



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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1906 – 2006 Celebrating One Hundred Years A Town

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Calendar

Wednesday, May 31 – Centennial celebration airs:
Channel 16

Monday, June 5 – Town Council Meeting

Thursday, June 15 – Deadline Journal Copy and
Ads

Saturday, June 17 – Hazardous waste drop off:
Westland Middle School

Friday, June 23 – Brown Bag Lunch

Sunday, June 25 – Heritage Days exhibit and lecture

Monday, July 24 – MVA's mobile office in
Friendship Heights

*Don't forget to check the Town website
throughout the month for an up-to-date
calendar. Go to www.townofsomerset.com and
click on "Calendar"*

One hundred years ago sugar cost four cents a pound, coffee was fifteen cents a pound and eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Most Somerset families didn't shop for eggs, though. They had their own chickens. One of the first Town ordinances was to stop letting animals – including chickens – run at large.

Mayor's Den

By Walter Behr

Celebration Reprise

In my almost 50 years in Somerset, I have experienced many joyous and important occasions, including dedications of the swimming pool and Town Hall, but no event that came close to the excitement, significance and pure pleasure of the Town Centennial celebration on April 30.

I have a list of some 75 residents, including youths, who pitched in to make the day a huge success, and I am extremely grateful to all. These are listed in the Honor Roll on page 3. While I cannot go into detail about the contributions each volunteer made, two individuals played such dominant roles that they must be singled out for special praise.

David Herbick contributed his boundless talent to design the beautiful Centennial banners that are gracing our streets. In addition, he is responsible for the Centennial U.S. postage stamps, T-shirts, mugs and auto license plates. Several years ago, Dave created our first Town of Somerset flag.

Lesley Simmons was the brain trust, publicist and administrator-in-chief. She started planning the historic event two years ago and operated in high gear until it unfolded without a hitch. On behalf of the many hundreds of residents and former residents who will always cherish the memory of Somerset's 100th birthday party, my heartfelt thanks, Lesley.

Our Montgomery Municipal Cable station, Channel 16, will feature the Centennial celebration Wednesday, May 31, at 9 p.m.

Flood Insurance Finally Available

A 30-year effort by the Town to qualify for the Federal flood insurance program has finally paid off with the result that residents may now purchase coverage at substantially reduced rates. Although the program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), participating homeowners obtain coverage through the same company that provides their regular homeowner's policy.

You do not have to be located near a body of water to be at risk of flood damage, according to the State of Maryland Insurance Administration. Floods are often caused by storms, melting snow, wind-driven rain and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters such as experienced by Somerset residents on Dorset, Warwick and Cumberland east of Somerset School. In order for an event to be considered a flood, two or more properties must be affected.

Maximum coverage is \$250,000 for a house and \$100,000 for personal property, with \$500 deductible. To get an idea of the cost, I got a quotation of \$358 a year for maximum coverage of my house and personal property. A similar rate should apply to most Somerset houses since the great majority are not in a flood plain. A higher rate will apply to the few houses in town that are in the Little Falls Branch floodplain.

For further information, call 1-800-427-4661 or visit www.floodsmart.gov the official site of the national flood insurance program.

Carter, Finkelstein, Kay Honored

Congratulations to our Clerk-Treasurer **Tom Carter**, who has just been chosen "Clerk of the Year" by the Maryland Municipal Clerks Association. Claire Funkhouser, Rockville Clerk-Treasurer and president of the group, will present the award to Tom in Ocean City during the convention of the Maryland Municipal League next month.

Funkhouser has praised Tom for serving faithfully as treasurer of the association for several years and for his efficiency and sound judgment. To which we add a hearty "amen!"

Felicitations also to **Nat Finkelstein** and **Sanford Kay** for their elevation to new positions of responsibility at the Bethesda Fire Department. Nat is the department's new first vice-president, and Sandy, the official representative of the Town of Somerset, is secretary and editor. As most of you know, the Bethesda Fire Department has primary responsibility for serving Somerset in case of fire and also responds to emergency first-aid calls, often arriving before the B-CC Rescue Squad.



Neighborhood Shopping Center Opens Soon

Most of you, I'm sure, have seen the elaborate fronts of the high-end boutiques on Wisconsin Avenue known as "The Collection at Chevy Chase," and some of you may have ventured inside, but I believe even more of you wonder what businesses will comprise the Chevy Chase Center's neighborhood shopping center, and when will it open.

Michele Cornwell, senior VP of the Chevy Chase Land Company, has advised us that the following businesses will open this summer: Giant Food and Pharmacy (twice the size of the old store), Sushi-Ko, Chevy Chase and Eagle banks, Papyrus, Potomac Pizza, Galaxy Dry Cleaners, Gifford's Ice Cream and Candy, Perez Salon & Day Spa, a County liquor store and a UPS store.

Also scheduled to open in a few months is the outdoor dining area of Clyde's Restaurant. The Chevy Chase Center Office Tower is completely leased.



