

Volume 47, No. 9 March 25, 2003

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Vote for Council Members April 7

Election Day for the Town of Somerset is Monday, April 7.

Voters will select three of the following four candidates:

Tom Eldridge, Judy Frankel, Richard Kessler and Bob Siegel.

Voting will take place at the Town Hall 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 will be counted if returned to the Clerk-Treasurer or the Board of Supervisors of Elections before 9 p.m. on election day, April 7.

Please turn to page 9 for statements by the candidates.

Mayor's Den

By Walter J. Behr

No Property Tax Increase Planned

As you will see in the summary of our Five-Year Fiscal Plan on page 5 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. A hearing and discussion of the plan occurred at the March Council meeting. Copies of the complete Five-Year Plan and a memo of explanation are available at the Town Hall.

My proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2004, 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 5.

By far our largest revenue source, about two-thirds of the total, continues to be a portion of Maryland income tax paid by Somerset residents and refunded to the Town by the State. The

estimate for this fiscal year, \$427,000, is up slightly from last year and is expected to be about the same next year. It should gradually increase in subsequent years depending on the economy.

Property tax at 5 cents yields only a quarter the amount of the income tax, but this will grow starting in Fiscal Year 2005 (FY-05), when next December's reassessments kick in. Highway User funds from the State will go down substantially starting in FY-04 if the General Assembly approves the State budget proposed by Governor Ehrlich.

Three Major Capital Projects

On the expense side, three capital projects stand out: repaving streets and parking lots (after completion of the new Somerset School), \$500,000; improving the Town Hall, \$460,000 (that is my guess - the Town Hall Committee has not yet submitted its recommendation); and conducting a pilot project of burying wires and cables, \$160,000.

Salaries are the largest line item in the General Fund budget. I am proposing a 5 percent increase across the board for the Clerk-Treasurer, our three maintenance men and part-time office assistant (compared with the 4.27 percent raise that area Federal employees have just been granted). A small, but new expense beginning this year is for a building inspector, who is working under contract on a limited basis.

I'm sure it is no surprise that we went way over budget this year for clearing snow from streets and sidewalks. We spent \$82,000, compared with \$3,400 last year. We expect a reimbursement of \$19,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for part of the cost of moving the two-foot snowfall last month.

Our largest other expenses year in and year out are for maintaining and operating the swimming pool; refuse, recycling and leaf removal; and planting, maintaining and removing street and park trees. A large and "special" expense authorized this year, but to be spread over four years, is \$50,000 for Somerset School landscaping.

Borrowing Not Contemplated

The 5-Year Plan would, indeed, take a substantial bite out of our Combined Fund Balance (Reserve), reducing it from \$1.5 million to \$159,000. However, I do not believe we will have to borrow funds other than for proceeding past the pilot program and actually undergrounding wires and cables together with installing attractive street lights to replace the ones on Pepco poles.

If you have questions or comments about the 5-Year Fiscal Plan, I would be happy to hear from you.

Decision Expected on Entrance Realignment

As reported last month, the State Highway Administration has agreed to rebuild the curb, sidewalk and handicap ramp on the north corner of Dorset and Wisconsin, provided the Town undertakes the demolition and reconstruction of the stone entrance on the same side of the intersection.

At the suggestion of the staff director and a member of the County Historic Preservation Commission, we retained the Jordan Honeyman firm of Washington to draw a plan and elevation of the existing wall and alternative schematic landscape plans and wall elevations appropriate for the new curb configuration. Residents are encouraged to inspect these drawings at the Town Hall.

The impetus for this project originated with Ted Truman, who pointed out that school buses coming south on Wisconsin Avenue turn right on Cumberland Avenue rather than attempting the more difficult turn onto Dorset. The Cumberland route requires four turns to get to Somerset School compared with two if Dorset were to be used. Also, starting in June, trucks involved in the school demolition and new building will encounter the same problem.

Time is of the essence if the project is to be completed before the work at Somerset School begins. Further discussion and action on the proposal are scheduled for 9:20 p.m. at the April 7 Council meeting.

Town's First Building Inspector

Somerset, for the first time, has a building inspector. Larry Plummer of Gaithersburg, who is employed full-time by the Town of Chevy Chase, is now working intermittently for us as a contractor.

He will review plans for new houses and remodeling, communicate, if necessary, with the architect or owner, and inspect for setbacks, height, lot coverage, tree protection fences, storm water drainage and silt screens. When major construction jobs are on the agenda, he may attend Council meetings.

