



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



## Mayor's Den

By Walter Behr



### Reverse 9-1-1 System Operational

Montgomery County's high-tech reverse 9-1-1 system to notify residents of weather, crime and other emergency situations is

now functioning and replaces a similar system the Town of Somerset made with a private contractor several years ago. It is not necessary to sign up since every regular phone number-listed and unlisted-will be called as well as Verizon cell phones.

Depending on the threat or emergency, calls may be County-wide or directed to a limited area such as the Town of Somerset. In some cases a call might instruct residents to visit the County Website for more detailed information.

Reverse 9-1-1 supplements the County's Alert Montgomery message system, which has been in effect for two years. Alert Montgomery sends text messages via e-mail, cell phone, BlackBerry, personal digital assistant (PDA) and pager, but it is necessary to sign up for this free service by visiting the County Website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and clicking on "Alert Montgomery." If you have questions, call 240-777-2300.

Reverse 9-1-1 and Alert Montgomery are, of course, separate from the Town e-mail broadcast network, which sends messages once or twice a week to keep residents abreast of important Town developments and events such as Council meetings and agenda, committee meetings, special events and trash and recycling irregularities. If you are not already registered, call the Town Hall at 301-657-3211 or send an e-mail to [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com). There is no limit on the number of e-mail addresses per household that you may register.

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**Mark your Calendar to participate in public meetings on Town Facilities on Monday, October 29 and Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. More details on page 4**

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## Help Run Town Elections

At its December meeting, the Town Council will act on my recommendations of two residents interested in serving on the five-member Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections. Terms are three years. Bonnie Thomson, who is chair of the board, is planning to apply for another term. Steve Friedman has decided not to do so because of responsibilities at work, at the B-CC Rescue Squad and at home (with three young children).

To find out what the board does and the time involved, you may want to talk to Bonnie or Steve or any of the other members, Ellie Fink, Tracy Truman or Barbara Zeughauser. You may also want to read the Town Charter section on the board's responsibilities, which is available in the Town office.

Members of the board may not hold or be candidates for any elective office during their tenure on the board, and they must be "qualified voters of the Town." I am pleased to report that in Somerset not only U.S. citizens but legal aliens as well may register with the Somerset board and become qualified voters.

If you would like to serve, please send a brief statement of your interest and qualifications to [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com) by Monday, November 12th.

## Have You Checked Your Apron Lately?

Driveway aprons are not something most residents spend a lot of time thinking about, but it might be smart to check the condition of yours at this time because the

Calendar	
Friday, October 26	Flu shots at the Town Hall
Saturday, October 27	County Community Service Day
Monday, October 29	Public Meeting: Facilities planning
Wednesday, November 3	Chevy Chase Historical Society Lecture
Monday, November 5	Town Council Meeting
Monday, November 12	Town office closed (Veterans' Day)
Tuesday, November 13	Public Meeting: Facilities planning
Thursday, November 15	Journal deadline, ads and copy
Saturday, November 17	Hazardous Waste Disposal
Wednesday, November 21	Deadline for Town Directory submissions
Monday, November 26	MVA Mobile Office in Friendship Heights
Monday, December 3	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](http://www.townofsomerset.com) and click on "Town Calendar"

contractor who is replacing damaged curbs and sidewalks in Somerset might offer a better deal than someone who is not already in Somerset with his equipment and workers.

The great majority of driveway aprons in Somerset are over 50 years old. Some are intact, but others are cracked and crumbling. Although they are in the 14-foot Town right-of-way, property owners are responsible for their maintenance (as they are in unincorporated parts of Montgomery County).

If you would like a bid from our curb and sidewalk contractor, call **CRH Concrete Service** at 301-887-0353 or 301-343-7140. In theory, you should get a good price, but I suggest that you get at least one or two other quotations so that you know for certain that the price is right.



## Flu, Pneumonia Shots Still Possible

As I write, it is still possible to sign up for flu and pneumonia shots at the Town Hall on Friday, October 26, between 5:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Also, there is a chance that someone who has an earlier reservation will cancel. The session will run from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Call 301-657-3211 to sign up.

Flu shots are \$35; pneumonia vaccinations are \$55. Preferably, payment is by check. Cash will be accepted if you have the exact amount. No credit cards, please. Seniors on Medicare will not be charged for either shot, provided they bring their Medicare card with them, and provided Medicare is their primary medical coverage and they do not belong to an HMO.

For reliable immunization advice, consult your physician, go to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines) or call 1-800-232-4636.



