



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 51, No.3

September 20, 2006

1906 – 2006 Celebrating One Hundred Years A Town

In This Issue:

Calendar	1
Mayor's Den	2-3
Traffic Control Devices in Somerset	3-4
Quiet Hours and Portable Toilets	4
Utility Facilities in Somerset	5
Centennial License Plate Update	5
Town Hall Tid Bits	5-7
Permits Granted	7
Council Activity	8
Committee News:	
Parks and Natural Resources	9
Batting Cage	9
History Committee (Field Trip to Land Department) ...	9
Be a Cub Scout	9-10
Back-to-School Classic	10
Norwood Park Playground Celebration	10
On My Mind	11
Obituaries	
Frank Ephraim	11
Jim Sampas	12
County News	12
Somerset Life	
New Residents	12
All About People	13-14
Classifieds	15
Town Council Meeting Agenda	16

There will be a Special Meeting of the Town Council on Monday, September 25, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Agenda: Presentation of possible swimming pool complex improvements and estimated operating costs by architects Sara O'Neil and Bill Manion, followed by discussion. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Calendar

Monday, September 25

Special meeting to discuss swimming pool improvements

Tuesday, October 3

Town Council Meeting

Thursday, October 5

Sign up for special trash pickup closes

Friday, October 6

Special trash pickup

Tuesday, October 10

Batting Cage Committee meeting

Wednesday, October 11

History Committee field trip

Saturday, October 14

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Saturday, October 14

Norwood Park celebration

Sunday, October 15

Back-to-School Classic

Thursday, October 19

Journal deadline: ads and copy

Monday, October 23

MVA's Mobile Office in Friendship Heights

Friday, October 27

Flu shots

Wednesday, November 22

Town Directory submission deadline

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"

Mayor's Den

By Walter Behr

New Schedule for Flu Shots

In order to accommodate adults who work on a normal business schedule and children (who must be at least nine years old), we have scheduled flu shots this year between 3 and 7 p.m. instead of earlier in the day. MedStar Health Visiting Nurse Association nurses will administer shots Friday, October 27, in the Town Hall. Call (301) 657-3211 to sign up.



The cost is \$35 per shot. Cash is acceptable (please bring the exact amount) but payment by check is preferred. There is no charge for seniors whose primary medical coverage is Medicare Part B, provided they bring their membership ID cards with them. VNA does not make a profit from this operation. All net proceeds go to the VNA charitable care fund, which provides home health service for needy patients.

Children and adolescents who are at least nine are eligible for flu vaccinations, but those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Women past the third month of pregnancy may receive shots if they present written authorization from their primary physician.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the three top reasons to get a flu shot are:

- Saves lives. Each year over 20,000 people in the U.S. die from the flu. Most are over 65.
- Prevents severe illness. Flu puts about 114,000 people in the hospital each year in the U.S.
- Protects other people. Individuals who live with or care for others can spread the

disease in the household if not vaccinated.

Answers to the six most often asked questions about flu shots:

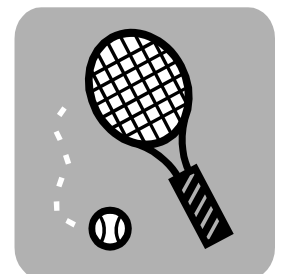
- All viruses in the vaccine are killed so that they cannot infect anyone with the flu.
- Needles and syringes are sterile, used only once and safely discarded.
- Approximately 70 to 90% of healthy people who receive a flu vaccine are completely protected. The other 10 to 30% have partial protection and will have greatly lessened symptoms if they do contract influenza.
- This shot will not protect against other illnesses that resemble flu.
- The vaccine will begin to provide protection about one to two weeks after the vaccine is given.
- Each year, there is a new strain of flu, so you must be vaccinated each year to be protected.

I am very grateful to Barbara Marblestone, who once again has agreed to be in charge of the operation. Please call her at (301) 652-2485 if you would like to help with welcoming residents or handling paperwork.

