



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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April 18, 2006

## 1906 – 2006 Celebrating One Hundred Years A Town

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### **STREET CLOSING ALERT:**

To accommodate the Centennial street party on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> several of our streets will be closed. These include the 4700, 4800 and 4900 blocks of Dorset and Cumberland, 5700 and 5800 block of Surrey and the 5800 block of Warwick. They will be closed between 1:00 and 4:30 p.m. Only residents of those streets will be allowed through the police barrier. Dorset between the two Surrey intersections will be closed beginning in the morning so the stage and seating can be set up. It will remain closed until everything is removed after the event. Traffic will be diverted around Warwick and Essex. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience.

### **Calendar**

**Sunday, April 23** – Swim Team Parents meeting  
**Monday, April 24** – MVA's mobile office in Friendship Heights  
**Monday, May 1** – Town Council Meeting  
**Saturday, May 6** – Hazardous Waste disposal in Silver Spring  
**Sunday, May 7** – Somerset Authors' Forum

**Wednesday, May 10** – Last day to sign up for bulk trash pickup  
**Friday, May 12** – Special Trash Pickup  
**Thursday, May 18** – Deadline for Journal Ads  
**Friday, May 19** – Deadline for Journal Copy  
**Saturday, May 20** – Swim team breakfast party and team sign-up

\*\*\*\*\***Sunday, April 30 – Town Centennial Celebrations**\*\*\*\*\*

***One hundred years ago two out of every ten adults in the U.S. couldn't read or write. Somerset children had to walk for a mile across farm fields and an open stream to get to the E.V. Brown School at Chevy Chase Circle. It was to be another 22 years before a school was built in Somerset.***

# *Mayor's Den*

By Walter Behr

## ***Proposed Budget Includes Lower Tax Rate***

As a result of Council members' consensus at the budget hearing in April, the proposed property tax rate for Fiscal Year '07 is 4 cents per \$100 assessed value of house and lot, down a half-cent from this year's rate of 4 ½ cents. The proposed "personal" or business tax rate, which applies primarily to public utilities for use of Town right-of-way, remains unchanged at 22 cents.

Discussion and action on tax rates and budget are scheduled for 9:15 p.m. at the Town Council meeting Monday, May 1. A summary of the proposed budget - revised since last month - appears on page 4-5 of this Town Journal. The complete plan can be seen on the Town Website, [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) or you may obtain a copy at the Town Hall.

Proposed expenses, including \$70,000 for Contingencies, total \$1,394,000. Expected income is \$1,251,000, which means we will be spending \$143,000 of our surplus. Still, the surplus should be almost \$2 million at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2007.

## ***Largest Expenditures***

The four largest expenditures budgeted for FY-07 are town Hall (for renovation) \$400,000; Personnel (salaries and fringe benefits) \$252,000; Swimming Pool (including \$25,000 in architect's fees) \$181,000; and Sanitation (refuse, recycling and leaf collection) \$107,000.

## ***Major Income Sources***

By far, our largest source of income every year is a portion of Maryland income taxes paid by Somerset residents, which is rebated to the Town by the Comptroller. We are looking for \$924,000 from this source next fiscal year, almost three-quarters of our total income. Property taxes are the second-largest part of our revenue stream, \$137,000 expected next year, almost exactly the amount we will have received this year, based on a rate of 4.5 percent compared with the proposed 4 percent next year.

The next largest anticipated income item, \$67,000, is Highway User money from the State, based on the number of automobiles registered by Town residents. From Montgomery County we hope to receive \$55,000 to compensate for Town street-related expenses that residents pay as part of their County property tax bill.

My revised budget includes several updates from the budget summarized in last month's Town Journal. One of these, again at the suggestion of Council members, is \$10,000 for erosion control of Little Falls Branch. We are exploring the idea of retaining an expert to observe the stream from time-to-time and recommend remedial action to slow down erosion of the creek banks.

