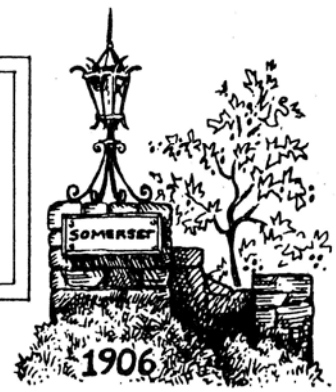




SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 50, No.3

September 26, 2005

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Mayor's Den

by Walter J. Behr

Check Out the New Somerset School

Except for the landscaping and perimeter fence, construction of Somerset Elementary School is basically finished, and Principal Laurie Gross is eager to show it off to the community. The public is invited to an open house on Columbus Day, Monday, October 10, from 9:15 to 11 a.m. Although Columbus Day is a Federal and Town holiday, schools will be in session.

Perimeter fencing and landscaping are about half complete. After the remainder of the fence is installed, sod will be laid on the playing field.

Three Town residents, Missy Reingruber, Ruth Sorenson and Laura Will, are to be commended for volunteering their time to help the new trees and shrubs survive. They are taking turns watering the new plants every day.

Get Flu Shots in Town Hall October 28

Arrangements have been completed for Somerset residents to receive flu shots in the Town Hall again this year. Nurses from the MedStar Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) will administer the vaccine on Friday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reservations are required. Please call Tom to sign up at (301) 657-3211. The cost is \$35, payable preferably, by check made out to "Medstar Health VNA, Inc." There will be no charge for seniors who have Medicare Part B coverage, provided Medicare is their primary medical coverage and provided they are not members of a health maintenance organization (HMO). They must bring their Medicare ID card with them.

VNA will not offer pneumonia shots this year.

Women who are pregnant should check with their obstetrician. Those in the third trimester of pregnancy must present written permission from their primary physician. Following are the three chief reasons to get a flu shot:

Prevents death. Each year over 20,000 people in the U.S. die because of the flu - most are over 65 years old. More people die from the flu than from any other vaccine-preventable disease.

Prevents severe illness. The flu puts about 114,000 people in the hospital each year in the U.S. Children younger than 2 years old are as likely to be hospitalized as those over 65.

Protects other people. People who live with or care for others at high risk of serious illness from the flu need a flu shot.

Thanks to Barbara Marblestone for agreeing to coordinate the operation again this year. Please call Tom at the Town Hall if you can help with processing forms and crowd control.

A misconception that circulates every year is that a shot can give the recipient the flu. False! Vaccines are made from killed influenza viruses, which cannot give you the flu.

Will Project Upstream Increase Erosion in Somerset?

A County project in Chevy Chase Village to repair a badly broken storm drain system is expected to get underway before the end of the year. Plans for the Primrose Project include installing a 42-inch conduit under Connecticut Avenue, which will direct stormwater onto the grounds of the Chevy Chase Club. There it will enter Little Falls Branch and pass through Somerset on the way to the Potomac River.



Somerset has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to correct erosion in the creek banks and slow down further damage. We were concerned that the Primrose Project might increase the velocity of stormwater, exacerbating our erosion problem and arranged for a meeting last week with County and State experts to discuss our worries. Judy Frankel, Jeff Lape and I represented Somerset.

Bruce Johnston, a division chief in the County Department of Public Works and Transportation, pointed out that large stones (riprap) will be added to the creek bank on Chevy Chase Club grounds to control the water velocity. He also stated that the stream passes through two ponds on the Club property and that this, too, will help regulate the rate of flow. In brief, he and other engineers present expressed the belief that the effects of the project downstream will be "minimal."

Long-Term Erosion Prospects Bleak

Everyone at the conference agreed that as a result of the trend toward larger homes and less pervious area, the volume and velocity of stormwater will continue to increase, causing more erosion. A variety of stormwater detention devices were mentioned such as rain barrels, rain gardens and French drains that would reduce the volume and timing of stormwater flow.

