Gas Main Replacement Postponed

Within the past month, both the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and Washington Gas have advised us that water and gas main replacement projects in Somerset have been postponed from this winter to the summer of 2005 or later.

The revised schedule means that the new Somerset School will have been completed before the utility work begins, avoiding the double or triple whammy to traffic that would be caused if the school construction and utility projects occurred simultaneously. A second benefit of the delay is that it gives us time to formulate a long-term plan for the location of all underground utilities - water, sewer, gas and conduits for future burying of overhead power, communication and cable TV lines.

WSSC plans to replace water mains on all of Essex Avenue, all of Warwick Place except the dead end block and Dorset Avenue from Surrey Street to Little Falls Parkway. Washington Gas will replace the cast iron main with plastic on the entire stretch of Dorset within Somerset.

Green Mile Legislation Being Considered

The “green mile,” as many of you know, refers to the stretch of Wisconsin Avenue between Bradley Boulevard and Somerset. Howard Denis, the County Council member from our district, has introduced a bill designed to prevent occupants of single family homes in the green mile, as well as River Road, Old Georgetown Road and similar streets, from operating illegal businesses in their homes.

On September 17, I testified before the County Council in favor of the bill. Following is a brief summary of my remarks. The full text is available at the Town Hall.

- The legislation will limit the number of parked cars at any one time associated with a home occupation so as to eliminate the incentive for a large paved parking area.
- In a registered home occupation, which allows two cars to park in addition to the residents’ cars, there are location and buffering requirements for parking spaces and also storm water runoff requirements.
- Enforcement of limitations on the number of visitors will be greatly enhanced. At present, the five visits per week limitation for a no-impact home occupation and the 20 visits per week for a registered home occupation are totally unenforceable. By limiting the number of cars at any one time on the premises, enforcement becomes much easier.

A County council committee is scheduled to consider the bill Monday, October 14, at 9 a.m. Please call me if you can attend.

A Different Type of Tree Work

Everyone understands pruning dead branches from trees and cutting trees down when they are dead or dying, but are you familiar with “elevating”? It’s what Davey, our Town Tree contractor, is doing to street trees during the next few weeks, namely, removing lower branches so that vehicles up to 12 feet high can traverse our streets without colliding with the trees.

The impetus for this project is an aerial tower fire truck recently acquired by the County for the Bethesda fire station at Wisconsin Avenue and Bradley Boulevard, which requires a 12-foot clearance. Anytime there is a house fire in Somerset, this apparatus responds even though its unique design is especially valuable in case of fire in a high-rise apartment or office building. Like the old ladder truck it replaced, the new unit can reach up to 100 feet, but a bucket on the end provides a platform enabling firefighters to rescue people much faster and more safely than its predecessor.

Another improvement in the new truck is that it does not require a driver in the rear to steer around corners because it is done by computer. It is said to turn like a sports car. “Tower 6,” as it is officially identified, cost \$630,000 and gets five miles to a gallon of gas. Tower 6 will be on display at the Bethesda Station open house on Saturday, October 5. See details on page 12 of this *Town Journal*.

Watch Your Wallet

We have been advised by the Kenwood Citizens Association that a female resident had her wallet stolen from her purse recently while shopping at the Westbard Giant.

The victim had her purse in her shopping cart when she was approached by a woman who was carrying several pies. The suspect asked the victim to read the ingredients of the pie to her. The suspect stood very close to the victim, and while she was reading the ingredients, the former reached into the cart and stole the shopper’s wallet.

Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

Found

A child’s book, “My Little Teddy Bear,” with a necklace, was found on the Surrey Street sidewalk. If it is yours, please contact Brenda Gruss (301-654-7289; GrussB@aol.com).

Special Trash Pickup

The Town Council has authorized a special trash collection **Friday, October 11**, at Town expense. Those wishing to participate need only notify Tom at Town Hall no later than **Wednesday, October 9**. This will be your reservation for the special collection service by our contractor, J&J Inc.

Special trash should not be placed at the curb earlier than the night before the collection. Special trash is defined as refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, freezers, stoves, hot water heaters, other major appliances; furniture or parts thereof; large toys, bicycles, swing sets (broken down into smaller parts); bathtubs, sinks, and toilets; and iron pipe, gutters/down spouts or fence pieces under six feet long. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must be emptied of Freon in order to be picked up. If items are in bundles, they must be light enough for two men to carry.

