



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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## Nominee Sought For Board Of Elections Vacancy

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Since a member of the **Board of Elections** recently resigned to move out of the country on assignment,

I am now seeking a replacement. If you are able to volunteer for this important post, please send your resume and letter of explanation to the **Town Hall** or by email to [mayor@Townofsomerset.com](mailto:mayor@Townofsomerset.com). I am hoping to recommend someone for Council approval at the June meeting.

The larger bin is approximately **40” wide and 48” tall**. Until the larger bins arrive, please use your current bins.

A separate insert detailing the new trash procedures is enclosed with the Journal. Please save it for handy reference. If you have any questions or concerns, please let the Council know.

## Calendar

**Friday, April 30**

Brown Bag Lunch

**Monday, May 3**

Council Meeting

**Tuesday, May 4**

New Once-a-week Trash and Recycling Begins

**Friday, May 7**

Special Trash Pickup

**Saturday, May 22**

Hazardous Waste Disposal

**Monday, May 24**

MVA Mobile 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**.

## New Trash Pick Up Procedures Start May 4

By Barbara Zeughauser, Council member

Beginning **Tuesday, May 4**, the Town will move to a **once-a-week pickup** for **household trash** and recyclables. **Garden refuse** will also be picked up **once a week on Tuesdays at the curb**.

Recycling and garden refuse will continue to be picked up at the curb. Household trash will be picked up at your preferred/current location (side door or curb).

We are also switching to **single stream recycling**. This means acceptable paper products, glass, and plastic can be placed together in one recycling container. Acceptable/unacceptable items can be found on the Town website under the quick link **“Recycling and Refuse.”**

One large blue wheeled container will be provided to homeowners who request one by **May 10**. After that date, residents will have to purchase these recycle bins. If you would like to order a large blue wheeled container, please email **Tom Carter** at [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com) and put **“order for blue wheeled container”** in the subject line of the message. Or, you can call him at **301-657-3211**. You can continue to use the small blue bins, if you wish.



Recycling and garden refuse picked up at the curb.



## On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Even though the recent election was uncontested, I want to express my thanks to all residents for the vote of confidence you have placed in me by your action at the polls, and in the many nice comments and emails I have received in the past month. It is an honor for me to be your **Mayor**; I take the

job seriously and with the public interest as my guide.

While the Mayor's job is the **CEO position** in Somerset, I view the role as "**leader of a team**" that includes **Council members, staff, and residents**. No one could do this job well without the active and timely participation of all of the stakeholders. You are all greatly appreciated.

**Congratulations** are in order to re-elected Council members **Cathy Pickar** and **Alan Proctor**. I am pleased to have watched both of them hit the ground running from the start of their freshman terms and contribute greatly to the agenda I had set. Cathy was the lead force in implementing the **new traffic calming program**, and our streets are safer because of her work. Alan has spent countless hours as the **contract officer** for the bathhouse renovation project, and it is a relief to see that final decisions on the future of this important structure are about to be made after many years of discussion.

As I have said, during the next two years I want to see the Town begin to address the **parking policies** in Somerset and the related confusing signage, with the goal that we will find the best way to provide ample parking for residents and their guests, while at the same time preventing interlopers from taking advantage of our prime location. I also want to see us formally professionalize our **procurement process** so that it is more efficient in ensuring we purchase the best and most economical products and services.

At the same time, I want to continue to find improved ways for us to communicate with each other and to make the Town a **greener place**.

**Everyone is invited to help with this mission.**

## Update On The Pool Facility Renovation Project: Council Proceeding To Get Bids

Alan Proctor, Contract Officer

This article provides a brief update on the status of the **pool facility renovation** contract and next steps for the Town.

Following the Council's recent vote to proceed to get bids for the project, the Town Council issued a "**request for information**" seeking to identify contractors with a potential interest in the project;

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Please let us know if you prefer to receive the Journal via email.  
Please provide your email address to the Editor at [maxinea@comcast.net](mailto:maxinea@comcast.net).

