



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 51, No. 12

June 22, 2007



Mayor's Den

By Walter Behr

Traffic Calming -- A Panacea?

Traffic calming. What an appealing phrase, like motherhood, sliced bread and home runs! All of us would appreciate less traffic on our streets, lower speed and full stops at our STOP signs, but maybe we are being unrealistic in expecting magical solutions to our traffic problems.

Steps that might help achieve desired results will be the subject of a special (open) Town Council meeting Thursday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Two guests,

a traffic engineer and a public works contractor, will be present to help us decide which device or devices would make most sense in Somerset, with its narrow (22') streets, eleven speed humps and numerous STOP signs.

Speed humps may be the most common calming device, but there are a number of other installations that are effective in various conditions.

Here are the most popular:

- Traffic circle
- Intersection choker (curb extension or bulb-out)
- Mid-block choker
- Diverter

At the June 28 meeting, Traffic Engineer Joe Cutro will illustrate these techniques on the screen and discuss the feasibility of applying them in our Town.

We will also have the results and at least preliminary analysis of the recent count of total traffic entering and exiting Somerset during morning and afternoon rush hours and the portion of the total that is through traffic.



- Raised crosswalk
- Raised intersection

In this issue

Mayor's Den	1-2	On My Mind	9
Calendar	3	Somerset Life	10
Permits Granted	3	All About People	10
Town Hall Tidbits	4	Classifieds	12
Somerset Asked to Contribute to Westbard Plan	5	Council Activity	13
Tree Removal	5	Legislation	13
July 4 Celebrations	6	Town Council Meeting Agenda	14
Security Committee Tips	7	Special Town Council Meeting Agenda	15
News from the Swim Team	8	The Rinky Dink Fire Department	Insert
Somerset's Growing History	9		

Major Public Works Project on Agenda

There is no question that curbs in Somerset need fixing. The question that the Council must decide is whether to repair our antiquated curbs for a little over \$100,000 or replace them with modern curb and gutter construction for about \$600,000. The issue is scheduled for discussion at the regular Town Council meeting on Monday, July 2, at 9:20 p.m.

Curbs in Somerset (except for the end of Trent Street near River Road) are in “monolithic” form, which means that the original streets and curbs were a single piece of concrete. Over the years, we have replaced cracked and crumbling sections with new concrete, and I had recommended that we repeat that process this year. However, I am now convinced that it is time to replace our old style curbs with the modern, stronger configuration of curb and 16-inch gutter. I want to thank Alan Proctor for advocating the advantage of this style of construction, which has been confirmed by traffic engineers and contractors.

My hope is that after the discussion on July 2, the Council will authorize the new curbs on August 6, making it probable that the work can be completed before this winter. My further hope is that the new curbs will be followed next year by repaving all the streets that were not recently done by the WSSC contractor following installation of new sewer and water mains. The preliminary estimate for repaving is the same as for curbs and gutters, approximately \$600,000.

Cable Competition Coming

Following authorization by the Town Council, I have signed an agreement with Verizon Maryland, Inc. that will result in installation of fiber-optic cable throughout Somerset within a year, except for connections to individual properties. The technology, which is called fiber to the premises or FTTP, will result in offering what the company describes as “more reliable, crystal-clear voice service, lightning-fast Internet access and theater-quality cable TV service.”



Construction work will be limited to Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. At least 72 hours prior to the start of construction, the company will post notices, which will include a local or toll-free telephone number for residents to call with questions or complaints regarding the construction work.

Actually, Verizon installed fiber-optic cable on several Somerset streets prior to the signed agreement. The company maintains that its two incursions were unintentional and has apologized profusely.

A third cable company (besides Verizon and Comcast) operates in parts of Montgomery County, but not in Somerset. Formerly Starpower, it is now known as RCN. In 1999, the company installed some new poles and equipment on Somerset streets, but encountered financial problems and never finished the work.

Interested in Swimming or Special Events Committee?

At its August meeting the Town Council will be asked to confirm appointments to two committees, Swimming Pool and Special Events. If you would like to apply for either, please send a brief statement of your interest and background to me at the Town Hall by Friday, July 13 (mayor@townofsomerset.com).

The Pool Committee will have two vacancies. The chair, Josh Bobeck, having served two consecutive three-year terms, is not eligible for reappointment. Richard Furcolo is eligible for another term.