## Dead Town Tree

A Japanese maple, #443, in front of 4815 Grantham has died. If the Council approves the recommended removal, a replacement tree or two will be planted in the vicinity.

## Permits Granted



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

### Trees:

*Faye and Sheldon Cohen*, 5518 Trent Street, to remove a badly leaning Bradford pear in their back yard.

*Mark and Kelly Klapow*, 4707 Cumberland Avenue, to remove a large, dead oak in their front yard.

*Robert Albert*, 4701 Falstone Avenue, to remove a dying dogwood in his side yard.

*Gopi Vaswani*, 5501 Trent Street, to remove a nuisance mulberry in the side yard and a split red cedar near the front, left property line.

*Philip and Barbara Levine*, 5524 Uppingham Street, to remove two trees from their front yard: a sickly dogwood and a magnolia, shaded by a huge Town maple, in order to implement an elaborate landscape plan.

*Laura Will*, 4722 Dorset Avenue, to remove a dead holly in her back yard.

### Fences:

*Bridget Cowie*, 5511 Uppingham Street, to replace the existing fence on the left side of her house with a wood stockade fence.

*John Wittstadt*, 5514 Uppingham Street, to erect a wood fence in the back and side yards.

*Cindy and Michael Yuffee*, 5524 Trent Street, to erect a wood fence around their back yard.

## Sadoff Litigation Settled

By Town Attorney, Norman Knopf  
On October 18, the Sadoff litigation was settled after two days of trial before Circuit Court Judge Louise Scrivener, but prior to completion of plaintiffs' presentation of their case. David Sadoff and his wife, Mary Heflin, owners of 5400 Trent Street, had filed a lawsuit against the owner-builder of a new house at 5403 Trent Street and the Town of Somerset. The builder had constructed an elevated driveway on Town land and his own property to access his newly built house. He had also placed a culvert under the driveway on his property to convey surface storm water run-off coming from uphill, including the adjacent plaintiffs' property.



The plaintiffs' complaint alleged that the builder and the Town had unlawfully interfered with the flow of water from the plaintiffs' property and sought injunctive relief, including removal of the driveway and culvert. The position of the builder and the Town was that plaintiffs'

complaint was without merit because, among other reasons, the storm water run-off was properly and adequately handled by the culvert and that the plaintiffs were unable to show any injury to their property due to storm water in the over two years the elevated driveway and culvert have been in place.

Extensive pre-trial discovery had been conducted, including depositions of Mayor Walter Behr and Clerk-Treasurer Tom Carter. Prior to trial, many hours were spent on settlement negotiations, and the Town believed the matter had been settled when all parties signed a Settlement Agreement in Principle. However, Sadoff/Heflin and the

builder subsequently failed to reach agreement on some of the details of implementing the principles.

Under the settlement, the builder will install a storm water drainage device at a high portion of his property, toward the rear, to capture surface water and convey it through an underground pipe around the rear of his house, where it will flow downhill into an existing swale. The settlement becomes final upon completion of the installation of the drainage system as verified by plaintiffs' storm water engineer. Plaintiffs' insurer will bear the cost of the design and implementation of this drainage system.



# First Two of Four Public Meetings on Facilities to Be Held October 29 and November 13

By Council member Tom Eldridge

All residents are urged to attend public meetings scheduled in October, November, and December to provide input on possible changes to the pool and Town Hall facilities. Details of the first two meetings follow.

On Monday October 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, the Town will host a meeting to discuss possible improvements to the Town's two main facilities: the Pool and Town Hall. The meeting will (i) discuss the facilities planning process to date, (ii) cover general facilities requirements -- what it is that people want in general at either facility, and (iii) seek resident input specifically on what amenities or improvements residents would like to see at the pool complex.

On Tuesday November 13, at 7:30 p.m., also at the Town Hall, the Town will host a meeting again to discuss possible improvements to the Town's two main facilities: the Pool and Town Hall. The meeting will (i) discuss the facilities planning process to date, (ii) cover general facilities requirements -- what it is that people want in general at either facility, and (iii) seek resident input specifically on what amenities or improvements residents would like to see at the Town Hall site.

Both meetings will be moderated by Lou Balodemas, an architect hired by the Town in September to facilitate the planning process. Lou's job (through his firm, Balodemas Architects) is to help the Town to develop a master plan containing detailed requirements for both the pool and Town Hall sites. The master plan and its set of requirements could then be used by architects to develop detailed plans, including construction drawings, for the pool and Town Hall sites. That work would be bid out in the next phase of the Town facilities process.