**MAYOR**  
Jeffrey Z. Slavin, 5706 Warwick Place  
301-654-6767  
Town Hall Telephone: 301-657-2229  
[mayor@townofsomerset.com](mailto:mayor@townofsomerset.com)

**MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
Marnie Shaul, Council Vice President  
5509 Uppingham Street  
301-913-5973  
[mshaul@townofsomerset.com](mailto:mshaul@townofsomerset.com)  
Bill Farley, 4814 Grantham Avenue  
301-961-5987  
[bfarley@townofsomerset.com](mailto:bfarley@townofsomerset.com)

Cathy Pickar, 4915 Dorset Avenue  
301-907-4881  
[cpickar@townofsomerset.com](mailto:cpickar@townofsomerset.com)  
Alan Proctor, 4900 Cumberland Avenue  
301-652-4717  
[aproctor@townofsomerset.com](mailto:aproctor@townofsomerset.com)

Barbara Zeughauser, 5412 Trent Street  
301-951-8560  
[bzeughauser@townofsomerset.com](mailto:bzeughauser@townofsomerset.com)

**CLERK-TREASURER**  
Thomas Carter  
301-657-3211  
[clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com)

**TOWN ARBORIST**  
Barb Neal  
[arborist@townofsomerset.com](mailto:arborist@townofsomerset.com)

**TOWN CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**  
Larry Plummer  
[larry.plummer@townofsomerset.com](mailto:larry.plummer@townofsomerset.com)

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

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

interviewed 9 of the 18 companies that responded; and selected five to develop bids responding to our “request for proposal” issued on **Friday, April 9**. Contractors have until **May 7** to submit their proposals to the Town. The contractors met at the pool on **Thursday, April 15**, with the architects and project team, to view the site and discuss the project. It was one of our beautiful spring days, with warm sun streaming down through surrounding trees to the beautiful site and there was a definite spirit of excitement in the air as we reviewed the plans for what could be an even nicer facility designed to offer benefits for everyone in Town.

There are three key “next steps” coming up for the project, which, if approved, will be started after the pool closes this **Labor Day 2010** and completed by **Memorial Day 2011**.

**First**, at a special meeting on **Monday, May 10**, the Council will vote, in the context of the Town’s **Fiscal Year 2011** budget, which begins **July 1**, on whether to include financing for the possible project in the Town’s budget, and if so, how to structure that financing. We had originally planned to do this at the regular May 3 Council meeting, but we have delayed the decision until **May 10**, at which time we will have the preliminary bids. This will allow us to know whether proposals are in line with our project estimates.

**Second**, we will conduct a careful review of all of the facts that go into



Pool Facility Renovation Project. View(a)



Pool Facility Renovation Project. View(b)

**Third**, on **Monday, June 7**, the Council will decide whether to proceed with the project and award a contract. This decision will draw on the years of community discussion and work that have gone into shaping the plans for the project, which will come together with what the work will actually cost us, the availability of an appropriate means of financing costs that we don’t meet from our capital reserves, and the ability and willingness of the Town to pay for those costs as a part of our Town budget in the near future.

Visit the special web page set up for this project for more information about the project, including illustrations of the new facility that is planned. The link is on the Town’s website at [www.Townofsomerset.com](http://www.Townofsomerset.com).

## How Should Somerset Pay for Pool Operating Costs?

Marnie Shaul, Council member

With the **dramatic reduction** of income tax revenues that Somerset recently experienced, our operating deficit is likely to be about **\$265,000** this fiscal year. Because revenues next year aren’t expected to increase much, the **Mayor and Town Council** have been looking for ways to trim next year’s operating budget and/or raise additional funds. Our two largest operating expenses are personnel and the pool. The Mayor and Council are recommending cutting one half-time position to reduce personnel costs. In response to the Mayor and Council’s request, the pool committee recommended reductions in the pool budget of about 10 percent. The projected budget for pool operating costs is about **\$128,000**. This covers items such as the pool manager, lifeguards, cleaning the bathhouse and pool, and most of the salaries of the swim team coaches.