Special Events terms are for two years. Four members' terms are at an end, Alan Dock, who is chair, Bonnie Lewin, Barbara Marblestone and Sarah Morse. All are eligible for reappointment, but Alan Dock will be moving overseas.

If you would like information on the responsibilities of the committees, please call the respective chairs or other members or me.

Calendar

Thursday, June 28	Special Town Meeting on Traffic
Saturday, June 30	Hazardous Waste Disposal
Monday, July 2	Town Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 4	Independence Day Celebrations at the Town Hall and Pool
Thursday, July 19	Journal deadline, ads and copy
Monday, July 23	Mobile MVA office in Friendship Heights
Monday, August 6	Town Council Meeting

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 "Town Calendar"

Lawsuit Settlement Possible

More than two years ago, two residents of Trent Street filed a suit against the builder of a new house next door and the Town over an alleged surface water problem. Somerset has spent almost \$100,000 in legal and engineering fees to defend the charges.

Tom Carter and I had been deposed months ago and were prepared to testify at the trial in Montgomery County Circuit Court on June 4. However, on that day the parties reached a settlement agreement in principle. A formal detailed settlement agreement is to be prepared and signed implementing the principles. The trial was postponed to July 31 to provide time to execute such an agreement. If a settlement agreement is not executed, the trial will commence on July 31.

Under the settlement principles, the developer of 5403 Trent Street is to install additional storm water devices to divert and convey surface water runoff. In return, plaintiffs David Sadoff and his wife, Mary Heflin, owners of 5400 Trent Street, will withdraw their lawsuit against the developers and the Town of Somerset.

The lawsuit alleges that the developer has improperly increased the amount of storm water runoff that flows onto the plaintiffs' property and has blocked the natural flow of storm water by construction of a raised driveway on properties owned by the Town of Somerset and the developers. An injunction is sought against the developers and the Town of Somerset to remedy this condition.

Permits Granted

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

Trees:

Brian and Marcy Frosh, 4810 Grantham Avenue, to remove a malformed holly abutting their carport and a red maple because of a weak primary crotch and split.

Lucky Dyer, 4509 Cumberland Avenue, to remove a dead pine in her front yard.

Gail Schwartz, 4822 Dorset Avenue, to remove a failing cherry tree in her back yard.

Valerie Green, 5519 Trent Street, to remove two Leyland cypresses in her side yard, one too close to the house, the other crowding a dogwood.

Jim Cummings, 4820 Dorset Avenue, to remove a failing wild cherry from his rear side yard.

Fences:

Arne and Ruth Sorenson, 5810 Warwick Place, for a 4-foot replacement fence along the left side and rear of their property.

Barbara Condos, 4706 Falstone Avenue, to erect a 6-foot fence around her back yard.

Peter Dewees, 5801 Warwick Place, to replace his existing fence.

Town Hall Tidbits

by Tom Carter

Office Schedule in July

The office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, a Federal holiday.

Found

Cash. Please identify by dollar amount, form (i.e., 1's, 5's, etc.) and possible location. If no one comes forward, money will be sent to the Red Cross. Call Roz Harris, (301) 656-1807.

Somerset Quiet Hours

Don't forget Town noise limitations between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. daily. This applies to noise from sources associated with residential living, such as blowers, power mowers and chain saws.

The same hours apply to construction on Saturdays and holidays; that is, it may occur only between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Only quiet interior work that cannot be heard by neighbors may be performed on Sundays. On weekdays, it is legal to start at 7 a.m.

Pool Guest Passes

Reminder: checks for guest passes purchased at the pool should be made out to "Town of Somerset," not Somerset Pool.

Vacation Precautions

A few precautions may enhance your vacation this year. Consider these before you leave:

- Cancel your newspapers and get a neighbor to pick up newspapers and flyers that are deposited on your property.
- Arrange to have your lawn cut while you are away.

- Give a key to a neighbor just in case of emergency.
- Arrange to have a neighbor, friend or relative know how to turn off your security system if it is activated.
- Consider putting timers on some of the lights in your home and set them to come on at different times. You might even turn a radio on or put it on a timer.

Lock Doors, Cars and Garages

It's that time of year when you are out in your back yard and you have left your front door unlocked. This makes it very tempting for unwanted visitors. Please lock your doors.

