

Volume 49, No. 7

January 24, 2005

Inside:

Mayor's Den.....	1-3
Town Considers Hiring Police for Traffic Enforcement	3
Town Hall Meeting Scheduled March 15.....	3-4
County News and Announcements	4-5
Annual B-CC Book Sale	5
Running for Town Council.....	6
On My Mind	
Montgomery Municipal League.....	6-7
Hiring Police	7
First Bag Lunch.....	7
Speed Bumps.....	8
Radar Speed Test Results	8-9
Town Web Site Heeds Request for Privacy	10
All About People.....	10
Friends of Norwood Park	10-11
Town Hall Tidbits	11-12
Permits Granted.....	12
Legislation.....	12
Council Activity	12
Obituary.....	13
Preliminary Agenda.....	13
2004 Report.....	15
Classifieds	16

Mayor's Den

By Walter J. Behr

Expect Wisconsin-Western Congestion to Continue

You don't need to be told that traffic congestion in Friendship Heights is severe because of construction of the new Chevy Chase Center on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue and across Wisconsin on the Hecht's site, which extends to Western and Willard Avenues and Friendship Boulevard. Problems will continue for almost three more years, by which time New England Development expects to complete the Hecht's project. Following is a summary of the schedule for both projects.

Although the 50-year-old Chevy Chase Center reconstruction will not be completed until the summer of 2006, Clyde's restaurant is scheduled to reopen next summer along with some parking spaces. Outdoor seating will not be offered until a year later.

Next to open after Clyde's will be The Collection - luxury retail in the two low buildings on Wisconsin Avenue - that is scheduled for completion next fall. Giant Food and Pharmacy, more than double the size of the former Giant in the Chevy Chase Center, will open in spring 2006.

Neighborhood Center Will Open in Mid-2006

Shortly thereafter, the remainder of the neighborhood center will open, including Chevy Chase and Eagle Banks, Galaxy Dry Cleaners and Potomac Pizza. Also during the summer of 2006, the eight-story office tower will be completed as well as the four-level underground parking garage. With the surface parking, 1400 spaces will be available. The Mills Corporation, owners of Potomac Mills in Woodbridge, has leased the entire tower and will move its headquarters here from Arlington.

Excavation for the new Hecht's store on Friendship Boulevard is about a third completed and should be finished by the end of April. At that point, concrete work will begin on the garage and the new Hecht's building, which will be somewhat larger than the existing store. The new Hecht's and several adjoining smaller retail stores are scheduled to open next fall. At that point, the existing Hecht's will be demolished. A year later, in the fall of 2007, if all goes according to plan, everything else will be finished - the community center, a high rise

and two low rise office buildings, a high rise and a low-rise residential structure, a Whole Foods grocery store and more retail establishments.

A loop for taxis and drop-off of Metro riders will be built on the Willard Avenue side of the development. Present plans call for elimination of the drop-off lane in front of Hecht's, but some activists believe that the existing arrangement might be retained.

Selective Trash Receptacles

This is a reminder that the trash receptacles scattered around Town are not to be used for household trash. They were installed primarily to accommodate litter such as paper cups and candy and chewing gum wrappers.

They may also be used for dog droppings, although the ideal way to dispose of them is in the toilet. If you do dispose of dog dung in a street receptacle, it is essential that you use a plastic bag and, please, **seal it tightly** to prevent odors and flies from disturbing nearby residents.

New School Is Three-Quarters Completed



The new Somerset School is three-quarters completed, according to a recent analysis by the architects, with only 11 percent of time remaining to comply with the contract deadline of March 11. Actually, the original deadline was December 1, but for a variety of reasons, including bad weather, Montgomery County Public Schools extended the completion date 100 days to March 11.

Whether or not the structure is substantially finished in two months, Principal Laurie Gross and other school authorities are counting on moving from Radnor, the holding school, in time for classes to start in the new building next September.

Lower Electric Rates A Possibility

A priority this year of the Maryland Municipal League is legislation by the General Assembly that would authorize counties and towns to bargain with companies that generate electricity for lower rates. The new rates would apply to all residents in those jurisdictions unless the residents withdraw from the group. If granted this authority, the local governments would become "aggregators."

With or without a new law, electric power would continue to be *delivered* by Pepco. Pepco ceased *supplying* or *generating* electricity several years ago.

Individuals are now free to contract with any supplier that offers electricity through Pepco. Aggregation, at least in theory, will result in lower rates than are available to individuals.