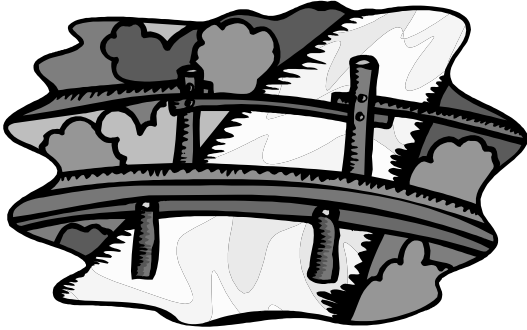
## ***Street Excavations, Patching Over for Now***

By the time you read this Town Journal, Callahan Pipeline should have completed their job of replacing certain sewer and water mains plus patching the necessary excavations and fixing broken curbs and driveway aprons. In addition, the contractor should have restored the staging area beyond the pool upper parking lot and repaved a small area of cracked pavement in that lot.

Our Kenwood neighbors, I know, are delighted that the other staging area, at Dorset and Little Falls Parkway, has been cleared and is being beautified. The Parks Department has promised that the space will never again be used for construction materials and machinery.

In July, a different contractor, working for WSSC, will mill (grind) the streets that have been affected and pave them from curb to curb. Three streets will be improved: all of Essex, Warwick from Cumberland to Falstone and Dorset between Warwick and Little Falls.

### ***County Will Try New Technique on Creek***



Next month, Montgomery County will try again to stabilize the banks of Little Falls Branch below our swimming pool bridge. This time a County contractor will spray a two-to-three-inch thick layer of mulch on steep slopes on both banks of the creek. The mulch will include tree, shrub and grass seeds as well as fertilizer.

The stretch to be treated on the right bank (looking downstream) is about 20 feet long, just beyond the storm drain outfall. On the left side, the section to be affected extends about 50 feet toward the bridge from the near bank of the creek before it was realigned.

Also in May, Bryan Seipp of the Potomac Conservancy has agreed to inspect the entire creek in Somerset and suggest a plan or consultants to keep track of future erosion.

### ***Batter Up***

Did you ever dream of playing big league baseball or even managing a major league team? Sorry, we can't help you, but how is this for the next best thing: a position on the Somerset Batting Cage Committee until March 2008? If you are interested, please send a brief e-mail or letter to the Town Hall by **Tuesday, May 9**, outlining why and how you would like to participate.

Richard Furcolo is chair of the Batting Cage Committee. I'm certain he would be glad to discuss responsibilities and time commitment with you. Other members of the committee are Chris Lane, Rod Macklin, David Sapin and David Fellows, who is moving out of Town.



### ***Boy Scout Improves Park Trail***



Vinton Park Trail walkers are grateful to Toby Kathan of Dorset Avenue for making the path more user-friendly. As his Eagle Scout project, Toby and his helpers installed a boardwalk on a swampy area not far from Dorset Avenue and replaced a set of stairs on the steep bank at the crossing closer to Dorset.

The original steps were built a long time ago by Bill Brenner of Surrey Street, who has devoted countless hours to clearing the trail and otherwise improving it over the years

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007  
WITH AUDITED FIGURES FOR FY-05 AND ESTIMATES FOR FY-06

**REVENUE**

Line Item	<u>FY-05</u> <u>Audit</u>	<u>FY-06</u> <u>Estimate</u>	<u>FY-07</u> <u>Proposed</u>
Property Tax	135,877	137,840	137,300
Per \$100 Assessed Value	at .05/.22	at .045/.22	at .04/.22
State Income Tax	616,787	840,295	924,325
Highway Users	52,666	61,514	67,357
County Revenue Sharing	41,660	53,390	55,335
Swimming Pool	9,303	10,000	10,000
Tennis	474	450	450
Batting Cage	220	200	150
Interest	33,157	68,020	40,200
Town Hall Rental	8,789	5,500	0
Building Permits	6,375	3,000	5,000
Cable TV Franchise	9,595	10,400	10,504
Miscellaneous	2,463	7,969	769
FEMA	0	0	0
<hr/>			
TOTAL	917,366	1,198,578	1,251,390
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**END OF YEAR FUND BALANCE**