It would also be a good idea to remember to lock your car and garage doors. Bikes can easily be taken out of unlocked garages. Daylight hours are getting longer and more people are walking around Town. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Town Trees and Grounds

With summer coming, we ask you to please water the Town trees in your yards when no rain has fallen in several days.

Don't forget, the Grounds Ordinance states that it shall be the duty of owners of all dwellings to maintain the land between their property lines and the street curb in "good and orderly condition," to clean the sidewalks in front of their property and keep them free from overhanging shrubbery.

Please do not put grass down the storm drains. Also, do not use the

trash containers around Town for your personal household trash. Additionally, there is no dumping at the pool parking lot or at the end of Warwick Place.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

The next date for collection of hazardous waste will be Saturday, June 30, 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

MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's mobile office will be in Friendship Heights on Monday, July 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Somerset Asked to Contribute to Westbard Plan

by Council Member Marnie Shaul

The sector plan for the Westbard area -- 11 acres including River Road and Westbard Avenue -- will be updated in another year or two. The area includes land surrounding the shops and gas stations on River Road and the shopping center (with the Giant store), which could, as a result of the update, be rezoned to include more density and higher buildings.

Updating land use in a sector plan can bring major changes, such as those currently under way in Friendship Heights near the Metro station, which followed the update of the Friendship Heights Sector Plan.

Last year the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (CCCFH) and the Joint Committee on Westbard surveyed surrounding communities (including Somerset) about the kind of development they wanted in the Westbard area. Survey results showed a high preference

for low-rise buildings and retaining neighborhood services -- rather than building a regional shopping center.

To help present a community vision for Westbard during the sector plan discussions, CCCFH plans to contract with architects. They did this prior to the Friendship Heights Sector Plan and as a result were able to obtain more housing rather than retail space in the updated plan. To limit costs CCCFH decided to work with the Catholic University School of Architecture, at a projected cost of \$40,000. Somerset is asked to contribute \$4,000; other nearby communities will also be asked to contribute.

Some key elements to be addressed in the project are:

- Zoning issues, development guidelines, and considerations for a range of building heights and mix of uses;

- Circulation proposals for traffic devices, safety and controls for vehicles, including bicycles, and pedestrians;
- Public transportation considerations, including a "Local Trolley" or connectors;
- Development of a full range of streetscape proposals for the area within the study site;
- Open space proposals such as small parks and linear landscapes;
- Streetscape elements such as lighting, bus stops, benches, trees and other plantings, water features, grouped parking meters, banners, paving, relocating overhead wires, etc.

The project and Somerset's proposed contribution to the cost of architects will be discussed at the July Council meeting. Council members Rick Kessler, Jeffrey Slavin and I, who all serve as CCCFH liaisons for Somerset, support the request for contributing to the costs.

Tree Removal

by Corrie Morsey

The Town has been advised to remove two trees:

#554, Pin Oak, in front of 5510 Surrey Street, which has experienced considerable dieback. According to Town tree contractor, Mark Barbato of Davey Trees, the "tree is in serious decline that will continue. Shothole borers attacking main trunk. Top is dead. Removal recommended."

An unnumbered sycamore in Vinton Park behind 4514 Dorset Avenue was initially brought to our attention by the property owners, who were advised by the tree company to remove the tree. Upon inspecting the tree, Mark reported the tree to be in "serious decline, 50% dieback of upper canopy. High risk of dead branch failure. Extensive trunk decay. Removal recommended."

The affected residents have been advised of the recommendations to remove these trees and consideration of the recommendations is on the Council agenda for the July 2nd meeting.



Don't Miss the Town of Somerset's July Fourth Celebration!

by Gina Pack

All Town residents are invited to the old-time festivities taking place on the 4th of July at Town Hall.

The picnic begins at noon – bring your own picnic lunch and blanket – the Town will provide birthday cupcakes, ice cream and punch under the shade of our huge tent.

The program begins at 12:45 p.m. with a color guard and national anthem. Our very own Mayor Behr will introduce special guests, present gifts for this year's graduates, and read the names of our swim team record holders. New this year, the swim team members will demonstrate some of their winning cheers and the Somerset E.S. new graduates will sing for America's birthday.

Again this year, we will enjoy a patriotic reading of an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence by our local children, followed by games and fun.

Get ready for the egg toss, the mummy wrap and races.

Youngsters will get a kick out of inspecting fire and rescue trucks, and guests of all ages will drool over the array of antique cars.