Tennis Practice Area Extended

By the time you read this, work should be completed on improving the tennis backboard practice court behind the Town garage. At the suggestion of Jim Vanderzon, we arranged for the contractor who paved three of our streets to extend the practice court 15 feet. To get the job done as reasonably as possible, our Town maintenance men handled the excavation.

The practice court is open to all residents, young and old, beginners and experts. You do not need a tennis ID card to use the facility.



Storm Water Threat Reduced

As I write, the State Highway Administration (SHA) is working on the project to substantially reduce the chance of storm water jumping the curb on Wisconsin Avenue south of Cumberland and damaging the beautiful landscaping in Capello Park.

The reason for the heavy flow, as reported in last month's Town Journal, is that a large drain pipe north of Cumberland, at Drummond, which is buried under Wisconsin and ends on Chevy Chase Club property, is cemented closed. The State and Club are negotiating plans to open the pipe and accommodate the water on the golf course without damaging it.

To deflect the water from flooding our parkland, the SHA contractor is constructing a new sidewalk section over 100 feet long, a curb on the park side of the sidewalk and a new inlet connected to the existing one in the street. As a result storm water will end up in the creek between Dorset and Somerset House instead of in Capello Park.

How to Help Some Fellow Residents

Two corners in Somerset seem to be especially difficult to negotiate without jumping the curb or damaging the ground near the pavement: Deal Place at "Little" Cumberland and "Big" Cumberland at Devon Lane. This is especially true of large trucks. In fact, it is almost impossible to keep them on the street if vehicles are parked in nearby NO PARKING areas.

If you see vehicles parked illegally in these locations, you can do a good turn for residents who live there by reporting violations to the police. Please use the non-emergency number (301) 279-8000. You do not have to give your name.

Thanks, Maxine; Thanks, Lesley; Thanks ...

She had hardly gotten settled in Somerset, when I asked Maxine Finkelstein, an experienced editor, if she would edit last month's Town Journal in the absence of regular editor Lesley Simmons. Maxine accepted and handled the job like the pro she is. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her as well as regular editor, Lesley, for producing this basic source of information for all residents. In addition to putting out the newsletter, Lesley serves on the Town Council, chairs the History Committee and headed the group responsible for the Town's hugely successful centennial celebration.

My sincere thanks also to the following residents who made the welcome party a big hit with new and veteran Somerset residents: Bonnie Lewin, Lyndsey Gerber, Laura Long, Ann Brown, Jeffrey Slavin, Andrew Resnick, and Barbara Aron.

Without our Town Charter and volunteers, we would be just another nice neighborhood.

B-CC Packets Available for Free

The bulging blue packets many of you saw at the welcome party that were given to new residents are available to anyone willing to make the trip to the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Service Center. Included in the giveaways are listings of County government services, guides to cultural and recreational activities, and bikeway and State road maps.

Located in the heart of downtown Bethesda, the B-CC Center is a County government satellite office at 4805 Edgemoor Lane on the Plaza level. It adjoins a huge public garage at Woodmont Avenue and Edgemoor. Call (240) 777-8200 for more detailed directions.

Traffic Control Devices in Somerset

by Council Member Rick Kessler

By now most residents have probably noticed the speed radar sign that has been installed on Dorset Avenue going west. This device was recently purchased and installed by the Town, at my suggestion and with the Council's approval, in order to encourage drivers not to speed. Ideally, in my view, there should be at least two devices -- to notify drivers of their speed as they travel in both directions.

The device operates on a battery and only when a vehicle approaches. The intention is to move it to various locations around the town periodically to encourage safe driving. The device has an internal data monitoring system that records the speed of vehicles.

The Council would appreciate knowing from residents who approve or disapprove of the device as well as suggestions as to where in the town it should be placed. Please e-mail me directly at rjkessler@verizon.net or contact the Town Hall.

