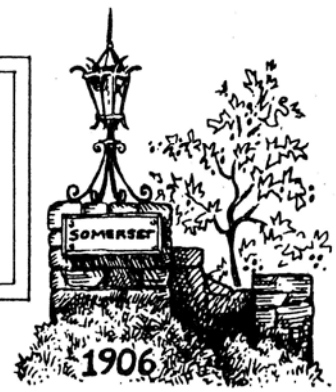




# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 50, No.1

July 22, 2005

### *In this Issue:*

Mayor's Den .....	1-3
Monthly Water Main and Sewer Report .....	3-4
Calendar .....	4
Pool Survey Analysis .....	4-6
Town Lighting Survey Coming Soon .....	6
Resident's Letter .....	6
Town Launches: Somerset Community	
Safety Campaign .....	7
Town Hall Tidbits .....	7
Permits Granted .....	8
Council Activity .....	8-9
Two Dead Town Parkland Trees to Be Removed .....	9
News from the Swim Team .....	9-10
Committee News	
Swimming Pool Committee .....	10
Parks & Natural Resources .....	11
History Centennial sub-Committee .....	11
Water Aerobics Anyone? .....	11
Jukebox Jamboree Success .....	11
Norwood Park Update .....	12
On My Mind .....	12
County News .....	12-13
All About People .....	13-14
Classifieds .....	15
Agenda .....	16
School Year Calendar .....	Pull Out
Odd Job Helper .....	Pull Out
Safety Brochure .....	Pull Out

## Mayor's Den

by Walter J. Behr

### Pool Closing During Thunderstorms

We've had a large number of pool closings in recent days because of bad weather, and a number of disappointed swimmers have wondered if the pool manager was overreacting. If thunder can be heard, should the pool be closed even if there is no lightning in sight? National Weather Service and the Montgomery County Health Department say "yes". A warning on the Weather Service Web site advises: "Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. That's about the distance you can hear thunder ...**IF YOU CAN HEAR THUNDER, YOU ARE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE. SEEK SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**"

There have also been questions about why the pool is not reopened promptly after the thunder stops. The Weather Service advise is: "Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!"

For more information about lightning safety, check out the Weather Service Web site at [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov) or write:

NOAA, National Weather Service, Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

### Interested in serving on the Swimming Pool Committee?

Applications are invited for four upcoming vacancies on the Swimming Pool Committee. If you would like to be considered, please submit a brief statement about your interest and qualifications to the Town Hall by **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 29.**

Town Council confirmation of the appointments is scheduled for the August 1 meeting at 7:50 p.m. Confirmation of the committee chair for next year will also be acted upon by the Council at the same time.

---

Terms of committee members are three years. If reappointed, they may serve a second term of the same length. Three of the four members whose terms are expiring are eligible for reappointment.

The Town Code specifies that the committee should consist of 12 members, including a Council member and a swim team representative. There is no term limit for the latter two positions. The Code also says that an effort should be made to include:

- Younger and older residents
- Individuals with and without children at home
- Residents from various parts of Town
- Longtime residents and newcomers
- Males and females.

Incumbents whose terms do not expire this September are: Josh Bobeck, Warwick, Michelle Edson, Cumberland, Richard Furcolo, Grantham, Richard Kessler, Cumberland (Council), Laura Levine, Grantham, Laura Long, Essex Sarah Morse, Dorset (swim team). Bess Pickar, Dorset

Incumbents whose terms expire this September who are eligible for another term are: Lorrie Barse, Cumberland, Chris Lane, Uppingham, Stanley Weiss, Essex

Between April and September the committee is required to meet at least once a month.

## Get Ready for School Reopening

The new \$12 million Somerset Elementary School will open on August 29 and drivers are reminded to be extra-cautious from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. and 3:00 to 3:30 p.m., when children will be going to and coming from school.

The only change from the draft traffic management plan published in last month's *Town Journal* (also available at [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)) is that school buses coming down Wisconsin Avenue will generally turn right on Dorset instead of Cumberland. This will reduce the number of turns from four to two between Wisconsin and the school.

The recommended place to drop off students, whether driving from east or west, is Dorset Avenue at Warwick, where an adult Police Department crossing guard will be on duty. Parents are discouraged from driving up Warwick unless there is a special reason such as dropping off a handicapped student.

Depositing children on Deal Place is possible but not encouraged. Although, there is a sidewalk from Deal to the schoolhouse, there will not be a staff member present to assist the children. Cars will not be permitted to enter the driveway into the staff parking lot.

As in the past, traffic will be one way north in the school block of Warwick Place and one way west on Cumberland Avenue from Warwick to Surrey between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. and also 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. The Warwick Lane alley between Drummond and Cumberland will be closed when children are coming to and departing from school, as it was previously.

## Town Revenue Up 20 Percent

Unaudited Town income for Fiscal Year 2005 is up 20 percent from last year's audited income, \$902,000 in '05 vs. \$750,000 in '04. Fiscal year 2005 ended on June 30.

The increase is attributable in large part to a 29 percent jump in the portion of Maryland income tax paid by Somerset residents that is rebated by the Comptroller to the Town. We received \$617,000 from this source in '05, a bit over two-thirds of our total income.

Expenses for the just-ended fiscal year were up 7 percent from FY-04. The unaudited figure for '05 is \$759,000, up from \$713,000 in '04.

Perhaps the most significant figure (again, unaudited) is Somerset's combined fund balance, or surplus, which was \$1.75 million as of June 30. This represents an increase of 9 percent from the fund balance a year earlier.