Follow the kids on their decorated bikes as we parade to the Somerset pool at 2 p.m. for water games and fun in the sun. We'll have the traditional coin toss, water balloons, greased watermelon and more. The pool closes at 6 p.m.

The whole Town is invited, so plan to be there!

For classic cars: Call Doug Dolan (301) 656-1014 to include your pre-1982 prized possession.

Fifth grade graduates: Assemble inside Town Hall at noon to rehearse your song.

Patriotic readers: Meet inside Town Hall to coordinate your part at 12:30.

Swim team: Get ready to cheer.

To help with set-up OR if your child wants to participate in the patriotic reading, contact Gina Pack at gpack@manifoldproductions.com.

If you have a graduate whose name you would like to include in the ceremony, please e-mail Mayor Behr at mayor@townofsomerset.com

Security Committee Tips – 2: Windows, Doors and Garages

By Birdie Pieczenik, Chair Security Committee



Spring and summer typically bring crime of opportunity: the type that effects Somerset the most. If you haven't already done so, contact Officer Dana Mathis of the Montgomery County Police Department, at (301) 652-9200, to schedule a free home security inspection. It will be worth your time.

Windows

Always lock windows. This need not mean shut tightly. Many locks allow windows/screens to let in air while the window, itself, cannot be moved. Windows for ventilation should be lockable both in closed and in partially open positions.

All windows should be equipped with appropriate and adequate locking devices. For windows that are not needed for fire safety consider a key operated lock.

Small glass areas in doors can be refitted with shatter-proof acrylic (that looks like glass).

Iron window guards can be decorative while offering protection, but have some windows available for emergency evacuation.

Windows above ground level require less protection ONLY if they are inaccessible, i.e. they can't be reached by climbing a tree or using a ladder (likely to be yours, left in your yard or garage), or using a part of your house as a prop.

Check less obvious windows for

potential security risks – those in window wells, under porches, and basement windows that are small and behind bushes.

Periodically check and replace the putty that secures windowpanes. Impact resistant glazing material can be an effective burglar deterrent. Window unit air conditioners should be anchored to prevent their removal.

Doors

Always lock exterior doors whether you are in or out of the house.

Exterior doors should be sturdy (yes, even your basement door). Hollow-core doors are too flimsy for security purposes. They should fit their frames snugly (reinforce the frame or replace the door, if necessary).

Every exterior door should be equipped with a dead bolt lock that cannot be opened by breaking a glass panel. Locks with extra long bolts offer additional protection.

Glass doors and doors with glass panels should be equipped with double cylinder locks so that someone cannot break the glass, reach in, and open the door.

Chain locks, especially cheap versions, provide little security. A better alternative for identifying visitors are peepholes, small windows, or security cameras. If you have short people in the house (usually known as kids), consider

two peepholes. Peepholes, ideally with wide angle lenses, work well.

If enclosed porch walls are inadequate to prevent through-the-wall entry, they should be made secure (or secure an internal door that leads to the porch). If this is impossible, at least brightly light such areas.

Secure patio and sliding glass doors with vertical-bolt locks and equip them with shatterproof or impact resistant panes. A length of broom handle, cut to fit the door track, provides an effective, inexpensive auxiliary lock.

Garages

Secure the garage as if it were part of your home. Equip the doors with locking devices as secure as those protecting your front door.

Attached garages are especially hazardous but even if not attached, garages may contain tools, ladders and other equipment that make breaking into your house easier.

Roll-up garages require locks on each side of the door so that upward pressure cannot be exerted on one side to raise the other side enough for a person to slide through the opening. Some garage door assemblies have holes pre-drilled in the tracks. Padlocks inserted through them provide excellent protection. Cane bolts and sliding hasps make effective auxiliary locking devices.

News from the Swim Team

by Sarah Morse, Team Rep



On June 16, the pool closed for the first swim meet of the season – Somerset vs. Little Falls. With many of the kids on the opposing teams going to the same schools, this was a long awaited competition. And the pool was ready – signs plastered the fences, and chalking in the parking lot welcomed the Little Falls Penguins. Huge banners were hung around the pool. Swimmers had been visited the night before by Captain Purple.

It was a hard fought meet. Down eight points at the half, first place wins and sweeps were needed to win the meet. In the end, it all came down to the relays. We needed to place first in both the girls and boys relays to win the meet. Somerset was fast, but just not quite fast enough. Both teams lost by less than 2 seconds. The final score – Somerset 379, Little Falls 393.