Aggregation by local governments in Maryland for electricity used by the county or town (e.g., for street lights) has been legal for several years. Somerset has taken advantage of this opportunity by joining with Montgomery County and other local governments to negotiate rates lower than "standard offer service" set by the Maryland Public Service Commission. This arrangement not only saves the Town money, but also makes us participants in the largest purchase of "green" energy by a local government in the United States. The green energy in our case is generated by windmills in West Virginia.

2 B-CC High School Teams Are State Champs

Congratulations to B-CC, our neighborhood high school, for an outstanding fall sports season! In addition to winning three divisional and three regional titles, B-CC produced two State champion teams.

The girls' soccer team defeated Centennial, 1-to-0, in the finals, and the girls' field hockey team defeated archrival and defending State champion Severna Park, 2-to-1, with no time left in the second overtime period. The victory clinched the thirteenth State championship for the B-CC field hockey team.

Town Considers Hiring Police for Traffic Enforcement (Agenda Item 13)

By Tom Eldridge, Council member

At the February 7, 2005 Town Meeting, the Council will consider a proposal to hire on-duty Village of Chevy Chase Police to enforce certain traffic laws in Somerset.

The proposal is to hire Village police to enforce speed limits and stop sign compliance in our Town for four hours per week (at approximately \$40 per hour) over a six-month trial period.

The cost of this proposal is approximately \$3,800. Although the hours would vary to increase deterrence, it has been suggested we hire police to patrol during some of the hours when children are going to and from school. The decision on hours of operation would be left to the Mayor. A number of factors influenced my decision to put forward this proposal.

First, I have observed that many people driving in our Town do not obey stop signs and often speed, endangering residents. I believe this problem has gotten steadily worse in the past several years as traffic congestion in our area has increased. Town residents have expressed their unhappiness over drivers' behavior at several meetings during the past year, including the meetings to discuss the future of the new stop signs on Dorset at Devon Lane. A recent traffic count confirmed our streets are very busy.

Second, although our taxes pay their salaries, on-duty Montgomery County Police cannot sit in our Town and perform this kind of traffic enforcement work consistent with the officers' other law enforcement responsibilities. While on duty in the Bethesda area, officers are constantly answering 911 dispatches or alarm calls, attending to traffic accidents, or investigating more serious crimes. Thus, the Village Police would supplement services already provided by Montgomery County Police.

Town Meeting Scheduled for March 15 Discuss Town Hall Renovation Options

By Caroline S. Cooper, Chair
Town Hall Renovation Committee

As most Somerset residents are aware, the Somerset Town Hall, built as a private residence in 1902 and converted to Town use with a meeting room addition in 1982, needs very costly structural and system repairs. In addition, the facility (1) lacks adequate space to accommodate the administrative and related functions the Town has assumed since 1982 and (2) is noncompliant with numerous code requirements.

For the past two years, the Town Hall Renovation Committee has been studying the nature and extent of repair needed as well as a wide range of alternative options to provide needed administrative space. The report of the committee's findings is posted on the Town's website.

On July 14, 2003, the committee held a meeting of Town residents, with over 70 attending, at which a variety of alternatives were discussed for addressing the facility's needs. The consensus expressed by attendees was for the committee, in addition to outlining necessary repairs, to

- explore options for also providing the needed space for the Town's administrative functions at the existing Town Hall site but to avoid any significant change in the existing 'footprint' of the facility; and
- schedule a follow-up meeting to present alternative conceptual designs and cost estimates.

The Town subsequently contracted with Wiedemann Associates for this purpose.

See Design Alternatives at March 15 Meeting

The committee has scheduled a Town Meeting on **March 15 at 7:30 pm** to discuss the design alternatives developed by the architect. Watch for a special mailing in early March with summary background information on the problems and issues the committee has identified regarding the Town Hall facility and the decisions that now need to be made.

There is no easy answer to how to adequately address the functional and structural needs of the Town Hall. There are many interrelated factors that need to be taken into consideration, including: (1) the growing administrative functions which the Town has taken on since the original Town Hall building was opened; (2) intervening Code requirements with which the facility is now not complying; (3) the extensive repairs now needed to address the serious structural and system problems that are both observed by users of the facility and documented in a series of expert reports; and (4) the Town's history of piecemeal – and costly – efforts to deal with these problems, which hasn't resulted in any long-term solutions.