Centennial Helpers -- Honor Roll

Jack Berry, Mark Berry, Sue Besharov, Ann Bisconti and Charles Dyke, Jim Boughton, Bill Brenner, Ann Brown, Hank Bryant, Howard and Lola Byron, Jill Caporale, Amanda Carter, Cindy Chambers, Sabra Chartrand, Torie Clarke and Brian Graham, Ursula and Mak Dehejia, Grace Dimond, Chuck and Sue Edson, Dee Emma, Ellie and Matthew Fink, Judy Frankel, Lucy Freeman, Lindsey Gerber, Lorrie Gross, Donna and George Harman, David Herbick, Linda Kanefield, Sandeep Kapur, Richard Kingdom, Gayley Knight, Ruth Koffsky, Katharine Kosin, Michael and Karen Kuehl, Kate Lewis, David Mann, Jen Mesirov, Douglas Miller, Virginia Mitz, Carolyn Morgan, Sarah Morse, Corrie Morsey, Abby Nolan, Andrew Resnick, Val Ringland, Alice Rogoff, Alice Rowen, Lauren Rubenstein, David Sacks, Marian Scheiner, Irv Schneider, Norm Schneider, Paul Schneider, Zola Schneider, Hilda Siebel, Lesley Simmons, Jeffrey Slavin, Lila Snow, Patrick Sprehe, Bonnie Thomson, Bonnie Tillman, Tracy Truman, Joan Weiss, Marshall White, Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Laura Will and Joe Lipscomb, The players of the B-CC High School Jazz Band and singers of the Somerset Elementary School 5th Grade Choir; Town staff Tom Carter, Enrique Cabrera, Angel Alba, and Tomas Villanueva.

Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

Office Schedule in June

Tom will be out of the office June 26-28. Corrie Morsey expects to be in during Tom's absence. During these dates, please call first to be sure someone is in the office before coming over or leave a message on the answering machine and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Found

Two "Peace Please" caps, a "Sun Valley" visor cap and two pairs of sunglasses were found at Founders' Park after the centennial celebration on April 30. If any of these belong to you, please call Tom at (301) 657-3211.

Reminder to Dog Owners

The Town Code requires that you keep your dog on a leash whenever the dog is not on your property and that you pick up the feces after your dog does its duty. Please keep our parks and your neighbors' yards clean from dog messes. Fines of up to \$100 can be imposed! Dog droppings may be disposed of in the Town trash receptacles as long as they are double bagged to protect the collectors.



Town Maintenance Vehicles and Staff

Please use caution when driving behind the Town tractors and trucks. They are often moving very slowly as the staff work alongside or in front of the vehicles. Kindly resist riding on their bumpers; give them some space and yourself room to see around them so you are sure it is safe to pass. Also, be particularly cautious when passing the maintenance men working along the streets with power equipment and wearing ear protection. They cannot hear approaching cars.

Reminders on Recycles

Please remember to remove the caps from your recyclable bottles before you place them in the blue bin. The caps are not recyclable.

Also don't use plastic bags for your recyclables. J&J will not pick up any recyclables in plastic bags. The plastic bags are recyclable through many grocery stores, but not through J&J. Additionally, newspapers should not be placed loose in the blue bins. Please put newspapers and mixed papers in paper bags. If any papers are commingled with the real commingled (glass, cans and plastics), J&J will not pick them up. It takes them too long to sort into the truck.

Beware of Con Artists

With spring weather here, the annual visitation of itinerant con artists to the area is at hand. Be sure you do not fall for their excuses to get in your home. They will often engage you in conversation or distract you while a partner enters the house and steals cash and valuable small items. Sometimes they just ask to use your restroom. Never allow strangers into your home. Always keep your doors locked, even if you are just in your yard. Call the police if you see someone suspicious hanging around your neighborhood.

Pool Membership and Guests

If you haven't already, there is still 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.

Parking

Residents should advise lawn services and guests that it is illegal and dangerous to park on the "NO PARKING" side of the street. Our streets are congested enough with the numerous ongoing construction projects.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Hazardous waste may be dropped off at Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, on Saturday, June 17.

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

MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's mobile office will not be in Friendship Heights in June, but will return on Monday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Contractors File

Tom maintains a listing of contractors who have provided excellent service in the past to the Town or Town residents. Give Tom a call at (301) 657-3211 for a referral if you are stumped over what to do. We welcome any referrals you might have, good or bad, for our records. Keep in mind that the Town is not responsible in any way for work done by any of these contractors. The decision on whom you choose to do your work is solely up to you.

Somerset Rain Gauges

Three 90th Birthday rain gauges are still available at Town Hall for \$3.00 apiece. Call Tom at (301) 657-3211 or stop by Town Hall if you would like to purchase one for your garden.

Town History

Copies of the Town's 90th History are available at the Town Hall office. The first copy per household is free. Additional copies are \$3.00 apiece. Please contact Tom at (301) 657-3211 if you are interested in obtaining this informative document or the new book, *Somerset - One Hundred Years a Town*, available for \$20 each.

Permits Granted

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

Trees:

Eric and Carolyn Shettle, 5504 Uppingham Street, to remove a split and failing crab apple tree in their front yard.

Kay Mangasarian, 4515 Cumberland Avenue, to remove a dead honey locust in her back yard.

Curbs:

Jim Losey, 4700 Essex Avenue, to replace his apron.

Hugo Albornoz, 5508 Uppingham Street, to replace his apron.