Paul Folkers, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for the County Executive, promised to arrange a meeting of representatives of the County, Somerset, Chevy Chase Village and Chevy Chase Club to discuss coordinated strategies for addressing stormwater control.

Calendar

Friday, September 30 – Brown Bag Lunch
Wednesday, October 5 – Town Council Meeting
Friday, October 7 – Special Trash Pickup
Saturday, October 8 – Hazardous Waste Disposal
 Silver Spring
Sunday, October 9 – Back-to-School Classic
Monday, October 10 – Somerset Elementary
 School Open House

Thursday, October 20 – Journal Deadline Ads
Friday, October 21 – Journal Deadline Copy
Friday, October 28 – Flu Shots at the Town Hall
Monday, October 31 – MVA's mobile office in
 Friendship Heights
Saturday, November 12 – Hazardous Waste Disposal, Bethesda
Sunday, November 20 – Somerset Art Exhibition and Sale
Wednesday, November 23 – Deadline for submitting
 Information for Town Directory

Income Tax Rebate Sustains Somerset

Approximately two-thirds of Town income consists of a portion of State income tax paid by residents and rebated by the Comptroller. A new report from the Department of Legislative Services for Fiscal Year 2004 breaks this down to per capita income and percent of the municipality's total income. For Somerset the figures are \$415 per capita and 63.7 percent. The corresponding figures for other nearby towns and villages are:

	REBATE \$	% OF TOTAL PER CAPITA TOWN REVENUE
Town of Chevy Chase	610	73.8%
Chevy Chase Section 3	310	70.4
Chevy Chase Section 5	441	81.9
Chevy Chase View	233	67.7
Chevy Chase Village	710	48.7
Drummond	310	59.3
Friendship Heights	156	45.1
Garrett Park	134	10.2
Glen Echo	194	27.7
Kensington	183	24.9
Martin's Additions	313	76.0
North Chevy Chase	247	59.4

Lesley Simmons Joins Select Group

Congratulations to Council member Lesley Simmons for becoming the third Somerset official to complete the requirements of the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance, a certificate program open to all local government officials in Maryland. The goal of the training is to prepare local officials to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In addition to serving as a Council member, Lesley is chair of the History Committee and chief planner for Somerset's 100 anniversary celebration, which will occur next year. Lesley is also editor of the *Town Journal*.

Council member Jeffrey Slavin and Clerk-Treasurer Tom Carter are the other Town officials who have graduated from the Academy.

Callahan Pipeline Monthly Water Main and Sewer Report

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

The new water main on Dorset Avenue -- the main focus of our work during late August and early September -- is 85 percent complete, with only a couple of hundred feet left to install.



Work to pressure test the section of water main from Warwick Place in front of the pool entrance up to Dorset Avenue is now in progress. Also half of Essex Avenue is being pressure tested. This work should be completed by September 23rd and then house connections can be made on those streets. A temporary water by-pass will be put in at the bottom of Dorset Avenue sometime during late September or early October. This by-pass will keep the water flowing to homes while we hook up to the water main coming from Little Falls Parkway.

Once again I want to thank Somerset residents for their cooperation as we installed the water main on Dorset Avenue. With the detour in place we were able to do this safely and in a timely manner.

Lighting Survey Results Talled

by Howard Byron, Chairman, Lighting Committee

The results of the survey of the street lighting demonstration were compiled by the Somerset Election board. Of the 113 surveys returned (14 percent of residents) sixty three percent of respondents answered YES to the question "Would you like all the lights in Town to be the same as those in the experimental block?" This is the same percentage as those who answered yes to the question in the previous Security Questionnaire regarding whether the Town should have brighter lights.

In the optional long version there were 77 responses (9 percent of residents) the majority of respondents liked what they experienced, agreed the newer technology lighting is more energy efficient, believed that lighting is a crime deterrent, observed there is less lighting in the summer when the trees are in full bloom, and urged the Council to budget \$30,000 to change all the lights in Town to match the demonstration.