Larry retired from the State Highway Administration, where he had a variety of responsibilities during his career.

New Plantings Will Combat Erosion

Residents who use the trail between the Somerset pool bathhouse and the North Park Apartments may have noticed a number of new small trees - actually 45 - just planted on the steep slope behind the apartments.

The County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) responded to our request for the trees since that department was responsible for the creek realignment and associated work last year to halt erosion behind the highrise.

To maximize chances for the trees to thrive, forest and watershed planners at DEP selected species that were actually growing on the steep slope that gets very little sun - red maples, spicebush and gray dogwood (15 each).

This spring Environmental Quality Resources, Inc. will replace failed plantings in the sections of the Little Falls Branch creek bed where they performed conservation work under contract with the Town.

Pinhole Leak Legislation on Track

Pinhole leaks in copper water pipes have been a problem for a number of Somerset families as well as some Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) customers sprinkled within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and, indeed, for families scattered throughout the country. To date, scientists retained by WSSC have been unable to identify the cause of the leaks.

Last spring, at the request of Morton Mintz, the Town Council voted to ask the Maryland General Assembly to authorize a task force to try to get to the bottom of the problem. Senator Brian Frosh drafted the appropriate legislation, which passed the Senate last month with no opposition. The Environmental Matters Committee of the House of Delegates will hold a hearing on the bill on April 2.

If the Senate bill is approved by the House, the task force will have until the end of next year to submit its findings.

I'm confident I speak for all those who have suffered the inconvenience and expense resulting from pinhole leaks when I compliment and thank Brian for his effective leadership on this issue.

Get News While It's Happening

Were you in the dark about trash and recycling collections during the big snowstorm? We are sorry about that, but we had no way to reach you **UNLESS** you were one of the 213 Town e-mail subscribers, who were twice notified of schedule changes.

E-mail broadcasts are not only about trash. They include news about Town special events and committee meetings, candidate forums, crimes in the vicinity, Town Council agenda revisions after the *Town Journal* has gone to the printer and emergency updates and instructions.

Gayley Knight, who is in charge of the broadcast, is also responsible for operating a second Town e-mail network exclusively for emergency information and guidance.

To sign up for the regular network, which includes emergency information, or the emergency-only network, call Tom Carter at 301-657-3211 or send an e-mail to clerk@townofsomerset.com.

Residents Are Achievers

CONGRATULATIONS TO --

LUCKY MARMON, who won the Washington Redskins's community quarterback award for 10 years of volunteering at Beacon House community ministry, and after-school tutoring, mentoring, recreational and cultural learning center for at-risk children in Northeast D.C. The Redskins presented an \$11,000 check to the ministry in Lucky's honor.

KAZ FOTOOHI, who was selected as one of the best prosthodontists in the area by the Washingtonian magazine's annual listing of Metropolitan Washington's best dentists.

LILA SNOW, who has written a book entitled "With a Name like Tuchmacher..." It is available online at www.XLIBRIS.com/bookstore, by phone from XLIBRIS at 1-888-795-4274 and at the Writer's Center in Bethesda. Besides being an author, Lila is a recognized artist, linguist, stand-up comedian and double dutch jump rope champion who earned a degree in chemistry.

Town Residents's News and Notes Column

By Council Member Jeffrey Slavin

At the suggestion of Roz Harris of Trent Street and other Town residents, I would like to begin writing a "News and Notes" column each month in the *Town Journal* with information on births, marriages, graduations, commitment ceremonies, awards, new employment and other life cycle events of our citizens.

There seems to be a great demand for this kind of information, and getting to know one another better creates a stronger sense of community.

So, when something new occurs in your family or household, please drop me a line at 5706 Warwick Place or e-mail me at jzslavin@aol.com and I will hopefully be able to put an item in the *Journal* the following month. If there are others who would like to help with this effort, please let me know at 301-654-6767.

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 not be in the office April 14-18. If you plan to come to the office these days, please call first to be sure Corrie Morsey is in.

2003 Tennis ID Cards

Tennis ID cards for 2003 are available from Tom at the Town Hall office. Fees are still only \$5 per family for the annual card. Please make you checks out to "Town of Somerset."

Batting Cage Annual Fees

Batting cage users are reminded that their annual fees of \$5 are due for continued use of the equipment.

Sand Drums

We have placed drums of sand in various locations throughout Town every winter for many years, but we are not sure how useful they are. Despite attaching lids and chaining shovels to the drums, the lids are often left off and the shovels are missing. This obviously leads to the sand becoming wet and subsequently freezing. At this point, the sand is virtually unusable.

