



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 54 • No. 8

Date of publication: February 20, 2009

## Somerset Local Election Lowdown



### Voters Will Select Three Council Members April 1

**Election Day** for the Town of Somerset is Wednesday, April 1. Voters will select three Council members for the seats currently held by **Tom Eldridge, Rick Kessler** and **Marnie Shaul**. Rick and Tom have announced they will not run. Marnie will be running again. At the Town Council meeting on March 2, nominations will be accepted for the two-year terms. Additional nominations may be made by petition of 20 registered voters filed with the Clerk-Treasurer no later than 4:00 p.m., March 11.

#### *The Town Charter requires its elected officials to be:*

- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of Somerset for at least 18 months preceding the election
- Qualified voter in the State of Maryland

### Voter Registration

The deadline to **register** for the April 1st election is **4:30 p.m. on March 18**. A member of the **Board of Elections** will be at the Town Council meeting on March 2 from 7:30 p.m.–9:00 p.m. to register new voters. In addition, Town residents may register at the **Town Hall** Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by mail (**call Tom Carter, 301-657-3211, to mail the registration form to you**). If you are currently registered in **Montgomery County**, you are eligible to vote in the Town of Somerset and do not need to fill out a separate Town registration form.

#### *To vote in town elections, you must be:*

- At least 18 years old by Election Day
- A resident of Somerset for 14 days preceding the election
- A citizen of the United States or an alien legally authorized to reside in the country
- Registered to vote in the Town of Somerset and/or Montgomery County

See Inside on Pages 2 to 3 for Important Articles on  
Town Budgeting and Traffic Solutions

If you have any questions about whether you are registered in the Town, call **Bonnie Thomson, chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections**, at 301-657-2923. If you have questions about whether you are registered to vote in Montgomery County, you can check your registration status at [www.mdelections.org/voter\\_registration/v2/vote\\_prod.php](http://www.mdelections.org/voter_registration/v2/vote_prod.php).

### Calendar

#### **Monday, March 2**

Town Council Meeting

#### **Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21**

Somerset Used Book Sale

#### **March 21**

Green Homes Event

#### **Monday, March 23**

MVA Mobile Office

#### **March 28**

Arbor Day Celebration

#### **April 1**

Election Day

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."

## In This Issue

Arbor Day .....	12
Council Activity .....	3
Crime and Police Report .....	6
Green Homes Event .....	13
Investing in Somerset .....	8
Legislation .....	3
Letters to the Editor .....	3
Mayor's Desk .....	4
On My Mind .....	2
Permits Granted .....	2
Plant Green Award .....	4
Preliminary Agenda .....	14
Somerset Book Sale .....	5
Somerset Local Election .....	1
Swim Team .....	7
Town Hall Tidbits .....	5
Traffic Calming .....	9
Transportation Mgmt District .....	13
Trees .....	12



## On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Z. Slavin

### Honoring the Budget Process

One of my campaign pledges to all of you last year when I ran for Mayor was that I wanted to set in place better **long-term budgeting** for the Town. In this way, we can ensure that Town facilities and services are properly maintained, and we will have an idea how much this will cost well in advance. We all like surprises, but not when it comes to spending money!

Per the **Somerset charter**, each March the Mayor submits a **five-year fiscal plan** reflecting an analysis of the sources and use of available funds. Unlike the **annual budget**, the Council does not vote to approve this plan, and it is not binding. Rather, it is used as a guide to create the forthcoming budget document—along with comments from residents at the accompanying public hearing, expenditure suggestions from the committees, and past practice. Most significantly, the development of the five-year plan shall be open to recommendations by the Council, and as Mayor, I will give these ideas great weight. (**The budget itself will be submitted in late March with a public hearing in April and will be voted on in May.**)

I am pleased to report that in recent months I have been working closely with the Council, under the expert leadership of **Vice President Marnie Shaul**, on these recommendations and, to no one's surprise, outstanding results are starting to appear. Elsewhere in this Journal is an article signed by every council member which outlines what we may have to do in order to fund all the vitally needed **capital projects** in Town. This article places our plans in historical perspective. It is an excellent analysis and I hope everyone will read it.

And I am also glad the Council is looking beyond five years to the next decade and beyond when our infrastructure is concerned.

Given the delicate status of the country's economy, this year it is more important than ever for every resident to play a part in the financial decisions being made by their local government. I urge everyone to pay close attention to the published information, and to make comments where necessary, whether at a meeting, online on the phone, or even face to face. For those with specific expertise, we thank those residents who have already helped and encourage others to come forward.

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)  
Electronic copies are also e-mailed in pdf format to residents who request  
this service from the Town Hall.

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301-657-3211  
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#### 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

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

## Permits Granted



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

### Trees:

**Lenke Homonnay-Preyer**, 4910 Dorset Avenue, to remove a dead Norway spruce and a leaning white pine in her back yard.

# Legislation

## Council Activity

### At the February 2 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Postponed discussion of traffic calming recommendations until the March 2 meeting.
2. Discussed briefly the status of the Environmental Committee's review of the options for replacing Town street lights.
3. Approved the plans submitted by Anthony Wilder Design Build, Inc., for Charlotte and Charles Perret, 4716 Falstone Avenue, to demolish their existing deck and install a pool and patio, except for the location of the pool pumps, filters and heater. (Vote: Eldridge, Pickar, Proctor and Shaul for; Kessler opposed. Motion passed 4-1.)
4. Approved a civil engineering contract with VIKA engineers for pool bathhouse complex improvements at a basic cost of \$44,000.
5. Approved a swimming pool management contract for the 2009 and 2010 seasons with High Sierra, Inc., for \$89,470 and \$92,154, respectively.
6. Accepted the Swimming Pool Committee's proposed budget for the 2009 swim season.