Details of the survey results can be found on the Town web site: www.townofsomerset.com .

A vote by the Council is scheduled for the October Town Meeting.

Town Tree to Be Removed

by Corrie Morsey

Over the past several years we've been monitoring the green ash, #395, in the 4800 block of Falstone Avenue. The tree is not growing properly and presently contains considerable deadwood. From an economic standpoint it seems senseless to spend money maintaining a tree which will never thrive. Rather it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town to remove this tree and get a replacement planted as soon as practical.

WATER, WATER, WATER – Our trees and shrubs need at least an inch of water weekly to stay healthy. as we go to press it's been almost a month since we've had any appreciable rain. While we had a very wet spring, the current lack of water is playing havoc with our trees. Some signs of stress are that trees show signs of fall color and leaves are yellow or smaller in size than normal. Town trees need water now. While tending to your trees, please help us by watering nearby Town trees. Our maintenance staff has been spending considerable time this summer watering the most needy Town trees as well and new and established landscaped areas but we need your help!



Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

Found

A volleyball was left in the Town Hall yard in mid-September. A set of keys with a blue tab was found in Capello Park on September 20. If either belongs to you, call Tom at (301) 657-3211.

Special Trash Pickup

The Town Council has authorized a special trash collection for Friday, October 7, at Town expense. Those wishing to participate should notify Tom no later than October 6 who will make your reservation for the special collection service by our contractor, J&J Inc.

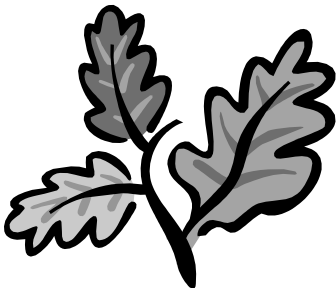
Special trash should not be placed at the curb earlier than the night before the collection. Special trash is defined as refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, freezers, stoves, hot water heaters, other major appliances; furniture or parts thereof; large toys, bicycles, swing sets (broken down into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

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

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

Leaf Collection

Leaves piled on the grass near the curb will be vacuumed beginning mid- to late October and continue into December. Please ensure the piles consist only of leaves - NO STICKS, STONES, BRICKS OR OTHER DENSE OR SHARP DEBRIS. These materials will damage the machinery blades. PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET. KINDLY INFORM YOUR LAWN SERVICE OF THIS REQUEST.



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

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

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Saturday, October 8, at Silver Spring Intermediate School, 313 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (Dale Dr. and Wayne Ave.) and Saturday, November 12, at the Westland Middle School at 5511 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816) west of Little Falls Parkway).

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

PLEASE NO LATEX PAINT: Tens-of-thousands of tax-dollars are spent each year disposing of latex paint, which is not hazardous. Latex paint can be safely dried up and put out for regular refuse collection. Simply remove the lid and place it in a safe, well-ventilated area. Cans that are one-fourth or less full will dry in a few days. For cans with greater volume, add mulch, cat litter, shredded paper, or Waste Paint Hardener available at area hardware stores. For more information, call (240) 777-6410 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hazardouswaste

DO YOU WANT TO BE LISTED IN THE TOWN DIRECTORY OR DOES YOUR LISTING IN THE 2005 DIRECTORY NEED TO BE UPDATED?

It's time for us to begin working on the 2006 Town Directory. If you are new to Somerset or if you wish to amend your family's entry, please send us an email containing the information you wish to be included in your listing. You can use the format in the current directory as your guideline; otherwise, we suggest you consider including the following as applicable:

Name _____
 Name _____
 Children _____
 Address _____
 Tel # _____ Fax # _____
 E-mail Address _____

Please provide the information in an e-mail to clerk@townofsomerset.com no later than November 23, to ensure the accuracy of the listing.