At its last meeting the Council also approved the installation of reflective strips in front of stop signs where the streets have recently been repaved. The Council will also be discussing at the next meeting another proposal of mine to install rumble strips before stop signs. These strips -- similar to ones that have been installed on Drummond Avenue for several years -- are applied with an adhesive (they are not milled into the road as is done in highways) and have found to be effective in encouraging drivers to stop at intersections. The suggestion would be to apply these strips for a test period at the intersections of Dorset and Warwick and Dorset and Surrey, which are currently the sites of school bus stops and significant pedestrian traffic.

In addition, at the next Town Council meeting Tom Eldridge will propose lowering the speed limit from 25 MPH to 20 MPH.

Residents are encouraged to comment on these suggestions and to attend the next town meeting at which they will be discussed.

Quiet Hours and Portable Toilets to be Discussed at Town Meeting

by Council member Lesley Simmons

Over the last few weeks two residents have made suggestions that I plan to introduce at the October meeting of the Town Council. They relate to construction noise and the placement of portable toilets on building sites.

Recently many of our residents have found themselves surrounded by construction as older homes are demolished and new buildings are constructed in their place, or as large additions are made. This appears to be a trend that will only grow if recent experience is a guide. The noise from so much construction in a mature neighborhood like ours is understandably disturbing to residents.

In the past Somerset has followed the County Code -- which acknowledges the disturbing nature of such noise: "The County Council finds that excessive noise harms public health and welfare and impairs enjoyment of property. The intent of this Chapter [of the County Code] is to control noise sources to protect public health and welfare and to allow the peaceful enjoyment of property. This Chapter must be liberally construed to carry out this intent. *County Code Section 31B-1*

To add to our enjoyment of our Town a resident has suggested that the quiet hours (as they relate to construction only but not to do-it-yourself or outdoor landscaping, or home maintenance projects that residents pursue on their weekends) be extended so that Sunday is a quiet day. This would not mean that builders may not work on construction projects on Sundays (in fact few do, although it has been an annoyance for neighbors when they have done so on occasions). But it does mean that they would have to only work on inside projects or those that do not make noise that can be heard by their neighbors.

The second suggestion relates to the location of portable toilets on construction sites. A resident has suggested that where feasible (and it may not always be so depending on site geography) the Town require that portable toilets be located away from the street and out of site of neighbors and passers by. This is a sensible suggestion both because of aesthetics (portable toilets are unsightly and often odorous) and because it may discourage vandalism to portable toilets, which has happened from time to time.

If you have views on these issues please let me know (240) 497-1876 or by e-mail Lesley.simmons@earthlink.net.

Managing Installation of Utility Facilities in Somerset

By Alan Proctor, Chair, Undergrounding Committee



Putting wires for power, telephone and cable underground would be the best way to eliminate the eyesore that these utilities create. But that's a complicated, expensive and long-term goal. In the interim, while these wired utilities are still above ground, I've suggested that the Town Council modify the Town code to protect the Town's interests by assuring utilities that place and maintain their facilities on our property do so in a reasonably aesthetic and safe way, and subject to conditions that don't further increase the cost of possible future undergrounding of these utilities.

The Town Council will consider three possible Code changes that I have proposed (outlined below) at the October meeting. I encourage residents who may have concerns or suggestions to contact me or Council members before the meeting with your ideas – and come to the meeting for the discussion.

1. New attachments to existing poles: The Town would require advance review and approval of any new attachments, and would approve them only when they meet Town standards as to location and other characteristics. This would give the Town specific authority to limit the placement and size of attachments to poles, for example, we could avoid more of the can-like repeaters that have been installed along Dorset Avenue at head height, which are both unattractive and potentially hazardous.
2. Existing facilities, such as existing poles and attachments to poles: Among other things, the Town could require that poles be maintained in reasonably upright positions, that wires no longer in use be removed, and that the facilities otherwise be maintained in reasonably attractive condition.
3. As utilities seek to install additional wires in Somerset, the Town would require that, in the event that the Town eventually moves to underground wired utilities, the utility would bear the cost of undergrounding them.

