



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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Power Point presentation. I outlined the pool history, improvement options set by the Town Council, and funding possibilities. Almost half of the meeting was devoted to residents asking questions and voicing their goals and priorities for the pool.

On March 12, most of the meeting will be devoted to hearing what residents favor being built, or not being built, at the swimming pool site, within the following options set by the Council:

- Rehabilitating or replacing the pool house for seasonal use (not heated or air conditioned);
- Building a shelter for 200 people on the pool site, either attached or detached from the pool house;
- Improvements to the baby pool area, including heating the pool and adding a ramp to the main pool deck;
- Removing or replacing the wooden deck area;
- Adding a vending area;
- Adding a trash area;
- Expanding the staff area in the pool house and adding or improving swim team storage;
- Making it easier for people with strollers to get in and out of the changing rooms;
- Possibly adding an exercise area.



## Mayor's Den

by Walter J. Behr

### Swimming Pool Subject of March Charrette

The Town swimming pool will be the subject of a second charrette on Monday evening, March 12, at Somerset School. Originally, the plan called for discussing Town Hall improvements at the March meeting.

Approximately 70 residents attended the first charrette on February 12. Architects Sara O'Neil-Manion and Bill Manion reviewed existing conditions and environmental and other external constraints by means of a

### Pride in Our Historic District

Do you know where the 54-house Somerset historic district is? It is easier to find now that appropriate corners are marked by colorful plaques atop street name signs. The markers were dedicated on February 2 in a brief ceremony in Founders Park at the corner of Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street, followed by a reception at Town Hall. Among the guests were Julia O'Malley, Chair of the County Historic Preservation Commission, and Gwen Wright, longtime staff director.



*Town maintenance staffer Tomas Villanueva holds the ladder as Angel Alba installs the first of 6 signs marking the Town's historic district. They are watched by (left to right) History Committee Chair Lesley*

*Simmons, HPC staffer Gwen Wright, HPC Chair Julia O'Malley, Council member Jeffrey Slavin, and Mayor Walter Behr.*

Thanks to Council member and History Committee Chair Lesley Simmons for obtaining a grant (from Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust) to cover the cost of the markers and for adapting the Town flag design to fit them. (The Town flag and also the Centennial banners and postage stamps were designed by resident David Herbrick.)

Somerset's historic district is situated on parts of five streets, as follows: 4701 to 4814 Cumberland; 4705 to 4901 Dorset; 4721 – 27 and 31 Essex; 5706 to 5820 Surrey; and, on Warwick 5800, -06, -08, -10, and -12.

## **Applicants Welcome for Elections Board, 2 Committees**

Perhaps you have been thinking of getting involved – or more involved – in Town functioning or activities. Here are three possibilities:

- **Board of Supervisors of Elections.** One vacancy exists on the five-member board that is in charge of registration of Somerset voters and conduct of candidates' forums and elections. The vacancy results from the resignation of Marc Geffroy "owing to my increased business travel and my recent appointment to my church's parish council." Marc's term would have expired December 31, 2008, so that same date will apply to his replacement. Questions about the responsibilities and time requirements may be addressed to any of the Board members: Tracy Truman, Chair; Ellie Fink; Steve Friedman; and Bonnie Thomson.
- **Special Events.** Terms of four of the members of the seven-person committee are about to expire. Terms are for two years. For information about the committee functions, please call any of the members. They are: Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Chair; Alan Dock; Bonnie Lewin; Barbara Marblestone; Sarah Morse; Jeffrey Slavin; and Lyndsey Van Vliet-Gerber.
- **Batting Cage.** There are two vacancies on this five-member committee. To get an idea of the job of the committee and time constraints, get in touch with Richard Furcolo, Chair; Chris Lane; Rodd Macklin; David Sacks; or David Sapin.

Please send a statement to me at the Town Hall ([mayor@townofsomerset.com](mailto:mayor@townofsomerset.com)) indicating which group you are interested in and your qualifications in brief. The deadline for applications is March 13.

