



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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From the Editor: Swearing in of New Council Members

Our Code requires that Council members take up their duties on the first Monday after the election. Therefore, our new Council members will be sworn in at a very short ceremony at the Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26.

Mayor's Den

by Walter J. Behr

Key to Budget Is Income Tax Rebate



The overarching factor in preparing the Town Budget for the next fiscal year as well as the Five-Year Plan is the rebate from the State of a portion of Maryland income tax paid by Somerset residents. Unfortunately, we will not have a final estimate of that amount until next month. Therefore, in drafting both plans, we have had to guess what this payment will be based on the preliminary State estimate, prior years' experience, what is likely to happen to the economy and the relative income of current residents compared with that of former residents, many of whom were older.

In recent years, two-thirds to three-quarters of Town income has come from this source. Here are the actual payments for each of the last six fiscal years and the State's preliminary estimate for this year, with the percentage change from the previous year:

Fiscal Year	Payment	% Change from Previous Year
2001	\$659,678	--
2002	415,529	-37
2003	425,515	+3
2004	477,881	+13
2005	616,787	+29
2006	773,106	+26
2007	924,325 (preliminary est.)	+20

My proposed Budget and Five-Year Plan are based on an estimated 13 percent increase in revenue from this source next year and in each of the following years. This seems like a reasonable guess in light of the experience of recent years. However, it could be high and it could be low.

Our second largest income item is Town property tax – typically less than one-fifth the amount of the income tax refund. I have retained this year's rate of 4 cents per \$100 of assessed value of house and lot in the

proposed budget for FY08, which begins on July 1, and in each succeeding year. For most residents this will mean a 10 percent increase in Town taxes each year since assessments have shot up, but State and County law limits effective assessment increases to 10 percent a year.

Capital Expenses

By far the largest expenditure planned for next fiscal year is \$800,000 to repair curbs and sidewalks and mill and repave all streets that were not repaved last year following installation of new water and sewer lines. The biggest capital expense this year is \$150,000 to replace the failed foundation of the Town Hall. This project should be completed within the next two months. A major part of the \$100,000 in this year's Capital Projects budget for the swimming pool is for engineering and environmental studies as well as architects' fees.

In the Five-Year Plan, the largest capital expenses for the pool are \$1.5 million in '09 and \$0.5 million in '10 for architects and construction. This assumes a very tight schedule, with construction starting in a year-and-a-half (September 2008) and ending eight months later, in May 2009. Another \$2 million is provided for plans and construction for the Town Hall renovation, half in FY11 and the other half in FY12.

Operating Expenses

Proposed General (Operating) Fund expenses for next fiscal year (FY08) are two percent higher than this year's estimated total. Salaries are budgeted for a four percent increase next year and three percent in each succeeding year. Unusually high legal fees this year (estimated at \$75,000) are in a large part due to defending the lawsuit brought by a resident against the builder of a house next door and the Town over an alleged water problem. Surprisingly, refuse/recycling costs in '08 will be \$5,000 less than this year's as a result of a new contract with J and J, Inc. However, the services will increase three percent a year for each of the following two years.

Combined Fund Balance

This is the all-important line. If our income and expense estimates are close to reality, we will end this fiscal year and each of the next five years with a comfortable Combined Fund Balance or Surplus of at least \$1 million, except in FY09, when it will be just under that amount.

If the plan becomes reality, we will not have to borrow, raise the property tax rate or cut expenses. However, if State income tax rebates fall substantially below my estimated increase of 13 percent a year, we will have no choice. We will, indeed, have to do one, two or all of

the following: cut expenses, increase property taxes or borrow.

A hearing on the proposed budget and property tax rate for FY08, is scheduled for 8:25 p.m. at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, April 10. Summaries of the Budget and Five-Year Plan appear as an insert to this Town Journal. Unabridged versions are on the Town Web site.

What Do Town Funds Buy?

Our Town property tax this year (FY07) averages \$326 per household. For FY08, if the tax rate remains 4 cent per \$100 of assessed value, the average will be \$356 per household. Is living in Somerset worth this amount, which you would not have to pay in an unincorporated area such as Hunt Avenue, Langdrum Lane or DeRussey Parkway?