Items that will not be picked up include: parts of junked cars, boats or trailers (including batteries and tires); loose glass; firewood, tree stumps, tree limbs or lumber; paint cans; flammable or hazardous liquids or solids; ammunition or explosives; large rocks; and dead animals.

Collection will start at 7:00 a.m., so have your items out early that morning or the night before.

Leaf Collection

Vacuuming of leaves piled on the grass near the curb will begin in October and continue into December. PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET. KINDLY INFORM YOUR LAWN SERVICE OF THIS REQUEST.

We also ask that the piles consist only of leaves - NO STICKS, STONES, BRICKS OR OTHER DENSE OR SHARP DEBRIS. These materials will damage the machinery blades.

We are following the same procedure as in the past. Each morning the maintenance men survey the Town streets and start vacuuming where the biggest piles exist. They then move on to the next biggest piles, and so on. Through streets will still be done regularly to keep the traffic moving smoothly.

Residents who prefer to bag their leaves or dispose of them in a mulch pile in their yards are urged to do so. Leaves in PAPER BAGS or REUSABLE CONTAINERS will be picked up on TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS by our trash company, J&J Inc. Please place bags and containers in your front yard near the curb. Plastic bags may NOT be used. Leaf burning is PROHIBITED!

Town Directory Revision

If you are new to the community, if you wish to be included in the Town Directory for the first time, or if you wish to amend your family's entry, please complete and return the postcard enclosed with this *Town Journal* to the Town Hall at 4510 Cumberland Avenue **no later than November 27**. If you do not return this card, your name will appear as it does in the present directory. Here is your chance to add your e-mail addresses as well. Children may be listed, too. If you are new in Town and have not completed a similar form from your newcomer's packet, you must complete this card to be added to the 2003 version. Questions? Please call Tom at 301-657-3211.

Directories are distributed only to residents. They are not to be used for charitable or commercial purposes.

2003 Calendars

League of Women Voters calendars for 2003 are available at the Town Hall for \$5, or call Betty Palmer at 301-654-1115.

Permits Granted

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

Trees: Robert Chlopak, 4917 Dorset Avenue, to remove a large, leaning spruce tree in his back yard.

Fences: Ellen & Al Butts, 4523 Dorset Avenue, to erect a wood fence along their west side property line.

Alan Dock, 4801 Falstone Avenue, to erect a stockade fence along his west lot line.

James Vanderzon, 4902 Falstone Avenue, to erect a wood Wyngate style fence along his rear property line.

Laura Will and Joe Lipscomb, 4722 Cumberland Avenue, to replace a deteriorated existing picket fence.

Legislation

At the September 3 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Introduced an amendment to the Town Code to establish a Town History Committee.

2. Introduced an amendment to the Town Code to clarify the requirement for two authorized signatures on Town checks and to establish a procedure for review of bank statements by the Vice President of the Town Council.
3. Introduced a Town Code amendment to impose a fee for extension of building permits.
4. Introduced an amendment to the Town Code to eliminate the requirement on tree removal applications for signatures of neighbors who cannot see the subject tree(s) from their property.

Council Activity

At the September 3 regular meeting, the Council:

1. Approved a special trash pickup at Town expense on Friday, October 11, for residents who have large items that cannot go in the regular trash.
2. Approved a four-month extension of the a permit for Barton and Shereen Rubenstein, 4819 Dorset Avenue, to build an accessory structure which will be used as a sculpture studio.
3. Confirmed the Mayor's appointments of Lorrie Barse, Christopher Lane and Stan Weiss and the reappointment of Antonia Farrell to the Swimming Pool Committee for three-year terms.
4. At the request of the applicants, withheld action on the building permit application by Patty Friedman and Blair Levin, 4811 Grantham Avenue, to add to the kitchen in the front and add a screened porch to the rear of their house until next month's meeting.
5. Voted to recommend conceptual approval to the Historic Preservation Commission of the design of the Haley house, 4810 Cumberland Avenue, subject to resolution of the waiver (variance), drainage and tree removal issues. (Vote: Eldridge, Frankel, Gubser and Kessler for; Slavin opposed.)
6. Heard a report from the temporary Town History Committee that recommended against donating \$25,000 to the Chevy Chase Historical Society for their archives relocation plan.
7. Took no action on the proposal to rent the Town tent for private functions pending more information.
8. Voted to allow members to reserve the pool for private parties during extended hours of pool operation with payment of operating fees and an 11 p.m. curfew.
9. Voted to recommend approval to the Historic Preservation Commission and to approve a Town building permit, subject to receipt of HPC approval, a copy of the County building permit application and the County permit, for Paul and Gayley Knight, 4808 Cumberland Avenue, to renovate their front porch and replace a bay window.