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING MARCH 15. WE NEED EVERYONE'S INPUT AND IDEAS. The Town Hall is the seat of Somerset's government and therefore affects all of the functions and aspects of Town life, which we value. Developing a sound plan for assuring an adequate facility --*over the long term*-- to house the Town's governmental functions is important for all of us. Please don't hesitate to communicate your ideas, questions and/or suggestions at any time. My home phone is: 301/652-5845 and email is: ccooper@american.edu.

County News and Announcements

County Seeks Volunteers for Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Persons interested in helping to enhance the quality of life for nursing home residents are invited to volunteer as long-term care advocates with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services.

Know What to Do When Approached by an Emergency Vehicle.

The metropolitan area is often crowded and congested with traffic conditions caused by collisions and work zones. Emergency vehicles are impacted by these conditions as well. How can drivers help get emergency vehicles through?

When you hear a siren, follow these steps:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Keep radio volume low and check rear view mirrors frequently.

- Look for the emergency vehicle and calmly pull over and stop. By State Law you are required to drive immediately to a position parallel to and as close as possible to the edge or curb of the roadway until the emergency vehicle has passed.
- Keep intersections clear.
- Be mindful that there may be additional emergency vehicles approaching.

When you approach an accident scene, remember these tips.

- Stay alert – expect anything to occur when approaching emergency vehicles.
- Pay close attention and be patient – watch for police or fire direction.
- Turn on your headlights – let on scene workers and other motorists see you.
- Don't tailgate.
- Slow down.
- Dedicate you full attention to the roadway and those traveling around you.
- Minimize distractions – avoid changing radio stations and using mobile cell phones while approaching these areas.

Montgomery County Homeland Security Department, Office of Emergency Management, offers tips for remaining safe throughout the winter storm season. Residents are encouraged to be prepared for the possibility of power outages and hazardous road conditions that can result from snow storms and freezing rain.

The County web home page has a link to winter storm information and updates. This links to updates on County services (schools, ride-on, Metro, frequently asked questions about snow removal, and to utility company web sites). Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov, click on the link "Winter Storm Information."

County Council Seeks Applicants for Board of Investment Trustees for County Employee Retirement Plans. The Board sets investment policy, hires investment managers, and monitors investment performance for \$2 billion worth of pension assets for nearly 10,500 active and retired members. The terms are 3 years. If interested, send letter with resume to Council President Thomas E. Perez, County Council Office, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850 to be received no later than March 9, 2005.

Annual B-CC High School Used Book Sale



On Sunday, January 30, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School PTSA will host its annual **Used Book Sale and Café from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.**

Thanks to an incredible outpouring of community support, this year's sale will feature 10,000 to 20,000 gently used (and in some cases new) hardcover and paperback books, audio books, and videos. This exciting collection of books includes Newberry and Caldecott award-winning children's books, popular authors including Grisham, Follett, and Clancy, a fascinating collection of European and Asian history books, wonderful biographies, hundreds of art books, and cook books. Hard covers are \$2.00, paperbacks, \$1.00 and all monies raised support the B-CC PTSA.

The B-CC PTSA supports many programs including College Tracks, an after school college counseling program which is available to students at the school as well as at a satellite location within the cluster, extracurricular clubs, the student directory and the parent newsletter.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School is located at 4301 East West Highway, in Bethesda. Free parking is available at the school. It is also accessible by the Metro Red Line, Bethesda stop. For more information about the book sale, please contact: Winnie Holbrooke, 301-509-8097

Running for Town Council? A "how-to" Resource

FOR THOSE CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR TOWN COUNCIL, here are two books that might be of interest. They are offered at a special rate through the web site of the former Mayor (from 1990 to 2002) of Westland, Michigan (www.bojibooks.com).

How to Stay in Public Office, the first book of its kind, is now available. If you are an incumbent officeholder and you want to increase your odds of winning your next reelection, go to bojibooks.com and order one of the first copies (also available at amazon.com).

ISBN#0-9668304-2-3 / 208 Pages / Paperback / \$22.95 plus \$3.00 S&H (U.S.)

How to Run for Local Office

This book takes you through the entire election process of running for any local public office. The book is being used by many colleges and universities including Harvard as well as thousands of candidates for local office (also available at amazon.com).

ISBN#0-9668304-0-7 / 128 pages / Paperback / \$19.95 plus \$3.00 S&H (U.S.)

On My Mind Maryland Municipal League by Councilmember Jeffrey Slavin

Our Town is a very active participant with the Maryland Municipal League (MML). Somerset's membership is invaluable to all of us.