For those interested in more detail, both the audit report for last year and the June 30, 2005 financial statements are available at the Town Hall.

## Everything but Fireworks

A record crowd celebrated Independence Day at the Town Hall despite the fact that many Somerset families had taken advantage of the three-day weekend by leaving for the beach or elsewhere.

On behalf of all those who enjoyed the extravaganza, I would like to thank the following residents for their contributions of time and talent:

- **Howard Byron** for organizing the ninth classic car show featuring 10 cars, the oldest a 1929 Ford Model A roadster
- **Stephanie and David Lynn and Franny Peale**, punch, cupcakes and ice cream sandwiches
- **Grace Morgan, Abby Nolan and Gina Pack**, imaginative decorations
- **Alan Proctor**, sound system that worked
- **Bob Bookman and Frank Loversky**, games, including two messy favorites, whipped cream eating and raw egg toss
- **Jacob Heller, Miles Batson and Ethan Benjamin**, Boy Scout color guard
- Warrant Officer **Valerie Wiggins** of the Maryland National Guard, who traveled from Edgewood to sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America"
- **Sarah Morse** for preparing certificates presented to swim team record breakers
- **Lou Balodemas** for assembling the display of the new Somerset School
- **Kerri Shaffer** and staff for organizing fun and games at the swimming pool
- **Ruth Ephraim** for designing the imaginative flyer
- **Tom Carter** for distributing t-shirts and engraved pens to graduates and champion swimmers
- **Enrique Cabrera, Angel Alba and Tomas Villanueva** for erecting the big Town tent and cleaning up.

I'm sorry if you missed it all, but there's always next year.

## Slavin Twice Honored by MML

Congratulations to Council member Jeffrey Slavin for being twice honored by the Maryland Municipal League!

At the annual convention in Ocean City in late June, he was elected to the MML Board of Directors, and more recently he was appointed to chair the League's Communications Committee. Jeffrey is the first Somerset official to serve the State MML in a leadership position.

Editor's note: June also saw Jeffrey celebrate half a century! Congratulations and happy birthday.

## Callahan Pipeline Monthly Water Main and Sewer Report

By Jason Hipkins, Director of Operations, Callahan Pipeline Inc.



Installation of the water main on Warwick Place is complete and work is now 75 percent complete on Essex Avenue. In the latter part of July we will move back to Warwick Place to test the water main and complete house connections from the intersection of Dorset Avenue and up to Cumberland Avenue. The plan is to have this work completed before the start of the new school year.

Installing the water main is just part of the process. After that, each house must be hooked up to the new water main with new one-inch copper pipe. But the new water main must be tested for pressure before individual houses are hooked up.

Paving patches will be checked by our crew who will temporarily fix any rough areas. And in spring 2006 a paving company will repair the patches with permanent pavement.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to e-mail at [jason@callahanpipeline.com](mailto:jason@callahanpipeline.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday, September 11 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Welcoming Party**

Meet new residents at the Somerset Pool  
Light refreshments – entertainment for children  
– everyone invited

Contact Bonnie Lewin (301) 907-4772 for  
further information

**Calendar**

- Friday, July 29** – Pool Committee application deadline
- Sunday, July 31** – Deadling for buying Norwood Park bricks
- Monday, August 1** – Town Council Meeting
- Thursday, August 11** – Journal deadline, Ads
- Friday, August 19** – Journal deadline, Copy
- Monday, August 22** – MVA mobile office at Friendship Heights
- Sunday, September 11** – New neighbor Welcoming Party

**Pool Survey Committee Presents its Results**

by Josh Bobeck, Chair Pool Survey Committee

The Pool Survey Committee presented its analysis at the July meeting of the Town Council. The full survey is available on the Town website at [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) and an executive summary is reproduced here. The Committee wants to acknowledge and thank Ann Bisconti Dyke for her firm’s help with the project.

All Town of Somerset residents age 18 and older were surveyed in May 2005 to gain their opinions about options for the Town’s pool facilities. The response to this survey was excellent. A total of 333 residents responded in time to have their views heard and counted. The survey confirmed that residents feel very strongly about changes to the pool, and so it is valuable to quantify where the weight of opinion falls. Because of sharp differences between groups of residents, it will be important to find a comfortable balance. That balance appears to be in taking a modest approach that includes specific changes that are acceptable, appealing, and affordable.

**Background**

The Town Council formed a Pool House Survey Committee to seek residents’ views. The Pool Survey Committee prepared a mail survey questionnaire to capture opinions regarding a wide range of potential changes to the pool.

Two copies of the questionnaire were mailed to every household in Somerset, with a cover letter saying, “**All** Somerset residents 18 and older are urged to complete a questionnaire—this is not limited to one per household.”

Although the announced cut-off date was May 20, questionnaires were counted if they were received by May 31, because questionnaires were still flowing in after the cut-off date.

**Majorities support these indoor changes:**

%

- Office and storage space for the swim team **68**
- Administrative office space for pool staff (increase space) **54**
- Expanded/upgraded locker rooms **53**
- Multi-purpose indoor recreation room **50**

**Majorities support these outdoor changes:**

---

• Covered porch for front of pool house (for gathering in inclement weather)	<b>66</b>
• Permanent covered pavilion	<b>63</b>
• Picnic tables	<b>54</b>
• Permanent barbecue facility	<b>52</b>
• Sand box/play area for young children	<b>50</b>

**Majorities support these changes to pool operations:**

• Increased length of season in spring and fall	<b>54</b>
• Increased hours pool is open	<b>51</b>

**Most strongly supported but also divisive proposal:** multi-purpose indoor recreation room (card/board games, quiet reading, gathering space/movie nights/games (ping-pong, board games, parties)—31% strongly support, 35% strongly oppose. Main concerns to be addressed in case this proposal is developed are cost, regulations, and staffing requirements. The challenge would be how to provide activity space without trying to create a “country club.”