## **Your Choice of E-Mail Networks**

Would you believe that only about half of Somerset residents have signed up for either the regular Town e-mail broadcasts or the emergency-only network?

The regular network, which sends a message once or twice a week, keeps residents abreast of important Town developments such as the time and place of committee and special Council meetings, special events, delays in trash and recycling collections and emergency updates and instructions. Also included are significant revisions on Town Council agendas after the Town Journal has gone to press.

The second e-mail network is for residents who want only information and guidance in case of an emergency.

If you are not already registered with either network and want to join, simply call Tom Carter or Corrie Morsey at the Town Hall (301) 657-3211, or send an e-mail to [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com). Be sure to specify whether you want to join the regular network, which will include emergency news, or the network that is used strictly for emergencies.

A number of households have signed up with two or three e-mail addresses, perhaps one or two at home and one or two at work. No problem!

## **Peter Gubser Elected Chair of County Board**

Congratulations to former Town Council member Peter Gubser, who has been elected Chair of the 15-member Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board for 2007. The primary purpose of the Board is to advise the County Executive and County Council on matters that affect the residential and business communities in Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac and Somerset.

To receive information about Board meetings and County laws, programs and services by e-mail, visit the County website, [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov), and on the right side of the screen click on the link "sign up for e-mail updates: Subscriptions."

## **Errata to Town's 2007 Directory**

Following are corrections/additions to the Town's latest Directory: Page 7, CHLOPAK/GLOBOKAR listing – house # is 4919, phone # is 301-656-1037  
Page 38, SORENG – e-mail addresses are [soreng@comcast.net](mailto:soreng@comcast.net) and [nsoreng@comcast.net](mailto:nsoreng@comcast.net)

TOWN OF SOMERSET  
2006 SWIMMING POOL FINANCIAL REPORT

	2004			2005			2006		
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>
MEMBERSHIP	\$0	367	\$0	\$0	367	\$0	\$0	372	\$0
GUEST CARDS (5 Swims)	\$10	694	\$6,940	\$10	634	\$6,340	\$10	669	\$6,690
GUEST CARDS (Week Pass)	\$5	43	<u>\$215</u>	\$5	54	<u>\$270</u>	\$5	35	<u>\$175</u>
Subtotal – Guests			\$7,155			\$6,610			\$6,865
Rental Fees			\$0			\$0			\$0
MISCELLANEOUS			<u>\$8</u>			<u>\$90</u>			<u>\$7</u>
TOTAL INCOME			\$7,163			\$6,700			\$6,872

	2004	2005	2006
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
OPERATING COSTS			
Management Contract	\$60,719	\$66,800	\$68,484
Other: Chem/Supplies	\$11,699	\$9,919	\$13,397
Gas/Elect/Phone	\$9,983	\$12,855	\$15,882
Water/Sewer	\$8,726	\$3,997	\$1,470
Admin/Security	\$5,158	\$5,439	\$6,617
Maint/Misc	\$20,139	\$12,595	\$15,189
Subtotal – Other	<u>\$55,705</u>	<u>\$44,805</u>	<u>\$53,095</u>
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	\$116,244	\$111,605	\$121,579
OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS	(\$109,261)	(\$104,905)	(\$114,707)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	<u>\$15,832*a</u>	<u>\$21,095*b</u>	<u>\$49,979*c</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$132,256</u>	<u>\$132,700</u>	<u>\$171,558</u>
NET PROFIT/LOSS	(\$125,093)	(\$126,000)	(\$164,686)
TOTAL INCOME AS % OF:			
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	6%	6%	6%
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	5%	5%	4%
AVERAGE OPERATING COST			
PER HOUSEHOLD	\$281	\$270	\$294

\*a: \$1,835 – Jeep  
 4,412 – Grill/Trash Cans/Refrigerator  
 Ping Pong Table/Deck Furniture  
 6,685 – Water Heater  
 2,900 – Basketball Hoop

\*b: \$5,500 – 2 Pool Heaters  
 2,500 – Pressure Values  
 1,595 – Basketball Fence  
 4,287 – Resident Survey  
 2,713 – Crosswalk/Path  
 2,500 – Bathhouse Study  
 2,000 – Pump Room Study