(RESERVE, CUMULATIVE SURPLUS, RAINY DAY FUND)

	1,727,846	2,117,304	1,974,295
Percent of Current Year Expenses	217.5	261.7	141.6

EXPENSES

Line Item	<u>FY-05</u> Audit	<u>FY-06</u> Estimate	<u>FY-07</u> Proposed
Salaries	156,723	168,725	192,851
Fringe Benefits	47,977	53,420	59,577
Legal	33,951	25,000	30,000
Auditor/Accounting	6,772	6,000	6,000
Building Inspector	3,045	4,000	4,000
Police	0	12,243	0
Journal/Notices	18,234	21,185	21,821
Civic Affairs	30,417	36,333	26,820
Office Operations	15,704	17,000	18,595
Office Equipment	115	10,000	2,000
Town Hall/Garage Operations	15,073	14,500	21,370
Town Hall/Garage Improvements	23,748	25,000	400,000
Insurance	3,580	3,520	2,970
Streets, Sidewalks, Curbs	61,575	65,500	125,080
Trees & Gardens Maintenance	76,924	63,000	75,390
New Trees & Park Improvement	24,443	10,000	10,000
Refuse	43,271	49,747	50,488
Recycling	42,124	48,747	49,488
Leaves	5,968	7,300	7,500
Pool Operations	106,489	124,000	131,320
Pool Improvements	18,897	25,000	50,000
Tennis Courts	696	1,000	11,125
Batting Cage	1,397	1,500	1,500
Major Equipment	25,192	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	12,097	11,400	11,504
Erosion	0	0	10,000
Undergrounding	20,000	0	0
Contingency	0	0	70,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>794,412</b>	<b>809,120</b>	<b>1,394,399</b>

OPERATING SURPLUS

Current year revenue minus expenses	122,954	389,458	-143,009
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## Happy Anniversary Somerset!

By Council Member Lesley Simmons Chair, History Committee

The History Committee, members of the Centennial Task Force, and many volunteers have been hard at work planning an afternoon to remember for the next 100 years. Don't miss out on this fun-packed day.

Join friends and neighbors for a short ceremony and lots of entertainment and activities to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town's incorporation on Sunday, April 30, 2006 from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Bring the Centennial map and Program included in this mailing with you to help you decide where to go and what to do. We're willing to bet you won't be able to do it all!

At 1:00 p.m. we will gather at Founders' Park (Dorset to Surrey) to greet neighbors and guests and enjoy entertainment by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Jazz Band.

At 1:30 p.m. our ceremony begins with a welcome to residents and special guests by Mayor Walter Behr. Our special guests include Congressman Chris Van Hollen, who will give a short keynote address, and the Honorable Marilyn R. Goldwater, the Honorable Brian E. Frosh, and the Honorable Howard Denis who will read proclamations. Maryland Secretary of State the Honorable Mary Kane has accepted our invitation and we hope other invited state and local leaders will also join us to help mark this special event.



Entertainment will be provided by the 70+ voice Somerset Elementary School Choir (you may wish to sing along) and the 10-piece B-CC High School Jazz Band. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, Mayor Walter Behr will unveil a commemorative plaque in the park.

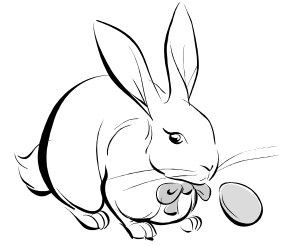
From 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. you can take part in a number of activities:

- Enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream social evoking memories of the parties held by long-time Somerset Mayor John Stohlman (owner of Stohlman's ice cream parlor in Georgetown) with lively entertainment from Somerset

resident, Hilda Seibel on violin and partner Hank Bryant, guitar.