Centennial License Plate Update

Those residents who submitted applications for a Town of Somerset Centennial License plate will have noticed that their checks were cashed some weeks ago. This was when the Town submitted its formal request to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Unfortunately, for technical reasons, the art work we submitted did not meet DMV's requirements resulting in a delay in the project.

We believe we have now overcome the problem and will have resubmitted our application by the time you read this. We are confident that our application will be approved shortly but do want to apologize for the delay. We appreciate your patience and are sure it will be worth the wait when the plates finally arrive!

Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

Noise Ordinance

If you have a contractor working at your home, please remind him that Monday, October 9, is a Federal holiday observed by the Town and our noise restrictions are observed. Work may not start before 9 a.m.

Special Trash Pickup

The Town Council has authorized a special trash collection on Friday, October 6, at Town expense. Those wishing to participate need only notify Tom at Town Hall no later than Thursday, October 5. This will be 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



Vacuuming of leaves piled on the grass near the curb will begin in mid- to late October and continue through December. Due to violations of leaf dumping at the pool upper parking lot by lawn service companies last year, only Town maintenance personnel will use the lot for leaf storage. The front gate to the pool will be locked at all times the men are not there dumping leaves they have removed from Town streets. Residents who use lawn service companies should arrange with them to either move leaves to the curb for Town pickup or remove the leaves for dumping outside of Town. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET.** Kindly inform your lawn service of this request.

We also ask that you ensure the piles consist only of leaves - **NO STICKS, STONES, BRICKS OR OTHER DENSE OR SHARP DEBRIS.** These materials will damage the machinery blades.

We are following the same removal 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

The next date for collection of hazardous waste will be Saturday, October 14, 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. 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/hazardouswaste.

Town Directory to be Updated

It's time for us to begin working on the 2007 Town Directory. If you are new to Somerset or if you wish to amend your family's entry, please send us an e-mail 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 no later than Wednesday, November 22, which hopefully will ensure the accuracy of the listing. Our e-mail address is: clerk@townofsomerset.com

Broadcast E-mails Bounce Back to Town Office

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

Please remember to notify the Town Hall if you your change e-mail address 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 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2007 Calendars

2007 League of Women Voters calendars are available at the Town Hall for \$6, or call Nancy Soreng at (301) 986-1916.

Voters Guides

Voters Guides for the November election will be available at Town Hall at the end of October.

Permits Granted

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



Trees:

Donald Kosin and Joyce Somsak, 4709 Trent Court, to remove a damaged mulberry tree immediately next to a large, thriving cherry tree in their side yard.

Gladys Astudillo, 5400 Greystone Street, to remove a dead pine tree in her back yard.