Lou is collecting information from a variety of sources including Town committees, individual residents, and Town officials. He also is facilitating five public meetings.

Two more public meetings are scheduled for Monday November 26, and Monday December 10, both at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. These meetings currently are scheduled to address the requirements in draft for each site. A fifth meeting to present the draft master plan will be scheduled likely in late January.

## Background

The Town previously hired Weidemann Architects to develop plans for the Town Hall under the direction of the Town Hall Renovation Committee. No action was taken on these draft plans in 2005, and the Town instead turned its focus to the pool and surveyed residents' views on what to do with that facility. The Council then hired the architectural firm of O'Neil & Manion in July 2006 to perform a study of a wide range of options for the pool site, from building an enclosed, year-round swimming

facility, to making minor changes to the existing facility. The study included cost estimates.

In the fall of 2006, based on resident input and on the architects' study addressing a broad array of potential options, the Council voted (4-1) to maintain the pool as a seasonal facility (it is currently operated May – September) while renovating or replacing the existing facility roughly within its existing footprint, and considering an array of other improvements such as a shelter space either near the pool deck or in the second floor of a renovated pool house to keep people safe during a thunderstorm, improved bath facilities, and an improved kiddie pool.

While it has shaped the discussion with its 2006 decisions, the Council has not voted on what specific renovations will be done at either the Town Hall or pool facilities. The four upcoming public meetings are designed to help develop consensus on a package of improvements that would be acceptable to a majority of residents and could be readily translated into construction plans for both sites.

### Make a Difference Be A Mentor!

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School seeks responsible adults willing to mentor a tenth-grader working on a long-term learning project or a ninth-grader confronting the challenges of high school with academic concerns. There are good mentor training and support programs in place. We are starting a Mature Mentor program to involve community members in these programs because it truly "takes a village..."

If you are interested in being a mentor, please contact Barbara Woodall Kragie at [bsw123@comcast.net](mailto:bsw123@comcast.net) or 301-907 6903.

# Crime and Police Reports



By Council Member Lesley Simmons

## Crime

No crimes were reported in the Town of Somerset over the last month.

## Police Report

At its August 6 meeting the Town Council voted to hire an off-duty County police officer to apprehend speeders, drivers who ignore **STOP** signs and illegal parkers, as well as watch out for suspicious individuals and activities around Town. As a result of that action, many residents may have seen or met officer Sherif Almiggabber as he has patrolled our Town. Officer Almiggabber's first month of duty resulted in some 32 traffic citations, four registration citations, one suspended license citation, one response to a house alarm call and one interview of the driver of a suspicious vehicle. He also issued eleven warnings, six of them to Somerset Town residents.

Twelve parking citations were issued. The most prominent area for drivers issued citations for failing to stop at **STOP** sign was in the vicinity of Dorset Avenue and Deal Place (9); at Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street (7); Dorset and Warwick (5) and Dorset and Devon Lane (4).



# Town Hall Tidbits | By Tom Carter



## Office Schedule

The office will be closed Monday, November 12, in observance of Veterans Day.

## Found

A woman's gold and silver watch was turned in by a resident who discovered it in her bag upon returning from the pool. She was not sure how long it had been in the bag. If you think this watch belongs to you, please call Tom at the Town Hall, 301-657-3211.

## Phone Books Recycling

Remember that your old telephone books can be placed in paper bags in your blue bins every Tuesday for recycling.

## Leaf Pick Up Underway

Vacuuming of leaves piled on the grass near the curb has begun and will continue through December. Due to violations of leaf dumping at the pool upper parking lot by lawn service companies last year, only Town maintenance personnel will use the lot for leaf storage. The front gate to the pool will be locked at all times the maintenance staff are not there dumping leaves they have removed from Town streets. Residents who use lawn service companies should arrange with them to either move



leaves to the curb for Town pickup or remove the leaves for dumping outside of Town. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT LEAVES IN THE STREET. KINDLY INFORM YOUR LAWN SERVICE OF THIS REQUEST.**

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

We are following the same procedure as in previous years. Each morning the Town maintenance staff survey the Town streets and start vacuuming where the biggest piles exist. They then move on to the next biggest piles, and so on. Through streets will be done regularly to keep the traffic moving smoothly.