- Take a Trolley Tour around Town and learn about Somerset's history from your Tour Guide Lucy Freeman (30 minute narrated round-trip).
- Pick up a walking tour brochure and a history quiz at Amelia Davis' store on the corner of Warwick and Dorset. Read about the Town's history as you walk its tree-lined streets. Look out for characters from the Town's past (maybe you will see a bagpiper on the corner of Dorset and Surrey or a car that seems like it is from a bygone era). Return your completed quiz to the store and receive a reward!
- Take in one or all of the delightful homes on the house tour. Seven homes representing a century and more of American architecture – and an art studio – are open for your viewing pleasure. (12 years old and over only, please.) Tickets are \$10 and will be available for sale on Saturday April 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Jeffrey Slavin's house (5706 Warwick Place); on Sunday April 30 from 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. in front of 4728 Dorset Avenue and from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Amelia Davis' store.
- Visit the Town Hall and the Somerset café for refreshments and a look back in time as you: view photographic displays of old and new Somerset and news clippings of special events; read residents' memories in a Centennial Memory Book, and more.
- Shop at Amelia Davis' store (5800 Warwick) for souvenirs, books, stamps, house tour tickets, or to pick up your walking tour and history quiz brochure, and sign up for a centennial license plate.
- *Just for Fun* for the younger set. Visit Capello Park (next to the Town Hall) to have your face painted or to make a cool piece of "spin art" with Somerset resident Elizabeth Bielak.

At 3:00 p.m. kids are invited to hunt for treasures with the Spring Bunny at Somerset's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Egg Hunt. Generations of Somerset kids remember egg hunts: some took the trolley car to the White House for the annual Easter Egg Roll, others searched the fields that surround Somerset for eggs hidden by their parents. Today, hunt for candy and prizes hidden in eggs around the grounds of the Town Hall in the park named for our longest-serving Town Clerk-Treasurer, James Capello.



If the line is long for one activity, don't wait, go on to another and come back later. All activities – including ice cream service – except for the egg hunt go on until 4:30!

## *Town Hall Tidbits*

By Tom Carter

### **Special Trash Pickup May 12**

The Town Council, at its April 3 meeting, approved a special trash pickup on **Friday, May 12**, for residents who have large items that cannot go in the regular trash collections. The Town now provides this service twice a year at no cost to residents. Residents wishing to participate need only notify Tom at Town Hall no later than **May 10**. This will be your reservation for the special collection service by our contractor, J&J Inc. **ITEMS WILL NOT BE PICKED UP WITHOUT A RESERVATION.**

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

Lawn mowers and other power equipment must be emptied of gas and oil. Refrigerators and freezers must have the Freon removed by an authorized agent and tagged appropriately. Propane tanks must be removed from grills.

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; bricks and concrete blocks; paint cans; flammable or hazardous liquids or solids (including propane canisters); ammunition or explosives; large rocks; and dead animals.

### **Computer Recycling**

Computers for Communities, Inc., will pick up your old computers, Pentium II and higher, refurbish them and provide them to low-income families and individuals at no cost. You can check them out at their Web site, [www.ComputersForCommunitiesInc.org](http://www.ComputersForCommunitiesInc.org), or call (301) 368-9253 to arrange for a pickup.

### **Street Sweeping**

Camelot Property Services will begin sweeping Town streets on Monday, May 1. They do not set a schedule and simply come through several times until they can finish the job. Residents are asked to park their cars in their driveways during the week of May 1-5. Houses where they have not been able to clean after that week will receive notices to move their cars.

### **Don't Dump, Donate Program**

Montgomery County has a program to recycle usable construction materials for use in low-income housing. If you have any reusable construction materials, you may take them to the Shady Grove side of the Transfer Station at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

## Hazardous Waste Disposal

Hazardous waste may be dropped off at the Briggs Chaney Park & Ride in Silver Spring east of Colesville Road (Rte 29) at Gateshead Manor Road on Saturday, May 6.