We are interested in your opinion. Are the sand drums useful to you? Our contractor has been very diligent over the past two years at getting the streets cleared early. Perhaps there is no longer a need for the drums. Please let us know your thoughts.

Spring Cleanup

After a long, hard winter, cleanup has begun in Town. Please remember the following:

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

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

Several copies of the grasscycling video are available at the Town office for your use. The video demonstrates the benefits of leaving your grass clippings on the lawn. Please call Tom at 301-657-3211 if you would like to borrow one.

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 tree removal permits have been issued by the Mayor. (Building permits are approved by the Town Council.)

Donna Harman, 4719 Dorset Avenue, to remove a dead willow from her front yard.

Julie Burfield, 4714 Essex Avenue, to remove a large, nuisance honey locust crowding two houses.

Alison Fortier, 4714 Falstone Avenue, to remove a dead wild cherry and a dieing maple, both in the back yard.

Legislation

At the March 3 meeting, the Town Council introduced an ordinance amending the Building Code, Chapter 6 of the Town Code, to require a parking plan whenever it is likely that more than three vehicles will be involved in construction of a project.

Council Activity

At the March 3 meeting, the Council:

1. Heard the Mayor's presentation of his Five-Year Fiscal Plan.
2. Received nominations from the floor for Judy Frankel, Richard Kessler, Bob Siegel and Tom Eldridge for Council members.
3. Set Monday, March 24, for the candidate forum at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.
4. Heard a report from Caroline Copper, chair, on the progress of the Town Hall Renovation Committee.

5. Extended the following building permits:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
James Regan	5809 Surrey St.	10/19/03
Walter Auburn	4719 Falstone Ave.	10/1/03

6. Authorized the Mayor to hire a landscape architect at a cost of no more than \$3,000, in consultation with the County Historic Preservation Commission, to provide sketches of the current intersection of Dorset and Wisconsin Avenues, with the State Highway Administration plan for modifying the north curb and two showing the SHA version with an additional right-turn lane from Dorset onto Wisconsin. Vote: Eldridge, Gubser, Kessler and Slavin for; Frankel abstained. (See article on page 2 in this *Town Journal*.)
7. Authorized expenditure of up to \$5,000 to remodel the bathhouse office by opening the rear area facing the pool and replacing the wall with a roll-up door.
8. Confirmed the Mayor's appointments to the Special Events Committee: One-year terms - Anne Proctor, chair; Joan Rabinor; Jeffrey Slavin. Two-year terms - Alan Dock; Bonnie Lewin - Barbara Marblestone; Sarah Morse.

9. Confirmed the Mayor's appointments to the Batting Cage Committee: Two-year terms - Laura Kennedy, chair; Richard Furcolo; Chris Lane. One-year terms - Dave Fellows; Kathy Wenger.
10. Voted to support the concept of Marilyn Praisner's County Zoning Text Amendment that limits the impact of a new law which permits affordable housing, including townhouses, in single-family neighborhoods.
11. Proclaimed April 1 as 2003 Arbor Day for the Town.
12. Discussed changing the method by which the Town sets building permit fees.

Be Part of Somerset's History

By Lesley Simmons, Chair, History Committee

Our Town has grown during its almost 100 years, but the similarities between the old and new are slight. Architecture may have changed but the character of the people has remained much the same: our Town still attracts scientists, lawyers, diplomats, government officials -- successful people in all fields. And the small-town character of our streetscape and our neighborly ways continues.

While we know about, and have well documented, the architecture of some of the houses and history of some of those who made their homes here in the earliest days, we know far less about new Somerset. Yet many of the homes are now approaching the half-century mark and are accumulating their own histories. Indeed, we are beginning to lose some of the homes through remodeling and demolition. As a Town that has always valued its history, we are anxious to fill the gap by collecting information and documenting the history of all of our houses and the people who have lived in them to help us and our descendants understand and appreciate where we live.

We hope you will tell us about your house and the people who have lived in it by completing the survey enclosed with this issue of the *Town Journal*. The History Committee is grateful to Bill Brenner for designing the questionnaire.

And please come to "Somerset Now and Then: A Day of History" on Sunday, April 27, beginning at 1:00 p.m., which will include a discussion about the settling of new Somerset.