Council Activity



At the September 5 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Approved a special trash pickup at Town expense on Friday, October 6, for residents who have large items that cannot go in the regular trash.
2. Confirmed the Mayor's reappointment of Michelle Edson and Laura Long and appointment of Sophie Mondale and Jeff Aron to the Swimming Pool Committee for three-year terms and reappointment of Josh Bobeck as chair for another year.
3. Confirmed the Mayor's reappointment of Len Harris and Birdie Pieczenik to the Security Committee and reappointment of Birdie as chair. (Vote: Frankel, Kessler, Simmons and Slavin for; Eldridge opposed.)
4. Postponed action on a permit for an already-built retaining wall in Town parkland to prevent the collapse of swimming pool wall in the back yard of Fauzia Rashid, 4602 Dorset Avenue, permit to be revocable at any time without cause, pending her inquiries regarding insurance for the wall.
5. Recommended approval to the Historic Preservation Commission and approved a Town building permit for Michael and Abby Nolan, 5807 Surrey Street, to extend their kitchen to the rear, subject to the addition of tree protection, Historic Preservation Commission approval and receipt of a County permit and Town fees and deposit.
6. Approved a building permit for Mark Dutz, 5603 Warwick Place, to rebuild a one-story addition and deck at the rear of his house, subject to receipt of a County permit and the Town fees and deposit.
7. Approved a second six-month extension of the building permit of Andrew Bartley and Jill Herscot, 4909 Cumberland Avenue, to complete construction of a two-and-a-half story house with attached garage.
8. Received no additional bids for repair of the Town Hall foundation and took no action.
9. Listened to Alan Proctor's possible changes to the chapters on utility lines and cable communications in the Town Code. Discussion will continue at the October Town Council meeting.
10. Postponed until the next Council meeting discussion of personnel and procedure for locating, monitoring and publicizing the new speed indicator device.
11. Authorized \$750 for the purchase of the six historic district signs.
12. Did not need to act on the purchase of tables and umbrellas for the pool as the Mayor had reduced the cost to \$813.80 by canceling several items no longer needed for this swim season and the sales tax, which he had the authority to approve.
13. Set September 25 as the date for a special (open) meeting to discuss possible swimming pool complex improvements with architects Sara O'Neil and Bill Manion.
14. Authorized approximately \$4,500 to install thermoplastic tape to replace the stop lines, crosswalks and speed hump markings on the three repaved streets.
15. Approved the bid by Matrix Mechanical, Inc. to replace the furnace and air conditioner for Town Hall at a cost of \$7,506.53.

Parks and Natural Resources Committee (PNRC) Activities

by PNRC Chair, Corrie Morsey

Fourteen Committee members and Town residents gathered on September 9 in Vinton Park to discuss several agenda items. We were delighted with the interest shown by residents who are not members of the committee. The following subjects were discussed:

Reforestation along a portion of WSSC Right of Way: It was recommended that we try to reforest using appropriate trees/shrubs available through Tree-Mendous Maryland, a service of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service. Janet Fernandez and Pat Gage volunteered to come up with a plan, which can then be viewed by the committee prior to ordering the trees/shrubs.

Eradicating Invasives: Council member Tom Eldridge has suggested the Town use its resources to more aggressively remove invasives. We discussed utilizing both professionals and volunteers concluding that in the long-run the problem will continue. It was suggested that a volunteer project to clear an area of invasives be planned in connection with a future *Community Service Day*. In the meantime the Committee will explore ways of informing residents about invasives so they can help and become involved.

Bamboo Eradication Project: We visited the site behind 5609 - 5611 Warwick Place where the effort to eradicate bamboo has focused and were delighted to see tulip poplar seedlings growing there. The Town staff will clear the area of ivy and other invasives shortly. PNRC will revisit the site in the spring to determine what, if anything else needs to be done.

Town Monoculture Plan: A plea for planting large, substantial trees on Town streets was made by Jeff Lape. He, Peter Gubser and Judy Frankel volunteered to work on a new monoculture proposal.

The Falstone and Warwick junction at the pool entrance: Everyone agreed something needed to be done to improve pedestrian safety in this area and were in general agreement with a proposed plan to install a cross-walk between Falstone and Warwick and extend the sidewalk, which had been drawn up by the Mayor, some Council members and a traffic expert earlier in the week. The Committee also opined that adding a safety patrol would be beneficial.

Batting Cage Committee to Meet

There will be a meeting of the Town Batting Cage Committee on Tuesday, October 10, at the Town Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. Questions? Please contact Richard Furcolo, Chair, at (301) 718-4562.