\*c: \$3,030 – Bathhouse Study  
 480 – Pump Room Ceiling (Engr)  
 940 – Water Cooler  
 529 – Grill  
 10,000 – Boundary & Topo Survey  
 25,000 – Architect  
 10,000 – Nat. Resources Inventory

# Town Hall Tidbits

By Tom Carter

## Remember Somerset in Your Tax Returns

One of Somerset's two biggest sources of revenue is its share of the State income tax paid by Town residents. But Somerset will not get its share of income taxes unless its name appears on the Maryland income tax form in the box marked, "City, Town or Taxing Area." Please remember to complete this section when filing your taxes. A sample of the form appears below.

FORM 502 MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING		2006	
SOCIAL SECURITY #		SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY #	
First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
Spouse's First Name	Spouse's Last Name	Spouse's First Name	Spouse's Last Name
RESIDENT ADDRESS (City and state)			
City or Town	State	Zip Code	
Name of county and assessment city, town or taxing area		Assessed	City, town or taxing area
Name of school district or authority on the 31st day of the month ending that assessment is		Assessed	City, town or taxing area
Assessment authority		Assessed	City, town or taxing area

## Town Election

Election Day for three Council members for the Town of Somerset is Tuesday, March 20, from 5-9 p.m. in the Town Hall. Nominations were received for Tom Eldridge, Richard Furcolo, Richard Kessler, Alan Proctor, and Marnie Shaul. A Candidates Forum will be held Thursday, March 8, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. The candidates' statements may be found on pages 6 and 7 of this issue of the Journal.

## Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots will be available in the Town Hall beginning Wednesday, February 28. Qualified voters who will be absent from Town on election day, or who are incapacitated, may obtain absentee ballots from the Clerk-Treasurer by writing him at 4510 Cumberland Avenue or by calling (301) 657-3211. Ballots will be counted if returned to the Clerk-Treasurer or the Board of Supervisors of Elections before 9 p.m. on election day, March 20.

## Sidewalks

Our contractor will clear two inches of snow or more from your sidewalks after a storm, but remember it is your responsibility by Town Code to keep it clear thereafter. The maintenance men are responsible for the Town sidewalks where there are no houses.

## Street Light Out?

Please call Pepco at 1-877-737-2662 to report a street light out. You will need to provide the nearest address to the pole. The bulb should be replaced within 72 hours according to Pepco.

## Trash Pickup

It is Town policy to put trash at the curb no earlier than the night before pickup. Following this rule is important in keeping our streetscape clear and clean. It is also a common courtesy to your neighbors.

## Garden Refuse Pickup

J&J resumes twice-a-week collection of garden refuse March 1. Pickups will be on Tuesdays and Fridays as in the past.



Please note that yard waste should either be placed in paper bags or loose in trash cans

that are prominently marked as "Yard Waste" for easy recognition by the driver. Do not mix with trash or they will leave the entire can! Branches must not be over four feet long or three inches in diameter. Large branches must be trimmed to meet these dimensions. All branches not placed in trash cans must be tied into small bundles.

## Some Springtime Activities Require Permits

Spring is coming and in the next few months residents will begin to add to their houses, redo their gardens and beautify their yards. Remember, for some things you will need a permit. Below is a partial list:

1. Building permit -- needed for any construction or demolition that changes the exterior dimensions of a house or accessory structure. This includes building or enlarging a tool shed.
2. Tree permit -- needed to take down trees that are four inches or more in diameter, four feet above the ground.
3. Fence permit -- needed for any new or replacement fence or wall.
4. Driveways -- repair or repaving of the section of the driveway on public right-of-way as well as a driveway apron may not proceed without a \$300 deposit to insure restoration of Town sidewalks, curbs and other public property. Replacement aprons must meet County standards.
5. Dumpsters -- may not be parked in the street without permission of the Mayor.

## MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's mobile office will be in Friendship Heights on Monday, February 26, and Monday, March 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Found



A green and pink, butterfly-shaped pierced earring was found near the check-in table at the charrette in Somerset School on February 12. Call Tom at (301) 657-3211

if you think it belongs to you.

## Permit Granted

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

Curb: Michael and Cindy Yuffee, 5524 Trent Street, to replace their apron.

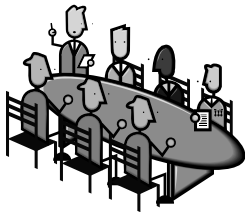
# Legislation

At the February 5 meeting the Council:

1. Introduced revised proposed amendments to Town Code Chapter 7, Utility Line Construction.
2. Approved an amendment to Town Code Chapter 2 to expand the purpose, policies and procedures of the Town Journal.

# Council Activity

At the February 5 meeting, the Council:



1. Received nominations from the floor for Tom Eldridge, Richard Furcolo, Richard Kessler, Alan Proctor, and Marnie

Shaul for Council members. Set March 8 as the date for the candidates' forum.

2. Directed the Mayor to write a letter opposing the establishment of the home business at Hunt and Wisconsin Avenues.
3. Approved a three-year refuse/recycling contract with Uneeda for \$80,568 annually, subject to providing the Council a copy of the proposed contract for their review prior to the Mayor signing it. (Vote: Eldridge, Frankel and Simmons, for; Kessler and Slavin opposed. Motion passed 3-2.)

4. Approved a permit for Verizon to install fiber optic cable throughout Somerset, subject to the Town's approval of the locations of hubs and cable loops. (Vote: Eldridge, Frankel, Kessler, and Simmons for; Slavin opposed. Motion passed 4-1.)
5. Discussed possible legislation to discourage construction plans that include removal of Town trees.
6. Decided to leave the centennial banners up indefinitely.

## Calendar

### Monday, February 26

MVA's mobile office in Friendship Heights

### Wednesday, February 28

Absentee Ballots available at Town Hall

### Friday, March 2

Twice Weekly garden refuse pick-up resumes

### Friday, March 2

Somerset ES performance: *The King and I*

### Saturday, March 3

Somerset ES performance: *The King and I*

### Sunday, March 4

Somerset ES performance: *The King and I*

### Monday, March 5

Town Council Meeting

### Thursday, March 8

Candidates' Forum

### Friday, March 9

Somerset Elementary School's Annual Used Book Sale

### Saturday, March 10

Somerset Elementary School's Annual Used Book Sale

### Thursday, March 15

Journal Deadline: Ads and Copy

### Tuesday, March 20

Election Day

### Wednesday, March 21

Brown Bag Lunch & Film Screening

### Monday, March 26

Facilities Planning Charrette

*Don't forget to check the Town website throughout the month for an up-to-date calendar.*

*Go to [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) and click on "Calendar"*

## Candidates for Town Council – Statements

### Tom Eldridge



I live on Warwick with my wife Jennifer, our three kids and our 14 pets. My family and I have lived in Somerset for 12 years. Since being elected in 2001, I have sponsored measures to improve traffic safety, protect Town trees, and develop consensus around proposals to renovate both the Town Hall and Pool House. I served as Facilities Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, and drafted legislation to create the Pool House Survey and Town Hall Renovation Committees. If reelected, I will focus on repairing and enhancing our Town facilities and improving traffic safety.

Both the Town Hall and Pool House are sorely in need of repair. I believe we should address holistically the need to renovate these facilities. We should seek to maximize our sense of community and increase amenities to residents overall. We also should choose an approach that enhances the environment at both locations, makes the pool safe in a thunderstorm, considers the interests of neighbors to both Town facilities, and is fiscally responsible.

On traffic, as we repave our streets in the coming year, we should consider incorporating traffic calming measures such as raised intersections and/or rumble strips. We should study, and consider implementing, all reasonable measures to reduce cut-through traffic.

I have sought at every Town meeting to listen closely to Town residents, and assist in the efficient resolution of issues through courteous debate. I would be honored to serve for another term, and respectfully ask for your vote on March 20.