Residents who prefer to bag their leaves or dispose of them in a mulch pile in their yards are urged to do so. Leaves in **PAPER BAGS** or **REUSABLE CONTAINERS** will be picked up on **TUESDAYS AND**

**FRIDAYS** by our trash company, J&J Inc. Please place in front yards near the curb. Plastic bags may **NOT** be used. Leaf burning is **PROHIBITED!**

## Town Maintenance Vehicles

Please use caution when driving behind the Town tractors and trucks. They are often moving very

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slowly as the staff work alongside or in front of the vehicles. Kindly resist riding on their bumpers; give them some space and yourself room to see around them so you are sure it is safe to pass. Now, during leaf season, the vehicles will often be stopped while picking up leaves. It is not feasible for the maintenance staff to move out of the way immediately. If they did, they would never finish their work. You might save time by using another street to go around them.

### Do You Want To Be Listed in the Town Directory or Does Your Listing in the 2007 Directory Need to be Updated?

It's time for us to begin working on the 2008 Town Directory. If you are new to Somerset or if you wish to amend your family's entry, please send us an e-mail containing the information you wish to be included in your listing. You can use the format in the current directory as your guideline; otherwise, we suggest you consider including the following as applicable:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the information in an e-mail not later than November 21, 2007, which hopefully will ensure the accuracy of the listing. Our email address is: [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com).

### Hazardous Waste Disposal

The next date for collection of hazardous waste will be Saturday, November 17, at Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Avenue (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](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hazardouswaste).

### MVA Mobile Office

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

### 2008 Calendars

2008 League of Women Voters calendars are still available at the Town Hall for \$7, or call Nancy Soreng at 301-986-1916.



### Raccoons

There have been reports of Raccoons in Town. If you don't

want them around your house and yard, consider the following: Clean up garbage, paper, food, and berries that fell from trees from around your house. Purchase metal garbage cans with lids that stay tight and stay attached. Place heavy weights on the lids for extra protection. Keep cans smelling clean by washing them out with the hose every so often.

Always place garbage inside cans and replace lids immediately. Double plastic bag food items before putting them in cans and put a little bleach or strong cleanser on the bag. Raccoons can smell food from afar and come to eat from your trash cans.

Store trash cans indoors or in the garage if you are gone for a long time or if you see animals around in the neighborhood.

Make sure that picnic tables and chairs don't have even a crumb on them. Even a bird feeder with sunflower seeds might be tempting to a raccoon. Put bird feeders out of their reach and store seed in metal trash cans.

Any food and water left around the house, even dripping water from a hose, will attract wildlife.

### Please Water Town Trees

Once again we are asking for everyone's assistance in watering Town trees. Trees less than three years old and whose root systems are underdeveloped are particularly in need of water. We may have experienced a few showers but we need a lot of rain to make up for our deficit—about 10" at press time.



## On My Mind

By Council member Jeffrey Slavin

Over the past year, a group of neighbors to the northeast of us in the Rollingwood area have been trying to incorporate to become a town like Somerset. Sadly, their efforts seem to be failing as the necessary County Council approval has been denied.

The petition process that Rollingwood has been going through reminds me how lucky Somerset is to have its precious municipal status. As a recent Gazette editorial noted it is valid for citizens — such as those in Rollingwood — to want a “more responsive government of engaged, active leaders who (can) bring results, not dawdle on procedure and best know the subtleties of neighborhood land-use and building issues.”

The founders of our Town would be proud of the level of activism of our current leaders one hundred years later. I applaud them, too. Serving on a volunteer basis, all of my colleagues on the Council treat their responsibilities like full-time jobs

and make decisions with a great deal of knowledge of neighborhood views. And while the Mayor receives a salary, his admirable record of time spent performing his duties speaks for itself.

I come in contact with local elected officials on a daily basis and continue to appreciate the hard work of Somerset’s elected leaders. I am not aware of any municipalities with a better record of dedication. Whether it’s in official Town activities or with local citizens associations, public boards of directors, or political groups, Team Somerset is always represented — more often than not by more than one of us.

Along this line, it was appropriate that the President and Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League presented Somerset “banner city” recognition at the last meeting of the Town Council. A new honor from the League it pays homage to Somerset’s extraordinary participation in MML activities. Only 14 of the 157 MML members received this award.

I congratulate the members of our elected government and am pleased to be part of a group that sets an example for our peers and our residents.