**Least popular items, with 60% or more opposed:** steam room, sauna, snack bar with hot food, kitchen, full basketball court, and hot tub. Nearly 60% also oppose year-round swimming, placing a bubble over the pool, creating an indoor lap lane, and providing wireless Internet access.

**A majority prefers modest changes over major renovations.** The level of support or opposition was measured for three approaches, each of which included examples of proposed changes:

- 60% support making modest changes to the pool house structure.
- 42% support extensively renovating or replacing the pool house
- 32% support winterizing the pool facility.

The Council should not assume that all examples of “modest changes” given on the questionnaire are approved as a bundle. Some “modest changes” listed, such as a kitchenette, are opposed.

**A majority prefers some renovation to just maintaining the pool.** When asked to indicate their overall personal opinion:

- 41% prefer modest renovations to the existing pool facilities that do not involve demolition of the existing structure or facilities.
- 31% prefer to rebuild the pool house to accommodate additional recreational amenities.
- 22% believe that the facilities are fine the way they are, and the Town of Somerset should just spend money to maintain them.

**A great gulf divides residents depending on life stage and pool use.** The more children people have at home and the more the family uses the pool, the more they support major changes; 53% of those with 5+ people in the household and with children ages 5-12 opted for rebuilding the pool house and only 5% chose maintenance. Among residents in one-person households, not one respondent chose the rebuilding option, and most (55%) chose maintenance.

**No dollar figure stands out as the amount that residents feel should be invested in pool infrastructure and in operations.** One-fourth of residents were *not sure* how much should be spent for capital construction, and 30% were *not sure* how much should be spent for operational costs. Many residents were frustrated by these questions; they felt that there was no basis for them, without a clearly defined project.

**Residents support investment in the pool/pool house.** Of five options for investment of the \$1.6 million that the Town has in the bank, the pool/pool house was given top priority.

	% Ranked First	% Ranked First or Second
Pool/pool house	38	53
Undergrounding	23	45
Town Hall renovation	12	34
Tax cut/tax rebate	13	25
Repaving Streets	9	29

## Town Lighting Survey

by Howard Byron

Have you seen the street lighting demonstration on Trent Street? Six new lights (starting at Falstone and going down Trent) use high pressure sodium bulbs and flat lenses in the light housings. The overall effect is a 30 percent reduction in electricity use due to the newer bulb technology, and reduced light directed at houses but increased light on streets and sidewalks due to the flat lenses.

At the request of the Council we have put together a survey, which will be sent to all Somerset homes with the August Town Journal, asking residents for their opinions of the new lights. We will ask all residents to answer two questions, and provide a longer questionnaire for those who want to go into greater detail. We plan to summarize the questionnaire results in September in preparation for a Council vote for action in October. So, if you haven't seen the new lights, please take a walk by one evening and compare them to the old lights on the same block in preparation for the coming survey.

More details will follow in the August Town Journal.

## Resident's Letters – Town Street Lights

The topic of "upgrading" Town street lights -- rejected by the Council, just a few months ago -- has been raised again, this time in the form of a survey offered by the proponents of changing the lights.

This bad idea stands a good chance of being implemented because a few people keep pushing it while the overwhelming majority remains silent.

- I think our streetlights are bright enough although there may be a few places where adjustments should be made.
- I don't like the orange color produced by the recommended new lights. Do you? To see difference drive down Dorset Avenue in Somerset, at night, and observe the color of the lights. Then continue across Dorset into Kenwood and notice the difference.
- The energy efficiency argument is misleading – the initiative is being pushed to increase the amount of artificial illumination.
- Whatever the justification cited for replacing the lights, it's not worth \$25,000 or more. I would oppose the change even if it cost us nothing. Paying to make our Town less beautiful makes a bad idea even worse!

Please express your opposition on the survey. You don't need to fill out a detailed set of questions. Simply find the place to check "no thanks" on the survey form and return it.

Alan Proctor (Cumberland Avenue)

## Town Launches its Somerset Community Safety Campaign

By Council members Tom Eldridge, Lesley Simmons and Jeffrey Slavin

Residents have been complaining for some time about the dangers of speeding and lack of adherence to STOP signs in Town. As a result, the Council is launching a Somerset Community Safety Campaign (SCSC) to help promote safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers alike. A brochure reminding us all of our responsibilities is enclosed with this issue of the Town Journal and while much of the information may seem common sense, we hope it is a helpful reminder to all residents, and particularly new drivers and young people who cycle and walk around Town.

Another aspect of the SCSC is the four month trial of police enforcement of speed and stop sign laws in Somerset, which was approved by the Council at its June meeting. The goal is to encourage drivers to comply with our basic traffic regulations and make our Town a safer place for all. We expect the trial to begin in about a month and notice of the start date will be given in the Town Journal. We will also send a press release to the local newspaper so that drivers who use Somerset streets but do not live in Town are aware of the SCSC. Our aim is not to collect money by assessing fines from violators and Somerset will not receive any funds from the enforcement.

