



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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## Planning for Pool Facility Renovation Continues

By Alan Proctor, Contract Officer



This is the first of the monthly updates I will be sharing with you as the Council member appointed to act as the Council's new "Contract Officer" for the pool facility renovation project. I intend to continue and expand the efforts of **Tom Eldridge**, who has preceded me in this role, to

keep the community informed about the status of the project, share as much information as we can about the work, and continue to collaborate as we move ahead.

All of us – and that would include the Mayor and each member of the council – are aware that these are challenging economic times, and that even in good times, our proud tradition of sometimes sharply spoken diversity of views can make coming to consensus within our community a challenge. Most would also agree, however, that the pool facility is a special part of our town – a source of fun and community spirit from day to day and a special asset with tremendous long-term value to our community. It's well worth the investment to maintain and improve as the community decides, and it's toward this end that we've been engaged over the past 5+ years in pursuing the renovation that is now being planned.

Over the next two months we're entering a very important part of the process in which we complete development of the design according to the specifications approved by the Council last March, which are contained in the "Facility Design Criteria." The target for completing design development is June 26. The Council values participation and feedback from residents as it plans for the renovation. Following completion of the design, additional cost estimates will be prepared, adjustments made as necessary based on feedback and cost information, and a recommendation will then be forwarded to the Council for action in July.

Toward this end, we have scheduled a special council meeting for Monday, June 8, to present and discuss the plans the design team will be recommending

to the Council. The meeting will be at the Town Hall, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and the architects and full design team will be there to review and discuss their recommendations.

Also, we have added a lot of additional information to the town's website about the project. This includes not only the usual background information, project timeline, document resources, plans and diagrams, and FAQs, but also an online forum where you can share your views. Please click on the Town's website at <http://townofsomerset.com> and follow the link for the Town's Pool Renovation Project.

### Calendar

**Monday, June 1**

Council Meeting

**Monday, June 1**

**Tuesday, June 2**

Tom Out of Office

**Sunday, June 14**

Frankel Memorial Service

**Monday, June 29**

**Tuesday, July 1**

Tom Out of Office

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**.



# On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Z. Slavin

## Streetlights (continued)

At this month's Town meeting, there was a lively discussion about the future of our streetlights, highlighted by a presentation by **Charles Washington** of Pepco.

To recap, the utility has instituted a program to replace outdated, environmentally unfriendly mercury vapor bulbs with the newer high pressure sodium variety—the ones that Somerset considered purchasing on our own several years ago. This installation would be at no cost to the Town, because Pepco actually owns the streetlights. Unless we opt out of this program, the replacement will probably take place in September. Pepco has given us until August to decide what our plans are.

A number of residents, led by Council member **Alan Proctor**, feel that the Town should explore the possibility of replacement of our bulbs with state-of-the-art LED lighting, which is what a number of cities like Los Angeles have decided to do. The problem is that Pepco does not offer these bulbs now, and states that the technology is not perfected. We would have to do that installation on our own.

Because of a relatively new state law, the Town also has the option of actually purchasing the streetlights, thereby giving us complete control. The cost of purchasing would be higher once the sodium bulbs are installed. While it is nice to have this as a long term goal, the Town has many other funding needs, and this plan would have to be figured into the puzzle. The lowest estimates I have seen for the LED bulbs alone, without the streetlights, are in the **\$375,000** range.

I still favor accepting Pepco's current offer, because all the alternatives are too costly now.

On the other hand, there may be some good news if federal stimulus funds are available to provide the Town a grant for such an energy-saving kind of activity. We are working with our Senator, **Brian Frosh**, and other elected officials to find out what our options are. There might also be some legal options to consider with the Public Service Commission that could buy us more time.

This is a complicated issue, and the Council is doing a lot of study. Get involved. Make your views known to council members before a final decision is made at the August meeting.