Here are some of the extras that Somerset residents buy with that Town property tax:

- Free or virtually free swimming pool, tennis courts and practice area, basketball courts and baseball batting cage;
- 20 acres of parkland, including gardens;
- Town Hall for birthday parties and miscellaneous social and educational gatherings, municipal office, including notary service, and Council meetings;
- Twice-a-week yard waste collection except once a week during three winter months;
- Trash collection at side or rear of house if you prefer;
- Immediate snow plowing-salting-sanding, sidewalks included;
- Constant leaf vacuuming;
- Street cleaning;
- Superlative program for planning and maintaining street and park trees (Tree City 25 years); fewer power outages caused by dead branches falling on Pepco wires;
- Regulation of tree removal on private property;
- Better street lighting: lights on almost every Pepco pole compared with County standard of every-other pole;
- Control of streets: paving, pothole repair, speed humps, rumble strips, speed limit, parking, STOP signs;
- Trash receptacles at key street locations;
- Building and fence permit requirements stricter than County;

- Same for Noise Ordinance;
- Speedy resolution of problems between neighbors: barking and loose dogs (Somerset had a dog leash law long before the County); fallen trees and branches; noise and silt from construction sites, etc.;
- Extended suffrage: residents who are not U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in Town elections – although they may not hold office. These are mostly World Bank and IMF staff and diplomats.

I believe we are extremely fortunate to live in the municipality named “Town of Somerset.” Do you agree?

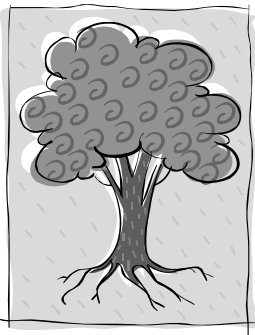
Thank You, Judy!

Farewell, Judy Frankel, and thank you for your record 26 years on the Town Council, during which time you served 9 years as Vice President. You performed many jobs willingly and effectively, but your biggest contributions may have been your tireless efforts to preserve our creek, our parkland and street trees.

Let’s show Judy we appreciate the time and effort she expended to make our Town a more attractive and desirable place to live. Let’s all turn out to honor her at a reception in the Town Hall on Sunday, April 15, at 4:30.

Three Town Trees Should be Removed

By Corrie Morsey,
Chair, Parks and Natural Resources Committee



The Town’s contractor, Davey, has recommended taking down three trees: First, a leaning tulip poplar behind 5607 Warwick Place. The tree is in very close proximity to the red oak that was uprooted a couple of weeks ago. The large void it left has seriously undermined the tulip poplar’s roots. The tree is too precarious to put a climber into to take down. Davey staff will try to see how best to safely remove it, while at the same time trying to protect 4 young, but good-size beech trees, a newly planted red maple and a magnolia, which are in the tulip poplar’s path. The second tree to be removed is #993, a large beech tree in Vinton Park abutting the upper pool parking lot, which has a light in it. Unfortunately the tree has been hit many times over past years by automobiles. Davey advises that the tree has extensive basal decay related to those injuries. The decay ex-

tends 5’5” into the base of the tree’s 13 foot circumference, which equates to 41% decay and structural loss. It has 14 major flare roots, 7 are alive and 7 are dead or decayed, equaling 50% structural loss. The tree is hazardous. Third is #225, the Norway maple in front of 4819 Dorset Avenue, which is experiencing advanced decay from previous storm damage along both of its main stems. The tree is alive but structurally unsound and unsightly.

New trees, will be planted in Vinton Park and a willow oak will be planted on Dorset Avenue, if there is sufficient space. The wood from the first two trees will be left in Vinton Park to decompose while at the same time providing food and shelter for small animals, birds and insects. Permission to remove these trees is on the April Council agenda.

Calendar

- Sunday, March 25**
B-CC High School Used Book Sale
- Monday, March 26**
MVA Mobile office at Friendship Heights
- Monday, March 26**
Swearing in of new Council members
- Tuesday, April 10**
Town Council meeting
- Thursday, April 12**
Journal Deadline Ads
- Saturday, April 14**
Journal Deadline Copy
- Sunday, April 15**
Judy Frankel’s farewell party
- Sunday, April 22**
Swim Team Annual Spring Parents’ meeting
- Monday, April 23**
MVA Mobile office at Friendship Heights
- Monday, May 7**
Council Meeting
- Saturday, May 19**
Swim team “welcome back” party

*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”*

Town Hall Tidbits

by Tom Carter

Final Reminder on State Tax Returns

Somerset's largest source 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 make sure you fill out this box and the "Maryland County" box correctly so that both jurisdictions receive the proper payments from the State.