Legislation

At the May 1 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Adopted the Mayor's amended budget for FY-07 and set the property tax rates at \$.04 per \$100 assessed value for real property and \$.22 for personal (business) property for FY-07.
2. Approved a Town Code amendment to increase the fine for blocking a sidewalk or street from \$50 to \$250 for a first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses. (Vote: unanimous. Motion passed 4-0. Frankel abstained.)

Council Activity

At the May 1 meeting, the Council:

1. Elected Richard Kessler as vice-president of Council for a one-year term.
2. Agreed on the following special responsibilities of Council members:

Judy Frankel: Parks and Natural Resources Committee, Audit Committee, Special Events Committee alternate, Check signing alternate



Richard Kessler: Swimming Pool Committee, Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, Bank statement reviewer alternate, Security Committee alternate

Tom Eldridge: Security Committee, Swimming Pool Committee alternate

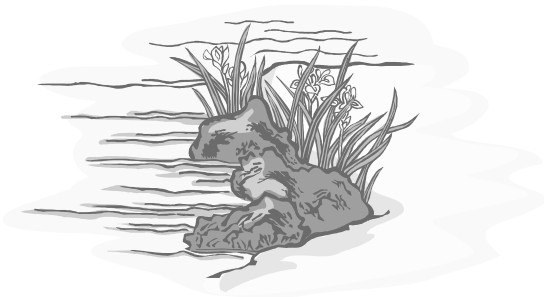
Jeffrey Slavin: Special Events Committee, Town Journal columnist, History Committee alternate, Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights alternate, Bank statement reviewer

Lesley Simmons: History Committee chair, Town Journal editor, Parks and Natural Resources Committee alternate, Check signing alternate

3. Confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Steve Friedman to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for a term ending December 31, 2007.
4. Approved permit applications by Michael and Sally Christian, 4718 Essex Avenue, to demolish their existing house and construct a two-story house with attached garage; to remove six trees; and to construct walls along both sides of their driveway, subject to receipt of the County permit and review of height calculations by Town Building Inspector Larry Plummer, review of the engineer's stormwater drainage report by the Mayor, replacement of two trees with a deposit of \$400, submission of the \$25 wall permit fee and Town building permit fees and deposit, erection of a supersilt fence on all but Essex Avenue and part of Surrey Street and submission of the contractor's name and Maryland Home Improvement license number.
5. Recommended approval of the application by Ruth and Arne Sorenson, 5810 Warwick Place, to extend rear deck four feet to the south beyond that included in their originally approved plan to the Historic Preservation Commission and added the changes to the Town's permit.
6. Authorized an additional 40 hours of police coverage in Town above that provided by the Chevy Chase Village police until the June Council meeting. (Vote: Eldridge, Frankel, Simmons and Slavin for; Kessler opposed. Motion passed 4-1.)
7. Authorized the purchase of a multi-function machine for \$8,375 from Copier Plus to replace the aging copier in the Town office.
8. Approve hiring Bruce Lawson to prepare documents, drawings and details for Town Hall foundation replacement bids at cost of \$4,000.
9. Approved a limited Natural Resources Inventory Forest Stand Delineation Study of the swimming pool vicinity to be conducted by VIKA, Inc. at a cost of \$9,800.
10. Postponed action until the June meeting authorizing further survey work in the swimming pool vicinity by VIKA, Inc.
11. Authorized Asbestos Specialists, Inc. to remove the asbestos from the pipes under the Town Hall for \$2,100.

Creek Erosion Update

by Corrie Morsey, Chair Parks and Natural Resources Committee (PNRC)



You may recall that in February I reported that the County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed planting more trees and seeds of shade-loving vegetation in an area where their previous work had been partially swept away. On May 11th a meeting with John Hollister, the County engineer who was at the February meeting, and Bryan Seipp, Forester and Director of Restoration, Potomac Conservancy took place with the Mayor, Council members Frankel and Slavin, Jeff Lape and myself.

Prior to the meeting, John Hollister reviewed the situation and earlier data and concluded that the recommendations DEP made previously would not work. Consequently, we are back to where we were over a year ago. The Mayor has asked Dan Harper if the DEP intends to repair their portion of erosion control work, as he assured us DEP would do during our March 2005 meeting. We are awaiting Dan's response.

For the long term, Bryan Seipp recommended the Town look into obtaining federal funding for a creek study/survey to ascertain what additional remedial work must be undertaken. I am pursuing that option and will keep you posted.

Welcome Back to the Pool

by Sarah Morse

We opened on May 20 for another great season. We have lots of activities planned, including pot luck dinners, movie nights, and raft nights. The first Town party is the always popular *School's Out Party* on June 15 at 6:00 p.m. with pizza and make-your-own-sundaes, \$3.00 a person. There will be a Town potluck dinner on June 25 at 6:00 p.m.. This issue of the Town Journal includes a pull-out pool calendar to keep you up-to-date on all that is going on at the pool.

Water Aerobics with Tammy is back as well as the popular Early Bird Swim, which debuted last year (for lap swimmers only). Check the pool bulletin board and the calendar for start dates and separate articles in this issue of the Journal.