### Richard W. Furcolo

I'm running to fill the vacant seat on the Town Council occasioned by Judy Frankel's retirement and relocation to Maine.

Over the many years that my family and I have lived in Somerset, I have participated in our Town's governance through effective service on a number of committees both as a member – Swimming Pool, Swim Team, and Long-Range Planning – and Chair – Traffic and Batting Cage Committees. As a member of the Town Council I will endeavor to ensure that our Town's facilities, particularly the pool and Town Hall, are designed, repaired, and maintained in keeping with the wishes and best interests of the community. I also will work to safeguard the Town's interests with respect to

nearby proposed development, including but not limited to Westbard and the WES school.

I believe I can effectively represent our community on the Town Council and I ask for your support.

### Richard J. Kessler



A resident on Cumberland Avenue since 1991 with three sons all graduates of Somerset School and all on the swim team: TK was co-coach, Nick a lifeguard, and DK soon to be one. My wife, Pamela Cox, is a swim team referee and I am a lowly timer. I was a Pack 52 Cub Scout leader and now a merit badge counselor to Boy Scout Troop 52.

I represented to Town on the Somerset School modernization plan, the Pool Committee and the Coordinating Council for Friendship Heights, including the Friendship Heights Sector Development plans where I pushed for the inclusion of a baseball field when the Geico property is developed and for a County administered Community Center with a basketball court at the Hecht Company site. I promoted the development of a playground in Somerset and supported the batting cage, pool picnic area, and water slide and have worked to improve street safety.

I advocate expanded community amenities, street safety, and maintaining our trees and environment. I support an expanded community facility at the pool or the Town Hall. Friendship Heights and Westbard development, traffic increases, street repaving, manionsization, and community safety are major issues before the town.

A Colgate University graduate with a Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, I served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal. I am the Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

### Alan Proctor



I love living in the Town of Somerset. I'm running for Town Council because I believe I can help make our town an even better community with the energy, vision and values I would bring to the Council.

I know and understand Somerset well and have a record of contribution. My spouse Anne and I have lived in town for more than 20 years, have raised our four sons here, and have been consistent, active participants in the community. I've chaired a

number of Town committees, building consensus and getting things done. For example, as Chairman of the Pool Committee, we installed the pool heater and water slide, built the picnic area, started movie nights, and purchased the tent and sound system that we now use at the pool, Town Hall and school. At the school, I helped the PTA's technology committee install the first local area network and PCs in the county, produced the directory for many years, helped build the deck, and supported school plays and many other activities. Within the community, I've been engaged and frequently deeply involved on a wide range of issues, including utility Undergrounding, community facilities, traffic, manionsization, and preserving our streetlights and the stone gates at the entrance to town.

I seek to bring similar initiative, ideas, commitment and results to the Council as we address the many challenges and opportunities we have before us. There are a lot of great things we can do, working together and without raising taxes.

### Marnie Shaul



I have enjoyed being a resident of Somerset the past 17 years and am running for Town Council to contribute to this special community. I would like to dedicate time and energy to work on the challenges Somerset faces now and in the future. I want to help build a consensus about our two community facilities – the pool house and the Town Hall – and move forward in enhancing these community assets while protecting the surrounding areas. I look forward to participating in the charrettes and talking with town residents about our facilities and other local issues, such as maintaining our beautiful natural environment as the area around us becomes increasingly urbanized.

Some of you may know me through my work on the committee that planned Somerset's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration – I was in charge of our garden tour. In addition, I've served as secretary of the Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights for 10 years. Somerset and neighboring communities belong to the Coordinating Committee and benefit from its monitoring of potential developments in our area and efforts to lessen their impact on density and traffic. I also regularly volunteer at the Somerset PTA book sale.