First, let me say that I think there is no exactly right answer to the question of how to cover the pool’s operating costs. Some have said they like having no membership fees because the pool adds to Somerset’s being a community and it encourages occasional users to come to the pool. The last time Somerset had pool membership fees was **1996**, and they raised about **\$47,000** (the fee for 1-2 person families and over 65 was **\$140** and for larger families **\$230**). About 55 percent of the Town’s families chose to belong to the pool. When membership fees were discontinued, general revenues such as the property and income tax subsidized almost all of the pool’s operating budget. If the fees in place in 1996 were in place next year, they would cover about **37 percent** of the pool’s operating costs. All Town residents, pool users and non-users, through the taxes they pay, would cover the remaining 63 percent.

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As an economist, I've been trained to think about user fees, i.e., having people pay for what they use. For a variety of reasons, Somerset's tradition has been for residents to use the pool either at no cost or for a fee that is a fraction of the cost of operating the pool. The general tax base has supported most pool operating costs. The Council could continue this practice but in these lean budget times would likely need to consider raising property taxes to cover more of the pool's operating costs since the Mayor's budget is balanced by having member fees. A one cent increase in the property tax rate raises about the same amount as the fees did in 1996. This would be in addition to the four cent increase that the Mayor proposed in his budget. The Council will be voting on the **FY11 budget on Monday, May 10**, and would appreciate hearing resident's views on this issue.

**One final note:** I haven't mentioned the **pool's capital costs** because I view them somewhat differently. I think having a community pool adds to the value of all of our properties, so it seems appropriate that the general tax base support these costs. Every year Somerset spends some funds on pool capital costs; for example, white coating the pool's surface was a major expense last year. The bathhouse project, if approved, falls into this category.



## Pool News and Rules, 2010 Pool Season

By Barbara Condos, Chairperson, Pool Committee

**Jeffrey Aron** was elected vice-chair of the **Pool Committee** at the March committee meeting.

The pool committee has recommended the following changes to the **May, 2009** version of the Town of Somerset **Swimming Pool Rules**:

### VIII. Guests

1. Guest must be personally known to their hosts. In no event may a resident extend guest privileges to a person soliciting entry.
2. All residents have the privilege of bringing guests.
3. Except as otherwise provided, all guests must be accompanied at check-in by a resident who presents a key tag or who is recognized by the check-in system.
4. Guests may not bring other guests.
5. Guests who are close relatives (resident's children, grandchildren, parents, siblings and in-laws) who do not reside in Somerset, houseguests of a Somerset resident and house-sitters for a Somerset resident have the option of using the pool without the presence of a resident to sign them in to the pool. They must sign in under the resident's name.
6. Au pairs and exchange students living in a resident's household are not considered guests. They must be registered under the standard household registration procedures.

### 7. Child care providers

- Do not pay a guest fee provided that they are at the pool solely for the purpose of caring for a resident's children.
- The resident's registration information must include the name of any child care providers authorized to use the pool while caring for the resident's children at the pool.

8. If a resident has not registered a child care provider before the sitter is scheduled to work, the resident may obtain the privilege for child care providers for the sitter as follows:

- The resident provides the pool manager on duty with written authorization for the named sitter to bring the resident's children to the pool; and
- The sitter must provide the pool manager on duty with valid photo identification.

9. **VIII. and IX.** Delete these sections from the Rules. House guests and house sitters are now in section 5.

10. Large groups—no changes.

11. Guest fees.

- Residents will be billed monthly for the fees to cover their guests.
- The fee for all guests older than one year of age will be **\$3.00** per day with re-entry privileges for that day.