For those not in the know, MML is the Association of virtually all of Maryland's 157 incorporated cities and towns. The League works to strengthen the role and capacity of municipal government through research, legislation, technical assistance, and the dissemination of information for its members. Its staff is highly respected in Annapolis and by its members. It is governed by a Board of Directors currently chaired by Salisbury Mayor Barrie Tilghman.



For a small place like Somerset, even with our balanced budget and ample reserves, the expertise the League provides would be extremely costly if we had to find it elsewhere or use additional staff. Whether it's information on traffic, budget, parliamentary procedures, building codes, employment practices, and much, much more---this guidance is essential to the Mayor, Council and staff in formulating policy and making decisions. In 2005, for example, we hope to be working on a new procurement policy, and this would be almost impossible without the assistance of MML.

The League is subdivided into chapters. The Montgomery branch meets about eight times a year to listen to speakers, network and compare notes. Somerset gets kudos for its high level of involvement. This is in large part thanks to the leadership of Mayor Behr, who has long recognized the importance of this affiliation. In addition, we are always represented at the annual convention in Ocean City where there are a number of highly useful seminars and at the fall conference, at different locations, where the League decides on its legislative priorities. In the recent past, one of the Town's recommendations, on the topic of establishing an "undergrounding" study commission, made it into the top three of the League's legislative efforts and it eventually became law.

One of the MML's three standing committees, Communications, which I am co-chairing this year, sponsors two important projects, which need our support. One is a statewide essay contest for all Maryland 4th graders on the topic of "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." and the other is the celebration of Municipal Government Month. Both of these will take place in the Spring and I will be urging all Town residents to take part. I will be providing more information in future Journals but in the meantime folks can go to the League's website at www.mdunicipal.org.

This month we attended the League's annual dinner for all of the state legislators from our county. Not only were we able to "lobby" them on MML's specific priorities, it also provided us an opportunity to talk about other State issues of concern to our residents like medical malpractice and slots. In this way, we can use our role as elected officials to advance issues that seem lower on the totem pole in Somerset to national and County concerns. But hopefully that will change as we continue to be active with this excellent organization.

Board President Tilghman has been very supportive of us and we look forward to continuing this alliance to assist with problem solving for Town residents.

On My Mind (II) Hiring Police for Traffic Enforcement

by Jeffrey Slavin, Council member

As someone who has been campaigning lately (and somewhat unsuccessfully) for people in Somerset to obey speed limits and stop signs, I can certainly appreciate the support for additional police enforcement, which is currently pending before the Council.

However, I am uneasy at the prospect of beginning a program that would probably result in many of neighbors and guests getting costly tickets and points on their driving records before we try less "radical" measures. One of the most appealing characteristics of our municipality is the small town flavor and sense of community, which is not as apparent in many of the unincorporated areas of the County. I am afraid that bringing in police officers at this time might alter this.

I would respectfully suggest that we first try lighted speed warning signs like they have on Bradley Lane--the ones that indicate what speed you are traveling--and a more intensive public education effort to address this serious problem. If those efforts fail, then I would probably favor taking the less pleasant action.

Let me know what you think.

First Brown Bag Lunch Of 2005 Set For Tuesday, February 15

by Jeffrey Slavin, Council member



The first of the quarterly "brown bag" lunches has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 15 from Noon to 1 PM at the Town Hall. The Mayor and I will welcome any and all Somerset residents wanting to talk about hot topics in Town, the County or the State, make a new friend or even tell us about their Valentine's Day. As usual, all attendees are invited to bring a sandwich or dish to share, and a drink. Ice, cups and plates are provided. If you have questions, call me at 301-654-6767 but rsvp's are not necessary, just come.

Speed Humps on Dorset Avenue - History and Review (Agenda Item 14)

By Judy Frankel, Council member

Agenda Item 14, scheduled for 9:50 p.m., at the February 7 Council meeting, is to discuss adding more and/or raising the height of Town speed humps. Here is some background for interested residents.

Discussion of using speed humps for traffic control goes back to the 1980's when a committee was appointed on December 22, 1987, to assess their use to control traffic. The committee consulted with experts from the County and Everett Carter, P.E. On October 3, 1988, the committee issued a report, and the Council approved installing the humps currently on Dorset Avenue. Carter was chosen to prepare detailed engineering plans for the humps for the purpose of slowing traffic and reducing the volume. In November, he recommended the placement of the existing 5 humps on Dorset Avenue. In December, the Council decided to proceed with the installation.