Look for more information on this topic in the coming months, and please drive safely.

## *Town Hall Tidbits*

By Tom Carter

### *Office Schedule in August*

Tom will be away the week of August 15 through 19. Corrie Morsey may be in the office on August 18 and 19. Please call first to be sure she will be in (301) 657-3211.

### *Town Trees and Grounds*

Don't forget to help us by watering the Town trees in your yards when no rain has fallen in several days.

### *Sidewalk Cleaning*

Residents are reminded that they are responsible for keeping their sidewalks clear of debris, hedges and other plantings.

Section 4-103 of the Town Code says that owners and occupants of houses shall:

- “(a) maintain the land between their property and the street curb in good and orderly condition; and,
- “(b) clean the Town sidewalk in front, and on the side, of their property and keep the sidewalk free from overhanging shrubbery.”

### *MVA Mobile Office*

The MVA's mobile office will be in Friendship Heights on Monday, August 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## *PERMITS GRANTED*

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

Trees: Joseph and Janet McGhee, 5407 Surrey Street, to remove a dying redwood in their front yard.

Lou and Stacie Christopher, 4915 Cumberland Avenue, to remove a crab apple tree in their back yard that restricted their children's play space.

Sol Schildhause, 4903 Falstone Avenue, to remove a magnolia in his front yard whose roots are damaging the house.

Fences/Walls: Cliff and Tammy Mendelson, 4807 Cumberland Avenue, to build an 18"-20" stone wall off their back porch.

## Council Activity

At the July 5 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Approved the following fund transfers for FY-05:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$8,000	GF Contingency	GF Pool
\$20,000	CPF Town Hall/Garage	GF Legal
\$8,000	GF Contingency	GF Civic Affairs
\$9,000	CPF Contingency	CPF Trees & Grounds



2. Authorized payment of (1) annual dues of \$2,323.95 to Maryland Municipal League for FY-06 and (2) annual premium of \$6,520.00 to Montgomery County Self-Insurance Program.

3. Took no action on retaining a stream engineer/design firm to perform a survey of Little Falls Branch. (Vote: Simmons and Slavin for; Frankel and Kessler opposed. The Mayor cast his tie-breaking vote as opposed. Motion failed 2-3.)

4. Postponed action on retaining an engineer to study construction limitations in area of Town swimming pool and bathhouse pending comparison of the bids received.

5. Approved a building permit for Leizer Goldsmith and Sharon Bray, 4520 Dorset Avenue, to add a second story, a two-story addition to the rear and handicapped ramps to the front and west side, and to remove four trees, subject to receipt of a County permit; receipt of the Town building permit fee, building deposit, tree replacement deposit and curb deposit and fee; a parking plan; a curb permit application to be approved by the Mayor; a photo of the house; a review and approval of the ramp location by the Mayor; and submission of a landscape plan with the size and species of replacement trees to the Town Council at the August meeting.

6. Approved the draft street lighting survey. (Vote: Frankel, Simmons and Slavin for; Kessler opposed. Motion passed 3-1.)

7. Heard the final report from Josh Bobeck, chair of the Pool Bathhouse Survey Committee, on the pool house survey.

8. Authorized painting a crosswalk through the pool upper parking lot and putting in stepping-stones along the south side as a temporary measure, while investigating a raised walkway through the lot and a porous path in the fall, per the recommendation of the Swimming Pool Committee.

9. Heard an update on the status of the contract with Chevy Chase Village regarding police enforcement.

10. Heard a report by Alan Proctor on the status of the engineer's report on undergrounding Town wires and cables.

11. Recommended approval to the Historic Preservation Commission on a landscape plan submitted by Cliff and Tammy Mendelson, 4807 Cumberland Avenue.

12. Approved the Swimming Pool Committee's recommendation to change the Pool Rules regarding guest cards for child care providers.



13. Decided not to accept the offer of WSSC to pay Somerset \$196,241 in lieu of milling and paving the undisturbed portions of Town streets when they pave portions of certain streets excavated for new water and sewer lines. (Vote: Frankel, Kessler and Simmons for; Slavin opposed. Motion passed 3-1.)

14. Approved modification of the Town Web site for purpose of increasing residents' privacy by excluding Internet searches at a cost of \$150.

15. Approved the recommendation of Davey Tree to remove one dying and two dead Town trees.

## Two Dead Town Parkland Trees to Be Removed

On the August meeting Town Council agenda, permission to remove two dead parkland trees will be requested. Both trees are located in the area of the swimming pool parking lot. One is a Heritage river birch, #983. The second tree, which is unnumbered and whose species is unknown, is near #983.

## News from the Swim Team

by Sarah Morse

Fast, fast and faster. Somerset swimmers flew down the lanes this year, putting 10 new team records on the board. A record four swimmers went to the prestigious *Coaches Long Course* meet and Zoe Loversky won in girls 9-10 backstroke. However, all this speed didn't translate into dual meet wins and Somerset ended the season with a 2-3 win-loss record.



Competing in the I division, five divisions higher than we were just 5 years ago (when we were M Division Champions) Somerset swimmers faced the toughest competition they have seen in years. A disappointing loss to old opponent Bannockburn started the season. Week two was a home pool win over Norbeck Hills, with over 60 personal best ribbons awarded. Another old friend, Inverness Forest defeated us in week three and Stonegate proved to be a difficult opponent in week four. The season ended on an up note with an easy win against Chevy Chase Rec.