With over 60 Somerset athletes competing in 49 events, there were lots of impressive swims. Somerset had two sweeps and six inside (places 2-4) sweeps. Jessica Springer, 12, won all four of her events and brother Gavin swam all-star times in back, fly and breast. Strong swims were seen in the first place wins by Leah Loversky, 15, Grace Edson, 8, Devon Graham, 10, Leni Hirsh, 12, Mark Berry, 13, Connor Reingruber, 8, Grace Reingruber, 13, and Aaron Burger, 13. Joseph Turi, 8, dropped 8 seconds to win the 8 and under boys 25 M back-

stroke and 6 seconds to place third in 8 and under boys 25 M freestyle. Kacie Furculo, 10, Jessica Long 12, and Lars Sorensen, 12, also had impressive 6 second drops that put them in the top three finishers in their events. Many other swimmers also had note worthy time drops, some as much as 12 seconds!

Congratulations to coaches Dario Fuentes, Adam Bookman, Maurie Kathan, Bess Pickar and Toby Kathan.

The show of community strength and spirit was as impressive as the swimming. Parents turned out in record numbers to time, score, clerk, sell concessions and even flip burgers for the team lunch. Former coaches Katie Stellar and Tristan Kessler were there to cheer the team on along with other town residents. We even saw many proud grandparents in the crowd. This is the real measure of a successful meet in my mind!

Our developmental team, the Minis, is also hard at work. They started on June 18 with three practices a week. We are especially proud to have 14 teenagers who are willing to be trained and work with the developmental team. We haven't done a survey, but we like to think that we have the most trained teenage coaches in the entire swim league. All of them have gone through a three hour training session to learn how to teach swimming to beginners.

Social events have started with a win this year. Over 40 swimmers have been enjoying the daily Breakfast with the Coaches, the first week of morning practice. The annual spaghetti dinner was a big success with almost 200 swimmers and family members enjoying pasta and Capture the Flag. Other social events include a night out to a comedy club, laser tag, spend the night at the pool, t-shirt making and a dessert competition to be judged by the coaches.

The team continues to grow, with 160 swimmers this year (including the developmental team). We are especially proud to have 24 swimmers in the 15-18 age group. They are the heart and soul of the team -- leading the cheers, decorating the pool, helping out the coaches. It is a tribute to the character of the community that they want to stay with the team at an age when/ other interests call.

We have meets every Wednesday and Saturday until July 21, so check the calendar and come down to a home meet and cheer us on. For more team news and pictures from the meets, check out our web site www.townofsomerset.com/swimteam

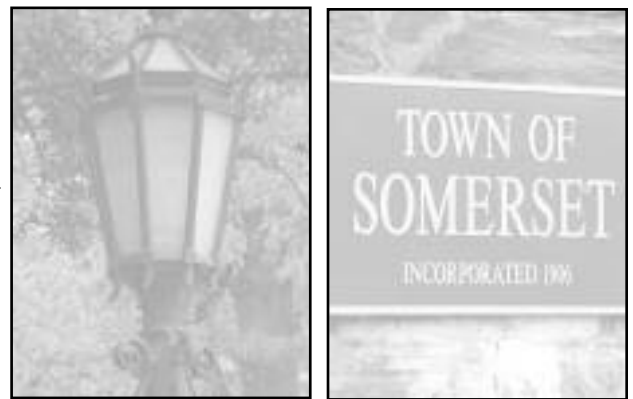


Somerset's Growing History

by Council member Lesley Simmons, Chair History Committee

I am constantly finding new and interesting stories about Somerset's long and fascinating history. When Jack Gibson, formerly of Cumberland Avenue and now living in Ohio wrote me some months ago about his childhood memories of Somerset during the war, little did I know that it would turn into a long "e-pen pal" relationship (a relationship I am thoroughly enjoying).

Jack has written a charming memoir about Somerset during the war years, which is being considered by the Montgomery County Historical Society for inclusion in the series "The Montgomery County Story". Meanwhile, Jack also wrote about the Town's very own Fire Department, which operated in the 1930s. This delightful vignette can be found as a handy insert to this Journal so that you can file it with your copy of the Somerset History book. Watch this space for up dates on the availability of Jack's WWII piece.