History Committee Field Trip Will Research Home Ownership

by Lesley Simmons, Chair, History Committee

The History Committee is sponsoring a field trip to the County Land Records Department in Rockville on Wednesday, October 11. If you would like to join us to find out who owned your Somerset home in years gone by, meet us at the Town Hall parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to car pool to Rockville. (You will need to know the year of purchase of your home to begin your research). I will give a brief introduction on how to find records on arrival at the Land Records Department and you will be free to do your own research or help us to research the early ownership of the Town Hall building. We will leave Rockville to car pool back to Somerset at about 3:30 p.m. You might want to bring your lunch although there are fast food places nearby. Contact me if you have questions at (240) 497-1876 or by e-mail at Lesley.simmons@earthlink.net

Be a Cub Scout

by Mark Oxley

Cub Scout Pack 52 did a Somerset stream clean up in April of this year: they improved stream crossings, pulled some invasive weeds and filled up a bunch of trash bags with various rubbish. Amongst it, Somerset's Matthew Oxley found a partially rusted old license plate buried in the mud -- from Maryland and dated 1912 -- amazing!



Now, Pack 52 is recruiting new 1st, 2nd, 3rd grade boys (also 4th and 5th grades) and invites them and their parents to learn more about the neighborhood Cub Scout Troop, the programs we offer, the projects we're involved in and the places we visit. Pack 52 is open to all boys in the 1st through 5th grades and enjoys the diversity of our schools and neighborhoods.

A *Join Scouting Night* is being held at Somerset Elementary School on September 21 in the evening (time TBD). Also, we will have our kickoff Pack meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26 at Candy Cane City recreation center (also known as Meadowbrook, on Beach Drive on Rock Creek Park – near Woodbine or Leland Streets in Chevy Chase, MD). If you can't make these meetings, don't worry - there will be plenty of activities throughout the year! To learn more, please contact Mark Oxley at MarkO@OutdoorIllumination.com or (202) 364-4999 ext. 103.

Register Now for Somerset's Back-to-School Classic

by Susannah Budington

The annual Somerset Elementary School Back-to-School Classic - featuring 8K, 2K and Kids' Fun Runs - is one of our community's greatest family events. This year's Classic will take place on Sunday, October 15, beginning at 8 a.m. The start line is on Warwick Place, near the school.



The Classic also features a terrific post-race brunch for all participants and fantastic prizes for the top three male and female overall finishers in both the 8K and 2K races and age group prizes for the top three male and female finishers for the 8K. In addition, the Back-to-School Classic is renowned for its abundance of random prizes - including the top prize of an XMtogo Portable Radio, donated by XM Satellite Radio, which will be drawn at the conclusion of the races.

The catch? You must be registered by October 6 to be eligible for the random prize drawings.

The Back-to-School Classic is not only a fun event; it is also our neighborhood school's biggest annual fundraiser. The title sponsor for the event, for the 19th consecutive year, is Donna Evers, of Evers & Co. Real Estate Inc. Other primary sponsors include Bonnie Lewin, Evers and Co., Gilday Renovations, Martens Cars of Washington, Breads Unlimited, Café Deluxe, Esprit Rainbow Travel, Friendship Animal Hospital, and Saks Fifth Avenue.

We are currently looking for volunteers, including course marshals - please contact Alex Acosta at alexandra.acosta@verizon.net if you are able to help out.

Visit <http://www.runwashington.com/other/somerset02.html> for more information and to register online, or stop by Somerset Elementary School lobby to pick up a brochure and registration form.

Lower Playground Celebration at Norwood Park

by Frazier Blaylock, Co-Chair, FoNP



Norwood Park's lower playground should be completed in time for the fall sports season! Thanks to the contributions of members of the community, this little playground was saved from destruction and will have brand new equipment and rubberized flooring for our families to enjoy.

In honor of its completion, come join us on Saturday, October 14 for a celebration with music and fun for the whole family. Details will follow, but this party will be held in the late afternoon at the stone stage area and will continue the "Music in the Park" series that has received such positive responses.

As always, we encourage your donations to the Friends of Norwood Park (FoNP), which will make future concerts and improvements at Norwood Park possible. Personalized sponsorship bricks are again for sale. The proceeds from these bricks will be used to sponsor the concert series and provide a fund for future development of the park's facilities and landscape. Your donation is tax deductible and may be made by contacting Adele Medina O'Dowd at adele.odowd@gmail.com or Susan Milner at susanreynolds@hotmail.com for a donor form.