12. Private parties outside normal pool hours—no changes.

**IX. Residents who have not registered—delete this section from rules**



# New Pool Software, Message from the Mayor

The **2010 Summer Swimming Pool season** is quickly approaching and we have news about our **new membership check-in system**. The new system is a key tag system where you will swipe your keycard as you enter the pool (or, should you forget your key tag you can manually enter your name). Guests will be entered manually as they sign in with the resident. Please refer to the pool rules which the Council will vote on, and possibly amend, at the council meeting on May 3 for more specific designation regarding guests and child-care providers (a copy of the proposed rules is in this month's journal). Residents will be **billed monthly** for guest fees. The new system marks the end of the cumbersome card file that has been in place for many years. In addition, the system will provide us with more accurate data regarding pool usage.

The following steps have been or will be taken toward residents' pool registration:

- **All Somerset Residents (homeowners and renters) have been entered into the database** and issued key tags, which will either be mailed to you or held at the pool desk until you register (follow the **email blast** and **list\_serv** for details). **Try not to misplace the keycards. The fee for lost keycards is \$5.**
- **Most resident children between the ages of 8 and 18 have already been entered into the system.** However, if you do not receive their key tags in the mail prior to the pool's opening, or if their tags are not at the desk at registration time, simply provide us with their names and birthdates and we will enter them into the database. **Children under 8 will not receive keycards**

since they cannot be at the pool without a caregiver. According to the Town Code, the mayor ultimately decides who is or is not a resident based on guidelines written in this Code.

- **Photos for identification will be taken and complete registration (including updated emergency information) entered into the database at the pool during the first days that the pool is open.** We have volunteers who will assist in the registration during those first days. After the first days, registration will still take place at the pool, but without the extra assistants. As with any new system, we anticipate glitches initially and we ask for your patience.

The new system should not only facilitate our entry into the pool, but also ensure that only Somerset residents and their guests use the pool. It will also provide us with the much-needed data to assist in future staffing and operations.

**On behalf of the Town Council, staff and pool committee, I wish everyone a safe and happy summer at our pool.**

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## Early Morning Swim

By Sarah Morse, Dorset Avenue

Calling all early bird swimmers. There will be a fee for the **Early Morning Swim session** this year and we need to get an idea of how many people are interested before we can arrange the details. It is approximately **\$100** a week to hire a guard for three one-hour sessions.

If you are interested in participating, please contact **Debbie Heller** or **Sarah Morse** with the following information:

- **Maximum** price you would pay
- **Hours** you would prefer to swim (6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. or 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.)
- **Days** of the week that work (M/W/F or T/TH)

The program won't start until after **MCPS** schools let out, but we need to get it set up before then.



## News from the Swim Team

By Sarah Morse, Dorset Avenue

New swimmers, returning swimmers and developmental swimmers: Somerset's swim team "**The Dolphins**" starts the season with

a **Pizza Party** and **team sign-up Friday, May 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to meet the coaches, ask questions, sign up for the team and buy uniforms. Anyone who is interested in joining the team is encouraged to attend.

**Pizza Parties, uniforms, coaches . . .** You may be wondering just what the Somerset Swim Team is. The Somerset Dolphins are a member of the **Montgomery County Swim League**. The team has practices Monday through Friday mornings (after

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



## Special Trash Pickup May 7

The next special trash collection will be **Friday, May 7, at Town expense.** Those wishing to participate need only notify **Tom Carter at Town Hall no later than May 6.** This will be your reservation for the special collection service by our new contractor, **Unity.**

Once again, we are coordinating with the non-profit organization, **A Wider Circle,** to allow them to come through Town the night before to pick up any usable home items, such as dressers, tables and chairs, and mattresses that have no rips or stains – which they will distribute to local families in need. If you intend on putting anything of this nature out, please do so early on **Thursday, May 6,** and call their office at **301-608-3504** to let them know you will have something for them. A Wider Circle's truck will be going through Town between **5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.** that evening. These items should also be separated from the regular pickup items for Unity. Unity will be running two trucks through Town: one for **metal and electronics** (computers, etc.), and one for the remainder of the trash. These items should also be separated from each other. Collection by Unity will start at **7:00 a.m.** on **Friday,** so be sure to have your items out early that morning or the night before.