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. In fact, 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/swstmpl.asp?url=/Content/DPWT/solidwaste/collection\\_services/hw/hhw/index.asp#dates](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/swstmpl.asp?url=/Content/DPWT/solidwaste/collection_services/hw/hhw/index.asp#dates)

## Grasscycling

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

## Parking

Please refrain from parking cars opposite other residents' driveways. Drivers who park in these locations not only inconvenience their neighbors who are trying to back out onto the street, but also place their own vehicles in greater likelihood of damage.

Please report all illegally parked cars directly to the police at (301) 279-8000. You do NOT have to give your name to file a report.

## Pool Membership and Guests

It's time to register any new family members or care providers at the Town Office. If you have anyone registered with your family who is no longer eligible, please notify Tom as well. This includes grown children who no longer reside at home and care providers who are no longer employed by you.

We will be using the same two types of guest passes for the pool as in the past:

**Weekly:** A 7-day pass for out-of-town houseguests that can be purchased at the Town Hall for \$5 each.

**Daily:** a 5-visit pass for one-day or short visit guests that is sold at the pool for \$10 (\$2 per visit).

Remember these passes must be purchased with a check made out to the "Town of Somerset." Cash cannot be accepted.

## Permits Granted

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

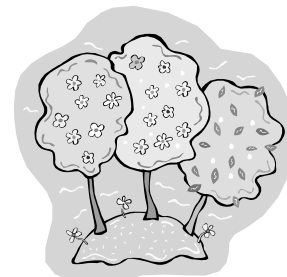
### Trees:

Bridget Cowie, 5511 Uppingham Street, to remove an ailing dogwood in her front yard.

Richard Feldman, 5517 Uppingham Street, to remove a maple in his back yard too close to the new foundation.

Jim and Dabney Goold, 5812 Surrey Street, to remove a white pine in the side yard and a failing juniper in the front, both too close to the house.

Gail Flory and Steve Himelfarb, 4604 Dorset Avenue, to remove a badly leaning double trunk tree on their east property line.





# Legislation

At the April 3 meeting, the Town Council:



1. Approved a Town Code amendment changing portions of Section 9-107. School Zones and Traffic to make signage and speed limit comply with standard practice and recommendations of Montgomery County Public Schools and Department of Public Works and Transportation traffic experts.

2. Introduced legislation to amend the Town Code to increase the fine for blocking a sidewalk or street from \$50 to \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

# Council Activity

At the April 3 meeting, the Council:

1. Presented a certificate of commendation to Mark Berry for saving a fellow student's life.

2. Heard the Mayor's announcement of a \$2,095.82 emergency expenditure for repair of the underground line for the pool path lights, which were cut in four places by the railing contractor.

3. Set the spring large item pickup by our trash hauler on Friday, May 12.

4. Heard a report by Bill Brenner on the Town Hall foundation.

5. Approved a tree removal permit for Giri and Malini Jadeja, 4702 Dorset Avenue, to remove two Siberian elms crowding the driveway and a nuisance sweet gum in their back yard, but not the tulip poplar beside the driveway.

6. Approved a building permit for Philip and Barbara Levine, 5524 Uppingham Street, to reconfigure their first floor by enlarging their kitchen and garage, adding a second floor over the right side of the house, a new front porch and a deck in the rear, subject to additional drainage improvements, receipt of a copy of the County permit application and final permit, and Town permit fees and deposit.

7. Approved a building permit for Charles and Charlotte Perret, 4716 Falstone Avenue, to demolish the existing house and shed and construct a one-story house with finished basement and attached garage and replace a portion of the fence along the south side of their driveway, subject to receipt of the County permit and the Town fees and deposit.

8. Heard the Mayor's presentation of the proposed budget and real and personal (business) property tax rates for FY-07.

9. Heard a report by Tom Eldridge on traffic enforcement by Chevy Chase Village police and their proposed increase in hourly fee.

10. Approved a contract with Camelot Property Services to sweep Town streets for \$2,250.



Walter Behr presents a certificate of commendation to Mark Berry for saving a fellow student's life.

11. Renewed our contract with Connecting Links for managing the Town Web site for a monthly fee of \$375 (up from current \$325), to include monthly updates and a thorough review annually.