Relay carnival finished with Somerset just two points out of a three-way tie for third place. Two of our teams - boys 8 and under 100 M medley and the mixed 8 and under 100 M free-style will go on to the *All Star Relays*. Our final standing in the division will be determined by our place in the Division Championship on July 23.

The division standing, however, doesn't really tell the whole story of how the team performed. Besides providing swimming opportunities, the team has an important function in building community and getting kids of all ages out of their homes to have fun. And have fun they did! Over 175 team members and their families gathered at the Mondale/Patton house for the 35th annual spaghetti dinner and capture the flag game. Teams were quickly formed and it was just wonderful to see the little guys playing with the teenagers.

Next came *All-Day-with-the-Swim-team*, the annual swim workshop with guest coach Joe Flaherty, followed by breakfast and laser tag. Sixty kids turned out for this day of fun. T-shirt making, the annual sugar cereal binge - breakfast with the coaches, and the always popular spend the night at the pool party (Lock-in) rounded out the social season.

Team spirit was particularly visible this year, especially as Somerset hosted the Division *Relay carnival*. (A big thank-you to all the Somerset residents for putting up with so many parked cars.) Somerset relay swimmers were greeted in the morning by signs on their doors from the ever-mysterious "Captain Purple". At the meet, the competition had to gaze on huge *Somerset Spirit* signs. Even the roof of the pool house was covered with a big SO (our division name).

Other signs of team spirit were evident in the giant dolphins that the team made and signs around the pool house.

Five Wednesday night meets and the *Mini Meet* were important parts of the season. At the Wednesday night meets, we swim neighboring pools without any concern for division standing or win/loss records. Two of these meets were rained out, but great fun was had at the other three and kids swam impressively with huge time drops. One swimmer

that sticks in my mind dropped 23 seconds! The *Mini Meet*, the annual competition for the developmental team, is the highlight of the developmental team season. Swimmers compete in half-length kick board, half-length free and full length free. For some of the swimmers it is the first time they have made it across the deep end, so it is a thrilling meet for parents, swimmers and coaches alike.

Win or loss, the measure of success to me is that did we do our best and did we have fun doing it? We are division champions by this standard!

# Committee News

## Swimming Pool Committee

by Josh Bobeck, Chair

### Pool Rules on Babysitters revised

At its July meeting the Town Council approved a Pool Committee recommendation that closes a gap in the Pool Rules regarding babysitters who accompany residents' children to the pool. The new rules allow residents to authorize their babysitter to take residents' children to the pool when the resident is unable to obtain a guest card for the babysitter because the Town Hall is closed. For example if you hire a sitter on a Saturday night and don't already have guest card for that sitter, your sitter can take your children to the pool that day provided you give a note to the pool manager and the sitter shows proper identification at the pool desk. Please check out the Pool Rules on the Town website [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) for further information regarding the pool guest policy.

### Pool Temperature

Some readers may know that there has been a lot of concern expressed over the temperature of the Town pool. The pool heater thermostat is set at 80 degrees for most of the year. This means that when the water temperature falls below 80 degrees the heaters will turn on until the temperature reaches 80 again, at which point the heaters turn off. When we have very hot conditions, as we have had for most of July, the heaters are on very little of the time as the ambient air temperature keep the water above 80 degrees.

While lower temperatures are typically preferred by lap swimmers, some recreational swimmers prefer warmer water temperature. The Pool Committee has tried to balance these preferences and is regulating the minimum pool temperature to accommodate the broad needs of the community. Its decision to set the temperature on 80 degrees, as in years past, is also in line with the National Spa and Pool Institute and the American Red Cross, which recommends temperatures be set between 78-82 degrees.

About a week after Labor Day the air will likely cool a little and we will then raise the thermostat setting to 82 degrees until the end of pool season. If you have any questions or comments about the pool temperature, please direct them to me at (301) 961-9699 or any member of the committee.

## Parks and Natural Resources Committee

by Corrie Morsey, Chair

### Status on Request for an Engineering Survey of Little Falls Branch and Documenting Erosion

At the July Town Council meeting a formal request was made to retain a stream engineer/design firm to perform a survey of Little Falls Branch in order to have a benchmark for erosion control purposes along the entire length of the creek in

Town property. At the suggestion of Dan Harper, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, the Town sent bid requests to the engineering firms under contract with the county. Although I was disappointed to only have one responsive bid, I felt it was important not to ignore our continuing problems.

A lengthy exchange on the proposal took place at the meeting. It included discussion of:

1. The \$45,000 price tag for a detailed survey, which was felt by some – although not all speakers -- to be high.
2. The scope of work did not include a study of flow rates and sources of storm water entering our stream, which some felt should be incorporated in the survey.
3. The funding request aims to identify our problems and establish a bench-mark before any construction and/or erosion control measures be done in and around the stream. It does not include funding for any remedial measures.
4. A meeting with State and County representatives on the Primrose Project in Chevy Chase Village, which will add additional storm water into our stream, is in the process of being arranged by the Mayor. Findings of this future meeting should be included in the analysis.
5. While there was a fundamental agreement on the need for a stream assessment there was disagreement on the extent of that assessment.
6. Some suggested the stream is stable for the next five years and that there was no need to rush the proposal through.

On the basis of the discussion, it was agreed to restate the scope of work in the Town's bid request for a survey, and to contact additional engineering firms who are not under contract with the County for bids. The PNRC will report back to the Town Council at its September 2005 meeting.