On My Mind

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Soon the Town Council will be grappling over the next steps in the process towards restoring/enhancing our two most important buildings. I am beginning to develop a clearer picture of what the Town consensus is. This view is based on public surveys, hearings and public meetings, e-mail letters and calls, interviews and the recent election.

No one can deny that the Town Hall and Pool House are vital assets in Somerset, which make our municipality distinctive. Also, no matter how much any individual uses either building, from a pocketbook perspective their mere existence enhances the values of

our properties and goes along with the importance of "location, location, location" in this regard.

The Town Hall building serves as the center for our municipal functions and services, which are increasing yearly based on the needs of our population. The Pool House in the summer serves as the hub of Somerset life, while enhancing public health through recreation and community spirit. It is the Council's duty to protect these investments.

My perception is that a majority of residents now accept the price tags that are being tossed around, as they realize that we can afford to

do this without too much impact. After all, the improvements we make should last from thirty to forty years. I also think that the majority are not interested in altering the current use of either site, beyond the changes already voted on.

So where I am heading is a vision of a restored Town Hall which preserves the historic architecture and allows for a more efficient design of the interior. I would like to see a distinctively designed Pool House which pays homage to the Town's historic commitment to the arts and as "green" as possible to respect our keen interest in the environment.

Council Activity

At the June 4 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Heard the Mayor's report on the closed meeting of May 10.

2. Made the following fund transfers for FY-07:

Amount	From	To
\$35,000	CPF Town Hall	CPF Pool
\$29,400	CPF Contingency	GF Legal
\$8,000	GF Contingency	GF Legal
\$4,500	CPF Town Hall	GF Misc/Engr
\$100	CPF Contingency	CPF Major Eqpt

3. Reappointed Tom Carter as Clerk-Treasurer for FY-08.

4. Approved a building permit for Sally Romansky, 5609 Warwick Place, to demolish her existing house and construct a two-story house with two-car attached garage, subject to making the driveway apron's wings 2½ feet wide, receipt of the County permit, receipt of the Town curb and building fees and deposits, the placement of a concrete barrier for the bamboo on the north property line and a snow fence along both sides from the rear of the property to the street.

5. Approved the application of Andrew Bartley and Jill Herscot, 4909 Cumberland Avenue, to remove and replace five trees. (Vote: Eldridge and Shaul for; Simmons and Slavin opposed. The Mayor voted in favor to break the tie. Motion passed 3-2.)

6. Approved the application of Cliff Mendelson, 4807 Cumberland Avenue, to remove four dead trees from his side yard.

7. Approved the removal of four Town trees: 1) #313, 4815 Essex Avenue, with continued dieback and structural defects; 2) #564, 5602 Surrey Street, dead 3) #591, 5807 Surrey Street, dead and 4) #587, Surrey side of 4725 Dorset Avenue, dead. Denied the removal of tree #202, 4718 Dorset Avenue, with considerable trunk decay.

8. Declined to act on a contract with C.R.H. Concrete Services to repair/replace damaged curbs and sidewalks throughout Town and add curbs to Devon Lane for \$130,000 and set a special Council meeting for Thursday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall to discuss traffic calming and street issues.

9. Held action on rounding off corners of Deal Place-Cumberland Avenue and Devon Lane-Cumberland Avenue by extending the pavement in the Town right-of-

way to facilitate large trucks turning the corners without jumping the curbs and damaging grass and other plantings for discussion at the June 28 special Council meeting.

10. Took no action on converting the stepping stone path alongside the swimming pool parking lot to concrete pavement by C.R.H. Concrete Services for \$2,090.

11. Approved a request by Friends of Norwood Park for \$1,000 to help finance its fall concert.

12. Heard the Mayor's announcement of emergency expenditures of: i) \$3,044 to High Sierra Pools, Inc. to correct deficiencies found during the Health Department inspection prior to the opening of the pool; ii) \$2,380.08 to Lawson & Associates for permits for Town Hall foundation repairs; and iii) \$840 to Select Contractors, Inc. to excavate additional soil below Town Hall and \$716.05 to Professional Consulting Corporation for soil sampling during the foundation work.

13. Discussed the process for retaining architect(s) to draft a master plan and design and oversee bathhouse and Town Hall improvements.

14. Held action on whether or not to modify the intersection of Falstone Avenue and Warwick Place by adding a painted or raised island for discussion at the June 28 special Council meeting.