*Note: There will be a public discussion on this topic on Monday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Pepco has been invited.*

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Beginning with the July issue, the Journal will be sent by email—please let us know if you prefer to receive it via US Postal Service. Please provide your email address to the Editor at [maxinea@comcast.net](mailto:maxinea@comcast.net).

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Maxine Finkelstein, Editor  
Deadline for ads and copy is the 15th of the month at 4:30 p.m.

## News from the Swim Team

By Sarah Morse, Dorset Avenue



By the time you receive this, the swim team is already suiting up. The season started on this year with a pizza party on May 22. The team has grown to almost 150 swimmers.

The team is in the **K division**, swimming against **Glenmont, Whetstone, Clopper Mill, Norbeck Grove, and Montgomery Square** on Saturday mornings. Four Wednesday night meets and two relay carnivals round out the season. The divisional championship is July 25, followed by the annual team banquet at 5:00 p.m. that night.

Our first meet is at home on June 17. Check the pool calendar for the season schedule. Everyone is invited to cheer at all home meets.

We are very excited to welcome new Head Coach **Kirby Weldon**. He is joined by returning Coach **Bess Pickar, Mike MacKenzie**, and Somerset's own **Clare Hanlon**. Practice will start on May 26. After MCPS schools let out, morning practice will begin with the traditional week of breakfast with the coaches.

On June 17, the developmental team (the minis) starts coached by a fleet of teen-age coaches. Returning coaches **Elizabeth Kingdom, Isabel Sacks, Tara Fotoohi, and Jessica Springer** will be joined by new coaches **Leni Hirsh, Raphael Sacks, Parker Lape, Lucy Traver**, and maybe more! The minis practice Monday, Wednesday and Friday, in two groups between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

If you missed the team sign-up, it's not too late to join the fun. There's a place on the swim team for just about every kid age 4-18. Registration forms are at the front desk. Call **Sarah Morse, 301-907-3298** or [morsekathan@gmail.com](mailto:morsekathan@gmail.com) for more information.

## “If I Were Mayor, I Would . . .” Contest Winner Announced

By Jeffrey Z. Slavin, Mayor

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that our own **Abigail Muro** (Dorset), daughter of **Elizabeth Hurwit** and **Mark Muro**, a student at **Somerset Elementary School**, was the **Maryland Municipal League District Five** winner of the association's statewide fourth grade essay contest this year. Abigail's writing was selected from a pool of **581 entrants**, which is quite impressive. Earlier this month she and her teacher were honored at a reception at the Statehouse in Annapolis hosted by **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**, along with the ten other district winners. A boat ride followed. Abigail is the first winner from the Town in the history of the contest and we are all very proud.

The contest had a “green” theme this year. The essay contest question: “**If you were Mayor, how would you encourage your citizens to get on board and ‘GO Green?’ What programs could you put in place to encourage your citizens to preserve our natural resources?**” It is hoped that we can eventually incorporate many of Abigail's ideas in Town policy.

Here is her essay:

### If I Were Mayor

By Abigail Muro, Dorset Avenue, Somerset Elementary School



If I were mayor, I would encourage my town to Go Green in four different ways. **First, I would put up bike racks so people would have a place to lock up their bikes.** This is encouraging people to **Go Green** because when people have places to park their bikes, they can bike from place to place instead of driving cars.

**Second, I would hold town meetings about storm water run-off.** Then people would understand what storm water run-off is (water that drips off buildings and goes into creeks) and what it does (conveys pollution into creeks). After doing that, there is a bigger chance of town members trying to help lower the amount of storm water run-off.

**Third, I would encourage town members to use organic gardening materials.** This helps the environment, because if town members go organic, then instead of pesticides (those are chemicals that can poison animals), they would use gardening materials that don't damage animals or the environment.

**Last, I would set up a carpooling office.** That would be an office where town members can sign up to carpool; they could say where they were going, and what time they were going, and what time they were coming back. They would be able to carpool with others. This is good for the environment, because less cars means fewer car emissions are being sent into the air.