Volunteers Wanted

Are you a high school student interested in history? Then please volunteer to help out for a couple of hours at "Somerset Now and Then" from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 27. Volunteers are required to accompany small groups on a short walking tour from the Town Hall and to report back on any historical reminiscences the participants discuss. For more information, please call me at 240-497-1876.

Statements of Council Candidates

TOM ELDRIDGE, 4806 Essex Avenue

I am writing to urge all residents to vote in the election on Monday, April 7. I am finishing my first term on the Council, and would be honored to serve for another term and continue work on the Town's behalf.

Since my election in 2000, I have been active on a number of committees and have sponsored significant legislation. For example:

I have served on the Long-Range Planning Committee, and chaired the Facilities Subcommittee.

As an outgrowth of that work, I drafted legislation creating the Town Hall Renovation Committee and now serve as a member of the group examining possible changes to our Town Hall.

In response to residents' concerns about crime, I drafted legislation to create a Town Security Committee that studied the issue in depth and made recommendations.

In response to residents' concerns about traffic safety, I proposed legislation to add speed humps to Essex Avenue and Uppingham Street.

I strongly supported the recent Town action hiring a building inspector to ensure development in Town is carried out in compliance with Town and County building and zoning ordinances.

In all these areas, and at every Town meeting, I have sought to listen to members of the Town, encourage debate on the topic in question and assist in the resolution of the issue through whatever means is appropriate.

If reelected, I will continue to keep an open mind, and work cooperatively with residents, the Mayor and other members of the Council to solve community problems in a courteous and efficient manner. If you have any questions about my candidacy, please feel free to call me at 301-656-3354, or stop by at 4806 Essex Avenue.

JUDY FRANKEL, 5528 Uppingham Street

Somerset has been my home since 1967. We came as strangers to the area, but quickly realized we had made a good decision. It has been an honor to serve on the Council for 22 years and contribute to the quality of life in our Town. I am Vice President of the Council, acting as Mayor in his absence. I have enjoyed the challenges and rewards of service. I have the time,

interest and energy as well as a solid understanding of the issues to undertake the responsibilities of a Council member.

As the Council representative on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee, I have been actively engaged in developing the beautification plans implemented around Town, including reforesting Vinton Park, the creek restoration project and working with the Swimming Pool Committee in the creation of the picnic area at the pool. I have been an ad hoc member of the Long-Range Planning Committee and have been responsible for the annual review of Somerset activities in the *Town Journal*.

I have been directly involved with many of the issues faced by the Council. For example, I studied our insurance coverage and the cost. I found we could have excellent protection with the Montgomery County Insurance Pool at a lower cost. As Personnel Committee member, I reviewed and reorganized personnel policies on annual leave, pension and health plans and helped write a manual for Town employees. I have been actively involved in the landscaping planning for the new Somerset School.

I have always been a good listener with an open mind. I would like to continue working as Town Council member toward maintaining and improving the quality of life we enjoy.

I ask for your support in the upcoming election so that I may continue to do so.

RICHARD KESSLER, 4914 Cumberland Avenue

We have lived at 4914 Cumberland Avenue for 12 years. All three of my sons have attended Somerset School. My oldest son, Tristan, will be an assistant swim coach for the Somerset Dolphins this summer. I have another son, Nick, at Westland, and my third, Duncan, attends Somerset .

As a member of the Somerset Council, I am the Council's representative to the Pool Committee where my goal is to make the pool a more enjoyable place for all residents, encouraging activities and improvements for young and old alike. I am the Council's representative to the PTA and to the Somerset Modernization Committee where my goal has been to ensure a school designed to meet both student and Town interests. I represented the Town in County sector planning activities, especially in the Friendship Heights area, where I participated in the design committee that led to the incorporation of a Leland Center-like facility with a basketball court to be built on the Hecht Company site. I pushed successfully for a baseball field on the Geico site once that is developed.

My B.A. is from Colgate University; I have a M.A., a M.A.L.D. and Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts). I served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam where I was awarded the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal and the Cross of Gallantry and Honor Medal from the South Vietnamese government. For the past 12 years I have worked for the U.S. House of Representatives and for the U.S. Senate on various committees.

On the Council I have worked to ensure the sense of community that makes Somerset unique, encouraging improvements and adding new opportunities, reconciling the interests of new residents and the needs of their neighbors. I look forward to further serving the Somerset community.

BOB SIEGEL, 4904 Falstone Avenue

I'd like to be a Council member to be able to represent the desires and interests of the residents of Somerset. I feel that people coming together can make their collective wisdom a vital force for both innovation and a safe haven for our community.