10. Approved proposal to establish annual dues of \$250 for membership in the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights.
11. Took no action on the purchase of a Green Machine sweeper from Applied Sweepers, Inc. for \$21,000 pending more information.
12. Confirmed the Mayor's appointment of George Wyeth to the Audit Committee.

Be on Lookout for Rescue Squad

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad (BCCRS), which provides free emergency service to Somerset, has started its 62nd fund raising campaign. One of the squad's 150 uniformed volunteers in a Rescue Squad vehicle can be expected at your door soon, between 5 and 9 p.m. on a weekday or noon to 9 p.m. on a weekend.

Residents are encouraged to ask the solicitor for his or her ID card and are welcome to call 301-652-0077 to be sure that Rescue Squad personnel are in the neighborhood. BCCRS never solicits by telephone. Every penny collected goes to the Rescue Squad. The volunteer fund raisers receive zero commission for contributions they collect.

Making Waves

Pool Season Ends With Dog Swim

By Norm Schneider, Chairman, Pool Committee

The traditional dog swim closed the Somerset pool season, as we allowed the hairier ones to have a frolic. But the pool has not yet gone to the dogs, and we anticipate a nice reopening next May.

My impression was that this past season was successful. More people came to the pool than in recent memory, and yet disagreements over usage seemed slightly less common. The swim team had a successful season, with a staggeringly large number of children competing on both the regular and mini teams. The annual adult pool party set a new record for attendance, as did the tot party. The 4th of July celebration overcame the tremendous heat, and the movie nights were well attended. The picnic area was in constant use and the gas grill was enjoyed by more people, as the rules governing its use were relaxed. Water aerobics was a success. We had more lifeguards from the Town than in recent years, and generally there were few safety issues.

By informal survey, more magazines and books were read at the pool than any year since 1969, and the quality of the literature improved, as more New Yorker than People magazines were spotted. The water polo matches and basketball games were more spirited than in previous years, though with the raised basket, slightly fewer slam dunks were recorded. All in all, the

season was a good one. But there are lots of ways we might be able to improve the operation next year, and we need your help.

Pool Committee Asks for Your Opinion

Although all Pool Committee meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend, the next meeting, **Monday, October 28**, at 7:30 p.m. at my house, 5509 Greystone Street, is specifically designed to be an open meeting for all residents of the Town. At this meeting you can raise any issue(s) you believe that we should discuss, and you can voice your satisfaction and dissatisfaction with how the pool was run this past year and present proposals for how to improve the operation next summer.

There are a few issues which will be discussed by the Pool Committee in the coming months on which your opinions are requested. Generally, these relate to whether you were satisfied with the way the pool was run this past summer and in what way we can attempt to eliminate any problems for next summer. Please call or e-mail me if you plan to attend, though you are welcome if you decide at the last minute to come.

What Is the Optimal Pool Temperature?

This past summer there was a spirited debate about what the ideal water temperature should be. Some residents, mostly lap swimmers, like the water cooler than it was. Other residents, mostly on the older and younger parts of the age spectrum, would like the water even warmer. The Pool Committee has decided to try to keep the water at 82 degrees, knowing that sometimes the water will be slightly colder and sometimes slightly warmer given the effects of the sun, air temperature, and variations between daytime and nighttime temperatures. What is your preference for water temperature?

Other matters the committee plans to consider involve enlarging the pool season (either before or after the current season), policies regarding the usage by the swim team, the rules concerning adult swim, and plans for modestly modifying the pool house office and front desk. As always, I can be reached 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.

Volunteers Wanted for History Committee

By Lesley Simmons

Are you interested in the history of our Town? Its people? Its architecture? Its politics? Can you interview neighbors? Take photographs? Draw? Write stories? Research history? Organize historical materials? Or were you one of the dozen or so people who noted on the long-range planning survey that you would want to serve on a Town History Committee? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you will want to be part of a proposed committee that

will help record and preserve our colorful past. Volunteer to find out where we have come from and to write up our stories for future generations.

Why Now?