There are many ways that you can help the environment. These are just four ideas that I would start with if I were mayor. I would work hard to help my town **Go Green**.



## A Greener Town Journal

By Maxine Finkelstein, Journal Editor

Due to changes by the **U.S. Postal Service**, it is becoming very difficult to deliver your Town Journal in a timely manner. In addition, postage has increased, and the Town is more conscious than ever of the environmental costs of what we do and the need to do everything we can to be “green.”

For these reasons, beginning in July, everyone on the **email Blast list** will receive the Somerset Town Journal by email unless you tell us otherwise. Those not on the Blast list will receive their Journal by regular First Class mail.

Everyone is encouraged to send me their email address so you can be put on the email list to receive the Journal. Send your information to me at **maxinea@comcast.net**. The latest issue of the Journal is always available on the Town website at **www.townofsomerset.com**.

## Somerset Holds First Community Sing-A-Long

Jeanette Kreiser, Falstone Avenue

On Sunday, May 3, more than 30 Somerset residents of all ages raised their voices in song at the first of what we hope will be many, Somerset Sing-A-Longs.

Starting with a rousing “**This Land is Your Land**,” the enthusiastic participants sang at least 30 songs from a variety of sources. Town Council member, **Cathy Pickar**, former tenured music professor at **George Washington University**, brought her musical talents and enthusiasm for the community sing to lead us, as well as play the piano accompaniment, responding to requests from the group and selecting from the informal “**Somerset Songbook**.”

The preschoolers seemed particularly to enjoy renditions of “**Eensy Weensy Spider**,” “**Winnie the Pooh**,” and “**Peanut Butter Sandwich**,” while a number of old standards by **George Gershwin**, **Cole Porter**, and **Richard Rogers** were enthusiastically sung by all. The group almost surprised itself when, coached by some of the more musically experienced members, they managed a reasonably tuneful rendering of “**Doe, A Deer**,” in 3-part harmony.

We now have a good start on a Somerset Songbook, but we are seeking more suggestions for good songs for community singing, and additional ideas about how we can make this community sing a regular Somerset custom. Perhaps we can come up with a Somerset Anthem.

Plans are already under way to hold more Sing-A-Longs, maybe a summer campfire sing at the pool and an October event at the Town Hall. We welcome your opinions and ideas, and appreciate any other contribution in time or talent—we hope to see you at one of the next community sings!

Contact **Cathy Pickar** (**cpickar@townofsomerset.com** or **301-907-4881**) or **Jeanette Kreiser** (**jskreiser@yahoo.com** or **301-907-8805**) with your ideas and suggestions!



## An Update on Warwick Lane

Marnie Shaul, Council Vice-President

In April, Council Member **Cathy Pickar** and I attended the semi-annual meeting of the **Village of Drummond**. Many Drummond residents expressed their concerns about closing Warwick Lane. Drummond passed two motions. The first motion established a committee to work with Somerset on this issue. **The Drummond committee** would get input from Somerset elementary school and meet with Montgomery County officials (such as emergency responders) and review any data collected, including traffic data, so the Village can explore the options and make a set of recommendations back to Village officials on how to move forward. The second motion was a resolution from Drummond to the Town of Somerset that the Village opposes any closure of the alley until the issue can be studied and fully vetted in the Drummond community.

Since the meeting, Cathy and I have met with Drummond committee chair and provided him with a copy of the Somerset ordinance that requires the closure of **Warwick Alley** between 8:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on school days. We also provided copies of the two traffic count studies Somerset undertook in 2004 and 2007. **The Drummond Committee chair** suggested that we aim for a decision comfortable to both communities prior to the start of school in August and that for the remainder of this school year close the Lane during drop-off and pick-up hours. During June it is anticipated that Drummond will hold committee meetings and over the summer our two communities will work together, including jointly attending meetings with emergency responders.