## On My Mind

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

The Town is abuzz this month about the upcoming centennial celebration. And could our forefathers and foremothers have ever imagined the successful community they created 100 years ago? I doubt it.

Our signature event on the last day of the month promises to be a remarkable, historic event. I urge everyone to attend and participate. We all owe a debt of gratitude for the awesome work of our History Committee led by talented Council member Lesley Simmons, who has put her heart and soul in the planning. The Committee and Town staff have worked like professional event planners in coming up with an awesome schedule of activities.

It is particularly fitting that we can celebrate our accomplishments and highlight the advantages of living in an incorporated community because the Maryland Municipal League has proclaimed April as *Municipal Government Works Month*. Each of Maryland's 157 cities and towns is encouraged to sponsor a special program. Without question, Somerset will lead the pack in 2006!

One last thought, since "company's coming" as so many dignitaries and former residents will be around Town, I encourage all residents to take time now to do some early Spring cleaning to ensure that on the 30<sup>th</sup> lawns are mowed, trash is picked up and toys put away. We want to look our best.

Happy Anniversary, Somerset.

## Somerset History Column

### Somerset's Town Founder and First Mayor: Dr. Charles A. Crampton

By Jesse Guttman (Dorset) Age 11



First Mayor Dr. Charles Crampton (right) pictured with his son Carl, the first baby to be born in Somerset (center) and Dr. Crampton's father (left).

Dr. Charles A. Crampton became the first Mayor of Somerset on May 7, 1906. He was born in 1858 in Davenport, Iowa and went to the University of Michigan before becoming Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry in the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Dr. Crampton worked with Dr. Harvey Wiley, another founding father of Somerset, who was the Chief of that Bureau and was known as the "Father of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906."

Dr. Crampton had many "firsts" in Somerset. He had the first house to be built in 1893 at 4805 Dorset Avenue. In 1894, his son, Carl, was the first baby born in Somerset. He also had the first car in Somerset. One of the first things Mayor Crampton and the first Town Council did in 1906 was to pass a town ordinance that required residents to keep their chickens and other livestock from roaming the town at large. He served as mayor until 1910.

## Project Ladybug

by Faith and Chip Breen

According to gardener Paul James: A mere 625 square feet of lawn provides enough oxygen for one person for an entire day, and a large lawn could help more than 100 people breathe easier. On a block of eight average homes, front lawns have the same cooling effect as 70 tons of air conditioning. Turf grasses absorb gaseous pollutants such as carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide, and trap an estimated 12 tons of dirt and dust that would be released each year into the atmosphere. A buffer zone of grass around buildings helps retard the spread of fires. Lawns also prevent soil erosion; reduce runoff and filter contaminants from rainwater. Lawns help keep our lakes and streams clean by filtering and purifying rainwater, and they do the job



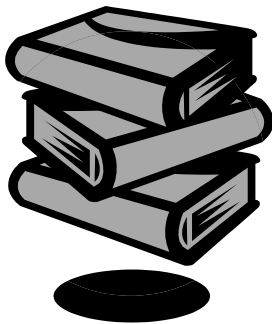
better than plants such as groundcovers or wildflowers. “James goes on to say that it is not necessary to spend a lot of time and money on your lawn. In fact, it would be better if we:

- Water only when the lawn needs it--in most cases once a week--and deep soak each time you water to promote a healthy root system.
- Cut back on fertilizer from the recommended four or five applications a year to only one, ideally during the fall and preferably in the form of an all-natural slow-release product.
- Use a mulching mower, which saves time and also provides a significant amount of food for the lawn.
- Use compost as a means of feeding the lawn naturally.
- Don't use herbicides and other lawn chemicals. Instead, control weeds by hand and by cutting the lawn higher than usual but before weeds have a chance to set seed.
- Combat diseases through the use of beneficial bacteria and other organisms as well as compost. James encourages some weeds in the lawn to promote biodiversity.