Broadcast e-mails bounce back

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.

MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's mobile office will be in Friendship Heights on Monday, October 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2006 Calendars

2006 League of Women Voters calendars are available at the Town Hall for \$6, or call Nancy Soreng at (301) 986-1916.

PERMITS GRANTED

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

Trees: Tom Dimond and Joan Ebzery, 4914 Dorset Avenue, to remove a dead cypress and a dead serviceberry in their back yard.

Ruth and Arne Sorenson, 5810 Warwick Place, to remove two dogwoods in their side yard, one dead, the other dying.

Paul Mannes, 5525 Warwick Place, to remove a dead wild cherry in his back yard.

Fences: Steven Guttentag and Stacy Winick, 5608 Warwick Place, to erect a cedar fence around their back yard.

Curbs: Cindy and Michael Yuffee, 5529 Trent Street, to replace their apron with four conditions.

Legislation

At the September 6 meeting, the Council:

1. Postponed action on an amendment to the Town Code to increase the size of the Swimming Pool Committee to 16 members and on confirmation of Jeff Aron, Michele Friedman, Sandra Hughes and Caroline Springer as members pending a recommendation from the Swimming Pool Committee.
2. Introduced an amendment to the Town Code authorizing residents to contract for limited trimming of Town street and park trees.

Council Activity

At the September 6 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Authorized the transfer of \$1,000 from General Fund Contingency to General Fund Tree Contract.
2. Approved a special trash pickup at Town expense on Friday, October 7, for residents who have large items that cannot go in the regular trash.
3. Confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Lucy Freeman, Jamie Heller and Frank Loversky and reappointment of Stan Weiss to the Swimming Pool Committee for three-year terms and reappointment of Josh Bobeck as chair for another year.
4. Approved a building permit for Patrick and Vicki Malone, 4901 Essex Avenue, to construct a detached one-story studio in their back yard, subject to meeting the 15-foot setback at the rear and side lot lines and receipt of the Town permit fees and deposit.
5. Approved a building permit for Michael and Bridget Cowie, 5511 Uppingham Street, to add a second story and attic, add an uncovered porch and deck to the rear, add a covered porch to the front and extend the garage ten feet to the front, subject to receipt of a County permit, Town permit fees and deposit, the name and Maryland Home Improvement License number of their contractor, replacement of the removed hickory and a tree deposit of \$200.
6. Approved a building permit for Leo Mondale, 4902 Dorset Avenue, to erect two sheds, construct a fireplace and add a deck and bay window to the rear, subject to providing the name and Maryland Home Improvement License number of his contractor.
7. Discussed the beginning of police enforcement of stop signs and speeding on September 12.
8. Discussed a driving visibility hazard from a hedge on the Town right-of-way at 5410 Trent Street and recommended the Mayor get the County's opinion before proceeding.
9. Approved the proposal of VIKA, Inc., to study construction limitations in the area of the swimming pool complex at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.
10. Postponed discussion of a proposed change to the Pool Rules to eliminate the hourly 15-minute swim break for children pending a recommendation from the Swimming Pool Committee.
11. Approved the removal of a rapidly declining sugar maple at 5712 Warwick Place, a dying and leaning Norway maple at 4718 Dorset Avenue and a declining black walnut in the Town Hall front yard, subject to the Mayor's discussion with Davey Tree regarding retrieval of the wood.
12. Approved the History Committee's proposal to erect an interpretive sign in Founders' Park (Minipark) as part of the centennial celebration at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.



Volunteers needed for Somerset Back-to-School Classic

by Laura DeBruce

The Somerset Back-to-School Classic takes place Sunday, October 9, at 8:00 a.m. We still need Course Marshals for key positions at:

- Warwick and Essex
- Surrey and Essex
- Surrey and Dorset
- Little Surrey and Cumberland
- Dorset and Wisconsin

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at LDB@debruceblackman.com Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and brunch invitation! We can't do it without you.