On My Mind

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Once again, Somerset's Welcoming Committee, led by Bonnie Lewin, deserves a lot of credit for putting on the 2006 Newcomers Reception earlier this month. The event is always a wonderful opportunity to meet new neighbors and renew ties with old ones. I was struck by several thoughts as I listened to the new residents introduce themselves during the formal program.

First, I am extremely impressed by the number of people who actually sought to specifically live in our Town, not only for the location, amenities, and schools, but also for the special nature of our populace. Although we are situated in the center of a major metropolitan area, the 'welcome' that was almost universally described sounded like one people experience in small towns. Yes, our residents actually knock on the door to say hello for the first time and our existing residents actually bake cookies and cakes for their new neighbors. It is apparent from newcomers' comments this reputation is known in many parts of the country -- and even abroad. One couple, for example, told us how someone in Israel referred them to Somerset.

It gives me great pleasure to know how well others regard us. The Town will never have to spend funds on marketing!

Second, as most of you know, I talk frequently about the importance of building community by getting to know one another better (particularly through our programs and events), by volunteering for others, and by helping each other in time of need. Recently I came to learn there is another dimension to this: it contributes to our good health and longevity.

I was at a seminar called *Living Younger Longer* put on by a well-known medical doctor, Anthony Vuturo. He talked about the five components for a healthier long life and one of them is spirituality. He said spiritually didn't necessarily mean what religion you are, but described it as the value of friendships, sharing and volunteering. These three components fit perfectly with my sense of what building community is all about.

So living in our Town is actually making you healthier without you even knowing it!

To everyone helping to make Somerset such a welcoming, friendly place, I say thank you over and over.

Obituaries

Frank Ephraim Succumbs to Cancer

Frank Ephraim, who retired in 1999 as director of program evaluation for the National Highway Safety Administration, died of cancer August 27 at home on Essex Avenue. He had been with that agency for 40 years. He contributed his expertise as a member of the Traffic Committee in Somerset that recommended speed humps for Dorset and Cumberland Avenues.

Frank was author of a book, *Escape to Manila: From Nazi Tyranny to Japanese Terror*, an account of more than a thousand Jews who fled Nazi Germany and found refuge in the Philippines. When the Japanese invaded the islands in 1941, the refugees faced the fear and oppression they thought they had left behind.

The Philippine government honored Frank for telling the little known story, which was personal for him. He was born in Berlin and as an eight-year-old escaped to the Philippines with his parents in 1939. They survived in a refugee camp during the Japanese occupation and immigrated to San Francisco in 1946.

Following two years in the Army, he studied at the University of California at Berkeley and later received an MBA from George Washington University.

Frank was a volunteer at the U.S. Holocaust museum from its opening in 1993 and served as president of the Volunteer Advisory Board. At the time of his death he was working on a novel.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Ruth of Somerset; a daughter, Michelle of Brookline, Mass.; and three grandchildren.

Jim Sampas Dies at 79

James George Sampas, a retired Foreign Service officer, died at 79 of Parkinson's disease September 5 in Sibley Hospital. He lived on Trent Court and served on the Town Council from 1982 to 1984.

Jim was a political officer in the Foreign Service and served in numerous posts, including Bangkok, Paris, Ottawa, Brussels and Reykjavik, Iceland. He retired in 1980 but worked part time on Freedom of Information cases at the State Department.

He accompanied his wife, Dorothy, also a Foreign Service officer, to a number of posts, including Beijing, where, during the Tiananmen Square crisis, he assisted the culture and press section of the U.S. Embassy. While she was ambassador to Mauritania, he volunteered as a reading tutor at the American International School of Nouakchott.