# Town Hall Tidbits | By Tom Carter, Clerk-Treasurer



## Office Schedule in June

Tom will be out of the office **June 1-2** and **June 29-July 1**. Corrie Morsey expects to be in during Tom's absence. During these dates, please call first to be sure someone is in the office before coming over, or leave a message on the answering machine and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

## New Employee

Join us in welcoming **Nicole Ventura**, our part-time office assistant, who will be helping Tom with administration and finances. Nicole lives in **Bethesda** and has 35 years in mortgage banking. In the past year she has been helping her husband **Stefan** with his photography business. Nicole has two sons: **Christopher**, is a **2008 U.S. Naval Academy graduate**; and **Jonathan**, who also will graduate from the **USNA in 2010**.

## Reminder to Dog Owners



The **Town Code** requires that you keep your dog on a leash whenever the dog is not on your property, and that you pick up the feces after your dog does its duty. Please keep our parks and your neighbors' yards clean from dog messes. Fines of up to **\$100** can be imposed! Dog droppings may be disposed of in the Town trash receptacles as long as they are double bagged to protect the collectors.

## Town Maintenance Vehicles and Personnel

**Please use caution when driving behind the Town tractors and trucks.**

They are often moving very slowly as the men 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. Also, be particularly cautious when passing the maintenance men working along the streets with power equipment and wearing ear protection since they cannot hear approaching cars.

## Reminders on Recycles

Please remember to remove the caps from your recyclable bottles before you place them in the blue bin. The caps are not recyclable.

Also, don't use plastic bags for your recyclables. **J&J will not pick up any recyclables in plastic bags.** The plastic bags are recyclable through many grocery stores, but not through J&J. **Additionally, newspapers should not be placed loose in the blue bins.** Please put newspapers and mixed papers in paper bags. If any papers are commingled with the real commingled (glass, cans and plastics), J&J will not pick them up. It takes them too long to sort into the truck.



## Beware of Con Artists

With spring weather here, the **annual visitation of itinerant con artists** to the area is at hand. Be sure you do not fall for their excuses to get in your home. They will often engage you in conversation or distract you while a partner enters the house and steals cash and valuable small items. Sometimes they just ask to use your restroom. Never allow strangers into your home. Always keep your doors locked, even if you are just in your yard. **Call the police if you see someone suspicious hanging around your neighborhood.**

## Pool Membership and Guests

If you haven't already, there is still time to register any new family members or care providers at the Town Office. If you have anyone registered with your family who is no longer eligible, please notify Tom as well. This includes grown children who no longer reside at home and care providers who are no longer employed by you.

Most of the photos on the pool ID cards we have been using are quite out-of-date. **The Pool Committee** asks everyone with a blue or yellow card to bring new photos to the pool on their first visit this year so that they can be used to replace the old ones.

We will be using the same two types of guest passes for the pool as in the past:

<b>Weekly:</b>	A 7-day pass for out-of-town houseguests that can be purchased at the Town Hall for \$5 each.
<b>Daily:</b>	A 5-visit pass for one-day or short visit guests that is sold at the pool for \$10 (\$2 per visit).

*Remember these passes must be purchased with a check made out to the "Town of Somerset." Cash cannot be accepted.*

*continued on page 7*



By Jeffrey Z. Slavin, Mayor

Mark your calendars now for the Town's most important community event—our **Fourth of July Celebration**, which is on a Saturday this year. The picnic is at 12:00 noon under the shade of the tent—residents bring lunch and the Town will provide cupcakes, ice cream, and punch. There will be a brief program at 12:45 p.m. which will include visits by elected officials, recognition of Somerset volunteers, and a special presentation of gifts to graduates. There will be the traditional egg toss and other fun games for the whole family, followed by the parade to the pool at 2:00 p.m. led by our kids on their decorated bikes. I hope to see everyone there. And if you are able to volunteer, contact **Ann Brown** (Trent), **Chair of our Special Events Committee**, at [abrown@annbrowncommunications.com](mailto:abrown@annbrowncommunications.com).