Source: [http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl\\_lawns/article/0,,HGTV\\_3597\\_1388055,00.html](http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gl_lawns/article/0,,HGTV_3597_1388055,00.html)

### **Reminder: Author's Forum: Sunday May 7**

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin



Don't forget to calendar Somerset's first Authors' Forum, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The program will feature Frank Joseph and his new book "To Love Mercy," Ellen Butts new work on Fidel Castro and Maury Atkin's memoir called "Life's Voyage: Dedicated to Making a Difference."

We will start with a reception for half an hour, each author will then read a selection and take questions and answers, and then books will be available for purchase and signing.

This will be an excellent opportunity to find out first hand about some of our Town's most fascinating residents.

## *County News*

### **Board of Elections Seeking Student Aides for 2006 Election**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is seeking 1,000 school-age students, grades 6-12, to serve as Election Day student aides during the 2006 Gubernatorial Elections. For information visit:

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/News/press/DisplayInfo.cfm?ItemID=1797>

### **County offers free File of Life**

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with Fire and Rescue Services, is offering County residents a free 'File of Life'.

The File of Life is a red, plastic, magnetic file pocket that attaches to a refrigerator. The completed information in the file provides emergency medical personnel with quick access to important information, such as medical conditions, medications taken, and emergency contact information. The ability to access this information can save valuable time, enabling quick assessments by emergency medical personnel.

To request your free File of Life, call Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services at (240) 777-3000.

### **The Red File**

By Gayley Knight

Following 9-11 and the recent natural disasters around the world, financial and security advisors have taken the “file of Life” concept one step further, suggesting everyone create a red file to be used for business, as well as personal, papers needed to rebuild your financial life.

Included in this red file should be

- Birth, death and marriage certificates
- Adoption papers
- Identification, including driver’s license, passport, social security
- Recent bank and brokerage statements
- Property deeds
- Mortgage and home/business equity notes
- Car title, registration, lease or loan information
- Insurance policies and agent contact numbers
- Credit and debit cards, both front and back
- A household and business inventory
- Tax returns for the past three years
- The location of wills, trusts and powers of attorney
- Names and contact numbers for executors, trustees and guardians
- A list of your financial advisers and their contact information
- A list of user IDs and passwords for online financial accounts
- W-2 forms
- Sales receipts for appliances, electronics under warranty

These can be photocopies, or scanned into your computer and burned onto a disk.

Put all this into a large red envelope. Put this red envelope into a larger envelope and mail or overnight the package to the person (relative, friend or professional fiduciary) you’ve entrusted to hold it. This person should be in a different part of the country. Instruct the recipient to leave the inner envelope sealed and to send it back, on request, if a disaster should wipe out your originals.

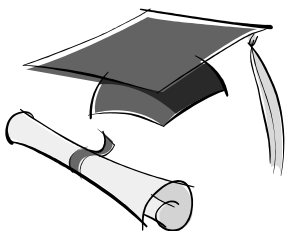
## All About People

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Talented **LACY SIMKOWITZ**, daughter of **KATHERINE LACY and HOWARD SIMKOWITZ** (Cumberland), has been accepted into a Master’s degree program in the history of the decorative arts, jointly sponsored by the Parsons School of Design and the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Design in New York City. Lacy, who was awarded a scholarship, is currently working as a researcher for an art publishing house in the City...

I received an important announcement from the **DOCK** household (Falstone) -- **ALAN, MARY, CHRIS, KATIE and of course BLUE**, whose beautiful home renovations are finally complete – “at last it’s happened: The Falstone Avenue Troglodytes have emerged from their underground quarters in the basement of 4801 and joined the normal world again. It was almost a year and there were distinct signs of agoraphobia as the family scattered into their new much larger house after their somewhat cozy basement living. Sunglasses were in order for the early mornings, too, as they had not seen the early sun for a year!” The Docks thank all Somerseters for our patience with endless dumpsters, noisy construction days and trash filled yard...