My career has been in both federal and state government. Most recently I was a director at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) where I provided oversight of K-12 education and Head Start for the Congress. I'm an economist with a background in public finance. I would appreciate your voting for me on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Residents' Letters

From Bill Brenner (Surrey)

### Our Environmentally Friendly Pool House

At the February 12<sup>th</sup> Town charrette for the swimming pool, several people spoke in favor of sustainable, environmentally friendly design. That's our pool house. During its 35 years of life as a seasonal facility, it has not consumed one cubic foot of gas or one gallon of oil for heating. It has not consumed one watt of energy for ventilation or cooling. It has not added one pound of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Its expert siteing, use of deep overhangs, and ingenious natural ventilation system keep the changing rooms comfortable and dry. The only energy wasters are small boys who forget to turn off the showers.

The pool house's interiors are a little careworn, its circulation could be improved, and the floor over the pool equipment room must be replaced. Otherwise (and contrary to what was implied at the charrette) the building is structurally sound, it is eminently fixable, and it has an indefinite life span.

### Traffic Counts in Somerset

by Council member Tom Eldridge

We have all seen people blow through stop signs in Somerset. We have all seen people speeding through Town. Most people would agree cut-through traffic and speeding has gotten worse in the last several years.

During that time the Council has added speed humps on some streets, created restrictions on parking for construction vehicles, and hired police – both Chevy Chase Village and off-duty Montgomery County – in a pilot project to patrol and hand out tickets for stop sign and speeding violations.

In the last several months, we reduced the Town speed limit for 25 to 20 miles per hour (still probably too fast), added rumble strips to some intersections, and purchases a sign that lights up when people are speeding and shows their speed.

Some people in Town may not know that Somerset owns its roads, and, therefore, has the authority to decide what traffic rules and regulations apply on them.

During the next year, the Town plans to repave many of our streets at a cost of approximately \$1 million. We should take this opportunity to design in changes to our roads to improve traffic safety and reduce cut-through traffic and speeding.

As part of that effort, we should repeat the traffic count the Council sponsored in 2004 to see if, in fact,

the problem has gotten worse. That count was conducted September 15, 2004 – while Somerset School was under construction – at all the Town's entry and exits, by a professional traffic counting firm. It showed that:

- The two rush hour times for Town traffic were 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- The busiest intersections were Dorset Avenue at Little Falls and at Wisconsin.
- Approximately 70 cars entered Dorset at Little Falls in the morning rush hour and 150 in the afternoon rush hour.
- Approximately 65 cars entered Dorset at Wisconsin during morning rush hour and 100 in the afternoon rush hour.
- The next busiest entrance was Greystone Street and River Road with approximately 30 cars entering in the morning rush hour and 60 entering in the afternoon one.

I believe we should repeat that survey to see how traffic patterns have changed in light of the major development that has occurred in the area. With those figures in hand, we should consider what changes to our roads are necessary to improve public safety and reduce cut-through traffic.

Options include: adding raised intersections, using different materials near intersections, like rumble strips, to alert drivers they need to slow down, and limiting traffic entering the Town at certain intersections, from certain directions, or at certain times.

We should take all reasonable measures to protect our residents from people who cut through our Town, speed, and run stop signs. I hope all residents will weigh in on this important issue.

## Congratulations Somerset!

by Corrie Morsey

The Town of Somerset was named a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation for the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row. This continuing distinction is definitive of Somerset and speaks volumes as to the major role trees play in our everyday lives.

## Brown Bag Lunch, Election Re-Cap & Film Screening Set for March 21

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

On Wednesday, March 21, the day after the Town election, please join Mayor Behr and me (and hopefully several other council members), for our quarterly brown bag lunch from noon to 1 p.m. at the Town Hall. To be sure we will discuss this year's election

along with other hot topics. As always, please bring a sandwich or main dish to share, along with crackers or chips. We provide soda, napkins and utensils.

As an added bonus, at the conclusion of the lunch, we will show the new documentary film "Chevy Chase, Maryland: A Streetcar to Home" which comes highly recommended by History Committee chair, Council member Lesley Simmons. If you have questions, please call me at (301) 654-6767 or email [jslavin@townofsomerset.com](mailto:jslavin@townofsomerset.com).

## It's Book Sale Time at Somerset ES

by Elizabeth Hurwit



Somerset Elementary School's Annual Used Book Sale is on Friday, March 9 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the school's All-Purpose Room. Stop by to browse and buy from a great selection of books and buy home-baked goodies.