FORM 502 MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) 2006	
SOCIAL SECURITY (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)	STATE'S SOCIAL SECURITY
Year First Name	Last Name
Year First Name	Last Name
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS (City, town and county)	
City or Town	State
<small>Number of months and days completed this return or original return was a return was made is entered on the last day of the month. (See instructions.)</small>	
Preparer's Name	City, town or taxing area

Found

A pair of women's glasses was found on February 22 at the south side of the Dorset Avenue/Wisconsin Avenue Town entrance. If you think they are yours, call Tom at (301) 657-3211.

A latex pillow, still in its wrapper, was found in from of 4901 Dorset Avenue on February 25. If you think it may belong to you, please call Brenda Gruss at (301) 654-7289.

2007 Tennis ID Cards

Tennis ID cards for 2007 are available from Tom at the Town Hall office. Fees are still only \$5 per family for the annual card. Please make your check out to "Town of Somerset."

Batting Cage Annual Fees

Batting cage users are reminded that their annual fees of \$5 are due for continued use of the equipment.

Spring Cleanup

Spring cleanup has begun in Town. Please remember the following:

- Do not put your yard waste in plastic bags; use paper bags or marked trash cans. Place your cans or paper bags on the curb, not in the street.
- Do not dump your yard waste at the Swimming Pool parking lot or at the end of War-

wick Place. Please remind your yard workers of this, too.

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

Somerset Quiet Hours

As the weather improves, 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. On weekdays, it is legal to start at 7 a.m. Only interior construction work that cannot be heard by neighbors is allowed on Sundays.

MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's mobile office will be in Friendship Heights on March 26 and April 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Permits Granted

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

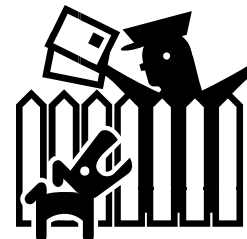
Trees: Jeremy Stone, 5615 Warwick Place, to remove a leaning 15" tree in his back yard that is threatening his and his neighbor's house.

Kumar Vaswani, 5501 Trent Street, to remove a dead cherry and a dead crabapple from the Uppingham side of his lot.

Louise Kupelian, 4806 Falstone Avenue, to remove two failing locust trees near her rear property line.

Bob and Pat Gage, 4805 Dorset Avenue, to remove a walnut tree from their back yard that was damaged by two lightning strikes.

Curbs/Sidewalks: Howard Byron, 4713 Essex Avenue, to replace 24 feet of sidewalk on the west side of his property.



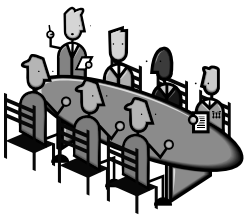
Legislation

At the March 5 meeting, the Town Council

1. Postponed action on proposed amendment to replace Town Code Chapter 7, Utility Line Construction, Article I in General until the April meeting.
2. Introduced an amendment to Town Code Chapter 8, Protection of Trees, to discourage construction plans that include removal of Town trees.

Council Activity

At the March 5 meeting, the Town Council:



1. Announced a closed meeting of Council with Town Attorney on February 15 to discuss pending lawsuit over construction at 5403 Trent Street.
2. Presented a certificate of appreciation to Judy Frankel for 26 years of service to Somerset.

3. Heard the Mayor's announcement of an emergency expenditure of \$6,395 to Select Contractors for removal and replacement of two Town Hall piers in addition to the four that were visible and included in the original \$125,000.
4. Confirmed the Mayor's reappointment of Alan Dock to a two-year term on the Special Events Committee and a one-year term as chair.
5. Confirmed the Mayor's appointment of David Sapin as chair of Batting Cage Committee for one year.
6. Approved a six-month extension of the building permit of Michael and Bridget Cowie, 5511 Uppingham Street, to complete construction of 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. Heard the Mayor's presentation of his Five-Year Fiscal Plan.
8. Discussed with architect Sara O'Neil-Manion her views on charrettes and what the next ones should focus on, followed by direction from the Council as to the number, subject, format, location and timing of further charrettes.
9. Appointed Tom Eldridge as contract officer with O'Neil-Manion Architects.
10. Proclaimed April 1 as 2007 Arbor Day for the Town.