**Special trash** is defined as refrigerators, washing machines, dryers, freezers, stoves, hot water heaters, other major appliances; furniture or parts thereof; large toys, bicycles, swing sets (broken down into smaller parts); bathtubs, sinks, and toilets; and iron pipe, gutters/down spouts or fence pieces under six feet long. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must

be emptied of Freon in order to be picked up. If items are in bundles, they must be light enough for two men to carry.

Items that **will not be picked up** include: parts of junked cars, boats or trailers (including batteries and tires); loose glass; firewood, tree stumps, tree limbs or lumber; paint cans; flammable or hazardous liquids or solids; ammunition or explosives; large rocks; and dead animals.

**Donations** to A Wider Circle are **tax deductible.** More information, including a complete wish list of items their families request, may be found at their website <http://www.awidercircle.org/index-1.html> or call **301-657-1010.**

## Street Sweeping

Reilly will be sweeping Town streets on **Monday, May 24,** at **9:00 a.m.** Reilly makes only one pass, so be sure to have your cars off the streets.



## Don't Dump, Donate Program

Montgomery County has a program to recycle usable construction materials for use in low-income housing. If you have any reusable construction materials, you may take them to the **Shady Grove** side of the **Transfer Station** at 16101

Frederick Road in **Derwood** between **7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday** through **Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** on **Saturdays,** and **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** on **Sundays.**

## Hazardous Waste Disposal

Hazardous waste may be dropped off at **Westland Middle School,** 5511 Massachusetts Avenue (west of Little Falls Parkway), on **Saturday, May 22,** and at **Silver Spring International Middle School,** 313 Wayne Avenue (at Dale Drive), in **Silver Spring** on **Saturday, June 12.**

The following materials will be accepted between **10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.:** pesticides, oil-based paint, brake fluid, fuels, herbicides, solvents, antifreeze, photographic chemicals, paint thinners, motor oil, auto batteries and household batteries.

### PLEASE NO LATEX PAINT:

Tens-of-thousands of tax-dollars are spent each year disposing of latex paint, which is not hazardous. In fact, latex paint can be safely dried up and put out for regular refuse collection. Simply remove the lid and place it in a safe, well-ventilated area. Cans that are one-fourth or less full will dry in a few days. For cans with greater volume, add mulch, cat litter, shredded paper, or waste paint hardener available at area hardware stores.



For more information, call **240-777-6410** or visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/swstmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/solidwaste/collection\\_services/hw/index.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/swstmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/solidwaste/collection_services/hw/index.asp)

## Parking

Please refrain from parking cars opposite other residents' driveways. Drivers who park in these locations not only



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inconvenience their neighbors who are trying to back out onto the street, but also place their own vehicles in greater likelihood of damage.

Please report all illegally parked cars directly to the police at **301-279-8000**. You do **NOT** have to give your name to file a report.

## MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's mobile office will be in **Friendship Heights** on **Monday, May 24**, from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



## An Update Plus Q&A On Wind Power

By Robin Barr, Essex Avenue

The Town of Somerset is now a full-fledged participant in the **Clean Currents' Green Neighborhood Challenge** [Julie, please put the Clean Currents title in bold throughout the article]. As of April 15, seven Somerset families have contracted for wind power under that company's program. In addition, several families had earlier contracted for wind power from **Washington Gas Energy Services**.

However, we can and should do much, much better. Under the **Green Neighborhood Challenge**, for every home that signs up for wind power, **Clean Currents** will donate **\$10** to Somerset for a greening project of our choice. If we reach 100 sign-ups, **Clean Currents** will give us an extra **\$500** for our project. Moreover, the Challenge has now been extended to August 31, and we can work in the meantime to decide upon our green project.