## Letters to the Editor

### From Gabriel Roth, Falstone Avenue

I find two troubling aspects to the appointment of architects to design the proposed **\$3.151 million bathhouse replacement**, which is to require a "small property tax increase:"

**First**, why is the whole cost to be paid by property taxes? Should not the pool users themselves be required to pay something? It would be reasonable for the Town to make a matching contribution, but why not see first how much the pool users themselves would be prepared to pay?

**Second**, the contract with the architects is to include "**oversight of construction through to final completion.**" Is the payment for "**oversight**" to be proportional to the value of the construction contracts? If so, it would give the architects financial incentives to design costly facilities.

For \$3.151 million it is possible to buy a luxury house, even in our area. It seems astonishing to pay so much for rebuilding bathhouse facilities.

### From Robert SanGeorge, Cumberland Avenue

Everybody in Somerset deserves wintertime fun at their curbside. Let's pass an ordinance declaring all our streets—not just Cumberland—will **NOT** be plowed/salted for **24-to-48 hours** after every **snow/ice storm**. Here's the fun we'll all have:

- When freezing rain falls, as it did January 27-28, all streets will be icy, rutted messes.

- Since some streets lack sidewalks, you can watch people of all ages falling down.
- You can wonder whether a fire truck can negotiate your street.
- You'll also have the pleasure of interacting with town officials, who will deny there is any danger.
- All of us can ponder why nobody on the Council realizes that creating a hazardous situation will be a huge potential liability for the Town the first time somebody gets hurt.
- And you can wonder why kids can't just go to nearby parks to sled.

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*Residents are invited to submit Letters to the Editor on any subject pertaining to the Town. Letters are subject to editing by the Editor. There is a limit of 150 words per letter. Any submissions are due by the Journal deadline of the 15th of the month at 4:30 p.m*



The **Town staff** and our **snow removal contractor** did an excellent job of handling the **clean-up** after the **region's first major snowfall** late last month. We received a number of **written compliments** from Somerset residents and almost all noted, as usual, how much better our service is than in other non-municipal parts of the County. In addition, I implemented the **Code-mandated sledding program** on **Cumberland Avenue** for a **24-hour period**, which seemed to be greatly appreciated by many children and their parents. One resident expressed opposition to that policy and he has written a letter-to-the-editor to this Journal which deserves respect.

It is my duty to inform everyone that Somerset has recently been served a **lawsuit** as a result of a **resident being injured** in a **bike accident** on **Dorset Avenue** about three years ago. Unlike a recent legal experience in which the Town was required to pay our attorney a large fee to provide a defense, this time the lawsuit, with a claim of over **\$1 million dollars**, has been referred to our insurance carrier since this type of legal action is covered under our policy. A County lawyer has been assigned to us and there are two other defendants.

Last month's Journal arrived late in many Town mailboxes due to continuing problems with the Postal Service. The arrangement former Mayor Behr made some years ago with the **Bethesda Station Annex** needed to be "re-arranged" and thanks to the intervention of our **Congressman Chris Van Hollen**, **Editor Maxine Finkelstein** and I had a good meeting with the Station manager, which hopefully will lead to better service in the future. In the meantime, it is our intention to have the Journal available online on the Town's website by the 22nd of every month, so be sure to visit **www.townofsomerset.com** often.

**The Maryland Municipal League's Geocaching Program** has been wildly successful statewide, and Somerset, which was the first town or city to sign up, has received many more visitors than we had ever imagined. You can go onto the League's website at **www.mdmunicipal.org** and read comments that geocachers make about their travels. It is my dream that all **Somerset 4th graders**, whether in public, private, or parochial schools, will write an essay for the MML "**If I Were Mayor, I Would...**" contest, which has a deadline of **April 1**. This year the question to be answered has a "green" element to it and there will be a winner from each region of the State, which includes a presentation by the Governor and a boat ride. For more information go to the League's website or contact me at my email address.

Earlier this month I attended a presentation by representatives of the owners of **Safeway** about our neighborhood store on **Arlington Road**, which is going to be rebuilt and transformed into a state-of-the-art building. The new store will be similar to the one in Kensington; construction will take about eighteen months and will begin in about a year. There will be a lot more parking and the current hours will be maintained. I want to thank former Council member **Anne Proctor** for her leadership in organizing the Town's involvement in the County Executive's "**Yes Montgomery Can!**" Campaign over the **MLK Holiday** weekend this year. A large number of Somerset volunteers went door to door to promote this effort to raise funds, collect food, and solicit workers—all to benefit the neediest persons in our County at this difficult time. There were also several groups and families from Somerset who were at the County's service day projects at the **North Bethesda Conference Center** on MLK Day, and I was extremely grateful for their commitment. There is going to be another similar effort on **Earth Day** weekend, so stay tuned for details.



## PLANT Green Award

### CONGRATULATIONS SOMERSET!

Once again the Town has been awarded the **Maryland Community PLANT Green Award**. This award was been given to us by the **Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee of Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards** and the **Maryland Department of Natural Resources**. It was made in recognition of our long tradition of environmental stewardship and our continuing work in planting and caring for our parklands.

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



## Remember Somerset in Your Tax Returns

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

FORM 502 MARYLAND RESIDENT INCOME TAX RETURN 2008 ENDING 2008  
SOCIAL SECURITY # SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY #  
Your First Name Initial Last Name  
Spouse's First Name Initial Last Name  
PRESENT ADDRESS (No. and street)  
City or Town State Zip Code  
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you were a resident on the last day of the tax period. (See Instruction 3)  
Maryland County: **Montgomery County, Town of Somerset**  
CITY, TOWN OR TAXING AREA  
PART-YEAR RESIDENT: If you began or ended legal residence in Maryland in 2008, place a P in the box (See Instruction 2b).  
Give dates of Maryland Residence  
FROM MO DAY YR TO MO DAY YR  
Other state of residence  
MILITARY: If you or your spouse has non-Maryland military income, place an M in the box. Enter amount here.  
YOUR FILING STATUS—See Instruction 2 to determine if you are required to file. If you are exempt, use Filing Status 0.  
1. Single (If you can be claimed on another person's return, use Filing Status 0.)  
2. Married filing joint return or spouse had no income.  
3. Married filing separately.  
4. Head of household.  
5. Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child.  
6. Dependent taxpayer (Enter 0 in Exemption Box (A)—See Instruction 7.)  
EXEMPTIONS—See Instruction 10. Check here if you are: (1) First name Last name (2) Social Security number (3) Relationship to you (4) Regular (5) 65 or Over  
(A) Yourself (B) Spouse (C) Child (D) Grandchild (E) Parent (F) Sibling (G) Other

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. There is a special trash receptacle for pet droppings in front of 5407 Surrey Street. **DO NOT** drop your dog's feces in your neighbors' trash receptacles.