A Fond Farewell to Judy Frankel

By Alan Dock, Chair Special Events Committee



On Sunday, April 15 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. please come to the Town Hall to join friends and neighbors at an informal gathering to recognize long-time Somerset resident and Council member Judy Frankel. Judy will soon leave Somerset to move closer to her family. Refreshments will be served and we will have the change to say thank you to Judy for her many efforts in support of our community as well as her record 26 years on the Town Council.

Summary of the February 12 Programming Meeting with Architects O'Neil & Manion

by Council member Tom Eldridge, Contract Manager

At a special meeting on February 12, at Somerset Elementary School, architects O'Neil & Manion conducted a design program meeting for the pool site. Following a listing of the scope or work provided to the architects by the Town Council, they discussed the site conditions including the location of: the 100 year flood plain, the building restriction lines, the stream valley buffer lines, the Forest Stand delineation line, steep slopes, and significant or specimen trees at the pool site.

The architects also related their discussions with some of the officials who will have to be involved with the pool renovation project. They include: Marian Clark and Ed Axler of MNCPPC (Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission), Susan Scala Demby and Robin Ferro of Montgomery County Zoning.

The architects related their opinion that obtaining the permits to construct at the pool site will be an involved process that could take years to complete, and that it likely will require additional work by Somerset to bring the existing pool facility in compliance with standards to be set by MNCPPC, Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, Utility Companies and other reviewers.

The architects relayed the following comments they said these officials provided regarding environmental constraints at the pool site:

Marian Clark of MNCPPC said we would need to:

- Limit additional encroachment; expand to the East
- Reduce impervious area; any reductions will be positive

- Conduct on-site storm water management to improve both the quantity and quality of the discharge
- Discharge pool water to the sanitary sewer, not the stream
- Remediate the visible erosion next to the pool deck
- Store salt and mulch so it does not spill or leach into the stream
- Other possible remediation measures could include: build using LEED (Leading Energy Environmental Efficient Design), add a rain garden on site to control other runoff in a French drain, use natural percolation to replace pipes, slow and control runoff.

Ed Axler also of MNCPPC, in their Transportation section offered:

- Do not clear any forest
- Expansion, including a shelter, should be only on existing impervious area
- Keep within the current building footprint
- Make storm shelter an open "pole structure"
- Ensure any improvements adhere to original agreement between County and Town and any improvements should be an "ancillary amenity"
- Create connecting pedestrian paths that separate pedestrians and bicycles from vehicles

County zoning officials Susan Scala Demby and Robin Ferro advised that zoning for the site would be determined through the Special Exception process. They said setbacks should conform to R-60 zoning requirements. However, they recognized that there would be negotiation in the plan review process on these issues. They mentioned that the fact that the pool sits on an unrecorded lot means we will need to go through the subdivision process, which will focus on a number of issues including whether the proposed changes alter the nature of frequency of use of the site, would increase vehicle trips or generate more traffic or parking, would generate more use of utilities, would result in more use of the facility at night (there is Night Sky Legislation which has as its goal reducing unrestricted light emissions at night). They also suggested the Town maintain the current use of the site and adhere to the current agreement with the County.

The architects expressed their view that the scope of the project as originally envisioned by the Town would need to expand in order to meet the requirements suggested by reviewing officials, and that the final scope of requirements would be decided during the approval process. They noted that these unknown and yet to be specified improvements were not accounted for in the Town's initial budget estimates for the pool project.

Following the architects' presentation, the floor was opened for approximately 45 minutes to allow community questions and input on goals and priorities. Residents asked questions regarding the information they had received and possible limitations on development at the site. They also offered information on their goals for each of the stated project components laid out in the scope of work by the Council.

Somerset Receives Further Kudos for Tree Program

By Corrie Morsey, Chair,
Parks and Natural Resources Committee

Our Town has received the GREEN Award in recognition of its environmental stewardship in enhancing our urban forest (Vinton Park) this past year. The award will be officially presented by the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee of the Department of Natural Resources Forest Service later this spring.