In spite of our best efforts, there has been a change in the policy at the **Bethesda Annex** of the **U.S. Postal Service**, which caused an unacceptable delay in the receipt of this Journal last month. This month, the Journal is being mailed first class, so there should not be a similar problem. In the future, in light of our policy to “**green**” Somerset wherever possible and eliminate paper, those residents who have signed up for the email Blast will now have the Journal delivered directly to their computer inbox. We are encouraging all others to participate in this system, as described in a letter from Editor **Maxine Finkelstein** (Cumberland) elsewhere in this issue. Of course, we will always allow residents the option to continue to receive the Journal in the U.S. mail.

All Somerseters need to know that the **Mayor and Council** take our tree laws seriously, and when a violation occurs, enforcement takes place. Recently, a resident was fined **\$500** for failure to complete an application to have a dead tree removed. There were important considerations that went into the enactment of this law—so the Town can be sure that such trees are removed competently—and the fine was recently increased so our residents would not find it easy to ignore the Code. Our Town places a high value in its trees, and it is important that everyone follow the rules as set. It is the duty of the Mayor, Council, Staff, residents, and real estate salespeople to get the word out and remind folks that any time they consider doing something with a tree, to consult someone in the know or check the website. In this way, violations can be eliminated in the future. Related to that, I am now starting a campaign to discourage anyone from stapling notices to our trees. This can cause permanent damage and it is better to attach flyers with paper or string.

As a result of the Council's decision in the FY09 budget, and a prolonged recruiting and interview process, **Tom Carter** has hired a **new part-time Assistant Clerk-Treasurer, Nicole Ventura**, who started work early in May. Nicole has an impressive work record, and I am sure she will be as asset as she helps with the bookkeeping and other administrative duties. I encourage everyone to stop in and welcome her.

In spite of a number of rain delays, the street paving work was successfully completed and kudos go to **Code Enforcement Officer Larry Plummer** (who is also a retired State Highway engineer) for his outstanding oversight of the contractor. There was a minimum of complaints received at the Town Hall for such a large project, and I believe we received more compliments than problem reports! It's great to see how nice our streets are looking.

Recently I visited **Montgomery Municipal Channel 16**, of which Somerset is a member/supporter, to inspect their remodeled facilities, followed by a reception. I encourage all of you to watch this channel, especially **Lila Snow's** (Essex) program “**The Arts Scene**” on Mondays at 9:00 p.m.

Next month, from June 6-26, I will be in Boston to attend a three-week course at **Harvard University's Kennedy School** in the **Senior Executives in State and Local Government program**. It was an honor to have been recruited for and accepted into this selective program and I am sure that I will learn things that will help me improve my service to our citizens. I will be available by phone and email during that period, although the curriculum looks demanding. I am thankful that Council Vice President **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) has the time to serve as Acting Mayor while I am gone.

# Town Trees

By Corrie Morsey, Chair, Parks and Natural Resources Committee



Permission to remove three Town trees has been placed on the June Council Meeting agenda. The trees are: **#202, little leaf linden**, 4718 Dorset Avenue, which is dead; **#520, Kwansan cherry**, 5402 Surrey Street, which is dead and **#40, pin oak**, Cumberland Avenue side 5812 Warwick Place, which has hypoxylon canker and is 80 percent dead.

We hope to plant replacement trees in each of these locations.

## Team Up For Energy Audits

By Janet Lowenthal, Deal Place

Don't go through another winter with sky-high energy bills! Sign up now for an energy audit of your home and learn what you can do to reduce those bills.

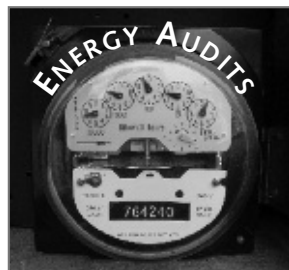
Energy audits range from \$300–400, depending on how many homeowners sign up per contractor—the more families, the greater the “bundled discount.” Over time, those up-front dollars can be recouped many times over if you make the recommended repairs, which will be done by contractors trained and certified by the **Maryland Energy Administration**.