Remember, even though there is no fee for joining the pool, everyone must register and fill out a blue card, which carries a photograph. Blue cards can be obtained at the Town Hall during regular business hours. The town clerk will issue them, and at the same time verifying your residency. Guest will be admitted for a small fee. Guest passes may be purchased from the front desk – checks only (see Town Hall Tid Bits for more detail).

Personnel:

Bethesda Aquatics returns as the pool management company. Brooks Lape will be the pool manager and any questions about the pool should be directed to him. There are also many returning faces as well as new guards. Please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them to the pool. The desk guard is required to sign each person into the pool, and so will be learning everyone's name.

Pool Committee:

The pool committee meets on the third Monday of the month to discuss running the pool. All questions or complaints about pool policies should be directed to the committee. All the meetings are open and residents are encouraged to attend them. Contact Pool Committee Chair, Josh Bobeck with concerns.

Swim Team:

The town has a very large and active swim team. They practice from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the lap lanes every week day from May 30 to July 22. They also have meets on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings as well as

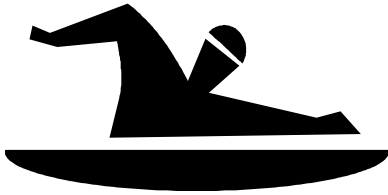
numerous social events. The pool is closed during home swim meets, so be sure to check the calendar for closings due to swim meets. Any questions about the swim team (open to all residents ages 4 to 18) should be directed to Sarah Morse.

Rules to Remember:

While the staff is working hard to make the summer fun and safe for everyone, they have asked us to remind residents of a few important rules:

- Children under 8 years old or older children who have not passed the deep water test must be accompanied by an adult or person 14 years or older.
- Children who are not toilet trained must wear rubber pants over their diapers. Swim diapers are not an acceptable substitute. Fecal matter leaking into the pool means that the pool must be closed for 24 hours to sanitize, so please make sure your child is wearing rubber pants with tight fitting legs at all times.
- There is to be no eating on the deck – the picnic area and the upper deck are the only places in the pool enclosure that food can be consumed. All food must travel to the picnic area across the upper deck walkway.
- Driving over the bridge is prohibited at all times except by service vehicles and for handicapped parking. This means even when just dropping off or picking up.
- Large parties must be scheduled through Brooks Lape, the pool manager. He is the only one who knows if it is ok to have a party.

Lap Swimmers Back by Popular Demand, Early Bird Swim



After its popular debut last season, early morning swim will be offered for three sessions this year.

Starting June 5, the pool will be open from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday for lap swimming only. The cost is \$20 for a four week session. The pool house will open at 6:15 a.m. so that swimmers may change before the pool opens at 6:30. The pool house will close at 7:45 a.m. so that swimmers have a chance to change after the pool closes.

The sessions run June 5 - June 30; July 3 - July 28; and July 21 - August 25. You can sign up for one session or all three. Checks should be made payable to Bethesda Aquatics and should be dropped at the front desk of the pool house before the session begins. Prorating of sessions is not permitted, but you may share your session with another person. If you have questions, contact Sarah Morse, morsekathan@earthlink.net.

Water Aerobics is Back

by Lucy Freeman

The highly respected and loved Tammy Archie will return to teach water aerobics again this summer. Classes will begin on Monday, June 19 and will be held on Mondays and Thursdays mornings at 10:00 a.m. thereafter. The cost for four classes is \$50.00; and for two classes \$25.00. Please make your check out to "Town of Somerset" and leave it at the pool or send it to Lucy Freeman, 4708 Dorset Avenue, Somerset. Questions? Please call Lucy Freeman (301) 654-8115.

News from the Swim Team

By Sarah Morse

By the time you receive this, the swim team is already suiting up. The season started this year with a pre-season breakfast party on Saturday, May 20 with the pool opening just for us. Some 150 people stopped by to join the team, buy the team suit, t-shirt and sweat shirt and nosh on bagels and sugar cereal. It was good to see so many old friends gathering at the pool again.

The team has moved up to the G division, swimming Stonegate, Lake Marion, Tally Ho, Glenwood and Mohican on Saturday mornings. Five Wednesday night meets against neighboring pools round out the season. The divisional championship is July 22 followed by the annual team banquet at 6:00 p.m. The last week in July is reserved for all-star practice and finally the season ends on July 30 after the *All-Star* events.

We're very excited to have coaches Dario Fuentes, Tristan Kessler and Adam Bookman back this year. They'll be joined by two other familiar names, Bess Pickar and Merrill Fortier to round out the coaching staff. Practice will start on May 30, with two sessions - 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for 11s and older, and 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. for 10 and under. After MCPS schools let out, morning practice will begin with the traditional week of breakfast with the coaches. Morning practice is from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. for all age groups. Breakfast follows practice.

All Somerset Swim Team Alumni are invited to the annual homecoming meet on June 24. We hope that they will come and cheer the team and then stay for lunch. Of course, all town residents are invited to all home meets and we look forward to having them.

On June 19, the developmental team (the minis) starts coached by a fleet of teen-age coaches. Returning coaches include Toby Kathan, Jack Berry, Abby Kathan, Sophie Mondale, Katie McDougal, Clare Hanlon, Lily Farrell, and Kelly Merkl.