Another traffic committee was appointed December 7, 1992, to study traffic and parking problems as the affected public safety. After numerous consultations with traffic engineers, a report was prepared for the November Council meeting. The only reference to Dorset Avenue speed humps was to recommend all humps be a standard height and have the same slow rate of speed.

A survey of speed humps in Somerset was conducted by Joseph Cutro, P.E., and presented to the Council on January 2, 2001. He states that "...hump design and locations appear to be in good order." Since then, the question of humps has not been addressed until now.

I have reviewed all existing reports referring to the Dorset Avenue humps. I have spoken to Emil Wolanim of Montgomery County Traffic Engineering and Operations Section, and checked the County material referring to speed humps. In answer to my question about hump design, he dated the current practice is for humps to be no higher than 3 inches, which is what we have in Somerset. He also told me it would not be practical to make the existing humps higher.

On November 30, 2004, in answer to a request about stop signs and traffic in general, Ralph E. Schofer, PE., stated, "I do not recommend any additional speed humps on Dorset Avenue."

Radar Speed Test Results (Agenda Item 13)

The Mayor arranged to have a radar speed detection device installed for 3 weeks to monitor traffic each way on Dorset Avenue between Surrey Street and Little Falls Parkway this past December and into January.

In the continuing discussions at Council meetings on traffic enforcement, the purpose of this test was to record exactly how much speeding occurs on Dorset. Some time was spent watching the traffic flow over the humps and down the hill on Dorset in order to select a test location. The chosen spot seems to be where cars pick up speed after the first hump. The following chart shows results from the radar tapes for 2 of the 3 week test period. Results from the 3rd week will be available at the February 7 Council meeting. Chart on next page.

Town Web Site Heeds Request for Privacy (Agenda Item 17)

By Gayley Knight
Town Web Administrator

There has been some discussion this past month about what is and what is not published on the Town web site. Some residents have no idea that their names and articles written about them in the Town Journal, including official minutes and agenda items, are also posted on the Town web site.

For business and family reasons, there are some requests for this practice to stop.

This is purely a matter of whether our Town records are archived in full or are abbreviated for the comfort of our residents.

If you are interested in this privacy issue, attend the meeting on February 7.

All About People

by Councilmember Jeffrey Slavin

(Note: Last month there was a minor glitch and this column didn't get published---my apologies. Current items are from the past two months.)

Arts Patron "Extraordinaire" **CATHY BERNARD** (Greystone) received the prestigious Volunteer Award at the recent Montgomery County Executive's Ball. Cathy, an astute businesswoman, is a devoted advocate for theatre arts and arts education, particularly for young people. Serving on the boards of Imagination Stage, Round House Theatre and Ivymount School, she has applied her business background in order to improve the management and financial health of these groups. Her "hands on" approach has contributed greatly to their successes and we are proud to have her as a neighbor...Another multi-talented resident, Realtor **LOIS LEVITAN** (Falstone) has received recognition for her artistry, as two of her terra cotta sculptures were on exhibition in December at the Glenview Mansion in Rockville as part of a juried member show, and she received "honorable mention" for one. Lois had another sculpture on display at Strathmore Hall until the end of the year...**KEN TOLO and wife PATTY ELDER** (Uppingham) report that they are excited about the birth of their fourth grandchild--a boy, **CHARLES ANDREW PASSARO**, born to Ken's daughter **KRISTI** and her husband **PAUL** of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. By virtue of their careers, this Tolo-Elder "power couple" are both involved in national issues of importance and will be closely following the work of the leadership of the executive and legislative branches of government in 2005...Another set of proud parents are **PHYLLIS and LESLIE WIESENFELDER** (Cumberland) who inform me that their daughter **DEBORAH** (a Somerset, Westland and BCC grad) has completed the buyer's training program for Bloomingdale's in New York City and is now an assistant buyer for the China Department...Several of Somerset's smart legal eagles made Washingtonian Magazine's list of top lawyers in the metro region including **EARL SILBERT** (Essex) who made the Top 30(!) while personal injury experts **NAT FINKELSTEIN** (Surrey), a former Council member, **JOHN MESIROW** (Cumberland) and **PAT MALONE** (Essex), criminal defense master **MARK LONDON** (Cumberland), tax pro **SHELDON COHEN** (Trent), a former IRS Commissioner, and our own Senator (with real estate savvy) **BRIAN FROSH** (Grantham) were also mentioned in the article...John's wife, **JENNIFER MESIROW** tells me that she was particularly proud of her husband's listing since her beloved made the list coming from a small, two partner firm and most of the others on the list were "heavy hitters" from large places - kudos to all...**LUCKY MARMON** (Cumberland) sent an email from Singapore where she and **BILL** are on a long term assignment and have just returned from tsunami-free holidays in Bali with their daughters. While doing well and liking life there, they are hearing people recount personal stories of survival and loss. Lucy says that one of her Scandanavian friends rode the waves out in deep water off of Phuket, which they could feel pass under them and then explode on the shores five kilometers away. A Dutch friend lost a 16-month old on the beach in Sri Lanka. She states that while there is a cloud over the New Year, it is pierced by the outpouring of