Cub Scout Pack 52 Looking for New Members

by Mark Oxley



We are looking for boys (grades 1-5) who are interested in Cub Scouts, particularly for Tiger Cubs (grade 1) and Wolves (grade 2) to join Pack 52. We have long been the pack for Somerset kids. We usually meet at All Saints Church on Chevy Chase Circle. Our first pack meeting will be at Meadowbrook/Candy Cane City on Beach Drive near East West Highway, on Tuesday September 27 at 7:00 p.m. Boys and their parents are encouraged to come and check us out. Questions? Call me at (202) 364-4999 x 103.

Calling Somerset Artists

by Florence Gang

The Town of Somerset invites Somerset artists to participate in its Annual Art Exhibit and Sale on Sunday, November 20 at the Town Hall. For details call Florence Gang at (301) 656-3430 or Alice Rowen at (301) 652-4158.



Water Aerobics a Big Hit Again This Year

By Lorrie Barse

Somerset's twice-weekly water aerobics classed, led by the ever-more-popular Tammy Archie, were a great success this summer. Owing to the demand of the 10-plus residents who faithfully attended, the sessions were extended twice in August. And for the first time water aerobics could be found at the Somerset pool after Labor Day. Many thanks to Tammy – and her baby – for making this possible. We look forward to even more Town residents signing up for the 2006 season!

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: www.townofsomerset.com
E-mail: clerk@townofsomerset.com
TTY users call Maryland Relay

Deadlines: Ads, October 20, Copy October 21

Residents' Letters

A Human Interest Story

from Judy Bowles (Surrey Street)

Early on September 14, residents discovered a young man face down in the grass by the trail at the bottom of Cumberland Avenue. They were able to awaken him but he spoke only Spanish. Another walker who happened to be speak Spanish learned that the young man, Noel, was nineteen years old, from Honduras, and did not know how he got there. A biker called 911 on his cell phone and meanwhile, Jimmy Cruz, an employee of the Darryl Ring Company, working on the renovation of a house on Cumberland Avenue volunteered to help out.

Jimmy's translating skills helped the Rescue Squad to learn a little more about Noel -- the only items in his pockets were a tattered birth certificate and a card with a phone number. Jimmy tried to reach the number on his cell phone to no avail.

Noel was taken to Suburban Hospital for observation where the Rescue Squad said he would be aided by Social Services.

It was heartening to see so much concern and good will demonstrated by neighbors. And Jimmy Cruz, who helped reassure Noel that he was in good hands, deserves a special accolade from our community.

Dear Townfolks

from Dorothy and John Rose (Surrey Street)

Our son, Chris, is a columnist for the Times-Picayune in New Orleans. The day before Katrina hit, Chris, his wife, Kelly and the three children escaped up into Mississippi, ending up in Baton Rouge. A few days later Kelly and the kids joined us here on Surrey Street for the long haul. Chris stays in what he refers to as the "war zone" continuing his columns. Now, Katherine, six, is a first grader at Somerset Elementary, Chris' Alma Mater. Jack, four, is in the Concord Hill School. They have adapted beautifully. James, two, is just hanging around. The schools have been marvelously helpful and obliging in expediting enrollments.

Friends and neighbors of the Town have been magnificently friendly, kind and generous. We are all extremely grateful to the schools, and particularly you, our fellow townfolks. Thank you very, very much.

Obituary

Fred Dyer Dies at 87

Frederick C. Dyer, a 54-year resident of Cumberland Avenue, died on September 14 in Guatemala City at the age of 87. Death was due to complications of Parkinson's disease.

Fred grew up in St. Louis, graduated from Holy Cross College in Boston and earned an MBA at Dartmouth. He was a Navy officer during World War II. As a civilian, his entire career was as a publisher and writer for the Navy Department. He was a long time member of the Cosmos Club.