Jim was born in Lowell, Mass. He served in the Army Air Force during World War II in the United States and Germany. After the war, he graduated from Boston University, and received a master's degree in history there in 1950. A decade later, he received a doctoral degree in law from American University.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Myers Sampas of Somerset; two sons, Lawrence of Washington and George of New York City; a brother and two sisters.

County News

Rescue Squad Open House

Saturday, October 7, from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. is Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad's annual "Rescue Day", which is being held in conjunction with the *Taste of Bethesda* food festival held just two blocks away in Bethesda's restaurant district.



Rescue Day 2006 will feature free fire and rescue activities and displays, including tours of the station; live demonstrations of emergency medical, rescue, and firefighting equipment; a visit by a helicopter used to transport critically injured patients; free children's firefighter hats and KidCare identification kits; and a moonbounce. The Squad's most advanced firefighting and rescue equipment will also be on display.

Energy Awareness Month

October is Energy Awareness Month and to celebrate the County Department of Environmental Protection will hold its first *Solar Car Derby* on Saturday, October 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Service Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring. The Derby is aimed at children ages 10 through 16. To learn more go to: http://montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=2563

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: October 19, Ads and Copy

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2006 - 7:30 P.M.

1. Approval of minutes of the September 5 regular meeting and September 25 special meeting – 7:30.
2. Discussion of FY 06 annual audit by Jim Lindsey and Bob Diss of Lindsey & Associates and Town Audit Committee – 7:35.
3. Discussion of financial report for fiscal year to date – 7:50.
4. Confirmation of Mayor's appointment of Carol Jason to Parks and Natural Resources Committee – 7:55.
5. Fact finding hearing and action on applications by Jeff and Haya Hakim, 5514 Uppingham Street, to build a two-story addition to the south side of their house and an 8'x10' shed in their back yard and park a dumpster in the street – 8:00.
6. Action on application by Brian Graham and Tori Clarke, 4728 Dorset Avenue, to remove three trees – 8:10.
7. ** Action on plan to improve pedestrian safety by installing crosswalks and ramps at the intersection of Falstone Avenue, Warwick Place and the swimming pool entrance – 8:15.
8. **Discussion of draft amendments to Town Code Chapter 7, Utility Line Construction, and Chapter 11, Article I. Cable Communications – 8:30.
9. Mayor's report – 9:00.
10. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 9:10.
11. Suggestions and questions from residents – 9:20.
12. ** Report by Rick Kessler on plans for speed indicator device – 9:30.
13. ** Discussion of installation of rumble strips at certain Town intersections – 9:40.
14. Discussion of suggestion to lower Town speed limit from 25 mph to 20 mph – 9:50.
15. Fact finding hearing and action on applications by Tom Dimond and Joan Ebzery, 4914 Dorset Avenue, to replace their house, remove three trees and construct a new driveway apron – 9:55.
16. Action on permit for already-built retaining wall in Town parkland to prevent collapse of swimming pool wall in back yard of Fauzia Rashid, 4602 Dorset Avenue, permit to be revocable at any time without cause – 10:10.
17. ** Introduction of Town Code amendment to prohibit construction by contractors on Sundays except for interior work that cannot be heard by neighbors – 10:20.
18. ** Introduction of Town Code amendment to require building permit applications to show location and screening of portable toilet or statement that there will be none – 10:25.
19. Introduction of Town Code amendment to allow the Swimming Pool Committee an extra month to submit its budget request so that it is received in time for consideration at the November Council meeting – 10:30.
20. Action on contract for leaf removal from pool upper parking lot for next three years – 10:35.
21. Action on contract for auditing the Town's financial records for next three years – 10:40.
22. Action on date of special meeting to prepare response for architects to their draft report on swimming pool/bathhouse improvements presented at special meeting on September 25 – 10:45.
23. Announcement of Mayor's emergency expenditure of \$1,750 for replacement of the floor of the Town Hall utilities room for installation of new furnace – 10:50.
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.

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