funds and sympathy and hopes that all Somerset residents will contribute to relief funds...Several Somerset teens made the top honor roll at B-CC High School last month, including 9th graders **ZACHARY GILLIS** (Essex), son of **JAMES GILLIS and ALISON HOOKER** and **THOMAS SWARTZ** (Dorset), son of **BRUCE SWARTZ AND DEBORAH GOODINGS**, 10th grader **REBECCA COHEN** (Falstone), daughter of **TOM and MARIE COHEN** and senior **MARY SWARTZ** (Dorset), sister of Thomas...Hope everyone in Town is starting off the year productively and will each pledge to send at least one piece of news to me during the next twelve months.

Friends of Norwood Park Looks to Neighbors to Save the Park

Friends of Norwood Park needs volunteers and donations to save the eastern (lower) half of the playground when the County renovates the upper playground this spring. The County has a short window of time to accomplish the playground renovations as ribbon cutting is planned in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the BCC Rotary, a major benefactor of the renovation project. FONP is raising funds during this tight timeframe to insure the continued existence of that playground. The County announced that once the equipment on the lower playground is deemed unsafe, the playground will be eliminated unless funds are available to renovate it.

If you are interested in learning more about FONP or any aspect of the playground equipment renovation, please contact Adele Medina O'Dowd (202-255-0728 or adele@chevychasewest.org).

Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

TAX TIME AGAIN; REMEMBER: 'TOWN OF SOMERSET'

Somerset's largest source of revenue is a portion of the State income tax paid by Town residents. Unfortunately, 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." A sample of the form appears below. Please don't forget to complete this section when filing your taxes.

FORM **502** MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN
RESIDENT
OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2004, ENDING



SOCIAL SECURITY #		SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY #	
Your First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Spouse's First Name	Initial	Last Name	
PRESENT ADDRESS (No. and street)			
City or Town	State	Zip Code	
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you were employed on the last day of the tax period (See Instructions)	Maryland county	City, town or taxing area TOWN OF SOMERSET	

2005 TENNIS ID CARDS



Tennis ID cards for 2005 are available from Tom at the Town Hall office. Fees are still only \$5 per family for the annual card. Please make your checks out to "Town of Somerset."

BATTING CAGE ANNUAL FEES

Batting cage users are reminded that their annual fees of \$5 for 2005 are due for continued use of the equipment. Checks should be made out to "Town of Somerset."



BROADCAST E-MAILS BOUNCE BACK TO TOWN OFFICE

When sending Town broadcast e-mails we receive several returns, sometimes from full accounts, but more often from bad addresses. In checking these, we have discovered residents who have changed their e-mail addresses and not informed us. Our policy is to delete these bad addresses.

Please remember to notify the Town Hall if you change e-mail addresses so you will continue to receive these informational and emergency e-mails.

PERMITS GRANTED

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

Curbs: Tom Eldridge, 5605 Warwick Place, to widen his driveway apron.

Legislation

At the January 3 meeting, the Council amended Section 11-303(c) of the Town Code to equalize fines for all noise violations at \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for each repeat offense.

Council Activity

At the January 3 meeting, the Town Council:



1. Heard a presentation by Chief Ned Sherburne of the B-CC Rescue Squad regarding the County Executive's proposal to charge residents \$350 for each ambulance call.
2. Authorized payment of \$100 annual dues to the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights for 2005, subject to receipt of their bill.
3. Heard a report from Caroline Cooper on the progress of the Town Hall

Renovation Committee. The committee is planning for a community meeting, probably in mid March, and is working on a question-and-answer publication to be sent to residents prior to that meeting.