15. Extended for six months the building permit for Charles and Charlotte Perret, 4716 Falstone Avenue, "to demolish the existing house and shed and construct a one-story house with finished basement and attached garage and replace a portion of the fence along the south side of their driveway."

Legislation

At the June 4 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Approved an emergency Town Code amendment to the Building Code providing more flexibility to the Council in granting exceptions for the height, openness and location of certain fences.

2. Approved an ordinance granting authority to the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and any other person authorized by the Town Council to enforce parking restrictions.

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Town Council

Monday, July 2, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.

1. Approval of minutes of the June 4 regular meeting -- 7:30.

2. Discussion of financial report -- 7:35.

3. Action on the following transfers for FY-07: -- 7:40.

Amount	From	To
\$4,000	CPF Town Hall	GF Refuse
\$4,500	CPF Town Hall	GF Recycling
TBD	CPF Town Hall	GF Legal

4. Action authorizing payment of (1) annual dues of \$2,472.84 to Maryland Municipal League for FY-08 and (2) annual premium of \$5,000.00 to Montgomery County Self-Insurance Program -- 7:45.

5. Confirmation of Mayor's nomination of Jeffrey Slavin for two-year term on the County's Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee -- 7:50.

6. Recommendation to Historic Preservation Commission and fact finding hearing and action on application by Steve and Birdie Pieczenik, 4731 Essex Avenue, to construct a two-story addition to the north side of their house -- 7:55.

7. Fact finding hearing and action on applications by Frank Loversky and Cathi Davis, 5415 Surrey Street, to construct a two-story addition in the back and one-story addition in the front with a one-car attached carport and remove three trees -- 8:05.

8. Mayor's report -- 8:15.

9. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset -- 8:25.

10. Suggestions and questions from residents -- 8:35.

11. Discussion of crime in Somerset and vicinity with Security Committee and Montgomery County Police officer -- 8:45.

12. Action to retain architect(s) to plan, design and supervise construction of bathhouse and Town Hall improvements -- 9:05.

13. **Discussion of replacing curbs throughout Somerset with modern curbs-and-gutter construction at cost of approximately \$600,000 -- 9:20.

14. **Action on request of Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights for \$4,000 to develop plan for Westbard area -- 9:40.

15. Action on amendment to Building Code stipulating requirements for temporarily blocking or restricting traffic -- 9:55.

16. Introduction of Town Code amendment to require notification of adjoining neighbors outside of Somerset of applications for tree removal -- 10:00.

17. Introduction of Town Code amendment to require notification of adjoining neighbors outside of Somerset of applications for fence or wall permits -- 10:05.

18. Report of emergency expenditures of \$275 to Professional Consulting Corporation for final report on soil sampling for Town Hall foundation -- 10:10.

19. **Action on recommendation by Davey Tree to remove two Town trees: 1) #554, Pin Oak, 5510 Surrey Street, with considerable dieback and 2) unnumbered sycamore behind 4514 Dorset Avenue in Vinton Park in serious decline -- 10:15.

20. New business -- 10:20.

21. Adjournment -- 10:25.

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.

Residents who wish to be present for a particular agenda item are advised to arrive 30 minutes ahead of the item's scheduled discussion time as discussion sometimes run ahead of schedule.

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

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.

Discussion of traffic calming techniques and traffic volume according to recent count. Guests:
Joe Cutro, traffic engineer, and Brian Compton of D&F Construction.

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
www.townofsomerset.com

MAYOR

Walter J. Behr, 4809 Grantham Avenue
(301) 654-1258/0224 Town Hall phone: (301) 657-2229
mayor@townofsomerset.com

MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Jeffrey Slavin, Council V.P.
5706 Warwick Place (301) 654-6767
Jslavin@townofsomerset.com

Tom Eldridge, 5605 Warwick Place (301) 656-3354
Teldridge@townofsomerset.com

Richard Kessler,
4914 Cumberland Avenue (301) 654-2699
Rkessler@townofsomerset.com

Marnie Shaul, 5509 Uppingham Street (301) 913 5973
mshaul@townofsomerset.com

Lesley Simmons, 4723 Cumberland Avenue
(240) 497-1876
Lsimmons@townofsomerset.com

CLERK-TREASURER

Tom Carter, (301) 657-3211
E-mail: clerk@townofsomerset.com

TOWN HALL

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

This issue edited by Lesley Simmons