In launching this effort, we are following in the footsteps of the Town of Chevy Chase, which has been extremely pleased with the contractors they used: **Michael Whelan, of Live Green**, and **Jim McKenna of Ardently Green**.

Recommended improvements typically include sealing air leaks, insulating attics and basements, weather-stripping windows and doors, installing efficient lighting, and upgrading appliances. Homeowners who undertake such repairs will be eligible for a Federal tax credit plus upcoming Pepco and Maryland energy efficiency incentives.

To sign up, please send me the following information at [Janet.Jim@Verizon.net](mailto:Janet.Jim@Verizon.net):

- Name
- Address
- Phone
- Email
- Home's square footage
- Year your home was built



Energy usage history from past year, in **KWH** (kilowatt hours) from **Pepco**, and in **Th** (therms) from **Washington Gas**. Pepco (**202-833-7500**) will read you this information over the phone. Your gas usage over the past 12 months appears on your monthly gas bill.

Email or call me (**301-656-7666**) for more information. We hope to select one or more contractors, negotiate a good price, and get started on the audits in the next several weeks.

Town Hall Tidbits from page 5

## Odd Jobs List

Please take a moment to review the **Odd Jobs list** enclosed with this edition of the Town Journal. We have received several calls saying that listed personnel no longer are interested in doing the tasks they originally signed up to do. Some on the list are away at college and not available. Please let Tom know if there are any changes, additions or deletions so that this list is fully accurate. Call **301-657-3211** with changes.

## Parking

Residents should advise lawn services and guests that it is illegal and dangerous to park on the “**NO PARKING**” side of the street. Our streets are congested enough with the numerous ongoing construction projects.

## MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's mobile office will not be in Friendship Heights on June 22. They will be getting a new bus and will use the month of June to test it at each site to be sure they don't have any problems. The mobile office will be in Friendship Heights next on Monday, July 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## Contractors File

Tom maintains a listing of contractors who have provided excellent service in the past to the Town or Town residents. Give Tom a call at **301-657-3211** for a referral if you are stumped over what to do. We welcome any referrals you might have, good or bad, for our records. Many currently on our list are from several years ago, so any new referrals would be greatly appreciated. Keep in mind that the Town is not responsible in any way for work done by any of these contractors. The decision about whom you choose to do your work is solely up to you.



## Letters to the Editor

From Andrew Resnick, Grantham Avenue

To protect our property values, I fully support the fiscally responsible course the Town Council is pursuing. I fear the precipitous decline in property values if Somerset were to get a reputation as a 'fixer-upper' town; where the public facilities are disreputable. A decade ago the council failed to fiscally plan for inevitable facility expenditures by dropping the tax rate from **\$0.31** instead of building a reserve (**100 years ago the tax rate was \$.50!**). Citizens have enjoyed this windfall, but it has come time to pay the piper.

In planning the renovation of the **43-year-old pool** and **107-year old Town Hall**, the Council has followed a studied process with a myriad of reasoned publications, and been solicitous of citizen participation at literally dozens of meetings. Somerset has voted in the council elections and the council is fulfilling their duties.

Be at Peace

From Gabriel Roth, Falstone Avenue

Accepting Mayor Slavin's response that citizens cannot challenge by referendum a "**budget ordinance**" voted on by the Council, one can still ask what steps the Council is taking to ascertain the views of citizens on this issue. Why does the Council not choose to have a referendum?

We are deeply indebted to our Council members for the very hard work and long hours they contribute to the Town's business, but is it fiscally responsible to even consider spending **\$248,000** of other people's money on a "**Green roof**"? Why cannot those who want such a roof be promptly advised to fund it themselves?