4. Approved a permits for Alan Dock, 4801 Falstone Avenue, to add a family room to the rear of his house, enclose the two-car carport and remodel to make a one-car garage, add a second floor to the Surrey side of the house and to remove three trees, subject to receipt of a County application and permit, Town fees and deposit, and name and Maryland license number of their arborist.

5. Confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Phyllis Wiesenfelder as chair of the Special Events Committee.

6. Received the 2004 swimming pool financial report.

7. Discussed the possibility of hiring police to enforce Town traffic signs and speeding.

8. Approved an increase in the Town Attorney's rate from \$190 to \$215 an hour.

9. Confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Michelle Edson to the Swimming Pool Committee for the remainder of Bridget Cowie's term (September 2006).

Obituary

Henry Fischer Dies at 93

Lawyer and publisher Henry G. Fischer, who lived in Somerset for over half a century, died of congestive heart failure January 3 at the Georgetown, a retirement residence in the District. From 1951 until 1981 he resided on Essex Avenue, and from 1981 until recently he lived most of the time on Cumberland Avenue.

Born in Philadelphia, Henry graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and from Harvard Law School. His first job was at the Securities and Exchange Commission, where his office mate was fellow lawyer James A. Pike, later to become Episcopal bishop of California. The two men started Pike & Fischer, which published Federal Rules Service to help explain and interpret new regulations.

During World War II, Henry served in the Army Signal Corps, where he developed an interest in radio and television broadcasting. After the war, he continued the publishing house and founded a law firm that worked in communications law. For 16 years he taught a graduate seminar on federal practice at the Catholic University Law School.

Henry was a co-founder and president of Temple Sinai and an active member of the Cosmos Club and Woodmont Country Club, where he played golf until age 92.

His son, Peter, died in 2001. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Dorothy, who lives in Washington, but retains the Cumberland Avenue house; his daughter, Beth-Ann Gentile of D.C.; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2005 - 7:30 P.M.

[*Starred items have an accompanying article/s in this Journal.]

1. Approval of minutes of January 3 regular meeting – 7:30.
2. Discussion of financial report – 7:35.
- *3. Report by Caroline Cooper, chair, Town Hall Renovation Committee – 7:40.
4. Report by Josh Bobeck on progress of Pool House Survey Committee – 7:50.
5. Fact finding hearing and action on permit applications by Marc Fleisher, 4904 Essex Avenue, to install a pool and pergola in the back yard and to remove four trees – 8:00.
6. Action on Town position re Zoning Text Amendment 03-27, modifying rules on height of houses in the R-60 zone (as in Somerset) – 8:20.
7. Fact finding hearing and action on permit application by Cathedral Investments (Marc Reshefsky), 5403 Trent Street, to demolish the existing structure and build a two-story house with attic and attached two-car garage – 8:30.
8. Fact finding hearing and action on building permit application by Dan and Betty Clemmer, 5527 Trent Street, to add a porch and room to the front of their house – 8:45.
9. Fact finding hearing and action on building permit application by James Mahoney, 4905 Cumberland Avenue, to add a one-story addition to the rear of his house, add two bay windows to the front, change the front entry and replace the driveway – 8:55.
10. Mayor's report – 9:05.
11. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 9:15.
12. Suggestions and questions from residents – 9:25.
- *13. Discussion of hiring police to enforce speed limit and STOP and NO PARKING signs in Town – 9:35.
- *14. Discussion of adding more and/or raising the height of the Town speed humps – 9:55.
15. Introduction of amendment to Town Code to increase fines for removal of trees without a permit – 10:15.
16. Action on Town web site disclaimer drafted by Town Attorney – 10:25.
17. Discussion of suggestion that names of residents not appear in Town web site – 10:30.
18. New business – 10:45.