My activism has been demonstrated by my leadership role in the Mom's March on Washington, hosting a series of meetings where local candidates had the opportunity to have a dialogue with Somerset residents, and in my leadership role in a Montgomery County local citizens association.

My career path has taken the road from rising through the corporate ranks, as well as being an entrepreneur. Through these experiences, I have learned the importance of planning, collaborating, and making the tough decisions when need be. My careers have been in private industry, first, after college, in the wholesale wine and liquor business and most recently as a manufacturers sales representative in the gift industry. I graduated from American University in 1976 with honors in Communication; been a Somerset resident for six years; a father blessed with two wonderful girls; and a husband who has had the good fortune of learning from his wife, Tierney Siegel, about leadership, activism, family, integrity, vision, and love. My daughters both graduated from Somerset Elementary School and are currently students in Westland Middle School, where I am 6th grade vice president of the PTA.

I genuinely feel that there is no better community in Maryland. It is a community that is filled with people who were drawn to a little oasis of sanity, solid values, and neighborly good will. It is a place where retired people and young children say "hello" to one another as they pass on our streets. For me, being on the Town Council is solely out of my personal wish to bring a fresh perspective to the challenges that lie ahead of us. I can think of no better way to give back to a special community like Somerset than by preserving our best traditions while looking with an inquisitive eye at what can be! I humbly ask for your vote.

Welcome to Elizabeth Olson and Robert San George and their two children, Peter and Marissa, who live at 4818 Cumberland Avenue. They lived in Switzerland for 12 years before moving back to the U.S. Elizabeth is a reporter for the New York Times. While in Switzerland, she covered politics and economics. She now reports on D.C. area cultural activities and business. Robert is a vice president for the World Resources Institute, an environmental research group. In Switzerland, he was associated with the World Wide Fund for Nature and the United Nations.

Peter, 16, is a junior in the International Baccalaureate Program at B-CC. His passion is basketball. He also enjoys music and plays the piano. He participates in the Model UN program

at B-CC and is fluent in French and German. Marissa, 14, is an eighth grader at Westland. She also enjoys basketball, biking, swimming and piano. She is fluent in French and is learning Spanish.

The family enjoys walking their English Cocker Spaniel, Millie, and loves movies.

Somerset Named 2002 Tree City USA

For the 21st consecutive year, the Town of Somerset has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This recognition reaffirms our continuing efforts to protect our trees. 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.

County Offers Auto Repair Classes

The Montgomery County Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is offering its popular three-part Consumer Auto Repair Seminar (CARS), beginning Wednesday, April 23. The seminar is being held on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., April 23 and 30, in the first floor auditorium located in the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. The third session is a hands-on class and will be held on Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at Courtesy Jeep, 755 Rockville Pike, Rockville. All classes will be conducted by DCA investigative staff.

The seminar is aimed at consumers with little or no automotive knowledge. It is designed to take some of the mystery out of how an automobile operates, what precautions should be taken to prevent problems from occurring, and how to communicate with automobile mechanics when repairs are needed.

Attendees will learn, in non-technical terms, how the engine, brakes and other mechanical systems work and the maintenance necessary to keep them trouble-free. The classes will also cover how to jump-start your car safely, how and when to check your oil and tire pressure, how to protect your car from rust and maintain its appearance, and how to get better gas mileage.

Classes are free, but pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, call 240-777-3764.

Glen Echo Carousel to Reopen

After a 20-year restoration, a Washington area treasure - the historic Glen Echo Park Dentzel carousel - will reopen Saturday, May 3. Visitors will not only find refurbished carousel animals, but also adjacent decorative paintings which were hidden under layers of paint for decades.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. visitors may enjoy free entertainment in the park and learn more about the carousel art work through tours and photographs. The carousel will operate from noon to 6 p.m.

Considered one of the most beautiful in the United States, the Glen Echo ride was installed in 1921. It is one of only 135 functioning antique merry-go-rounds in the country and one of a few still in its original location. Known as a "Menagerie carousel" because of the variety of its animals, the Glen Echo ride includes 40 horses, four rabbits, four ostriches, a giraffe, a deer, a lion and a tiger. It also features two circus chariots.

Glen Echo Park is at 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, along the Potomac River palisades. It began in 1891 as a National Chautauqua Assembly to promote liberal and practical education, especially among the masses of the people; to teach the sciences, arts, languages, and literature; to prepare its patrons for their several pursuits and professions in life; and to fit them for the duties which devolve upon them as members of society. By 1900, Glen Echo was a premier amusement park, serving the Washington area until 1968.