The Chevy Chase Historical Society recently requested a grant from the Town of Somerset to help it move its archives to the Chevy Chase Library. The Mayor appointed an ad hoc committee of five Town historians to examine that request. The committee recommended against granting it because they felt the interests of Somerset would be better served by working on its own history in a way that gives control and easy access to resources to our community. It noted that this cause is long overdue and its urgency is reinforced by the upcoming 100th birthday of the incorporation of the Town (in 2006), which should be appropriately celebrated and should include an updated historical interpretation. The consensus of the Council was to establish a permanent Town History Committee to begin working on this important cause.

A Town Code amendment has now been drafted and will be considered at the October 7 meeting of the Town Council. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting team, please call, e-mail or write Tom Carter at the Town Hall.

Manny Lerner Dies at 93

Emanuel R. Lerner, 93, died of heart disease at home on Essex Avenue the night of August 23 after returning from several days in the hospital. A couple of hours before he died, he made arrangements for an absentee ballot so he could vote in the primary election.

He was a native of Pittsburgh and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In the 1930s and '40s, he was a labor economist with the Department of Labor, War Manpower Commission, Office of Housing Expediter and National Housing Agency.

Following his government service, Manny went into business with his wife, Polly, and did economic consulting. He volunteered as a court-appointed mediator and arbitrator in Montgomery County and the District. As an activist investor, he frequented annual meetings of corporations in which he had invested, including The Washington Post and the Federal National Mortgage Association.

Survivors include his wife, Polly, and a network of nieces and nephews.

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

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

MAYOR

CLERK-TREASURER

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

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

TOWN HALL

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

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

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

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

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

Deadlines: Ads, October 16; Copy, October 18

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Bethesda Will Be Hopping on October 5

For the 13th year, 50 Bethesda multi-ethnic **restaurants will sell “tastes”** in the Woodmont Triangle from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 5. The event, which will include musical and cultural entertainment, will be free. Food tickets will be sold in bundles of four for \$5. Servings will cost from one to three tickets.

Streets in the Woodmont Triangle are Norfolk, St. Elmo, Cordell, Del Ray and Fairmont Avenues. Parking in County garages will be free. For more information call 301-215-6660.

During the same hours, 11 to 4, two other special events will be taking place nearby. Chevy Chase Cars at 7725 Wisconsin Avenue will be sponsoring an **antique car show and fund-raiser for the Children’s Inn at NIH**. Call 301-657-4001, extension 1900 for details.

The other 11 to 4 attraction will be the **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad open house** at the corner of Battery Lane and Old Georgetown Road. Featured will be tours of the station, firefighter hats for children, moonbounce, KidCare photo ID kits and free hot dogs and sodas. Call 301-652-0077 with questions.

From 1 to 4 p.m. the **Bethesda Fire Department's annual open house** will feature an appearance by Ronald McDonald at 2 o'clock. The fire station is at 6600 Wisconsin Avenue at Bradley Boulevard. Free hot dogs and soft drinks will be available.

Visitors will be able to inspect the new aerial tower truck and an all-terrain rescue vehicle, squirt a fire hose and participate in a stop-drop-and-roll exercise. They will be able to take home fire safety brochures, a fire helmet and a photo of themselves in an antique fire engine.

County Way Ahead in Emergency Planning

By Bruce Tully

Montgomery County is way ahead in emergency planning, preparation and response to possible difficult situations. That is the really good news I heard at a County Fire/Rescue/Emergency Services seminar earlier this month on a dirty bomb terrorist attack situation. The County continues to plan, exercise and stockpile materials for a quick, well thought-out response to a terrorist event or other large-scale emergency.

What you need to protect your family is some basic planning that you may have done for Y2K. Most important: **keep informed** via your portable radio/TV and Town e-mail. If you are not already on the Somerset regular or emergency-only e-mail network, you can sign up with Tom Carter at the Town Hall. Have provisions on hand much like you might have done for Y2K and would for a snowstorm or hurricane — bottled water and non-perishable food and goods for at least a few days.

If a dirty radiological bomb or device were to go off in the area, weather and climate conditions will play a big part in the emergency response. In most cases, you will be instructed to “button up” and stay indoors while emergency crews monitor and report conditions and attempt to decontaminate the event.

Putting together the materials for a dirty bomb is difficult, and the radius for contamination is small. The real use of such a device is to create and sustain terror in the community — terror in its purist, most evil and

effective form. Knowing what to do and how to get through it takes some of the terror away from an event

The reality of living in and near Washington has changed since 9/11. Our thinking and planning should reflect that reality.

Remember, in case of such an incident, you aren't going anywhere soon, anyway. Streets, I-270 and I-66 and so on will be massively gridlocked, so stay indoors, tune in and try to keep calm. Montgomery County is way ahead in emergency planning and preparation to respond.