In Somerset, Fred served on the Town Council from 1962 to 1964. He was a voracious reader and a prolific raconteur. Tennis players admired his grace and classic form on the court in Somerset and at Columbia Country Club.

Fred is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lucretia ("Lucky"), who plans to return to Somerset in the spring. Other survivors are two sons and a daughter, eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

County News

Emergency Alerts

A new emergency text alerting system will provide timely notification to individuals who live and work in the County about emergency incidents, severe weather threats, significant transportation disruptions or events and any changes in the threat level for terrorist attacks. Individuals can select the way they prefer to receive the text message alerts – by e-mail, cell phone, Blackberry, PDA or pager. You can sign up for the free service by going to the Montgomery County website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and clicking on “Alert Montgomery”.

Places to Go and Things to Do Library Programs for children.

The Chevy Chase Library offers a multitude of programs for toddlers on up. For information contact (301) 986-4313 or check out the library’s October Calendar of events at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/libraries/newsandevents/search.asp>

Celebrate Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve 25th Anniversary -- a rural crescent of more than 90,000 acres crowning the northwestern third of the county -- at Butler’s Orchard on Saturday, October 8, 2005 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Activities for the whole family include: hayrides and pumpkin coach, barnyard buddies, twisted pumpkin maze, face painting, live music by Mill Run Bluegrass Band, bonfire, jump in the hayloft, raffle with prizes, pony rides, and an inflatable farm train. Pumpkins, food and beverages (hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie pitas, caramel apples, cider) and lots more will be on sale during the event! For information, directions or in case of rain: (301) 972-3299 or www.ruralmontgomery.org Butler’s Orchard is at 22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown, on the web at www.butlersorchard.com

Enjoy These Special Events in Bethesda on Saturday, October 1, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Taste of Bethesda food and music festival at the Woodmont Triangle. For information call (301) 215-6660 x 42
- Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad Annual “Rescue Day” Open House. Fire and Rescue activities and displays, including tours of the station; live demonstrations of emergency medical, rescue, and firefighting equipment. B-CC Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane. For information call (301) 652-0077
- Antique Car Show at Chevy Chase Cars, 7701 Wisconsin Avenue. For information call (301) 656-9200

Charter Review Commission Public Forum

The Montgomery County Charter Review Commission will hold a public forum on Monday, October 17 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the 7th Floor Hearing Room at the Council Office Building in Rockville. The Commission is seeking comments on a variety of issues to determine if the current system of County Government adequately addresses the needs of County residents.

Specifically, the Commission is soliciting community input on: (i) whether the size and structure of the Council provides the appropriate level of representation; (ii) if the Charter should specify that being a Councilmember is a full- or part-time job; (iii) whether the State Constitution should be amended to increase the number of signatures required to petition a County Charter amendment; and (iv) if the County’s process for reviewing petition language should require a final determination on ballot language before signatures are collected. While general comments are welcomed, the Commission is seeking specific recommendations on each of these issues.

Those wishing to present their opinions on the issues listed above or who are interested in recommending additional issues for the Commission to study should sign up to speak by contacting Carol Edwards at (240) 777-7929 or via e-mail at CharterReview.Commission@montgomerycountymd.gov Written testimony may also be submitted via e-mail at the above address or mailed to the Charter Review Commission c/o Montgomery County Council, Stella Werner

Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The Charter can be accessed on the web at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govtmpl.asp>

Emergency Preparedness Program for Hearing Impaired Persons.

On September 27 at the Special Needs Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda emergency preparedness plans will be presented and participants will learn how to make an emergency kit designed to meet the needs of people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

Register by e-mail at snlinfo@montgomerycountymd.gov or by calling (240) 777-0960 or TTY 301-897-2217. For information contact Lise Hamlin, at LHamlin@nvrc.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Do you ever feel the call to give something back to the Community? If so, the County has a multitude of diverse volunteer opportunities that can be found on the County website and often on the Town Hall bulleting board. Current opportunities include:

Volunteers to Participate in Emergency Preparedness Exercise at Local Hospitals

Four hundred volunteers are needed to act as patients in an upcoming emergency preparedness exercise designed to help Montgomery County hospitals test their capacity to handle an influx of patients in an emergency.