They will be joined by Jamie Reingruber, Isaac Sorenson, Mark Berry, Freddy Mondale, Brendan McMahon, Tom Belikove, Nick and Duncan Kessler, Jacob Heller, Elizabeth and Anna Kingdom, Isabel Saks and maybe more! The minis practice three days a week Monday, Wednesday and Friday, in two groups between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

If you missed the team sign-up, it's not too late to join the fun. Whether you can make one week of the season or every week, we want you on the team. There are no try-outs and no cuts. There's a place for just about all kids ages 4 – 18 on the swim team. More swimmers means more fun! Registration forms are at the front desk. Call Sarah Morse, (301) 907-3298 or e-mail morsekathan@earthlink.net for more information.

Somerset to Participate in the County's 9th Annual Heritage Days

By Council member Lesley Simmons, Chair History Committee

Mark your calendar for the afternoon of Sunday, June 25 when Somerset will be one of 37 historic sites and museums throughout the county that will be open for visiting and special programs over the weekend.

For those of you who were too busy enjoying the glorious weather and numerous activities available to be able to visit the wonderful exhibits in the Town Hall on April 30, you will get a second chance on Sunday June 25. The event starts at noon with a short photographic presentation and refreshments followed by time to view a colorful new exhibit especially prepared by Donna Harman to celebrate the Centennial. The more energetic may enjoy a self-guided walking tour and exercise their minds with a "History Quiz" (small prizes will be available for all those who participate). This is an ideal opportunity for families to have fun while learning about our Town's fascinating history. Our centennial tee shirts, mugs, and history book, *Somerset: One Hundred Years a Town*, will also be on sale.

Heritage Days 2006 features 37 historic sites and museums throughout the county that will be open for visiting and special programs over the weekend of June 24 and 25*. Highlights of the weekend include participation by several new sites: the Riley Plantation House/Josiah Henson Site, Clarksburg Two-Room Schoolhouse, and the Olney Theatre. Afternoon tea will be served at the Gaithersburg Inn and Woodlawn Manor.

* The Town of Somerset event is on Sunday June 25 only.

Somerset Named 2005 Tree City USA

by Corrie Morsey, Chair PNRC



Congratulations Somerset on being named a Tree City for the 23rd consecutive year! We were all reminded by State Delegate William Bronrott at our Centennial Celebration the important role trees played in our first one hundred years. Trees continue to be vital today and define our Town. They are incorporated in the Town's flag, centennial stamp and banner.

Don't Miss the Next Brown Bag Lunch, Friday June 23

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Mark your calendars now for the quarterly Brown Bag Lunch scheduled for Friday, June 23 from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. As always, this is an opportunity to meet your elected officials and perhaps a new neighbor and the regulars to socialize and talk about civic matters.

It's time to expand our group so hopefully some newcomers will join us this month. Don't forget to bring a sandwich or light entrée to share and a beverage. Ice, utensils, napkins and plates are provided. If you have any questions, call me at (301) 654-6767.



Junior Historians to Begin Planning Town's 150th Anniversary Celebrations!

by Lesley Simmons, Chair History Committee

Somerset's junior historian, Jesse Guttman, who has been writing a history column for the Town Journal for the last few months, is embarking on a project that he hopes will help lead the festivities at the Town's 150th anniversary! If you are between the ages of 8 and 12 and would like to help fill a time capsule with items that typify Somerset in 2006 please contact Jesse. The *Somerset Time Capsule Kids* will determine items to be included in a time capsule, collect them, and display them at the Town's July 4th picnic this year. The items will then be placed in the time capsule and "hidden" until 2056, which will be the Town's 150th birthday, when the capsule will be opened. The Somerset Anniversary Time Capsule will be registered with the *International Time Capsule Society*.

If you are interested in working on this project contact Jesse at (301) 656-8887 or via e-mail at Kathywagnerhill@aol.com

Somerset Founder Dr. Harvey W. Wiley and the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval

By Jesse Guttman (age 11)



Dr. Harvey W. Wiley is most famous as the "Father of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906," but in Somerset he is also known as one of the town's founding fathers. What is not as well known is that he never lived here. He built the house at 4722 Dorset for his parents but they never moved here from Indiana. Dr. Wiley was born in a log farmhouse in Indiana on October 30, 1844. In 1863, when he was 19 years old, he served in the Union Army for the Civil War. Eventually, in 1871, he earned his M.D. and soon after taught chemistry at Purdue University before becoming the Chief Chemist at the U.S. Department

of Agriculture in 1882.

Dr. Wiley is called a "pioneer consumer activist" and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration just last month posted an article on him titled that on their website. He wanted Americans to have "pure food" because in the 1880s there were many harmful food products and almost no government regulation to protect consumers. For example, olive oil was made with cotton seed, and "soothing syrups" for babies had morphine in them. Dr. Wiley helped establish the Good Housekeeping Magazine laboratories and ran them for many years. Good Housekeeping was a watchdog for consumer issues and is still a respected consumer emblem that responsible companies want for their products.