If you are interested, go to [www.CleanCurrents.com](http://www.CleanCurrents.com), click on "Wind Power for Home," scroll down to "Click here to enroll for Wind Power" and complete the sign-up. Remember to enter "Town of Somerset" where indicated. If you prefer to use **WGES**, go to [www.wges.com](http://www.wges.com) and sign up in the box that says "New Customers."

### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: "If I sign up for wind, is there any danger that I will run out of power?"**

**A:** Absolutely not, because the US produces about 33 percent more energy than it uses, and this excess capacity provides a generous cushion even if "the wind stops blowing" at a given site.

**Q: "Is there any down-side to signing up for wind power?"**

**A:** Because the rate per kilowatt hour is now so low, no one I have spoken with can identify any downside.

**Q: "What's the difference between Clean Currents and WGES?"**

**A:** **Clean Currents** is a privately-held, Rockville-based, green energy startup founded in **2005**. It relies on national sources of wind power, lobbies for sound environmental policies, and does significant outreach in schools and neighborhoods to promote environmental sustainability. **WGES** is a major, long-established corporation that relies on regional sources of wind power; however, its primary sources of power are coal and nuclear power.

### Swim Team News from page 5

school is finished for the year) and afternoons (from **4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and **5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**). There are **meets every Saturday morning from June 19 to July 24**. We also have **four Wednesday night meets, two big relay carnivals, and weekly social events** like spaghetti dinner, laser tag, and the ever popular breakfast with the coaches! On **July 24**, at the end of the season, we have a banquet with trophies, skits and swimming.

**There are no try-outs for the team.** All children **ages 6 to 18** who live in the Town and can pass the deep-water test may join. The emphasis is on having fun and developing each swimmer. We want this to be a fun community activity, not an elite group of really fast swimmers.

It is not necessary for every swimmer to come to practice every day and participate in all the meets. The team is a huge time commitment and some kids can't go to everything. There are several practices during the day so kids can work them into their schedule.

For children who cannot pass the deep-water test, there is a developmental team, the **Minis**. Mini swimmers must be between **4 and 7 years old** and able to swim 15 yards. They practice **3 days a week** for half an hour starting after **MCPS** schools let out. There is also one mini meet. Mini swimmers are an important part of the swim team and should attend all the social events. They get a trophy at the end of season.

The swim team is the best neighborhood activity for children in Town. Because it takes **36 parents** to run a meet, it provides a wonderful opportunity for children and adults to meet their neighbors. Weekly social events help strengthen community ties and integrate the children into the neighborhood. We invite everyone to check it out. Any questions? If you can't make the pizza party **Friday, May 28**, please contact **Sarah Morse, [morsekathan@gmail.com](mailto:morsekathan@gmail.com)** or **301-907-3298**.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Due to the fact that bids for the **proposed bathhouse project** will not be returned to the Town until **May 7**, I am planning to postpone the vote on the Town's **FY11 Budget** until Monday, **May 10 at 7:30 p.m.** On the same night, the **Council** will be meeting after the budget vote in closed session to discuss the bids. While no action will be taken on these bids, because the numbers are proprietary, this initial discussion will be in private.

Several Council members, Clerk-Treasurer **Tom Carter**, and I will be attending the **Maryland Municipal League Summer Convention in June in Ocean City**. The information and networking provided at this gathering is invaluable to the work that your elected officials do. Reports will be made when we return.

The **Audit Committee** has recommended that the Town place some of its reserve funds in a **certificate of deposit (CD)** at one of the local banks. While it is assumed that the Mayor has the authority to make such a decision, I consulted with the Council to approve of this idea and come up with some policies and guidelines. The recommendation was discussed at the last Town meeting, and while the interest revenue may be low at this time, it was decided to delay any decisions until a financing plan for the bathhouse is in place.

The Town's books will soon be the subject of an **Internal Revenue Service audit** for the year **2008** and it all sounds pretty routine.