The exercise will be held on September 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Washington Adventist Hospital, Montgomery; General Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, Shady Grove Hospital and Kaiser Permanente.

Parents may bring children (must be supervised). Refreshments will be provided, and a certificate of attendance, which can be used for Continuing Education, will be provided. To volunteer, call (240) 777-2600 or e-mail the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at volunteer@montgomerycountymd.gov. Include your name, phone number, street address, e-mail and hospital preference.

Proactive Citizens Interested in Becoming Community Safety Advocates and Front-line Assistants during Large Emergencies.

The County is developing a program modeled after the FEMA CERT program that was originally developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985. CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) participants attend 7 classes over a 3-week period. For more information and class dates and times see the Town Hall bulletin board or visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/firtmpl.asp?url=/Content/FireRescue/sion/champ/index.asp>

Volunteers for Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Are you interested in helping to enhance the quality of life for nursing home residents? If so, you are invited to volunteer as a long-term care advocate with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services.

This volunteer opportunity offers flexible daytime hours and autonomy in developing problem-solving strategies. Assignments are available at nursing homes throughout the County. Training and technical assistance are provided by experienced professionals. A training session for volunteers is scheduled for Monday, October 3 through Friday, October 7, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton. Participants will receive a comprehensive orientation to the aging process, nursing home systems, applicable laws and advocacy skills. Class size is limited and registration is required. For more information, call Eileen Bennett at (240) 777-1067.

Volunteers to Assist Blind, Visually Impaired Persons

Volunteers with retail sales experience are sought to serve as sales associates to help blind and visually impaired people at the White Cane Center, 8720 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. The center provides an array of talking, Braille, and large-print products at reasonable prices. Additional information is on the Town Hall bulletin board or from the Montgomery County Volunteer Center, (240) 777-2600.

Volunteer Opportunities in County Schools

Volunteers age 50 and over are needed for a wide variety of positions including tutors, grandreaders, teaching assistants, global geography wizards, mentors, current events discussion group leaders, business class mentors and hands on science class instructors. Opportunities are also available for volunteers to work with students of preschool through high school age.

To find out more you are invited to attend an orientation session on September 29, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton; or at the Gaithersburg Senior Center, 80 Bureau Drive, on October 6, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. For more information and to register for an orientation session, contact the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at (240) 777-2600.

Committee Vacancies

County Executive Douglas M. Duncan is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on a number of committees. Details are available on the Town Hall Bulletin Board or from the press releases on the County website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/exec/Boards/index.cfm These opportunities currently include a call for applicants to fill six vacancies on the **Advisory Board on Victims and their Families** (also known as the Victim Services Advisory Board). Five vacancies are for at-large representatives including one partial term vacancy, and one vacancy is for a clergy representative.

The board advises the County Executive, County Council, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Division, which assists victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and other crimes. The board consists of 18 voting members. Members serve three-year terms and do not receive compensation.

The closing date for applications -- to County Executive Douglas M. Duncan at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe St., Rockville, MD 20850 or by e-mail to Douglas.Duncan@montgomerycountymd.gov -- is September 30. A brief resume, including home and work phone numbers, should be enclosed.

All About People

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Many of you have had the privilege of seeing the beautiful artwork of award winning artist **FLORENCE GANG** (Falstone) in her home. Now Florence has decided to reduce her large inventory by having a studio sale of her signed paintings on canvas and paper, framed and unframed. It will be on Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Call (301) 656-3430 for details...Florence's neighbor, pianist **LOUISE KUPELIAN** (Falstone) will be performing in concert that same Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m. at Grand Oaks Assisted Living, 5901 MacArthur Boulevard, NW. All are invited to sing along with Louise's trio which includes Dr. Fred Hendricks on clarinet and Debby Evans, soprano.