## **House Tour Planned for Centennial Celebration**

by Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Centennial Sub-Committee of the History Committee

As part of the festivities surrounding the Town's centennial celebration, we are planning a Somerset house tour for April 9, 2006. We are fortunate to have so many different architectural styles in our Town ranging from the Victorian to sleek modern design. Our last house tour was held in 1980 to raise money for the Red House (a garden tour was part of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in 1996). The Centennial house tour should represent the spectrum of Somerset's 100+ years of architectural diversity and heritage. If you would be willing to open your home to the tour, please contact Phyllis Wiesenfelder at (301) 657-2755 or Lesley Simmons at (240) 497-1876.

## **August Water Aerobics Anyone?**

by Lorrie Barse

If there is sufficient interest, Tammy Archie will return to Somerset in mid-August to teach a 2-week session of her popular water aerobics class at the pool. Several of her current class participants are already planning to sign up. For information call Lorrie Barse at (301) 654-1626.

## **Jukebox Jamboree A Success!!!**

by Mary Geffroy

The skies were sunny and clear on Saturday, July 9 as more than a hundred residents enjoyed good conversation, delicious food and drink, and fun jukebox music at the adult pool party. Many (men AND women) competed in a lively game of water volleyball! Anne Conlee Mazlish and Mary Geffroy would like to thank everyone who helped with the party, including: Josh and Aaron Bobeck, Ann and Ken Brown, Sally Christian, Bridget and Mike Cowie, Jill Herscot, Tony Mazlish, Doug Miller, Franny Peale, Alan Proctor, Barton and Shereen Rubenstein, Lauren Rubenstein, Samantha Sapin, Jeffrey Slavin, all of the lifeguards on duty that day, and any other volunteers that we may have omitted. Without these volunteers, the party would not have been the success that it was. Thank you!

## **July 31st Deadline for Bricks at Norwood Park**

by Adele O'Dowd

A terrific party on opening day, June 25th, celebrated and unveiled the new upper playground at Norwood Park. Friends of Norwood Park were there to listen to music, eat ice cream, visit with each other and play, of course. A heart-felt "thank you" to all who came, and all who have supported the playground renovation. This is a great success. BUT we

aren't done yet. Friends of Norwood Park is still shy of our goal for funds to complete the lower playground renovation. The lower playground, near the ball fields, is well loved and well used even now in its decrepit state. If we don't raise the funds it will be eliminated forever. Inscribed bricks will continue to be for sale until July 31st. Norwood Park belongs to the community and we can continue to improve it and enjoy it through Friends of Norwood Park.

Let's celebrate every year together. Find out more, convey your ideas and buy a brick by contacting Adele Medina O'Dowd at [adele@chevychasewest.org](mailto:adele@chevychasewest.org) or visit our website <http://montgomeryparksfnd.org/fg-norwoodpark.htm>

## On My Mind

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Summer is usually a time when the fast pace of everyone's schedules slows down and many retreat to the pool, the beach or the garden. There is more time to reflect on what has been accomplished during the year and more importantly, what hasn't.

In my own time of contemplation this month, I have been thinking about some of the Town projects that need to be completed, what I can do to participate and what assistance I need from others.

It does seem that we need to make a final decision on the Town Hall, particularly because it is no longer a comfortable and safe place for our employees. And now that the Pool House Survey is complete, I plan to work with other Council members to fashion a solution that will balance everyone's needs and desires.

On another matter, Council member Lesley Simmons and I will convene the long-awaited *Large Homes Forum* this fall so that more and better information on this controversial issue can be shared among residents and fears and concerns of those on both sides can be aired. Ultimately it will be up to County and State elected officials to make any decisions but it is important for us at the grass roots to speak out.

I have also been pondering ways to address the long-term problem of commuter traffic through Town. As a result of a session I attended at the Maryland Municipal League Annual Convention in Ocean City, I hope to come up with a plan to be presented in the near future. I will need to talk to police and school officials before moving forward, though, as well as Dorset Avenue residents.

All of these initiatives will require advice, assistance and comment from residents, so let me know your thoughts. A safe and healthy August to all.

# County News

## County Alerts Medicare Recipients to Upcoming Changes

County Health and Human Services officials reminds seniors and those with disabilities who receive Medicare benefits to be on the alert for information being mailed from the federal government outlining the new Medicare prescription drug coverage program. Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to all people with Medicare. Staff from the County's *Information and Assistance Unit for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities* is available to answer questions about the upcoming changes, call (240) 777-3000.

## Library Programs for Kids

The Chevy Chase Library (8005 Connecticut Ave) will offer two special programs in August: Monday, August 1, at 7:00 p.m. RAINFORESTS ALIVE! -- Visit an imaginary rainforest with real animals brought by *Reptiles Alive*, for ages 5-12 years. Tickets (free) are required and may be picked up in person at the Chevy Chase Library beginning July 23. Thursday, August 4 at 10:30 a.m. PRESCHOOL FILMS. -- LET'S BE SILLY: Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type; Pete's a Pizza; Is Your Mama a Llama?; Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Further information is available at (301) 986-4313 or [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library)

## Applicants Sought

County Executive Douglas M. Duncan is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on several committees:

### Mental Health Advisory Committee

There are eight vacancies on the Montgomery County Mental Health Advisory Committee in the following categories: consumer of mental health services (2 vacancies), parent or other relative of adult with a mental disorder (1 vacancy); general public (1 vacancy), parent or other relative of a child or adolescent with a emotional, behavioral or mental disorder (2 vacancies), a non-physician mental health professional (1 vacancy), and a practicing physician (1 vacancy). Six incumbents are eligible to apply for reappointment.