## Street Light Out?

Please call Pepco at 1-877-737-2662 or visit their Web site at [www.Pepco.com](http://www.Pepco.com) to report a street light out. You will need to provide the nearest address to the pole. The bulb should be replaced within 72 hours, according to Pepco.

## Television Recycling

Montgomery County residents can recycle their old and unwanted televisions at the County transfer station at **16101 Frederick Road in Derwood, MD**. The sets may be dropped off on: **Monday-Friday** between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., **Saturdays** between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and **Sundays** between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

## Fluorescent Light and Rechargeable Batteries Disposal

Remember that **fluorescent light bulbs** and **rechargeable batteries** are **hazardous waste** and **must not** be disposed of in your regular trash. You may drop these items off at **My Organic Market** in Rockville at 11711 Parklawn Drive off Nicholson Lane (301-816-4944). **Dry cell** and **alkaline batteries** may go in your household trash. For more information, see [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dep/solidwaste/collectionservices](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dep/solidwaste/collectionservices).

continued on page 6

## Tax Assistance

As part of its **Tax Counseling for the Elderly** program, trained IRS-certified AARP volunteers will be available at several locations nearby from **February 1 to April 15**. The closest are at the **Chevy Chase Library** and **Chevy Chase Community Center**, both on Connecticut Avenue. A special **Maryland Tax Day** is scheduled for **February 28** at all Maryland locations. Special attention is given to those 60 and older. For more information, call 1-888-227-7669 or visit their web site at [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

## Town Election

**Election Day** for three Council members for the Town of Somerset is **Wednesday, April 1, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall. Information on absentee ballots will be forthcoming.

## Sidewalks

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

## 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



## Trash Pickup

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

## Garden Refuse Pickup

J&J resumes twice-a-week collection of garden refuse March 2. Pickups will be on Tuesdays and Fridays as in the past.

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

### Odd Jobs Helpers

Please review the Odd Jobs list enclosed with this edition of the **Town Journal** and let Tom know if there are any changes, additions or deletions so that this list remains fully accurate. Call 301-657-3211 with changes.

## Some Springtime Activities Require Permits

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

1. **Building Permit**—needed for any construction or demolition that changes the exterior dimensions of a house or accessory structure. This includes building or enlarging a tool shed.

2. **Tree Permit**—needed to take down trees which are four inches or more in diameter, four and one-half feet above the ground.
3. **Fence Permit**—needed for any new or replacement fence or wall.
4. **Driveways**—repair or repaving of the section of the driveway on public right-of-way as well as a driveway apron may not proceed without a \$1,000 deposit to insure restoration of Town sidewalks, curbs and other public property. Replacement aprons must meet County standards.
5. **Dumpsters**—may not be parked in the street without permission of the Mayor.

## MVA Mobile Office

The MVA’s mobile office will be in Friendship Heights on Monday, March 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



## Crime and Police Report

By Birdie Pieczenik, Chairperson, Somerset Security Committee

### A Time to Take Stock

**THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN CRIME TO**

**REPORT!** Let’s keep it that way. Now is a good time to take stock of your normal daily practices and make some changes, if necessary.

Recessions and crime increases have a nasty way of going together. So when you are **gardening at home, shopping in Bethesda, or walking in DC**, be **vigilant** and use street smarts. The aim is to make sure you, your family, you home, and your car are not targets of opportunity.

**Rule 1 – BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS**

**Rule 2 – CHOOSE SAFETY RATHER THAN CONVENIENCE**

**Rule 3 – PRE-THINK WHAT YOU’RE ABOUT TO DO**

Here are a few examples of everyday situations that might call for a change in your behavior, for safety’s sake. **Women**, keep your purse close to your body when walking in the street, don’t hang the strap of your bag over the back of your chair in a restaurant, and don’t leave your handbag sitting in your shopping cart in the supermarket. **Men**, keep your wallet in a front pocket.

When walking alone after dark, walk in the street rather than on the sidewalk if there is no one else around. If you will be coming home late at night from the movie or theater, without crowds around, choose an outdoor lot rather than a parking garage without an attendant, or choose the garage with the attendant. It’s a good idea to have your keys in your hand rather than fumbling to find them when you’re at the car. When using an ATM, be aware of who’s around you, or whether you have closed the privacy door that some banks offer. When working in your garden, make sure all doors around the house are locked, and don’t leave valuable items lying out in the front or back yards. When you walk the dog or walk/run the streets, alter your course and the time you do it now and again. **Finally**, we can’t say it too often, lock your car doors and don’t leave valuables inside where they can be seen.

As a former **New Yorker** who grew up riding the subway trains at all hours of the day and night, a thin container of pepper spray never hurts to have in a pocket that’s easy to get to.



## It's Book Sale Time at Somerset ES

By Elizabeth Hurwit, Dorset Avenue

Somerset Elementary School's Annual Used Book Sale is set for **Friday, March 20**, from **7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** and Saturday, March 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the **All Purpose Room** at the school. Stop by and be ready to browse and buy from a great selection of books. You'll find home-baked goodies for sale as well.