Dr. Wiley was honored in many ways, including having a commemorative stamp made of him in 1956 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Pure Food and Drug Act and being buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Project Ladybug

by Faith and Chip Breen

The purpose of Project Ladybug is to encourage Somerset residents to use organic lawn products as a means of protecting our health, the health of our pets, and our environment. So, we were pleased when our neighbor, Tim Sprehe, asked Chip what to use as a weed killer.

If you are looking for a chemical alternative, these are two you may wish to consider:



1. To prevent the growth of weeds in the early spring, corn gluten sold under the brands *Safer* and *Concern*, is a substitute for Halts.
2. If you already have weeds, then *Weed-A-Tak* is a substitute for Roundup.

Both of these products are available at *American Plant Food Company* located at 5258 River Road. While you are there, you may wish to pick up some of their literature on:

- **Lawn Renovation** – Did you know that most people have “sparse and weedy lawns” because they have unbalanced their soil fertility by applying chemical herbicides?
- **Compost Tea** – This is a brew of “bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes” that enriches the soil so that less fertilizer is needed. Sounds yummy!
- For the DIY (Do It Yourself), American Plant Food provides the following:

4-Step Organic Turf Care Program

Step 1: March/April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Limestone • Apply Safer lawn Fertilizer (if not seeding – if seeding go to Step 3)
Step 2: May - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Safer Grass Stimulator • Apply Safer oil Stimulator
Step 3: Late August – Early September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Ringer Law Restore • Apply grass seed • Cover lightly with Chesapeake Green • Water lightly for 10 – 14 days
Step 4 – late October – Early November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Safer Law Fertilizer

Bethesda Chevy-Chase Cooperative Nursery School Has Openings

by Virginia Biggar

A limited number of openings are available in the Bethesda Chevy-Chase Cooperative Nursery School (located in Norwood Park) four-year-old program for the 2006-2007 school year. Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2006. For additional information, please contact Edie Purdie at (301) 657-3742 or visit www.bccnurseryschool.org.

Looking Back

Memories of Growing Up in the Town of Somerset

by Corrie Morsey (nee Cornelia van Hemert Nalls)

My family moved to Somerset in the summer of 1949. We rented 4728 Dorset Avenue, which I call the Stohlman house, since it was owned by that family then. It is across the street from Founders Park. (My parents, Ted and Wini van Hemert, were returning to the city late one Sunday afternoon after an outing in the country [Potomac] and noticed a for rent sign in front of the house. Early the next morning my father inquired about renting the house. Shortly thereafter we moved to Somerset – my parents, my sister, Anita age 3 and me, age 5.



The house was huge and so was the yard. Children always gathered in our yard to play; the house saw its fair share of parties. I remember relatives coming for long visits from Holland (my father was posted at The Netherlands Embassy). While here they stayed in the 3rd floor bedrooms. For a while we even had two women, a mother and daughter, who had fled Latvia staying with us and helping out after my brother, Maarten, was born in the summer of 1950. I went to Somerset Elementary School, beginning with kindergarten in 1949.

In 1951 my parents bought the farm house at 4721 Essex Avenue. It was considerably smaller than the rental but the yard was large. Before being remodeled by my parents, a huge metal tank used for holding water pumped into the attic, was removed from the house and thankfully not the property. We called this tank *the tin*. For many years it provided countless hours of entertainment for us and our many friends. We climbed, hid, rode and even swam in it during the summer.

Dorothy Ringland, our backyard neighbor, shared her apples with us yielding many delicious pies, crisps and apple butter, as well. Mrs. Ringland grew many flowers in her garden. She taught me how to arrange flowers and even entered me into several local garden club arranging contests. Ribbons were given for prizes.

During summer months ... we spent many hours playing in the Somerset woods. We would spend an entire day playing in the creek often damming it up to create a swimming pool in the area of the falls, and picnicking on the rocks.

We would swing on wonderful, sturdy vines hanging from trees and traverse the creek on fallen logs and rocks. During early warm spring days we delighted in catching tadpoles.

... not to be omitted was the splendid annual Somerset Woman's Club Garden party in the Jaffe yard. It seems as though the entire Town attended. There were games for children, animated conversation among the adults and plenty of lemonade and cookies. After the Jaffes departed, the last couple of these parties were held in the Vinton yard in the 1960s.

Since 1971 I've owned a home in "new" Somerset – where I had vowed as a child never to visit because the homes destroyed much of our playing area. As an adult I treasure living inside the beltway, within walking distance to the Metro, in a small town where we know our neighbors and look out for one another. Somerset is a special place.

This piece was provided by Corrie Morsey for the Somerset's Centennial Memory book. It's not too late to include your memories. If you would like to submit a piece, send it to Donna Harman by e-mail at donna.harman@nist.gov or by regular mail care of the Town Hall.