Voting members serve without compensation for three-year terms and are expected to serve on a subcommittee. They should anticipate a time commitment of five to ten hours per month.

**Citizens Review Panel Advisory Group (one vacancy) Citizens Review Panel for Children (two vacancies).** The Citizens Review Panel's purpose is to implement State law regarding local citizens review boards and evaluate state and local agency response to child protection needs. The Citizens Review Panel Advisory Group provides technical and professional advice to the Citizens Review Panel about child protective services.

Application deadlines are August 5. More information about these opportunities is available on the Town Hall notice board or on the Montgomery County website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/exec/Boards/index.cfm>

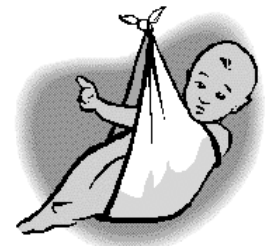
### Merit System Protection Board

The Montgomery County Council is accepting application from qualified voters of the County for appointment to a three-year term on the Merit System Protection Board. Generally, the Board is expected to protect the Merit System and to protect employee and applicant rights guaranteed under the System. Applications are due by Wednesday October 9. More information is available on the Town Hall notice board.

## All About People

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

New residents **PIROOZ and LADAN ZIA** (Warwick) welcomed their first child, a boy, **CAMERON**, 7 lbs, 2 oz. in June. Proud parents report that he is "just terrific" and they "could not be more thrilled." They would appreciate any advice on enhancing the baby's sleep habits, though!



The ever popular **ROB MCGARRAH** (Dorset) who has been active in Town for years, married **JOANNE TANNER** in April at the Audubon Society in Chevy Chase. Rob reports that they now have four children, **ABBY**, age 6, a new bike rider and swimmer; **MIKE**, 17, a senior at B-CC, with a just-released album from his band, "Free Matter;" **PATRICK**, 23, at the University of Maryland working towards medical school; and **ANNIE**, 28, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Annie will marry Victor Alvarez, editor of the *East Providence Post* in September. The McGarrahs have rented their house on Dorset Avenue for a year to **PETER and SUSAN O'DONOUGHUE** and their two children while they reside in Joanne's house just off Goldsboro Road.

**DAVI and LARRY WALDERS** (Essex) are happy to announce that daughter **ANDREA wed ANDREW SINGER** in June at an outdoor wedding on a gorgeous day at Belmont Manor House in Elkridge, MD. Andrew has just received his DPT--Doctor of Physical Therapy. Congrats to all...**EMILY LASNER**, daughter of **DICK and EDIE** (Essex) recently graduated from the Yale School of Management with an MBA and is interested in pursuing a career with a non-profit entity related to the arts. Before going to Yale, Emily already had a stellar academic record, having attended Somerset E.S., Westland, B-CC and the University of Michigan.

Earlier this month many of us read a nice article about **NATASHA MANN** (Surrey), daughter of **STEVE**, an avid soccer player whose team, the Bethesda Soccer Club, made it to the Maryland State final. Yet another Somerset athlete making good...In the same vein, **MARY ALLEN** (Cumberland) tells me that she just completed a 450 mile bike ride of 28,000 vertical feet in Colorado with *Bicycle Tour Colorado*. She says, "The first day we biked from 8000 to 12,095 feet over Independence Pass and it got worse from there. I've never done anything so grueling. In retrospect, it was a great adventure, biking all day and sleeping with 1000 others on high school football fields as night. I now have a far greater appreciation for Lance Armstrong!" Charities benefiting this extraordinary ride include the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Special Olympics. It never ceases to amaze me how many good works our residents do.



If you are looking for a good summer read, try **ED DOLNICK's** (Cumberland) latest, *The Rescue Artist*, a non-fiction crime thriller that recounts the 1994 theft of Edvard Munch's masterpiece "Scream" and follows the undercover work of the crack Scotland Yard "art squad" that recovered it. Ed was recently at Politics and Prose on Connecticut Avenue for a book signing...Two prominent women in Somerset, **CATHY BERNARD** (Greystone) and **CYNTHIA WORD** (Uppingham) have been nominated for the ATHENA Award. Announcement of the 2005 recipient will be made at the Women in Business Celebrate Success! 9th Annual Gala luncheon and networking event on October 21 at the Gaithersburg Hilton. Get details online at [www.wbo-mc.com/gala](http://www.wbo-mc.com/gala) ....**GAYLEY KNIGHT** (Cumberland) is an inaugural member, by invitation and interview, of the Mass Mutual Women's Advisory Board, charged with projects such as distribution of life insurance policies to low income and single parent families and family financial

planning for disabled adults. Gayley gives so much of herself....And so does **SARAH MORSE** (Dorset) who has now secured a full time job as the coordinator of the Jewish Folk Art festival, which will take place in November--music on two stages, folk dancing, storytelling, a red tent room, Judaic Art show, delicious kosher food, workshops, play shops for kids, and more. Sarah is very excited to be working with a committee that helps organize and is having a lot of fun. She credits her training as a Team Rep for the Somerset swim team in giving her the added skills to handle this latest challenge in her life. More details to follow...Finally, I hope everyone gets the chance to enjoy a summer break this month and will send me news of any memorable adventures.

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. This issue edited by Lesley Simmons.