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

The more you donate, the more successful the sale will be. Donations will be accepted in the school's **All Purpose Room** starting **Monday, March 16**, through **Thursday, March 19**. If possible, pack your books in good, strong cardboard boxes. If you'd like to give credit to a Somerset student for your contributions, find out who his or her teacher is and mark it on the box. The two classes that donate the most books to the Used Book Sale will be celebrated with an ice cream party.

We welcome volunteers who would like to help sort books or work at the sale. For additional information, please call **Cathleen Leipold** at **301-657-1946**, or **Elizabeth Hurwit** at **301-652-0608**.

## News From the Swim Team

By Sarah Morse, Dorset Avenue



### ISO Head and Assistant Coaches

**The Somerset Swim Team** is looking to hire a head coach and three assistant coaches for our summer program. The ideal candidate for head coach will have experience *managing a large team, developing competitive and new swimmers, managing coaching staff and with MCSL or other summer swim programs*. He/she must be a certified Life guard. Coaching certification is a plus. The program runs from May 27 to August 2. Assistant coaches should have coaching experience as well as competitive swimming experience. Please contact **Sarah Morse**, **morsekathan@gmail.com** for more information. Salary commensurate with experience.

It's never too early to start thinking about summer. The swim season will be upon us before you know it. So, please mark your calendar so you will not miss a single day of the **Somerset Dolphin's swim season!**

**Practice** starts in the afternoon on **May 26** (*Monday–Friday 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.*), when we have only three short weeks to get everyone in the water, legal and more before the **first meet on June 20**. Morning practice will begin **June 16** at **8:30 a.m.** and kids can come to both practices or chose between the two. The season ends on **July 25** this year with the **Divisional Championships** in the morning and the team banquet the very same evening. All Star events are the following weekend.

For those who have forgotten, the Dolphins are in the **K Division** for 2009, seeded second and swimming on **Saturdays** against **Glenmont, Whetstone,**

**Clopper Mill, Norbeck Grove and Montgomery Square**. On **Wednesday nights**, we swim against **Little Falls, Palisades, Mohican, and CCRA**, as well as hosting the very popular **B-relay carnival** scheduled for **July 22**.

Sadly, most of our long-time coaches are not returning this summer, although we are happy to have **Bess Pickar** back again. The swim team executive committee is conducting a coaches search. If you have any candidates, please contact me (**morsekathan@earthlink.net**). An ad for the coaches can be found on the MCSL website (**www.mcsl.org**) with job requirements.

### What is the Somerset Swim Team?

For those new to the neighborhood, the swim team is Somerset's only town sponsored sports team. The team is open to all town residents *ages 18 and under* regardless of their ability. **No tryouts!** We are part of the **Montgomery County Swim League** and have meets every **Saturday morning** and **Wednesday night June 17–July 25**. While swimming is an important part of the team, we also have a lot of fun. Besides the twice weekly meets, we have **weekly social events**, like dessert contests, laser tag, spend the night at the pool and spaghetti dinners. There is also a **developmental team, the Minis**, for **kids ages 4 to 7** who can swim at least 15 yards. These younger swimmers practice only 3 half hour sessions a week and have only one meet.

So when you're making your summer plans, leave some time for the swim team. Whether you're here for 3 weeks or the whole season; whether you can practice 3 times a week or every day, we want you on the team. You can't have a community team without the community participating. Call or email **Sarah Morse** at **301-907-3298**, or email **morsekathan@gmail.com** for more information.

This is the **second** of several articles to share with you, our fellow residents in Somerset, information about our ongoing planning for the **annual budget** under which our Town operates and the considerations that go into longer-term planning of capital improvements that benefit our Town.

For some time, Somerset has postponed investing

in needed infrastructure: **street paving, traffic calming, replacing the swimming pool's filtration and pumping machinery, and the renovation of Town facilities such as the bathhouse.** If Somerset does not undertake these projects, our roads will continue to deteriorate, making them even more expensive to repair in the future, and our bathhouse may completely fail due to the faulty ceiling of the pump room (floor of the women's changing area) which is currently propped up by beams. Condemnation of the bathhouse could result in an untimely closing of the pool and its associated activities.

The good news is that the Town has an available surplus of about **\$2.4 million** beyond expected planned costs and reserves, but as discussed in last month's Journal, depending on the scope of efforts to redo the bathhouse and undertake street paving, traffic calming, and other capital expenditures, Somerset may need additional funds over the next three fiscal years (FY). Under current plans, we would not need to **borrow money** until the **spring of 2010**, but it isn't too early to examine and put in place the revenue mechanism needed to support the borrowing should we decide to do so, for example, through borrowing from a bank, borrowing through the **State of Maryland's Infrastructure Fund**, or issuing

## Investing in Somerset, Part 2

Submitted by Council Vice-President Marnie Shaul and Council Members Tom Eldridge, Rick Kessler, Cathy Pickar, and Alan Proctor



bonds. Any lender will want to know that Somerset has a revenue stream sufficient to cover debt service in addition to our usual operating budget expenses. The Council will be reviewing these issues over the next few months as we prepare next year's budget and continue consideration of our long-term capital investment plan. The question before us is: what spending is required, and to the extent that additional funding is required, how do we pay for it.

If the Town decides that additional revenue is required to support Town spending, the most likely source of new revenue is an increase in property tax. We recognize

that this is not an attractive option, and now is a hard time to be considering this. It may be, however, that this is the

responsible thing to do given Town priorities, especially since there have been deep cuts in the Town property tax rates over the past decade. Aware of rising property values, previous Town Councils significantly **reduced** the Somerset property tax rate from **\$0.31 per \$100 assessed value in FY 1998** to the **current \$0.04**. This resulted in a decline in Town property tax receipts from **\$218,000 in FY98** to **\$152,000 in FY08**. However, during this same time period, the Town's income tax revenues (which are a fixed rate under state law) grew substantially, though they did not increase in every year. In FY08, property tax revenues were **13.3 percent** of Somerset's revenues, while income tax revenues were **72 percent**

At \$0.04 per \$100 assessed value, Somerset's rate is lower than several similar jurisdictions in **Montgomery County**. **Chevy Chase Village** is **\$0.103 per \$100 assessed value**, **Garrett Park** is **\$0.19**, and **Glen Echo** and **Kensington** are **\$0.13**. However, within Montgomery County, there is a wide range of rates depending on what services and facilities the jurisdiction supports. For example, **Martin's Additions' rate** is **\$0.008** and **Takoma Park's** is **\$0.605**.