Residents' Letters

From Zola Dincin Schneider (Warwick)

Recently, I became aware of several Somerset residents who, for a variety of reasons, were unable to drive. Each needed some help to get to the store, to a doctor's appointment, or a ride back from the auto repair garage. Some were reluctant, and very apologetic to ask a neighbor for help.

Somerset could provide an extremely useful service by having a group of volunteers – "Helping Hands" – who could provide a community response to these rather simple needs. Sometime, way in the past, the Women's Club filled the role, but since it disbanded in the 1980s we have not filled this need in any formal or consistent way. Would you be willing to join a small committee to look into the 'hows' of this as a community service to the Town? If you are interested, please call me at (301) 654-5880 and I will arrange a meeting at my house.

From Andrew Resnick (Grantham)

The premise anyone wanting to improve Town facilities must make is that nothing will be done unless a compromise that gets buy-in from a 'super majority' is reached (i.e. the united Town Hall and Pool improvement proponents). In the discussion about permitting improvements to the pool it is germane to note that:

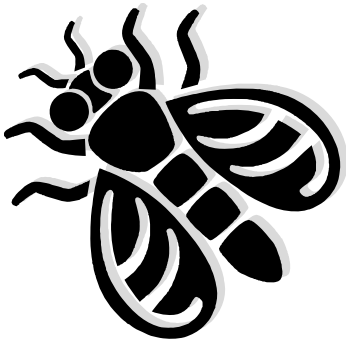
1. Only removal of the pool from the site would comply with current regulations.
2. The county is willing to negotiate a compromise to achieve some of their goals. The county must become party to the 'super majority' to

get any improvement; else the Town will repeat our long history of making only repairs to facilities (for years anyway).

It seems like the successfully funded projects in Town have been park like (e.g. picnic grove, park steps, town entrance, plantings). In that spirit I propose we get rid of the pool and create a swimming hole!

Where did all the Critters go?

by Sarah Morse



May Flies, Stone Flies, Crayfish, and Cad-dis Flies are just some of the macro invertebrates that used to live in the Somerset Creek. For more than a decade I have taken fourth graders six times a year monitor our creek. Following a strict protocol given to us

by the County Department of Environment Protection, we keep track of who lives in the creek. Last year we stopped monitoring because the only life we found was highly pollution-tolerant leeches and black fly larvae.

What happened to the critters? Lots of habitat – caused not by the quality of water but the quantity. These macro organisms depend on rocks for shelter. Every rain storm is a hurricane Katrina for them. When the water rolls off our roofs and driveways, down the gutters and into storm drains, it rushes into the creek with tsunami force. Anything in its way is pushed aside. Banks are eroded, huge boulders are sent down stream and little rocks are buried in sand and dirt that is carried by the water. This is the power of storm water run-off.

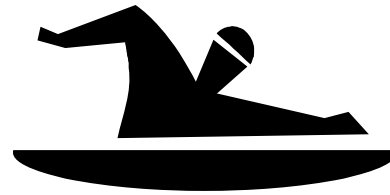
Fourth graders always ask, “what can we do about this?” We need to start by controlling the cause – the huge quantities of storm water that gush from the conduits into the creek. Simple steps can help. Down spouts and gutters should be directed to permeable surfaces like the lawn, not to driveways and streets. consider planting a rain garden to catch runoff before it hits the street or replace a concrete patio with a permeable one.

Our creek flows to another, then to the Potomac, then to the bay. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation has made managing urban storm water, “an important priority for the Bay Program... to improve water quality and restore vital habitats and living resources in the Bay.” Visit www.chesapeakebay.net/stormwater.htm to learn more about how you can help.

Swim Team News

by Sarah Morse, Swim Team Rep

As I write this, the temperatures are reaching in



the 80s and it seems like the pool should be opening any minute now; alas, we still have a few months, but planning for the Somerset Dolphins

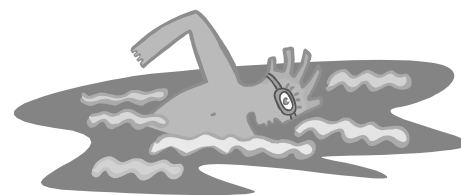
swim team is already going strong.