#### MAYOR

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

#### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Richard Kessler, Council V.P., 4914 Cumberland Ave., 301-654-2699  
Tom Eldridge, 5605 Warwick Pl., 301-656-3354  
Judy Frankel, 5528 Uppingham St., 301-657-8875  
Lesley Simmons, 4723 Cumberland Ave., 240-497-1876  
Jeffrey Slavin, 5706 Warwick Pl, 301-654-6767

#### CLERK-TREASURER

Tom Carter

#### TOWN HALL

Open 9 to 4:30  
301-657-3211/Fax 301-657-2773  
Web site: [Hwww.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)H  
E-mail: [Hclerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:Hclerk@townofsomerset.com)H  
TTY users call Maryland Relay

**Deadlines: Ads, August 11, Copy August 19**

## Classifieds

#### 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.

Excellent references. Will teach at your house or mine. Call Varda Daniels at 301-986-4836.

PB, AM-FM, excellent condition, new front tires. Asking \$2,800 OBO. Call Sam Leiken, 301-951-5851.

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERFRONT VACATION HOME FOR RENT. Contemporary 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with 180 degree water view available as vacation rental. One hour drive from D.C. area. For pictures and more information, go to [www.chesapeakebayhouse.com](http://www.chesapeakebayhouse.com) or call 301-652-4794.

MISCELLANEOUS

SOMERSET HOME FOR RENT. Updates throughout; hardwood floors; master bedroom with 2 walk-in closets; second room upstairs plus built-in office; large play room downstairs; plus 2 bedrooms, including au-pair suite; 3 full baths. Available August 1. Call 240-461-8876.

WANTED

LOOKING FOR LOCAL FAMILY with infant or toddler interested in joining us in a nanny-share arrangement with our 8-months-old daughter's wonderful babysitter. Call Diane or Michael, 301-913-2829.

FOR SALE

SMALL SPINET PIANO and bench. Good condition. You haul. \$800. Call 301-656-8469 or 301-385-9271.

LEGOS, miscellaneous pieces or complete sets. Call Julie Greenberg, 301-656-8773.

SERVICES

ACADEMIC TUTOR: 20 years experience teaching all ages, subjects. Math through Algebra II. Reading comprehension and writing. Test preparation, organizational/study skills. M.A. in Biology and Special Ed. Call Sheryl Gilbert, 301-656-1753.

ANTIQUe PUMP ORGAN. Mason & Hamlin cabinet organ, made in 1870. Bellows have been restored. Looks like a console table when closed. \$800. call Howard Byron at 301-656-9496.

Visiting GW philosophy professor needs studio, 1-bedroom, or similar late August 2005 – May 2006 near Somerset or GW. Call Julie Abrams, (301)986-8889, or [jabrams@prodigy.net](mailto:jabrams@prodigy.net).

SERVICES

HEBREW TUTOR (native speaker) with more than 20 years experience teaching reading and conversation to children, bar/bat mitzvah and adults.

LOFT BED FROM IKEA with desk and shelves below. Ideal for child and pre-teen. Price \$200. Call Nancy Mills, 301-951-5851.

1992 INFINITY G-20, 4-door sedan, auto, PS/PW/PB, AC, 144k. Very good condition, very solid vehicle. Asking \$2,200. Call Sam Leiken, 301-951-5851.

FOR SALE

1993 MERCURY VILLAGER minivan, 127k, auto, PS/PW/

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.

PELIMINARY AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2005 - 7:30 P.M.

- 1. Approval of minutes of the July 5 regular meeting and July 18 executive session to discuss personnel matters – 7:30.

2. Action on the following transfer for FY-05: – 7:35.

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$4,000	CPF Contingency	GF Tree Contract

3. Action on renewal of Town membership in Montgomery Municipal Cable Television by contributing entire payment from County, which is based on number of Somerset cable subscribers – 7:40.

4. Authorization to close River Road and Wisconsin Avenue entrances on Sunday, October 9, from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m., for the 8-kilometer road race sponsored by the Somerset Elementary School PTA – 7:45.

5. Confirmation of Mayor's appointment (or reappointment) of four members of Swimming Pool Committee for three-year terms and reappointment of Josh Bobeck as chair for another year – 7:50.

6. Fact finding hearing and action on landscape plan by Leizer Goldsmith and Sharon Bray, 4520 Dorset Avenue -- 7:55.

7. Fact finding hearing and action on Town permit application by Steven Heydemann and Gail David, 4812 Grantham Avenue, to renovate the entry level and kitchen – 8:00.

8. Recommendation to Historic Preservation Commission and fact finding hearing and action on Town permit application by Keith White and Maura Mahoney, 4705 Dorset Avenue, to add a dormer to the west side, extend the front porch as previously approved and add a one-story addition above the existing deck to the right rear of their house – 8:05.

9. Fact finding hearing and action on Town permit application by Jim Campbell and Nancy Hooff, 5516 Uppingham Street, to extend a second floor dormer at the rear of their house – 8:10.

10. Mayor's report – 8:15.

11. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 8:25.

12. Suggestions and questions from residents – 8:35.

13. Action on proposals to study construction limitations in area of Town swimming pool and bathhouse – 8:45.

14. Report by Tom Eldridge on planned Chevy Chase Village police operation in Somerset – 9:00.

15. Action on contract to repaint house numbers on curbs for up to \$4,000 and storm drain markings for up to \$1,020 – 9:15.

16. Action on recommendation of Davey Tree to remove two dead Town trees in the pool parking lot – 9:20.

17. New business – 9:25.

18. Adjournment -- 9:30.