It is my hope that every resident is looking at the test lights that **Pepco** has installed on **Dorset Avenue** and will be conveying his or her views to all of the Somerset elected officials during the upcoming months. Please be sure to check the last Pepco bill containing their monthly newsletter "**Lines**," which had a short blurb about this installation. Our municipality is once again famous!

The **Park and Planning Commission** and **Department of Parks** had proposed an extraordinary **1400 percent rent increase** for the **B-CC Nursery School**, a nearby cooperative institution that has been the favorite of a number of our residents over the years. In response to the school's request, the Council and I wrote a letter of support in opposition to this increase. I also spoke to **District 1 Montgomery County Council** member **Roger Berliner** about our concerns and as of this writing, it seems that a re-consideration of this unfortunate decision is underway.

## Permits Granted



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

### Trees:

**John Sullivan**, 5405 Greystone Street, to remove a cedar and Leyland cypress in his back yard, both storm-damaged.

**Louise Bredhoff**, 5507 Trent Street, to remove a storm-damaged hemlock hedge south side of her property.

**Gordon Smith**, 4911 Dorset Avenue, to remove a dead cherry tree in his front yard.

**Daniel Hirsch** and **Brenda Gruss**, 4901 Dorset Avenue, to remove two

storm-damaged cryptomeria in their back yard.

**Douglas Porter**, 5406 Trent Street, to remove a dead, unknown tree and a leaning black cherry in his back yard.

**Linda Kanefield** and **Norm Schneider**, 5509 Greystone Street, to remove a dead dogwood in their side yard.

**Rob** and **Nancy Soreng**, 5506 Uppingham Street, to remove leaning black cherry in their back yard.

### Fences/Walls:

**Lisa Waltzman**, 5403 Trent Street, to fence in her back yard.





## Town Seeks to Remove Two Hazardous Trees

Town Arborist, **Barb Neal**, has recommended that we remove two trees. These removals have been placed on the April Town Council Meeting agenda. The trees are:

**Silver maple #852**, in **Capello Park**, next to the batting cage. The main root system is decayed and compromised and **Hypoxylon canker** is on the trunk. The tree is dying and it is better to remove it now before it fails on a batting cage user.

**Bradford pear #588**, **5816 Surrey Street**. It lost much of the main scaffold branch in the recent heavy snows. Even though it is cabled, the decay that exists in this branch will continue. It is better to remove it now and replant a desirable species.

### Journal Guidelines

- Deadline (designated by editor) is 4:30 p.m. on the 15th of each month. Articles submitted after the deadline might not be included in that month's Journal.
- Maximum length of articles by individual Council members and committee members, 500 words per issue.
- Research and information articles assigned by the Council or the Mayor can moderately exceed the 500 word limit in order to present complete information.
- Maximum length of obituaries and unsolicited articles by residents, 300 words.
- Maximum length of Letters to the Editor, 150 words.
- There is no promotion or advertisement of business or commercial interests within Journal articles, with the exception of Classified ads.
- Classified ads must be placed by a resident and contain resident's phone number.
- The Editor will exercise judgment on article length and appropriateness (Town Code grants authority to Editor for final decisions). The Editor may review changes to articles with author if time permits.
- The Publisher (the Mayor) authorizes final publication of the Journal.

#### Submission requirements for Journal:

- All items to be included in the Journal must be sent directly to Editor and must conform to the word limits outlined above.
- MSWord or text format by email, or typed and delivered.
- All inserts, artwork, and inclusions come through Editor to go to printer all at the same time.
- Changes to articles submitted after deadline at the discretion of the Editor.
- Documents should be submitted with no formatting, meaning:
  - All single spaced
  - Times New Roman typeface, 12 pt.
  - All paragraphs left block, including headings
  - No arbitrary punctuation
  - Double space (using enter) after paragraphs (not automatic double-spacing)
  - Any special treatment or emphasis within articles should be noted in a side note for the Editor

Editor will be happy to guide contributors in setting up their computer options to conform to formatting guidelines, or to offer guidance in preparing articles for submission.