I question the expenditure of **\$2.7 million** on this project, not only because of the huge sum involved, but also because no serious consideration seems has been given to have pool users pay a substantial proportion themselves.

### Permits Granted



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

#### Trees:

**Lesley Simmons**, 4723 Cumberland Avenue, to remove a dead white pine behind her garage.

**Alan Dock**, 4801 Falstone Avenue, to remove a diseased Austrian pine on the east side of his lot

**Brian Pilot**, 5518 Greystone Street, to remove a nuisance Chinese chestnut in his back yard.



## Security Report

By Birdie Pieczenik, Chairperson, Security Committee

### Spring Is Here and So Is Crime

Any reported vehicle break-in, even when it isn't in Somerset, is another reminder to lock cars, secure houses, and generally be aware of who is walking/riding around the neighborhood.

On May 4th and 5th, Chevy Chase Village police investigated 6 reported vehicle break-ins. **Electronic equipment (laptop computer, portable GPS navigation systems)** was stolen from some of the vehicles. Others were ransacked but nothing was removed. All stolen property was in plain sight. Some of the vehicles entered were unlocked; vehicle entry tools (slim jim) were used to enter locked vehicles.

**Village Police suggested:** Make sure your vehicles are locked at all times; consider placing your vehicle key fob on the bedroom nightstand so if you are awakened during the night and see someone near your vehicle, push the panic button on your key fob to sound your horn and flash your lights!

**HELP** is needed by the **Security Committee**. Several of the door-to-door (or telephone back-up) volunteers for the **Emergency Alert questionnaire** are unable to continue. We need additional volunteers to complete our survey. Please call **Birdie Pieczenik** at **301-652-1207** to help the Security Committee. Any number of residents you can survey will be a big help. And what better way to get to know a few more of your neighbors. The Security Committee will provide the survey forms, the background information, and give you plenty of time to complete the mission.



# Council Activity

At the April 22 special meeting the Council authorized expenditures of up to \$30,000 for additional smooth seal needed due to the roughness of the streets, saw cutting, pavement fabric, additional traffic calming/markings, and repaving the section of the Town hall driveway from the street to near the garage.

## At the May 4 meeting, the Council:

1. Approved the minutes of the April 6 regular and April 14 and 22 special meetings.
2. Approved the following fund transfers for FY-09:

Amount	From	To
\$10,000	GF Contingency	GF Arborist
\$ 5,000	GF Contingency	GF Misc./Engineer
\$50,000	CPF Contingency	CPF Swimming Pool
\$15,000	CPF Town Hall/Garage	CPF Swimming Pool

3. Agreed on the following special responsibilities of Council members:

Bill Farley:

Batting Cage Committee  
 Bethesda Fire Board  
 Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights alternate  
 Montgomery County Civic Federation  
 Swimming Pool Committee alternate  
 Transportation Management District Representative  
 Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board alternate

Cathy Pickar:

History Committee  
 Bank Statement Reviewer  
 Audit Committee alternate  
 Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board  
 Swimming Pool Committee

Alan Proctor:

Special Events Committee alternate  
 Check signing  
 Cable TV alternate  
 All About People column  
 Tennis Committee  
 Bathhouse Project Contract Officer  
 Welcoming Committee alternate

Marnie Shaul:

Parks and Natural Resources Committee alternate  
 Audit Committee  
 Environmental Committee  
 Security Committee alternate  
 Check signing  
 Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights  
 Montgomery County Civic Federation alternate  
 History Committee alternate

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Barbara Zeughauser:

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Bethesda Fire Board alternate  
Parks and Natural Resources Committee  
Environmental Committee alternate  
Security Committee  
Special Events Committee  
Welcoming Committee