Using various assessed values, the following table shows about how much a Somerset resident currently pays for the services the Town provides and how much residents could pay with two other hypothetical tax rates. Taxes actually paid likely will be somewhat less because Somerset has a homestead credit. In addition, property taxes are deductible expenses on federal returns for many of those who itemize deductions. For an estimate that more closely approximates their own property, residents can multiply the assessed value for their property times the various tax rates and divide by 100.

Home Assessed Value	Somerset Property Taxes at the current Tax Rate (\$0.04 per \$100 Assessed Value)	If the Tax Rate Were \$0.08 per \$100 Assessed Value	If the Tax Rate Were \$0.10 per \$100 Assessed Value
\$ 800,000	\$ 320	\$ 640	\$ 800
\$ 1,000,000	\$ 400	\$ 800	\$ 1,000
\$ 1,500,000	\$ 600	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500
\$ 2,000,000	\$ 800	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,000
\$ 3,000,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,000



As noted above, raising taxes in these economic times is not an option that anyone on the Town Council eagerly embraces, and we will carefully consider other options. We welcome your suggestions. Last year our **former Mayor, Walter Behr**, proposed a **\$0.04 increase in the property tax rate** to a total of **\$0.08** in his annual budget, but the Council decided that it would not raise taxes so far ahead of when the funds were needed. During the next month **Mayor Slavin** will be working on his annual budget, which he will propose in April. His budget will contain recommendations for spending and tax rates, and will be based on the best available information about projected costs and revenues, including the outlook for Town revenues in the face of declining incomes and property values. This budget will be considered by the Council at its May meeting.

As the Town gets information on the cost of specific big ticket items like street **paving/traffic calming**, it will have a more accurate estimate of how much money will be needed for investing in infrastructure in the next three years. If the total costs seem too high, the Council could decide to reduce capital spending in some categories and make further adjustments to spending in the operating budget. Later this year, the Town will also consult with knowledgeable Town residents about the best methods for financing this investment and discuss options with a variety of financial institutions.



## Summary of Comprehensive Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Plan

By C. Pickar, Council member

The following is the summary of recommendations made by **Ralph E. Schofer**, the **Consulting Traffic Engineer** hired by the Town of Somerset to propose a

comprehensive plan for **traffic calming** and **pedestrian safety**. Traffic calming and preservation of livable streets is and will continue to be an ongoing process in our town. The recommendations in this report are those of a consultant. The council is not bound to implement these suggestions, nor is the council limited to these suggestions. However, for economic reasons it is important that suggestions that involve changes in the physical structure of the street be implemented at the same time as the street resurfacing that takes place this spring. Comments and suggestions from residents are welcome at the open town meeting on **Wednesday, February 25** in the Town Hall meeting room at **7:30 p.m.** A traffic calming plan will be voted on by the Town Council at the regularly scheduled April Town Council meeting.

### Principal Intersections to Receive Attention:

#### **Warwick and Dorset:**

**Problem:** Intersection on a major cut-through route. Due to heavy pedestrian traffic year-round from the elementary school, summer camp, and the swimming pool, additional measures are considered appropriate for this intersection.

Raised crosswalks and a wholly raised intersection were considered. However, Montgomery County has not seen significant improvement from raised intersections.

**Recommended:** A trial of speed bumps\* (not humps) that would necessitate a stop before proceeding through the intersection. Bumps to be placed six feet before the stop bars on the pavement at each of the four approaches.

#### **Warwick and Essex**

**Problem:** This section of Warwick is a heavily used pedestrian and bicycle approach to the pool. The intersection lies at the crest of a hill on Warwick Place where vertical sight distance is an issue. The Essex Avenue approach is a significant downgrade that contributes to speeding. There is a driveway located where a fourth approach would be.

**Recommended:** A trial of speed bumps\* (not humps) that would necessitate a stop before proceeding through the intersection. Bumps to be placed six feet before the stop bars on the pavement at each of the three approaches.

\***Speed bumps**—Speed humps differ from speed bumps. Bumps are more effective in slowing and stopping traffic. They are generally less wide and have a more abrupt rise. There are a variety of speed bumps available commercially for installation. Exact specifications will be determined if the Council votes to implement this measure.

#### **Warwick and Falstone**

**Problem:** The intersection of Warwick Place and Falstone is far larger than necessary and allows motor vehicles to wander through the intersection. The long radius between Falstone and Warwick provides for a right turn from the north to the west at too high a speed and frequent disregard of the stop sign.

#### **Recommendation:**

The radius should be shortened; the stop sign on Warwick Place should be moved to the South with

*continued on page 10*

corresponding stop bar and, perhaps, the mailbox slightly relocated to make this intersection somewhat more traditional with a shorter radius and improved stop sign obedience. This modification is to be coordinated with Mr. Larry Plummer, the town's street consultant, to provide for the necessary curb and pavement modification as part of the future repaving project.

**Entrance to the pool area:**

**Problem:** The entrance to the pool parking area and the parking area itself is dangerous for pedestrians and children on bicycles. Two crosswalks currently exist: one at the entrance of the pool parking lot and one shortly after the entrance to the pool parking lot area.

**Recommendation:** With the renovation of the pool bathhouse and further storm water control, the pool parking areas are likely to be made into a permeable surface. At this time, a design for a safe approach to the pool for pedestrians and bicyclers with only one crosswalk should be implemented, possibly a sidewalk on one side of the parking lot to the bridge.