Council member **TOM ELDRIDGE**, along with wife **JENNIFER MARRON** (Warwick), tell me of new additions to their animal loving household, which includes **ALEXANDRA, HARRY and SARAH**. They recently acquired three second hand gerbils and two baby rats, who joined two guinea pigs, an albino hedgehog and, of course, well known lab **MADDY**. Rumor has it that another rat is on the way...We will all miss **DAVID and CELESTE FELLOWS** and their children **ALEX, ZACH and PETER** (Warwick) who are moving to Evergreen, Colorado this summer. We appreciate their friendship and all the contributions they have made to the community...It’s almost the start of graduation season and we will have a bumper crop coming out of Somerset Elementary this June.



A final reminder of the television debut of **MAURA FINKELSTEIN**, daughter of **NAT and ESTHER** (Surrey). Her reality show at the Texas ranchhouse can be seen May 1 – 4 from 8 – 10 p.m. on the local PBS outlet. Don't miss it... Will see everyone at the Town Centennial on April 30 – Don't miss that, either.

## 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.

**BABY SITTING/HOUSE SITTING.** Our college-age friend Carolyn will be home from Emory and available to nanny, house sit, dog sit and/or baby sit from July 3 through August 19. Please call Bob or Tierney at 301-961-9076 if you would like to get in touch with her.

### Wanted

**SOMERSET HOME.** We are a family of three currently renting in Somerset. We'd like to make this lovely community our home. If you are aware of any opportunities coming up in the next few months, please let us know. Call the Capors, 301-986-8605.

### Miscellaneous

**NEED A HOUSE SITTER?** Trusted friend of Somerset family seeks house-sitting opportunities anytime. She is a non-smoker young professional with excellent references. Call Maura, 301-951-7172.

*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.*

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.

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#### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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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](http://www.townofsomerset.com)

E-mail: [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com)

TTY users call Maryland Relay

**Deadlines: Ads May 18, Copy May 19**

# *PRELIMINARY AGENDA*

## **REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL**

*Monday, May 1, 2006 - 7:30 P.M.*

1. Demonstration of e-mail management software by Listsoft representative – 7:00.
2. Administration of oath of office to Mayor and two Council members – 7:30.
3. Approval of minutes of the April 3 regular meeting and the April 18 work session – 7:35.
4. Discussion of financial report – 7:40.
5. Election of Vice President of Council for one-year term – 7:45.
6. Agreement on special responsibilities of Council members – 7:50.
7. Confirmation of Mayor's appointment of Steve Friedman to Board of Supervisors of Elections for term ending December 31, 2007 – 7:55.
8. Fact finding hearing and action on application by Michael and Sally Christian, 4718 Essex Avenue, to demolish their garage and deck, construct a new garage below ground with a first floor addition above it, extend the existing first floor to the west and slightly to the front, add a second story to the entire house and place a retaining wall along the driveway – 8:00.
9. Fact finding hearing and action on applications by Cathedral Investments (Marc Reshefsky), 5415 Surrey Street, to demolish the structure and construct a two-story house with two-car attached garage – 8:20.
10. Recommendation to Historic Preservation Commission on application by Jeff and Dana Macher, 4725 Cumberland Avenue, to change their porch roof from asphalt shingles to black metal – 8:40.
11. Mayor's report – 8:45.
12. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 8:55.
13. Suggestions and questions from residents – 9:05.
14. \*\*Action on ordinance adopting budget and real and personal (business) property tax rates for Fiscal Year 2007 – 9:15.
15. Action on Town Code amendment to increase fine for blocking sidewalk or street from \$50 to \$250 for first offense, \$500 for subsequent offenses – 9:35.
16. Action on purchase of multi-function machine to replace aging copier in Town office -- 9:40.
17. New business – 9:45.
18. Adjournment – 9:50.

Items marked \*\* have related articles inside this issue of the Town Journal.

*This is a preliminary agenda prepared to meet the Journal press deadline, which typically is two weeks prior to the next Town Council meeting. During this period there will be changes to the timing of items, and some items may be added or deleted. Please consult the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch or the Town Web site for the up-to-date agenda.*