	2002			2003			2004		
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>
MEMBERSHIP	\$0	359	\$0	\$0	369	\$0	\$0	367	\$0
GUEST CARDS (5 Swims)	\$10	1,099	\$10,990	\$10	693	\$6,930	\$10	694	\$6,940
GUEST CARDS (Week Pass)	\$5	56	\$280	\$5	36	\$180	\$5	43	\$215
Subtotal - Guests			\$11,270			\$7,110			\$7,155
Rental Fees						\$500			
MISCELLANEOUS			\$4			\$1			\$8
TOTAL INCOME			\$11,274			\$7,611			\$7,163
	2002			2003			2004		
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>									
OPERATING COSTS									
Management Contract			\$55,300			\$56,959			\$60,719
Other: Chem/Supplies		\$8,874			\$9,321			\$11,699	
Gas/Elect/Phone		\$8,269			\$11,018			\$9,983	
Water/Sewer		\$2,645			\$2,108			\$8,726	
Admin/Security		\$5,920			\$9,568			\$5,158	
Maint/Misc		\$11,112			\$7,706			\$20,139	
Subtotal-Other			\$36,820			\$39,721			\$55,705
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS			\$92,120			\$96,680			\$116,424
OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)			(\$80,846)			(\$89,069)			(\$109,261)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS			\$10,953*a			\$9,786*b			\$15,832*c
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$103,073			\$106,471			\$132,256
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)			(\$91,799)			(\$98,860)			(\$125,093)
TOTAL INCOME AS % OF:									
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS			12%			8%			6%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			11%			7%			5%
Capital Improvements			*a			*b			*c

2002 – \$8,750 – Futura Stone Floor, \$630 – Tent Lighting, \$640 – Speaker/Stand/Cover, \$313 – Sound Meter, \$390 – Wireless Microphone, \$230 – Defibrillator Wall Case.

2003 – \$6,642 – Office Remodeling, \$644 – Replace/Rehung Back Door, \$2,500 – Upper Parking Lot Light.

2004 – \$1,835 – Jeep, \$4,412 – Grill/Trash Cans/Refrigerator/Ping Pong Table/Deck Furniture, \$6,685 – Water Heater, \$2,900 – Basketball Hoop.

SERVICES

PIANO & FLUTE lessons
(with THEORY) Wash. Post
music critic. CBS
RECORDINGS writer.
FACULTY: G.W.U.,
MARYLAND U., SIDWELL.
Music Degrees: A.B. Harvard;
M.A. Columbia; Ph.D.
Maryland. Studied: PEABODY
CONSERVATORY &
BERLIN (GERMANY). 30
years teaching all ages, levels.
Call Cecelia Porter,
301-654-2165.

HOME REPAIR
CONTRACTOR. We have
been very pleased with
contractor - carpentry, dry wall,
cabinet repair, painting, roof
repair. Call us for a reference.
Howard Simkowitz or
Katherine Lacy, 301-656-5637.

MY HOUSEKEEPER has a
half-day on Mondays and
would like to work for another
family in town. If interested,
please call Nancy at 301-656-
7232.

SERVICES

ACADEMIC TUTOR. M.A. in
Biology and Special Ed.
Fifteen-years experience in
remediation, enrichment and
work with learning disabled.
Math through Algebra; study
and
organizational skills; French;
test preparation: SSAT, PSAT,
SAT. Call Sheryl Gilbert, 301-
656-1753.

HEBREW TUTOR (native
speaker) with more than 20
years experience teaching
reading and conversation to
children, bar/bat mitzvah and
adults. Excellent refer-ences.
Will teach at your house or
mine. Call Varda Daniels at
301-986-4836.

FOR SALE

1995 VOLVO 850 maroon
sedan. 67,000 miles. Perfect
condition. \$5,000. Call 301-
652-5958.

FOR SALE

BRAND NEW, NEVER-USED
DELL INSPIRON 8600 HIGH
PERFOR-MANCE
NOTEBOOK computer: Intel
Pentium M Processor 725
(1.60A GHz), beautiful 15.4"
superior WSXGA screen, 512
MB RAM, 40 GB hard drive,
wireless networking card
802.11 b/g, CD/DVD drive,
Windows XP. Includes never-
used Dell 720 color printer.
Call Julie Abrams, 301-986-
8889, or jabrams@prodigy.net

MISCELLANEOUS

TWO BEAUTIFUL, GENTLE
ONE-YEAR-OLD CATS need
a good home. Brother and
sister. He is part Siamese; she is
Calico. Call Judy Baldinger at
301-657-4613.

FEMALE TEENAGER (17)
from Germany is looking for a
host family in August 2005 for
three to four weeks. She wants
to improve her English and will
be happy to help in the family
or watch the kids. Call Cathleen
Leipold at 301-657-1946.

Ads are printed as a courtesy to Town residents. The Town makes no representations as to quality, safety or otherwise regarding the goods and services advertised. Readers should make their own inquiries. TO PLACE AN AD, submit typed or neatly printed copy to the Clerk-Treasurer. \$1 for 25 words or less; \$2 for 26-50 words. Check or exact change. MUST INCLUDE A SOMERSET PHONE NUMBER.