County News

Volunteer Opportunities

County Executive Douglas Duncan seeks applicants for the Local Management Board for Children, Youth and Families (Collaboration Council). For details visit :

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/exec/Boards/DisplayInfo.cfm?ItemID=669>

The Volunteer Center seeks Teens for Youth Emergency Action Team. Teens who are interested in helping their communities by becoming involved with disaster and emergency preparedness are invited to join the Youth Emergency Action Team. To learn more visit: http://montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?ItemID=1795

Photo Contest

The *Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Program* announces the 15th annual 2006 amateur Photo Contest. For information go to http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dpwt/dir/comm_docs/photocontestnomform06.pdf

All About People

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

While I was out of Town, I heard that the First Annual Author's Forum was a smash hit. Many thanks to moderator **GAIL WERNER** (Surrey) for doing such a great job and for following up with an invitation for author **FRANK JOSEPH** (Warwick) to appear on her television show on the Montgomery Municipal Channel 16. The Forum also featured the much talked about Somerset history book written by Council member **LESLEY SIMMONS** (Cumberland) with the assistance of **DONNA HARMON** (Dorset) and publications produced by **MAURY ATKIN** (Uppingham) and **GABRIEL ROTH** (Falstone). An economist, Roth talked about the book he edited "Street Smart – Competition, Entrepreneurship and the Future of Roads" which will be coming out momentarily and its twenty chapters is the result of five years' work. The book explains how to provide roads in accordance with the pricing and investment principles we take for granted to get us our electricity, gas, telecommunications, water and other essential goods and services. It recommends that local roads be controlled by local governments (as we do here in Somerset) or by association

of property owners (as in rural Sweden), all of whom have strong incentives to ensure that their roads give good service at low cost. Sounds like a good resource for the Council!

The multi-talented Maury reports that his creative partner, wife/playwright **FLORA**, is pleased that a revival of her first published play (of many) "Tarradiddle Tales" is currently being performed, four shows per weekend, through June 18 by Adventure Theatre, conveniently located at nearby Glen Echo Park. "Tarradiddle (meaning 'not quite true') Tales" was created in 1969 and won six awards in the D.C. One Act Play Tournament the following year. The play has also won many national awards and has been produced in virtually every state and six foreign countries. The backdrop for these clever folk stories comes from Mexico, Africa and Denmark. For tickets to the current show and other information, call (301) 320-5331...

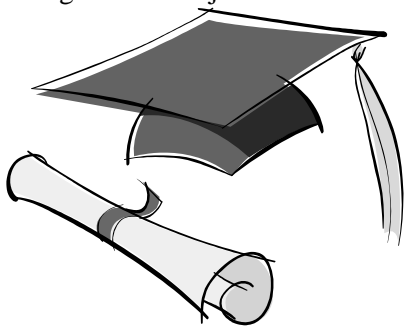


Artist **LILA SNOW** (Essex), whose studio was featured on the Centennial tour, tells me that her latest exhibition "Constructions" is scheduled for June 21 through August 6 at International Visions Gallery, 2629 Connecticut Avenue, NW -- opposite the Woodley Park Metro stop. The opening reception will take place Saturday June 24 from 6:30-9 p.m. and all are invited. Call (202) 234-5112 for further details....**ELLA WEIL** (Essex), daughter of **KATHERINE BORSECNIK and GENE WEIL**, a soon-to-be eighth grader at Georgetown Day School, will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday June 10 at Temple Sinai (where our Mayor was once congregation president). Ella is an active volunteer at Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care in Adam's Morgan and is very interested in theatre. She will be participating in the Mud Butt's theatre troupe of Telluride, Colorado for the second consecutive summer...

DAVI and LARRY WALDERS (Essex) are happy to announce the arrival of their second grandchild **LEV SAMUEL ABRAMSON** on April 13 of this year to daughter **NATALIE** and son-in-law **SIMEON ABRAMSON**. Grandma Davi says that at 19 months, older brother **NOAH** is anxious for Lev to be old enough to play with him...Artist **VICKI MALONE** (Essex) invites everyone to come down to the Corcoran Museum to see "Botanical Treasures of Lewis & Clark" in which she is participating, now through July 9. The show features watercolors, oils, mixed media, sculpture, textiles and jewelry commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. The two explorers gathered over two hundred plant specimens on their long journey from St. Louis to the Pacific coast in Oregon, many that were unknown to western science. An all day community event for adults and children will occur on Saturday, July 8 at the Corcoran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring art-making workshops, gallery talks, demonstrations, live performances, film screenings, music and more. For more info, call (202) 639-1727...



ALISON FORTIER (Falstone) is the proud mother of **GRAHAM**, who recently graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a major in creative writing and a minor in international relations. Graham plans to spend the summer in the District and then will move to Vienna, Austria for two years where he will teach English. Glückwunsche!...**SAUL LEIKEN** (Greystone), son of **NANCY MILLS and SAM LEIKEN**, a freshman at B-CC, was the recipient of one of two "Spotlight" awards from the B-CC Theatre Arts Program given to those freshmen who exhibit the most promise in dramatic arts. This past March, Saul won an "Excellence in Acting" Award at the Maryland High School Theatre Festival. Next stop: Round House...



Former and future resident **ROB MCGARRAH** (Dorset) writes that son **MICHAEL** will graduate from B-CC this month and start his freshman year at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina in August. Rob's other news is that

SALLY SHEA and MICHAEL CHRISTIAN (Essex) are currently renting the McGarrah house on Dorset while they build a new home on Essex. Once that is complete, Rob and Joanne will "renew" the Dorset house and move back to Town—to the delight of many, I might add...Michael's college news brings to mind that almost two dozen Somerset high school seniors will have graduated this Spring and I want to report on where they are leaving and where they are going. I have received preliminary information that needs confirmation by each senior so please help by getting in touch with me by next month's deadline. Happy start of summer to all.