Bruce Tully of Warwick Place is the special agent in charge of the Washington Field Office for the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service, United States Department of State.

Wildlife No Strangers to Somerset

By Susannah Prindle

Deer and other wildlife have clearly adapted to life in the suburbs, thriving on their favorite blossoms and shrubs, drinking from birdbaths and ponds, and bedding down in our parkland.

Reducing damage caused by the animals is the goal of the County Integrated Pest Management Program, which was explained to residents in the Town Hall on September 9 by Rob Gibbs and Bob Alde. Gibbs runs the Montgomery County deer control program, and Alde is a volunteer with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service.

Birdseed overflow and pet food left outdoors certainly attract assorted small animals. Squirrel baffles on poles and seed-catching aprons on the ground partially solve the problem, and being vigilant about pet doors may prevent you from confronting uninvited guests in your kitchen. You can use a book strap to hold down a trash can lid. Fencing off entrance points with one-inch mesh chicken wire will keep animals from getting into attics or under porches.

Despite your best efforts, if you still have a problem with raccoons or other undomesticated small animals, you will probably welcome professional assistance. Call (toll-free) **1-877-463-6497** for the names of trappers who are licensed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). (You will actually reach the United States Department of Agriculture, which is under contract with DNR.)

Repellents for deer often deter other animals. They need to be used early in the season, every five or six weeks and as often as there is new, untreated plant growth. It's wise to rotate different repellents, odors being more effective than taste.

Another approach is two-inch mesh plastic fencing, minimum eight-feet high and relatively invisible. Bob Alde has used an electric fence for five years, but its success requires regular monthly baiting. The fence is about three feet off the ground and can give a significant "learning experience" to a deer tempted to bite down on the aluminum-covered bait, but no injury is done.

Managing vegetation means choosing plants that are rarely eaten by deer. A Cooperative Extension Bulletin (Fact Sheet 655) titled "Resistance of Ornamentals to Deer Damage" lists the degree of damage to trees, shrubs and many flowers. This and several other information pamphlets are on file at the Town Office, or you can phone the Master Gardener hot line (**301-590-9650**) to request a copy.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Meeting of Town Council, Monday, October 7, 7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes of the September 3 regular meeting – 7:30.
2. Presentation of FY 02 annual audit by Jim Lindsey and Bob Diss of Lindsey & Salita – 7:35.
3. Discussion of financial report for fiscal year to date – 7:55.
4. Action on building permit application by Patty Friedman and Blair Levin, 4811 Grantham Avenue, to add to the kitchen in the front and add a screened porch to the rear of their house – 8:00.
5. Action on building permit application by Kurt and Judy Shaffert, 5517 Uppingham Street, to extend their kitchen to the rear and build a deck behind it – 8:05.
6. Presentation by Gwen Wright, staff director, County Historic Preservation Commission, on HPC standards and procedures – 8:10.
7. Introduction of Long-Range Planning Committee report by Chairman Nat Finkelstein – 8:50.
8. Mayor's report – 9:00.
9. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 9:15.
10. Suggestions and questions from residents – 9:25.
11. Discussion of proposal to revise sign legislation – 9:35.
12. Action on amendment to Town Code to clarify requirement for two authorized signatures on Town checks and to establish procedure for review of bank statements by the Vice President of the Town Council – 9:45.
13. Action on Town Code amendment to impose fee for extension of building permits – 9:50.
14. Action on Town Code amendment to eliminate requirement on tree removal applications for signatures of neighbors who cannot see subject tree(s) from their property – 9:55.
15. Action on Town Code amendment to establish a permanent Town History Committee – 10:00.
16. Action on policy and rates for rental of Town tent by residents – 10:05.
17. Action on purchase of Green Machine sweeper from Applied Sweepers, Inc. for \$21,000 – 10:10.

18. Report by Council member Jeffrey Slavin on Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference – 10:15.

19. New business – 10:20.

Celebrate the annual harvest festival, Saturday, October 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; at the Agricultural History Farm, 18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood. In addition to a sheep dog demonstration, hay rides and live music, visitors may enjoy candle dipping, sheep shearing, old-time games, square dancing, farm animals, children's crafts, story telling, antique farm machinery, archaeology, crafters, food vendors, fresh produce and much more. Admission is \$5 per car. No pets allowed. For more information, call 301-924-4141. On October 5 only, to check on possible inclement weather cancellation, call 301-721-0312.

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