The Used Book Sale fundraiser is one of the school's most popular and successful events thanks to Somerset families and neighbors who generously donate books – children's and adult fiction and nonfiction, videos, games, audio tapes and cds. It's a great system – clean off your shelves, pass your books on to other readers, restock your own shelves, and help raise money for the school.

The more you donate the more successful the sale will be. Donations will be accepted on the stage of the APR from Monday, March 5 thru Thursday, March 8. If possible, pack your books in good, strong cardboard boxes. If you'd like to give credit to a Somerset student for your book contributions, find out who his or her teacher is and mark it on the box. The two classes that donate the most books to the Used Book Sale will be celebrated with an ice cream party.

We welcome volunteers who would like to help sort books or work at the sale. For additional information, please call Julieta Pacanins at (301) 657-1376, Catherine McCann at (301) 656-3322, or Elizabeth Hurwit at (301) 652-0608.

## On My Mind

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Last Fall Montgomery County voters wisely and overwhelmingly sent a "message" by electing Ike Leggett as County Executive and several "go-slow-on-development" types as At Large Council members. In our own Somerset precinct voters surpassed the County average for all of these candidates, and I interpret this to mean that the residents of the Town are overwhelmingly



interested in making sure that our County is not over developed, the environment is protected, and excess traffic is minimized where necessary. Furthermore, our Town has for decades been an active participant in the Citizen's Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, a major watchdog of excessive growth in our immediate vicinity and we have recently re-joined the Montgomery County Civic Federation. It would be hard to argue that a majority of our residents have been happy or comfortable with the rate of growth around here.

With these thoughts in mind, as I sat at the charrette listening to our architects review the approval process for a greatly improved or possible all-new Pool House, I mused at the ironies of the whole discussion.

Here we are, a Town of folks mostly committed to the County's latest policies of a more strict review of every last construction project, whatever the size, yet, depending on what our vision ends up being, we may paradoxically be asked to become advocates for an upgraded use of the pool house along with greater density on the site. I can just imagine the arguments that are going to be made against us, especially by our allies!

My point is that although I am inclined to always be more sympathetic to the slow growth philosophy, I also feel compelled to support the final work product of our charrette process, for structures that will last for the next 40 years, but that might include features that compromise our basic standards. So this is my quandary.

I hope that as we continue to slowly make progress to a final proposal that we keep a practical view of what we are able to accomplish rather than hope for a political miracle.

## County News

### Urgent Call for Volunteers to Work with Victims of Sexual Assault

There is an urgent need for volunteers to assist sexual assault victims and their families through the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program of Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Interviews are currently being conducted for the spring 2007 training session, which will begin this month.

To learn more go to:  
[http://montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=3069](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=3069)



### County Council Seeks Applicants for Two Positions on the Montgomery County Planning Board

The terms of Wendy Collins Perdue, Democrat, and Meredith K. Wellington, Republican, will expire on June 14, 2007. Ms. Perdue and Ms. Wellington have both served two terms and are not eligible for reappointment. To learn more go to:  
[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council?PressRelease/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=3078](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council?PressRelease/PR_details.asp?PrID=3078)

# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.

1. Presentation of certificate to Judy Frankel for 26 years of service to Somerset – 7:30.
2. Approval of minutes of February 5 regular meeting and February 15 special and closed meetings – 7:35.
3. Discussion of financial report – 7:40.
4. Confirmation of Mayor's reappointment of Alan Dock for two-year term on the Special Events Committee and one-year term as chair – 7:45.
5. Confirmation of Mayor's appointment of David Sapin as chair of the Batting Cage Committee for one year – 7:50.
6. Action on six-month extension of building permit for Michael and Bridget Cowie, 5511 Uppingham Street, to add a second story and attic, add an uncovered porch and deck to the rear, add a covered porch to the front and extend the garage ten feet to the front – 7:55.
7. Mayor's report – 8:00.
8. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 8:10.
9. Suggestions and questions from residents – 8:20.
10. Five-Year Fiscal Plan hearing and discussion – 8:30.
11. Action on proposed amendment to replace Town Code Chapter 7, Utility Line Construction, Article I. In General – 8:50.
12. Introduction of amendment to Town Code Chapter 8, Protection of Trees, to discourage construction plans that include removal of Town trees – 9:20.
13. \*\*Action on Arbor Day proclamation – 9:25.
14. New business – 9:30.
15. Adjournment – 9:35.