All winter long, we have been working hard to ensure the best summer yet. We have hired coaches; we have all the meets scheduled. Now we need you at the annual spring parent’s meeting, which will be held on Sunday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. At the meeting we will plan the calendar, hand out jobs and vote on an important rule change regarding graduating team members. It has been proposed that we honor all graduating high school seniors instead of just those aging off the team. The full rule change is posted on the team web site www.townofsomerset.com/swimteam. It is important that everyone weigh in and be at the meeting to vote. Come prepared to volunteer too!

The next important date is Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. when the big party to welcome back swimmers will be held, new members will sign up, and team dues will be collected. The pool will open the weekend before Memorial Day again this year, so we get to have a party right before the pool opens! More on this later, but mark your calendars for this ever-popular event. Everyone is invited – new, returning or just ‘thinking about it’ swimmers!

Our first meet is Saturday, June 16 and the second, Wednesday, June 20. We swim almost every Saturday and Wednesday until Saturday, July 21 (the end of the dual meet season) when we have our annual banquet. All-star events are the last week-end in July.

Finally, for those who don’t know that Somerset has a swimming team open to all swimmers ages 4 to 18,



here is your invitation to find out all about it. There are no try outs for the

team; all swimmers who can pass the deep water test are invited to join the fun. If your child is under 8 and can’t swim, we have a developmental team just for them. Please call Sarah Morse, Team Rep at (301) 907-3298 to learn about Somerset’s only town sponsored sport.



Correction!

by Council member Lesley Simmons

At the last meeting to discuss pool renovations, some residents were told by others that work to shore up the foundation fo the Town Hall will preclude any changes at that location, specifically including a multi-purpose room. This is not the case. The work being undertaken now is to stabilize the historic portion of the building, which will be used, as it is now, for administrative purposes. The Council voted to do this because it had become clear throughout lengthy discussions on the future of our Town Hall that (i) most residents wanted to retain the historic (1902) part of the building, (ii) the historic structure lends itself most usefully to administrative purposes, and (iii) it is in urgent need of structural support.

Any public functions for the building can be accommodated in an addition to the rear of the building – where the current meeting hall is located. This may or may not include removing and replacing the current meeting hall and may or may not include building additional space such as more extensive bathrooms or exercise space. Such decisions will be made in the facilities planning process currently underway. However, I want to assure residents that undertaking the necessary structural repairs does not get in the way of planning alternative public facilities at the Town Hall site should that meet community needs.

On My Mind

by Council member Jeffrey Slavin

April is *Municipal Government Works* month under the auspices of the Maryland Municipal League, and as I think about events over the past month, I am constantly reminded how lucky we are to have our own government in Somerset, with the ability to make decisions that benefit all of us.

During the recent snowstorms, I saw how beautifully and promptly our streets were plowed in comparison to those in the County. The “charrette” process for the pool site, which was more like mini-public hearings than an actual charrette, nevertheless provided many townsfolk the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed design for this vital public building.

Council member Lesley Simmons had a grand idea and through her resulting efforts we now have obtained beautiful metal placards to adorn the street signs in our historic designated section. The Mayor wrote an informative letter to the residents fo the Rollingwood area neighborhoods in support of their efforts to obtain

municipal status. And most importantly, we celebrated the 26 year tenure of Judy Frankel as she ended her service on the Council with a record of dedication to a Town in which she had actual power to affect peoples’ lives.

If we were just a neighborhood association or advisory committee, we would not be able to accomplish all these things, and so much more. And while I too often hear criticism and complaints about what the Town is doing or what the Town isn’t doing, I try to take in all in stride because I am so appreciative of the structure that our forefather and foremother set up for us over 100 years ago that allows us to control our own destiny at the neighborhood level.

So as we move forward to make important decisions in the next year about our public facilities, traffic, mansionization and the environment, let’s remember and appreciate the government structure that we have available to us, fight the good fight and then be prepared to accept the end result – even if we are not on the winning side. That’s democracy the American way!

Obituary

Former Somerset Council member and historian Helen Jaszi

Former Somerset resident Helen H. Jaszi, 91, an economist and editor who worked in the Office of Strategic Services during World War II, died of cancer on March 10 in the Community Hospice at the Washington Home. Born in Saskatchewan, Canada, where her father, Fred Heinemann, was a lumberman helping complete the Canadian Pacific railway, she grew up and graduated high school in Merrill, Wisconsin. She earned a B.A. from Carroll College in Waukesha, and did graduate work in economics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1940, she moved to New York City, where she was a labor economist for the WPA, and in 1942 she moved to Washington to work as an analyst for Office of Strategic Services. From 1944 to 1946 she was an economist for agencies including the Social Security Board. An enthusiastic reader and a lover of language, she later worked as an editor fo various scholarly presses (included Johns Hopkins and the University of Michigan) and as a freelance book editor.