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.

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.

VERY RESPONSIBLE COLLEGE STUDENT available for house sitting/babysitting/dog walking with lots of experience working with young children and animals. Somerset resident home from Brandeis for the summer. References available. Call Julia (240) 447-5759.

TUTOR AVAILABLE. English and theater double major at Brandeis University with an A GPA and lots of experience working with children. I would love to help students with their writing (or reading comprehension) from basics of writing process to college essays. Somerset resident. Call Julia at (240) 447-5759.

For Sale

IKEA GULLIVER SINGLE LOFT BED with attached desk (does not include mattress). \$75 or best offer. 2 boys speed bikes: 21" and 24." \$25 each or best offer. Men's Bianchi bike. \$50 or best offer. Call (301) 652-0185.

DARK WOOD FORMICA DESK (6 drawer) 72" X 36" X 29". Center drawer or keyboard drawer. Great for home office, \$25. Oval light wood butcher-block formica table 41" X 21", \$10. Green cushioned papasan chair, \$25. Call (301) 986-8889.

Miscellaneous

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT. Brand new on Chincoteague Island for \$950/week. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 7 minutes to ocean at Assateague of wild pony fame. Cute town with miniature golf, movie theater, boutiques, restaurants, and bike, canoe, kayak rentals. House by peaceful, beautiful canal. Lots of wildlife. Call Sheryl, (301) 656-1753.

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL. A limited number of openings are available in our four-year-old program for the 2006-2007 school year. Children must be 4 by September 1, 2006. For additional information, please contact Edie Purdie at (301) 657-3742.

GIVE AWAY/TAKE AWAY. Upright piano, Gulbransen, good tone. Was once a player piano, no longer has foot pedals. Call (301) 656-7747 between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

SOMERSET HOUSE available to rent from the end of August to December 2006. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Furnished. Call (301) 907-8805.

SOMERSET HOME FOR RENT: August 6. Lovely 3 bedroom, 3 bath rambler. Rec room, garage, screened-in porch, 2 fireplaces. Many updates. Call (301) 657-1414.

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.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, June 5, 2006 - 7:30 P.M.

1. Approval of minutes of the May 1 regular meeting – 7:30.
2. Discussion of financial report – 7:35.
3. Action on the following transfers for FY-06: – 7:40.

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$2,500	GF Contingency	GF Refuse
\$1,000	GF Contingency	GF Recycles
\$1,000	GF Contingency	GF Misc./Engr.
\$5,000	CPF Contingency	CPF Trees & Grounds
\$3,000	CPF Contingency	CPF Office

4. Reappointment of Tom Carter as Clerk-Treasurer for FY-07 – 7:45.
5. Confirmation of Mayor’s appointment of David Sacks to the Batting Cage Committee for term expiring in March 2008 – 7:50.
6. Fact finding hearing and action on applications by Cathedral Investments (Marc Reshefsky), 5415 Surrey Street, to demolish the existing structure, construct a two-story house with two-car attached garage and remove two trees – 7:55.
7. Action on stormwater drainage plan for new house of Michael and Sally Christian, 4718 Essex Avenue – 8:15.
8. Mayor’s report – 8:25.
9. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 8:35.
10. Suggestions and questions from residents – 8:45.
11. Action to renew, modify or drop contract for policing in Somerset to augment regular service by Montgomery County Police Department – 8:55.
12. Action on VIKA, Inc. proposal for boundary and topographic survey at cost of \$10,000 – 9:15.
13. Action to confirm or modify action at May 1 meeting approving proposal from VIKA for a natural resources inventory survey – 9:25.
14. Action authorizing solicitation of bids to repair Town Hall foundation – 9:35.
15. Action on purchase of water cooler for pool for \$1,450 from J.H. Peterson Plumbing – 9:45.
16. Action on contract with American Tennis Courts, Inc. to repair and color-coat tennis courts at cost of \$10,125 – 9:50.
17. Action on application by Robert Chlopak and Ellen Globokar, 4917 Dorset Avenue, to erect a five-foot, partially open fence in their side yard, parallel to Devon Lane, under Town Code Section 6-714, Exceptions Granted by Town Council – 9:55.
18. Introduction of Town Code amendment to increase number of copies of plans required with building permit application – 10:10.
19. Introduction of Town Code amendment to modify definition of Replacement Fence or Wall – 10:15.
20. Introduction of Town Code amendment to clarify requirement to remove certain fences as a condition of erecting new fences – 10:20.
21. Introduction of Town Code amendment to establish procedure for granting permission to remove trees on Town property that are less than four inches in diameter – 10:25.

22. Action on following swimming pool expenses requested by Pool Committee: – 10:30.

- (a) Early morning swim, 3 months \$1,200
- (b) Adult party 2,500
- (c) Water aerobics 900
- (d) Small tables 700
- (e) Potluck party & movie night 250

23. Action on temperature setting for pool heater – 10:45.

24. New business – 10:55.

25. Adjournment – 11:00.

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 likely 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 most up-to-date agenda.

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

CLERK-TREASURER

Tom Carter

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

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 June 17, Copy June 17