## Residents’ Letters



From Josh Bobeck, Alan Proctor and Norm Schneider

We write as former Chairs of the Pool Committee covering more than ten years (between 1997 and 2007) to urge that the Town seriously consider the pool site as the location for additional year-round community facilities should it decide to invest in them. During our respective times as Chair, we saw what a great asset the pool is and had the opportunity to share views on the Town’s program at the pool with our entire community. We are convinced that the pool site would offer significant benefits for possible extra year-round facilities, like a large community room, in part because they could and would be used during the pool season and afterward.

While we are not in agreement regarding the necessity of a major renovation anywhere in Town, we are united in agreeing that expanding the Town Hall is the worst option now being considered if any Town facilities are to be expanded for year-round use. The pool site would be the better choice.

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## County News

### Working Together to Make a Difference

Montgomery County’s 21st Community Service Day is Saturday, October 27. Residents from around the county will come together for a few hours to make a difference in the life of the County. This year, businesses and government officials will partner with nonprofit organizations to accomplish tasks they could not accomplish on their own.

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To volunteer, go to the County's Volunteer Center website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer) which has a list of opportunities and directions for signing up. Even if you can't spare a couple of hours to work on projects, you can drop by the locations listed on the website with nonperishable food items for the Holiday Giving food drive.

Somerset will hold its own Community Service Day again this year. Watch the Journal for details.

## Help Renovate 'Bethesda Cares'

County Council member Roger Berliner invites residents to join with him and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce to help renovate the Bethesda Cares facility on Montgomery County Community Service Day, Saturday, October 27.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., volunteers will work at tasks such as gardening, repairs and painting to help improve Bethesda Cares located in the Church in Bethesda at 5033 Wilson Lane and which serves the County's homeless and working poor.

Bethesda Cares's services are available to those who have had experiences such as a serious personal crisis due to unemployment, a chronic health problem or substance abuse. Council member Berliner is urging residents to bring their family and friends on October 27. "Community Service Day is a great way for friends and family to spend time together and have fun. Everyone can help make a difference. You do not have to be a skilled craftsman."

An RSVP is not required. For information, call Berliner's office at 240-777-7828.

## Chevy Chase Historical Society's Fall Lecture

Architectural historian/photographer William Lebovich will speak on "How to Look at Chevy Chase Architecture," at the Chevy Chase Historical Society's Fall Lecture, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, at the Chevy Chase Town Hall (located in the Leland Community Center, 4301 Willow Lane). Somerset residents are invited to attend.

Illustrating the lecture with his prize-winning photography, Lebovich will avoid the typical labeling of houses as one style or another, focusing instead on how architecture reflects the society that built it, and how a building's massing and detail tell that society's story.

Questions? Contact Marilyn Montgomery 301-656-2295.

### **Election Judges Needed for the 2008 Primary and General Elections!**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is looking for registered voters to work in the polls as Election Judges. Training is provided and Election Judges receive a stipend for attending training, attending a pre-election meeting at their polling place and working on Election Day. Bi-lingual voters are also needed.

#### Election Dates:

**Presidential Primary - February 12, 2008**

**General - November 4, 2008**

#### If you are interested please call or email us:

240-777-8533 or [electionjudge@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:electionjudge@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
240-777-8570 or [democrats@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:democrats@montgomerycountymd.gov) (Democrats)  
240-777-8576 or [republicans@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:republicans@montgomerycountymd.gov) (Republicans/Others)  
You may also download an application from our website: [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org)