Since 1971, the National Park Service at Glen Echo Park has been offering year-round activities in dance, theater and the arts. Among the park's most popular offerings are weekly dances in the Spanish Ballroom, performance of the Puppet Co. and Adventure Theatre, programs sponsored by Discovery Creek Children's Museum and celebrations such as the annual Washington Folk Festival.

Proposal to Change Meeting Agenda

By Council Member Jeffrey Slavin

As many of you know, there are many nights that our Town meetings run behind schedule and residents have lengthy waits in order to speak on a particular topic. Consequently, Council member Peter Gubser and I have been discussing ways to streamline the sessions, while accommodating as much participation as possible.

One suggestion that we have considered is starting the meeting one half-hour earlier, at 7 p.m. sharp, and limiting the first half-hour to reports and presentations, while reserving the balance of the meeting for action items.

Before the Town Council even considers such a change, members wanted to receive input from residents. Therefore, those with an opinion on this topic should contact me at 301-654-6767 (jzslavin@aol.com) or Council member Gubser at 301-654-5137.

Friendship Boulevard and North Park Avenue, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 21

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Meeting of Town Council

Monday, April 7, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes of March 3 regular meeting Ɔ 7:30.
2. Acceptance of financial report Ɔ 7:35.
3. Action on transfer of \$53,000 from Capital Projects Fund Town Hall/Garage to General Fund Snow/Sand Ɔ 7:40.
4. Action on setting spring large item pickup by trash hauler on Friday, May 2 Ɔ 7:45.
5. Action on date of September Council meeting (suggested ..Tuesday, September 2) Ɔ 7:50.
6. Action on building permit application by Jim and Maura Vanderzon, 4902 Falstone Avenue, to enclose carport, convert existing storage area to study and add a living room/sun room to the rear of the house Ɔ 7:55.
7. Action on building permit application by Joseph and Janet McGhee, 5407 Surrey Street, to replace their deck in the back yard Ɔ 8:00.
8. Fourth monthly report by Caroline Copper, chair, Town Hall Renovation Committee Ɔ 8:05.
9. Mayor's report Ɔ 8:10.
10. Development/plans in the vicinity of Somerset Ɔ 8:25.
11. Suggestions and questions from residents Ɔ 8:35.
12. Discussion of sledding policy on Cumberland Avenue Ɔ 8:45.
13. Action on ordinance amending the Building Code, Chapter 6, of the Town Code to require a parking plan whenever it is likely that more than three vehicles will be involved in construction of a project Ɔ 9:05.
14. Action on offer by State Highway Administration to ease radius of north corner of Dorset-Wisconsin intersection, provided the Town removes and rebuilds the stone entrance on that side of the street Ɔ 9:20.
15. Discussion of revising method of setting building permit fees and amounts Ɔ 9:35.
16. Action on revised pool rules Ɔ 9:50.
17. Action on recommendation by Swimming Pool Committee to reduce guest fee for Camp Summerset participants from \$2 to \$1.50 Ɔ 10:05.
18. New business Ɔ 10:15

One Less Mailbox

If the U.S. Mail collection box at Surrey Street and Cumberland Avenue disappears one day, don't be concerned that vandals were involved. The Post Office is simply removing boxes that are little used. If it does disappear, the one to use will be at Surrey and Dorset.

Somerset School Diamond Anniversary Party

By Rochelle Zeidman and Deborah Missal

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Somerset Elementary School, as well as the year that its long-promised modernization is finally going to happen. To commemorate both to these milestones a celebration will be held at the school Saturday, May 17, from 4-7 p.m.

The party will include carnival games, music and an assortment of speakers from the school's past and present, as we reflect on the past 75 years and look forward to an exciting new chapter in Somerset's history. The Planning Committee is especially interested in contacting anyone able to share memories of Somerset in its earliest years. If you attended the school prior to the 1960's, please contact Deborah Missal at (301) 657-8461 (e-mail missaldmj@aol.com).

So save the date and plan to join neighbors, alumni, parents and teachers from yesterday and today at this celebration.

Kindergarten Orientation

Somerset School kindergarten orientation for the 2003/2004 school year will be held on Wednesday, May 7. If you have or know of a child who will be eligible for kindergarten in the fall, please call or have the child's parent call the school office at 301-657-4985 to register for an appointment. Information packages will be sent out in April.

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