**Dorset and Deal**

**Problem:** Traffic operations were observed at the three-way intersection of Dorset Avenue and Deal Place during student arrival and departure periods at the elementary school. During the observation period, no vehicle was observed to stop at this intersection. Visibility is somewhat limited by trees, utility poles, trash cans and parked cars.

**Recommendation:** Six rumble strips applied in advance of the stop bars on each approach on Dorset. Increased enforcement by the town policeman is recommended.

**Surrey and Cumberland**

**Problem:** Limited visibility due to shrubbery at 5820 Surrey.

**Recommendation:** Consider trimming shrubs to improve horizontal sight distance and general visibility

**Use of Speed humps to Slow and Deter Traffic**

Speed humps serve both to discourage speeding and to deter cut-through traffic. All speed humps should have the requisite warning signs placed in advance of the hump and all humps should be marked with the highly contrasting permanent thermo-plastic markings. All humps and bumps should be marked in the snow months to warn snow plow operators to raise their plows.

**Specification of speed humps:** 12 feet long, of parabolic shape along the road centerline. Each end should be keyed into the pavement and be tapered so as not to interfere with storm water flow. The rise at the midpoint should be 3 1/2 inches.

**Dorset—Two additional speed humps on Dorset.** The first to be located midway between the intersection of Dorset and Surrey North and the existing speed hump that is 197.5 feet West of Warwick. Recommended that the current hump located approximately 482 feet west of the Wisconsin Avenue curb line be removed and replaced by two speed humps, one approximately 300 feet west of this curb line and a second approximately 560 feet west of the curb line. (The second speed hump will be approximately 250 feet east of the rumble strips to be placed at the Dorset Avenue approaches to Deal place.)

**Devon Lane—One speed hump to be placed approximately halfway between the ends of this lane.**

**Falstone—Although not a significant cut-through street, the down grade contributes to speeding.** It is recommended that one hump be placed on Falstone Avenue midway between Trent and Uppingham.

**Greystone—Greystone has two areas where sight distance is restricted either due to horizontal or vertical curves that pose a danger to children playing near the streets.**

The first is near the residence at 5405 Greystone and the second is near the residence at 5520 Greystone. The precise locations will be determined in the field in consultation with the Town's paving consultant.

**Parking Restrictions**

**Deal Place**

**Problem:** Due to cars parking close to the entrance of the school's staff parking lot, visibility on entering and exiting the lot is limited. Since this is an area with high pedestrian traffic, the limited visibility is problematic.

**Recommendation:** Vehicle parking and standing should be prohibited on Deal Place during the primary periods of student arrival and departure, 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., within 100 feet of either side of the entrance to the staff parking lot and within 100 feet of the Deal Place intersection with Dorset Avenue.

continued on page 11

### Dorset Avenue

**Problem:** The intersection of Dorset and Warwick to the west on Dorset periodically backs up into the intersection during the morning school arrival creating a potentially hazardous condition.

**Recommendation:** *Parking on the North side of Dorset be prohibited for about 130 feet west of the intersection between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.*

### Signage

**Falstone and Greystone**—The addition of **Stop Signs** for control on Falstone at its intersections with Greystone and, correspondingly, on Greystone at its intersection with Falstone is recommended to conform to the traffic controls at Cumberland and Deal. This might necessitate relocation of the existing US mail drop box.

**Street and speed hump markings and signs**—All stop bars and speed humps and bumps should be marked with the highly contrasting thermo plastic permanent markings, which would be installed at the time of the repaving. Warning signs for all humps and bumps must be installed before the humps and bumps.

**Deal Place**—the sign that says “**Staff Parking Only School Days**” should only face traffic entering the parking lot, not vehicles traveling along Deal Place.

**Deal Place**—The sign reading “**Tobacco and Drug-Free Zone**” should be reoriented to face traffic inbound to the school’s staff parking lot, not exiting the staff parking lot.

### Entrance Restrictions

#### Dorset Avenue

**Problem:** Cut-through vehicular traffic with neither origin nor destinations within the Town is very high according to the Town’s 2007 traffic study. The volume of cut-through traffic could increase with continued development in Bethesda, the Navy Medical Center, Westbard, and Friendship Heights, particularly since there are no planned improvements of arterial streets in the vicinity of the Town.

**Recommendation:** *At a future time, the Town may want to consider restriction on vehicles entering the Dorset Avenue or Little Falls entrances during morning and evening rush hour peak periods, with careful attention to avoid pushing traffic onto either Greystone or the east section of Cumberland. However, since the Town connects to the existing arterial streets at only four points, any restriction in access to Somerset could be burdensome for town residents. If the planned traffic calming measures described in this report do not sufficiently reduce cut-through traffic, selective access controls can be considered in the future. Coordination for a restriction onto Dorset from Little Falls would begin with MNCPP and coordination for a restriction onto Dorset from Wisconsin would begin with the Maryland State Highway administration.*

#### Cumberland and Drummond Alley

**Problem:** The chains that ban cars from traveling through the alley during school opening and closing hours are not in place much of the time and cars pass through this alley during the restricted times. With no sidewalks in this alley, the passageway is dangerous for pedestrians. Residents have reported

an increase in cut-through traffic from cars entering Drummond from Wisconsin and then traveling through the alley and into Somerset to exit on the Little Falls side of Dorset, possibly going to Whole Foods or to WES or other River Road destinations.

**Recommendation:** *Chains should be up on both ends of the alley from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on school days.*

*It is recommended that the Town enter into discussions with the Taxing District of Drummond about possibly closing the alley to vehicular traffic in a manner to allow access to existing driveways in the alley. Such a consideration*

*should be reviewed first by the Montgomery County Fire Marshall.*



### Sidewalks

**Problem:** Although most Town streets have sidewalks along one side of the street, there are exceptions: Cumberland Avenue west of the property line at 4807 Cumberland; Essex Avenue west of the property line at 4825 Essex; the intersection of Cumberland and Deal.