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.

The **Town Journal** is the official publication of  
The Town of Somerset, Montgomery County, MD.  
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Tom Eldridge, 5605 Warwick Place, (301) 656-3354  
[Teldridge@townofsomerset.com](mailto:Teldridge@townofsomerset.com)

### TOWN HALL

Open 9 to 4:30 Monday thru Friday  
(301) 657-3211 Fax: (301) 657-2773  
TTY users call Maryland Relay

Judy Frankel, 5528 Uppingham Street, (301) 657-8875  
[jbfrankel@aol.com](mailto:jbfrankel@aol.com)

This issue edited by Lesley Simmons  
**Deadlines: Thursday, March 15, Ads and Copy**

# ODD JOB HELPERS

The following residents have asked to be listed to do **odd jobs** for other residents at a price to be negotiated between them. Please call the Town Hall at (301) 657-3211 if you would like to add or remove names or change services you are willing to perform.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Phone (301)</u>	<u>General Chores</u>	<u>Baby- sitting</u>	<u>Pet Care/ Walking</u>	<u>Snow Shoveling</u>
Lucy Bascom	17	986-1263		X	X	
Miles Batson	17	907-8826	X	X	X	X
Caroline Borders	14	718-4388			X	
Magnus Charters	14	657-8020	X	X	X	X
Chelsea Davis	19	986-1614		X		
Grace Dimond	15	907-9422		X		
Lily Farrell	15	656-6707		X	X	X
Ava Farrell	12	656-6707		X	X	X
Charles Gage	15	652-3990	X	X	X	
Jonathan Gottfried	18 21	657-3080				X
Steven Gottfried						X
Becca Guiterman	18	652-8837	X	X	X	
Aliza Guttman	14	656-8887		X		
Clare Hanlon	17	652-7454		X		
Amelie Hecht	15	654-5583		X		
Cate Helfgott	21	657-3010	X	X	X	
Jacob Heller	18	654-5497	X			X
Aliya Heller	17	656-8136		X		
Leni Hirsch	11	654-7289		X	X	
Brooke Kahn	17	656-6456		X		
Hannah Kahn	17	656-6456		X		
Maurie Kathan	20	907-3298		X		X
Abby Kathan	16	907-3298			X	
Toby Kathan	18	907-3298		X	X	X
Daniel Kaufman	18	657-8350				X
Alex Kennedy	18 21	907-9012				X
Brian Kennedy						X
Farhad Kerimov	18	718-4388	X		X	
Duncan Kessler	14	654-2699		X		
Saul Leiken	16	951-5851	X	X	X	X
Jessie Leiken	20	951-5851	X	X	X	
Abby Lis-Perlis	18	654-4154		X		
Michael Maman	16	654-2883	X		X	X
David Maman	13	654-2883	X		X	
Katie McDougal	16	654-6964		X		
Brendan McMahan	15	656-0709	X		X	
Patrick McMahan	17	656-0709	X		X	X
Kelly Merkl	16	215-6695		X	X	
Sophie Mondale	16	986-0240		X		
Freddy Mondale	14	986-0240	X	X	X	X
Zach Palchick	18	951-3613				X
Daniel Palchick	22					X
Douglas Proctor	17	652-4717				X
Devon Proctor	18					X
Marisa Sadoff	17	215-7762	X	X	X	
Marissa San George	17	654-7739	X	X	X	X
Will Schlossberg	18	951-8560				X
Katie Shea	15	913-9424	X		X	
Teddy Wyeth	18	656-8773				X
Kevin Young	16	657-8590				X