She was a prolific volunteer with a variety of Montgomery County organizations, on issues including education, children’s welfare, fair housing, and zoning. An avid gardener, she lived from 1949 to 1989 in a vintage farm house on Cumberland Avenue set in a half-acre of lawns, flowers, and old trees including the largest

twin oak in the County. She helped to establish the first library at Somerset Elementary School, served on the Town Council from 1969 to 1973, and was instrumental in developing recreational facilities including the swimming pool and the Capello and Vinton Parks. She compiled a history of the Town on the occasion of its 75 anniversary, and throughout her life remained active in documenting its past.

In 1943, she married George Jaszi, an economist at the Department of Commerce who helped to develop the national income and product accounts of the United States. She was widowed in 1992. She is survived by her sons, Peter Jaszi of Somerset and Dan Jaszi of San Francisco; her grandchildren, Ned and Sabrina Jaszi; and a sister, Jane Heinemann of Milwaukee.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 31 in the Kenwood Room of the Kenwood Condominiums, 5101 River Road, Bethesda. Helen's Somerset friends and neighbors will be most welcome.

Annual B-CC High School Used Book Sale

On Sunday, March 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Bethesda Chevy Chase High School (B-CC) PTSA will host its annual Used Book Sale at B-CC, 4301 East-West Highway. The sale features thousands of gently used (and in some cases, new), hardcover and paperback books. Hard covers are priced at \$2.00; paperbacks, \$1.00, and all monies raised support activities of the B-CC PTSA, which supports the B-CC community.



The event is part of a new literary arts festival. Writers like Valerie Tripp, author of many books in the American Girl series, Hilton Als, theater critic for the New Yorker, and other local and nationally known authors have been working with B-CC students throughout March to showcase BCC students' works with readings,

an art show, and activities for children. Live entertainment will be provided by B-CC musicians. There will also be an opportunity to donate books to Club Read, a student-initiated volunteer effort that promotes literacy in the local community. Books written by B-CC students, parents, and staff will also be on display.

County News

Furniture Exchange, with at-home Pickup

Through the Furniture Exchange, a new partnership with Community Ministry of Montgomery County, you can take no-longer-needed items directly to the program warehouse, or request a pickup from your home. The Exchange will take tables and chairs, sofas, coffee tables and end tables, beds, dressers, and small desks. For more information, or to schedule a pickup for donation, call (301) 468-4830. More furniture reuse programs are listed in the Use It Again Guide at <http://www.montgomerycountymed.gov/apps/dpwt/solidwaste/useitagain/> Our area's local Freecycle Network groups is another great way to give new life to used furniture (with pickup from your home). For information go to

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/swstmpl.asp?url=/content/dpwt/SoldiWaste/collection_services/recycling/freecycle.asp

Volunteer Opportunities

County Executive Isiah Leggett is committed to having the County's boards, committees and commissions representative of our county's residents. Public participation on boards, committees, and commissions contributes to the work of County government and provides a valuable service to the community when a variety of issues, concerns and viewpoints are presented. A number of current opportunities to serve on important boards are now available, including:

- Commission on Children and Youth
- Commission on Children and Youth (Youth Members)
- Board of Directors for Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc.
- Strathmore Hall Foundation Board of Directors
- Technology Investment Fund Loan/Grant Committee
- Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board
- Water Quality Advisory Group
- Long Branch Advisory Committee

Vacancy announcements for these and other boards, committees, and commissions through the following link can be found at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/exec/vacancies/pr_list.asp

Editors Note: The Town Clerk regularly posts notices of upcoming opportunities on the Town Hall bulletin board so stop by now and again to see what's new.