4. Postponed a decision on Pepco's offer to replace mercury vapor street lights with high-pressure sodium bulbs at no cost to Town until the August meeting.
5. Discussed but made no decision on a green roof for the pool bathhouse.
6. Approved changes to the Pool Rules as recommended by the Swimming Pool Committee and Town Attorney and amended by Barbara Zeughauser.
7. Approved the building permit application and setback waiver by Jack and Cecilia Benson, 4511 Dorset Avenue, to add a two-story addition to the west side and rear of their house and remove two trees, subject to relocation of the air conditioning unit to the right front of the house, receipt of a County permit, Town fees and deposit, adherence to the Town Arborist's requirements in reforestation and the name and Maryland tree license number of the contractor who will remove the trees.
8. Recommended approval to the Historic Preservation Commission of the application by James Belikove and Vanessa Piala, 4811 Cumberland Avenue, to renovate a second floor bathroom and adjacent hallway, and add a new skylight on the roof (no exterior footprint changes).
9. Approved a one-season agreement between the Town and Camp Summerset for 2009.
10. Approved a contract with VIKA Engineering to locate subsurface utilities in the vicinity of the pool bathhouse by Accurate Infrastructure Data, Inc., for \$4,775.00.
11. Denied the request by the Swimming Pool Committee chair to repaint the interior of the bathhouse for \$4,500. (Vote: Pickar and Shaul for; Farley, Proctor and Zeughauser opposed. Motion failed 2-3.)

## Legislation

At the April 22 special meeting, the Council amended the Town Code to add nine new speed humps and relocate five existing speed humps on Town streets, and add speed bumps based on the Council decisions at the April 6th regular Council meeting. (Vote: 4-1, Farley in opposition.)

### At the May 4 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Adopted the Mayor's amended budget for FY-10 and set the property tax rates at \$.04 per \$100 assessed value for real property and \$1.00 for personal (business) property for FY-10 (no change from FY09) after adding \$9,000 to the General Fund for street sweeping, \$10,000 to the General Fund for traffic monitoring (Vote: Pickar, Proctor, Shaul and Zeughauser for; Farley opposed. Motion passed 4-1.), \$1,000 to the General Fund for two additional dog waste receptacles and deleting the loan and repayment thereof.
2. Approved a Town Code amendment to add STOP signs at:  
Greystone Street: northbound and southbound at Grantham Avenue; and northbound at Falstone Avenue.  
Falstone Avenue: westbound at Greystone Street.
3. No motion was made on a Town Code amendment to reduce speed limit in Town from 20 to 15 mph.

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Meeting of Town Council

Monday, June 1, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes of the May 4 regular meeting – 7:30 p.m.
2. Discussion of financial report – 7:35 p.m.
3. Suggestions and questions from residents – 7:45 p.m.
4. Fact finding hearing and action on application by Mitch Narin, 4909 Essex Avenue, to add a two-story addition to the rear of his house, build a detached two-car garage at the rear of the lot and replace the driveway apron – 7:55 p.m.
5. Fact finding hearing and action on application by Marty and Bonnie Lewin, 4817 Cumberland Avenue, to add a deck to the rear of their house – 8:15 p.m.
6. Discussion of relationship between Town and Swim Team – 8:20 p.m.
7. Action on hiring off-duty police for FY10 – 8:40 p.m.
8. Action on recommendation by Town Arborist to remove three Town trees: 1) #40, pin oak, Cumberland side of 5812 Warwick Place, 80% dead (hypoxylon canker); 2) #202, Little Leaf Linden, 4718 Dorset Avenue, dead; and 3) #520, Kwansan cherry, 5402 Surrey Street, dead – 8:45 p.m.\*\*
9. Announcement of Mayor's emergency authorization of \$3,950 to paint interior of pool bathhouse prior to opening for the 2009 season – 8:50 p.m.
10. Reappointment of Tom Carter as Clerk-Treasurer for FY-10 – 8:55 p.m.
11. Mayor's report – 9:00 p.m.
12. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 9:05 p.m.
13. Adjournment – 9:10 p.m.



left to right: Council members Bill Farley, Barbara Zeughouser, Cathy Pickar, Vice President Marnie Shaul, Alan Proctor

*“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.