# Council Activity

## At the October 1 meeting, the Town Council:



1. Confirmed the following appointments by the Mayor to the Security Committee: First term (3 years) – Carolyn Bastian, Howard Byron and Torie Clarke; Reappointments (3 years) – Tom Bowles, Caroline Cooper and Janet Fernandez (Other members – Birdie Pieczenik, chair; Len Harris; Council member Marnie Shaul).
2. Postponed hiring a traffic engineer in order to establish better directions for applicants and to obtain at least one more bid.
3. Discussed briefly the possibility of implementing a parking permit program in Town.
4. Approved a contract with Wray Brothers Landscapes to remove the leaves from the pool upper parking lot this year for \$19,766.
5. Received a Banner Town certificate from Maryland Municipal League President Stewart Cumbo and Executive Director Scott Hancock.
6. Heard a report by Police Officer Sherif Almiggabber on his activities during the period August 27 to September 30.
7. Authorized \$15,000 for repairs to the pool bridge.
8. Authorized the County Department of Environmental Protection and their contractor to use a part of the swimming pool upper parking lot as a staging area for rock storage and parking a mini-excavator and skid steer loader in order to implement their creek erosion control plan, subject to acceptance of a memorandum of agreement regarding exact location for storage of the rocks and their equipment, silt fencing, how damages will be handled and the time frame of the project for its use.
9. Approved a building permit for Tom Eldridge, 5605 Warwick Place, to replace the stairs and pergola on his rear deck, subject to receipt of a County permit and Town fees and deposit. (Vote: Kessler, Shaul, Simmons and Slavin for; Eldridge recused himself. Motion passed 4-0.)
10. Approved the removal of the following Town trees: 2 pin oaks (#143, Dorset Avenue near Wisconsin entrance, and #786, Warwick side of 4700 Essex) with Hypoxylon canker; 1 red oak (#762, Warwick side of 4701 Falstone) in rapid decline and being attacked by borers; 1 Norway maple (#351, 4921 Essex) with considerable dieback; 1 cherry tree (#673, 5529 Trent) that is small and weak with extensive trunk decay; and 1 amur maple (#829, Town Hall yard) with Verticillum wilt.
11. Denied the request of a resident for the Town to reimburse her \$50 for a ticket issued for parking on Dorset Avenue during rush hour.
12. Approved the request of the Joint Committee on Westbard (a subcommittee of Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights) for \$4,000 as the Town's share of an estimated \$14,000 in legal fees in connection with the Episcopal School proposal for a nine-story apartment building. (Vote: Eldridge, Shaul, Simmons and Slavin for; Kessler abstained. Motion passed 4-0.)
13. Established policy that minutes of Town Council meetings would only be released to the public after the Council approved them.

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Meeting of Town Council

Monday, November 5, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes of the October 1 regular meeting – 7:30 p.m.
2. Discussion of FY 07 annual audit by Jim Lindsey and Alan Morris of Lindsey & Associates and Town Audit Committee – 7:35 p.m.
3. Discussion of financial report for fiscal year to date – 7:50 p.m.
4. Action on transfer of \$6,500 from General Fund Contingency to General Fund Leaves for FY08 – 7:55 p.m.
5. Confirmation of Mayor's appointment of Ann Brown to two-year term on Special Events Committee and one-year term as chair and reappointment of Bonnie Lewin, Barbara Marblestone and Sarah Morse to two-year terms (other members: Jeffrey Slavin, Lyndsey Van Vliet-Gerber and Phyllis Wiesenfelder) – 8:00 p.m.
6. Action on date of September 2008 Council meeting (suggested: Tuesday, September 2) – 8:05 pm.
7. Action on installation of curbs on both sides of Devon Lane at cost of \$30,000 – 8:10 p.m.
8. Discussion with Town Attorney Norman Knopf of responsibility of Town for storm water runoff on private property – 8:20 p.m.
9. Mayor's report – 8:40 p.m.
10. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 8:50 p.m.
11. Suggestions and questions from residents – 9:00 p.m.
12. \*\*Action on recommendation of Mayor to remove Town tree #443, a dead Japanese maple located at 4815 Grantham Avenue – 9:10 p.m.
13. Action on renewal of snow removal contract with Mulheron Tree Experts for 2008-2010 seasons – 9:15 p.m.
14. Action on application of Katherine Borsecnik and Eugene Weil, 4711 Essex Avenue, to remove four damaged Leyland cypress trees on the east side of their lot – 9:20 p.m.
15. New business – 9:25 p.m.
16. Adjournment – 9:30 p.m.

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 15 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.*

October 2007



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](http://www.townofsomerset.com)

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**MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

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Marnie Shaul, 5509 Uppingham Street  
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Lesley Simmons, 4723 Cumberland Avenue  
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[Lsimmons@townofsomerset.com](mailto:Lsimmons@townofsomerset.com)

**CLERK-TREASURER**

Tom Carter  
301-657-3211  
[clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com)

**TOWN HALL**

Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Monday thru Friday  
301-657-3211  
Fax: 301-657-2773  
TTY users call Maryland Relay

*This issue edited by Lesley Simmons*



Residents are urged to come and be heard  
at two public meetings on Town Facilities

**Monday, October 29**

**and**

**Tuesday, November 13**

Both begin at 7:30 p.m.  
at the Town Hall.

A short document, "*Preliminary draft Requirements*" based on architect, Lou Balodemas' meetings with Town officials, individuals and Committees is available on the town website for those interested in reading it prior to the meeting. Go to [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) click on "Town Facilities Planning Process" then "Draft Requirements"