Charter Review Commission

The County Charter was amended in 1976 to provide that a Charter Review Commission shall be appointed by the County Council every four years to study the Charter. The Council is now accepting applications for the Charter Review Commission – the application deadline is Wednesday, April 18. Information is available on the Town Hall Bulletin Board or from Justina Ferber (240) 777-7938.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) 2007

Montgomery County is looking for a few good CERTs – proactive citizens who are interested in becom-

ing Community Safety Advocates and front-line assistants during large emergencies. The program we are developing is modeled after the FEMA CERT program that was originally developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1985. CERT participants will attend 7 classes over a 3-week period, meeting two nights a week with one all day Saturday or Sunday practical and test day. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/firtmpl.asp?=/content/firerescue/sion/sert/index.asp>

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Meeting of Town Council

Tuesday, April 10, 2007 – 7:30 P.M.

1. Approval of minutes of the March 5 regular meeting – 7:30.
2. Discussion of financial report – 7:35.
3. Action on the following transfers for FY-07: – 7:40.

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$30,000	GF Contingency	GF Tree Contract
2,000	GF Contingency	GF Misc./Engr.
500	CPF Contingency	CPF Office
4. Confirmation of Mayor’s appointment of Barbara Zeughauser to Board of Supervisors of Elections to replace Marc Geffroy, whose term expires December 31, 2009 – 7:45.
5. Confirmation of Mayor’s appointment of Brian Graham and Derek Coen to Batting Cage Committee for two-year terms – 7:50.
6. Mayor’s report – 7:55.
7. Development/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 8:05.
8. Suggestions and questions from residents – 8:15.
9. **Public hearing on Mayor’s proposed budget and property tax rates for FY-08 – 8:25.
10. Action on contract with Sara O’Neil and Bill Manion for architectural services – 8:45.
11. Action on proposals for traffic count survey – 9:00.
12. Action on extension of contract with Connecting Links for managing Town Web site for monthly fee of \$375, to include monthly update and thorough review annually – 9:20.
13. Action on letter of support for Rollingwood’s application for municipal status – 9:25.
14. Action on bid of \$6,275 to repair, color coat and line the basketball court in Capello Park and color coat the tennis practice court attached to the garage – 9:30.
15. **Action on recommendations of Davey Tree Experts to remove three Town trees: 1) a leaning tulip poplar in Vinton Park behind 5607 Warwick Place, 2) a heavily rotted beech tree (#993) with flood lights in pool upper parking lot and 3) a Norway maple (#225) in front of 4819 Dorset Avenue with advanced decay from previous storm damage – 9:35.
16. Action on installation of landscaping timbers and fill along west side of pool upper parking lot to protect trees and bank at cost of \$12,500 – 9:40.
17. Introduction of amendment to Town Code Chapter 8 to control removal of trees in Town right-of-way, replacing amendment introduced on March 5 – 9:50.
18. Introduction of amendment to Town Code Section 6-311 to increase building and demolition permit deposit from half of the County building permit and demolition fees for the same project of \$500, whichever is great to half of the County building permit and demolition fees for the same project or \$2,000, whichever is greater – 9:55.
19. Introduction of amendment to Town Code Section 3-103 to increase the permit fee for Town sidewalk or driveway apron construction from \$10 to \$50 and minimum deposit for \$300 to \$1,000 – 10:00.
20. Recommendation to Historic Preservation Commission on application by Valya Ringland to erect a back yard fence at 4721 Essex Avenue – 10:05.
21. New business – 10:10.
22. Adjournment – 10:15.

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.
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

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

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

MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

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

CLERK-TREASURER

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

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

TOWN HALL

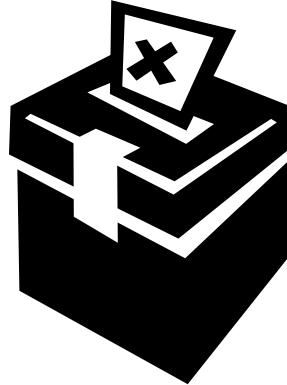
Open 9 to 4:30 Monday thru Friday
(301) 657-3211 Fax: (301) 657-2773
TTY users call Maryland Relay

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

This issue edited by Lesley Simmons
Deadlines: Thursday, April 12, Ads and Saturday, April 14 Copy

As we go to print.....

Results of the March 20, 2007 Town of Somerset Election:



Tom Eldridge – 215

Richard Kessler – 259

Alan Proctor – 203

Marnie Shaul – 302

Total Voting: 396

Swearing in of new Council members Monday, March 26 at 7:30 at the Town Hall