ROHIT KHANNA (Falstone) tells me that it is a matter of great pride for our Town that last year's Somerset 3rd grade boys and 4th grade girls' soccer teams received MSI's spring 2005 Sportsmanship award for their conference. Here is an excerpt from MSI's letter to the teams: "I'd like to congratulate you, your players and your parents on behalf of MSI, DC United, and the referee Association. As you know, this award signifies that the referees who officiated your games gave your team the highest ratings in your conference. Since the players, coaches and spectators are rated in each game, you all share in this award and receive our congratulations and thanks"...Somerset United (girls) includes **TAYLOR JOSEPH** (Surrey), **CAROLINE KHANNA** (Falstone), **MEGAN PURITZ** (Essex), and **CELIA RINGLAND** (Essex)..the Gremlins (boys) include **CAL MESIROW** (Cumberland) and **MATEY SCHEINER** (Uppingham)...Finally, all should welcome the family of **KATHERINE BORSECNIK** (Dorset) and **GENE WEIL** to their new home on Essex Avenue during the upcoming month.

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.

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.

LOVING, RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER available for full-time (or possibly part-time) child care. Has provided wonderful care for many Somerset Elementary School children and knows the neighborhood well. Very strong references. Call 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.

SERVICES

BASEBALL SKILLS COACH. Work with a college player who likes to help kids of all ages. \$25/hour/individual and group/team discounts. Learn hitting, fielding, throwing and playing the game the right way. Call Nick Sussman, 301-641-1109.

MISCELLANEOUS

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 or call 301-652-4794.

SERVICES

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

FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF: hockey gloves (free); storage container for roof of car (\$25); portable baseball screen/backstop (20 lbs and 7'X8') for pitching and hitting (\$50), originally \$100 and still in great condition, perfect for backyard, basement or field; small trampoline for kids (\$20). Call Nick, 301-641-1109.

MISCELLANEOUS

MULTI-FAMILY YARD AND BAKE SALE. 4722 Dorset Avenue, Saturday, October 15, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to Katrina relief charities.

WANTED

USED ADULT BIKE to buy to help get a college student to school. Call Nancy, 301-654-1297.

<p>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.</p>
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PRELIMINARY AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005 - 7:30 P.M.

1. Approval of minutes of the September 6 regular meeting – 7:30.
2. Mayor's report – 7:35.
3. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 7:45.
4. Suggestions and questions from residents – 7:55.
5. Action on recommendation by Street Light Committee to replace all Town mercury vapor street lights with high-pressure sodium bulbs at a cost of \$30,000 – 8:05.
6. Report by Tom Eldridge on Chevy Chase Village police enforcement in Somerset – 8:20.
7. Action on purchase of pedestrian reflectors as part of Town's safety campaign – 8:30.
8. Report by Mayor on recommendation of traffic engineer regarding driving visibility hazard from shrub, bamboo and hedge on Town right-of-way at 5410 Trent Street – 8:40.
9. Action on amendment to Town Code to increase size of Swimming Pool Committee to 16 members and confirmation of Jeff Aron, Michele Friedman, Sandra Hughes and Caroline Springer as members – 8:50.
10. Action on amendment to Town Code Section 5-303, Swimming Pool Committee to clarify length of chair's term, modify terms of members and include a swim team parent and pool users as members of the committee – 9:00.
11. Discussion of proposed change to Pool Rules to eliminate the hourly 15-minute swim break for children – 9:15.
12. Action on Town Code amendment authorizing residents to contract for limited trimming of Town street and park trees – 9:25.
13. Action on recommendation of Davey Tree to remove declining tree #395, a green ash at 4807 Falstone Avenue – 9:35.
14. New business – 9:40.
15. Adjournment – 9:45.