**Recommendation:** *Consider building sidewalks where none exists along these streets.*

**Cumberland:** 1081 linear feet of four-foot wide sidewalk on the north side of Dorset, extending west from the 4807 property line. There are approximately ten trees over twelve inches in diameter that would need to be removed, or have a sidewalk designed to go around them if the town’s right away space is sufficient. Additionally, three signs, two mail boxes and miscellaneous landscaping would need to be moved.

**Essex:** 625 linear feet of four-foot wide sidewalk. Relocate four utility

*continued on page 12*

# Arbor Day

By Corrie Morsey, Chair, Parks and Natural Resources Committee



## Join in the Town's Arbor Day Celebration

The celebration, sponsored by the **Environmental and Parks and Natural Resources Committees** will take place on Saturday morning, **March 28th**, in **Vinton Park near the pool**. Two events are planned.

**Garlic Mustard Pull**—We have identified this invasive plant growing near the creek and removed two large parcels last spring. But because the plant's seeds remain viable for five years, we know it will pop again this year. If not controlled it crowds out native, desirable plants. Sadly, deer ignore this invasive so we need to remove it.

**Tree Planting**—**Barb Neal, Town Arborist**, will show us how to properly plant bare root trees, which you can order through the Town at very reasonable prices. Here is how it will work: first, walk around your property and find a place that needs a tree. Then, go over the list of trees that have been chosen. The species list is: **Freeman maple, red maple, swamp white oak, redbud** (*prefers more shade than sun*) and **thornless honeylocust**. See the inserted order form for more information on the trees. The trees have been chosen for their transplantability and adaptability to most growing conditions. All are native trees. The trees are small (*6' tall or 1" caliper*), but should grow well.

When you have chosen your tree or trees, you will need to place your order. Complete the enclosed order form and return it to Town Hall, along with your check made out to the Town of Somerset, by March 10th.

The trees should arrive for the March 28th planting. The town arborist, Barb Neal, will demonstrate proper techniques for planting bare root trees that morning, then you will be able to take your tree home and plant it. Enjoy watching your young tree grow, knowing you have done your part to help Somerset remain the leafy green town that it is!

All the residents of Town are invited to join in the fun. It's also a great opportunity for students to earn **community service (CS) credits**.

Tree Order Form			
<b>Freeman Maple</b>	50-60'	35-40'	17.25
<b>Red Maple</b>	50-75'	40-60'	14.95
<b>Swamp White Oak</b>	50-75'	50-60'	14.80
<b>Thornless Honeylocust</b>	35-45'	35-45'	18.40
<b>Redbud</b>	15-25'	15-30'	14.80
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____			

**Return this form with your check made out to the Town of Somerset by March 10, 2009.** You will be able to pick up your trees on Saturday morning, **March 28th**, at the pool.

## Calming and Pedestrian Safety from page 11

poles, two large rocks and seven trees over twelve inches in diameter.

**Cumberland and Deal:** Recommend to create a contiguous sidewalk around the corner at the intersection. This would require the relocation of 2 signs and 3 guy wires and changing the toe of the slope from the school property.

**Approximate cost:** Portland cement concrete sidewalk costs about \$8 per square foot. Cumberland sidewalk: Approximately \$34,600 plus the cost of tree replacement.

**Essex sidewalk:** Approximately \$20,000 plus the cost of tree replacement and relocation of utility poles and rocks.

## Trees

On the recommendation of the **Town arborist**, we have scheduled to have **Town oak** and **cherry trees** sprayed the week of **March 2nd**, weather permitting. They will be sprayed with a **two-percent** horticultural oil solution (dormant oil) to control scale.

Signs will be posted in areas to be sprayed. Please **do not park** your cars on the street near the trees that need to be sprayed. Trees in close proximity to the school will be injected with Safari rather than sprayed.

Unfortunately, it has been recommended that one of the **Town's sycamore trees** be taken down. The tree, # 914, is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of **Dorset and Wisconsin Avenues in Capello Park**. It has been steadily declining. The upper canopy is dead and if the tree fails, it could fall onto Wisconsin Avenue. Town arborist, **Barb Neal**, prepared a **Tree Hazard Evaluation Form** for the Town. It is on the Town Council Agenda, **Item 11**, for the March meeting.

## “Green Homes” Event and Home Tour

By George Wyeth, Falmouth Avenue

Want to reduce your environmental footprint (and save money!) but not sure how to do it? On the afternoon of March 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., come to the Town Hall for the environment committee’s “Green Homes” event with presentations on energy conservation, green landscaping, managing storm water and other “green” topics—including information on local consultants who can provide assistance. We’ll also walk the town for a tour of green homes.

If you've done something at your house to save energy, reduce runoff, or maintain your yard and garden in an earth-friendly way, please let us know so we can put you on the tour! Contact **George Wyeth** at 301-656-8773.

Mark your calendar for the afternoon of March 21, and watch for further details.

## Montgomery County Yes-We-Can Volunteers

By Anne Proctor,  
Cumberland Avenue

A special thanks to the Town residents who went door-to-door on the very cold weekend before the Inauguration urging neighbors to help those in our County who are most vulnerable during these difficult economic times. Also, thanks



to those who provided that help in the form of financial contributions (it's not too late **FOR YOU** to make a donation). To see the ways in which you can help, go to [www.yesmontgomerycan.org](http://www.yesmontgomerycan.org). Our Town was part of a County-wide effort that raised over **\$200,000** for **Manna Food Center** and other nonprofits that support Country residents in need. Here are your volunteering neighbors who made our Town proud: **Will and James Becker, Nate Albert, Marnie Shaul, Barbara Marblestone, Sarah Morse, Lucy Freeman, Jeffrey Slavin, Nancy Soreng, Ginnie Mahoney, and Eloise Marquez**. Next time you see them, please say “Thanks for Your Service!”



## Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee

By Bill Farley, Grantham Avenue

One of the several **Montgomery County Committees** advising the **County Executive** and **County Council** to make recommendations on matters relating to **Friendship Heights** is the **Friendship Heights Transportation Management District (TMD) Advisory Committee**.

The Advisory Committee monitors employer plans, proposes guidelines for lessening traffic, reviews traffic patterns, and makes recommendations on commuting, parking and other related matters. Recently, the TMD has been studying area transportation concerns of the **Friendship Heights Metro Station**, the buses and taxis that serve Friendship Heights, as well as traffic devices and pedestrian safety.

I sit on this committee for the **Town of Somerset**, along with representatives from **Chevy Chase Village, Somerset House, Friendship Heights Village**, and local employers. Our main focus is to make recommendations to integrate the new traffic that will be generated by the **Wisconsin Place construction** as well as the existing traffic. For those unfamiliar, Wisconsin Place is an 8-acre parcel of land, containing 1.1 million square feet of development. It will be a mixed use facility, consisting of a **40,000 square foot Community Center, residential units, retail outlets, office space, and a Whole Foods store**. The Community Center is expected to open between July and September of 2009. The 432 residential units should be opening in April of 2009. The hope is that by the spring of 2009, the entire retail development should be up and running as well.

When the new **Chevy Chase Land Company** building is completed on **Wisconsin Circle**, a **Metro Transit Store** will be located on the first floor level. The TMD will distribute brochures about its activities from the store.

Please contact me at [Farley@justice.com](mailto:Farley@justice.com) if you have any questions or concerns about the Friendship Heights traffic or Somerset’s interests.

If you would like to attend a meeting, they are held on the second Tuesday of the month, at **8:30 a.m.**, at the **Somerset House Management Association Clubhouse**, 5620 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase.

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Meeting of Town Council

Monday, March 2, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

1. Presentation of Girl Scouts Bronze Cross for Lifesaving Award to Katherine Surko (5500 Uppingham Street) – 7:30 p.m.\*\*
2. Approval of minutes of February 2 regular meeting – 7:35 p.m.
3. Discussion of financial report – 7:40 p.m.
4. Nominations for three Council member positions for two-year terms – 7:45 p.m.\*\*
5. Suggestions and questions from residents – 7:50 p.m.
6. Five-Year Fiscal Plan hearing and discussion – 8:00 p.m..
7. Discussion of proposals for traffic calming master plan – 8:15 p.m.\*\*
8. Fact finding hearing and action on location of pool pumps, filters and heater by Charlotte and Charles Perret, 4716 Falstone Avenue, in conjunction with demolishing their existing deck and installing a pool and patio – 8:45 p.m.
9. Fact finding hearing and action on building permit waiver application by Frank Loversky and Cathi Davis, 5415 Surrey Street, for a 19-inch high stone bench back constituting a wall – 9:00 p.m.
10. Fact finding hearing and action on building permit application by Nicolas Lloreda, 4813 Falstone Avenue, to erect a shed in his back yard – 9:10 p.m.
11. Action on recommendation by Town Arborist to remove a badly damaged sycamore tree (#914) in Capello Park at the northwest corner of the Dorset Avenue/Wisconsin Avenue intersection – 9:15 p.m.\*\*
12. Action on Arbor Day proclamation – 9:20 p.m.
13. Mayor's report – 9:25 p.m.
14. Developments/plans in the vicinity of Somerset – 9:30 p.m.
15. Adjournment – 9:35 p.m.



left to right: Council members Alan Proctor, Richard Kessler, Cathy Pickar, Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Council member Tom Eldridge, Council Vice President Marnie Shaul

*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."

## **Roger Berliner**

Montgomery County Council Member

**Invites You To A Forum On**

# **Security** *for* **Seniors** **In An Uncertain Time** Financial | Personal | Home

With Special Guest Speaker: **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin**  
and

Guest Speakers: **Mr. Stan Hinden:** Living on Less  
Former *Washington Post* Financial writer and author of *How To Retire Happy*

**Commander Russ Hamill:** "Safety Tips for Seniors"  
*Montgomery County Police Department*

**Friday, March 6, 2009**  
**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

***The Anastasia Room***  
**Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad**  
5020 Battery Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
(Corner of Old Georgetown Road and Battery Lane)

**Please call 240-777-7828 for more information**

### **Exhibitors:**

Bethesda Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, Community Partners, Family and Nursing Care Inc., G.R.O.W.S, Interages, Jewish Council on Aging, Meals on Wheels, Montgomery College, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, Montgomery County Fire/Rescue Service, Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Office of Aging and Disability, OASIS, Senior Checked, Senior Connection, Senior Health Insurance Program, Strategies for Independent Living, Suburban Hospital, The Beacon, Top Banana Home-Delivered Groceries, Vamoose Bus

**ADMISSION IS FREE**



# The Council would Like Your Input On The Bathhouse *Design Process*



The Town of Somerset has hired *McInturff Architects* to help design our new bathhouse. In connection with this project, the Council has scheduled three public working sessions during the next six weeks to foster dialogue among the architects, the Council, and residents. The Council welcomes resident input at those sessions to help the architects design a building that is right for Somerset.

*The meetings will take place on the following dates:*

- 1. Tuesday March 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.** This meeting will focus on the Town's schedule and process for renovating the bathhouse, the architects' approach, a presentation by the architect of several schematic designs to meet the Facility Design Criteria approved in March 2008, and questions from Council Members and residents.
- 2. Monday March 16, 2009 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.** This meeting will focus on the Town's process to date, a presentation by the architects of schematic designs that have been revised based on input from the March 3 meeting, and discussion and decision by the Council regarding which of the schematics should be explored through more detailed cost estimates.
- 3. Tuesday April 14 (after spring break) 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.** This meeting will focus on a presentation by the architects of the results of their cost estimates for particular schematic designs, and discussion and possible action regarding which schematic design should be approved for further more detailed cost estimation and for submission to Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission for approval.

*We will post relevant materials to the Town's website prior to each meeting.*