# Legislation

At the April 5 meeting, the Council postponed introduction of Town Code amendments to increase permitting fees until the May meeting.

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## Council Activity

### At the April 5 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Approved the minutes of the March 1 regular, and March 15 special meeting and work session as submitted.
2. Heard the Mayor's presentation of the proposed budget and real and personal (business) property tax rates for FY11.
3. Accepted the bid of Unity Disposal & Recycling, LLC, for a three-year contract for refuse and recycling, subject to the Mayor's negotiation of specific details with the company. Vote: Farley, Pickar and Proctor for; Shaul and Zeughauser opposed. Motion passed 3-2.
4. Approved the purchase of up to 410 65-gallon covered, wheeled bins at up to \$50 each.
5. Approved a building permit for Jim and Maura Vanderzon, 4902 Falstone Avenue, to add a one-story addition to the rear, a three-foot bump-out to the front, and level the roof, subject to receipt of a County permit and payment of Town fees and deposit.
6. Postponed action on a building permit application by James Gibson, 5603 Surrey Street, to demolish the existing house, build a 2½-story house with 2-car detached garage in the rear, and remove six trees in order to obtain a better tree/landscape plan and completed neighbor review sheet.
7. Postponed action on a building permit application by Shelton Zuckerman, 4911 Cumberland Avenue, to alter his front porch pending receipt of the paperwork.
8. Approved a tree removal permit for Josh Freeman and Kathy Toomey, 5702 Warwick Place, to remove 2 hemlock hedges and 3 dogwoods.
9. Approved the removal of two Town trees: a dying silver maple, #852, Capello Park, and a badly damaged Bradford pear, #588, 5816 Surrey Street.
10. Met in closed session to discuss right-of-way issues.
11. Approved a contract with College Park Paving to replace the temporary speed humps at the Dorset/Warwick Place and Essex/Warwick Place intersections with asphalt humps at a cost of \$3,550.
12. At the April 12 special meeting, the Council met to administer oaths of office to the newly elected officers and re-elected Marnie Shaul as vice president of Council.
13. At the April 14 work session, the Council met to discuss the FY11 proposed budget.

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Meeting of Town Council

Monday, May 3, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.

### Work Session of Town Council

Review of Council Follow-up List – 7:00 p.m.

### Regular Meeting of Town Council

1. Announcement by Mayor of closed Town Council meeting during April 5 regular meeting to discuss right-of-way issues – 7:30 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes of the April 5, 2010, regular and closed meetings, and April 12 special meeting – 7:35 p.m.
3. Discussion of financial report – 7:40 p.m.
4. Action on the following fund transfers for FY10: – 7:45 p.m.

Amount	From	To
\$40,000	GF Contingency	GF Snow/Sand
\$50,000	CPF Contingency	GF Snow/Sand
\$35,000	CPF Environmental	GF Snow/Sand

5. Agreement on special responsibilities of Council members – 7:50 p.m.
6. Suggestions and questions from residents – 7:55 p.m.
7. Continuation of fact-finding hearing and action on application by James Gibson, 5603 Surrey Street, to demolish the existing house, build a 2½-story house with 2-car detached garage in the rear and remove six trees – 8:05 p.m.
8. Introduction of Town Code amendments to increase permitting fees – 8:20 p.m.
9. Confirmation of Mayor’s nominations to Security Committee – 8:35 p.m.
10. Confirmation of Mayor’s nominations to the Batting Cage Committee – 8:40 p.m.
11. Action on Swimming Pool Committee’s recommendations for changes to the Pool Rules – 8:45 p.m.\*\*
12. Action on Town Arborist’s request to remove a crab apple tree, #692, at the south side of the Dorset Avenue/Wisconsin Avenue intersection that was uprooted during the snow storms – 9:00 p.m.
13. Action on one-season agreement between the Town and Camp Summerset for 2010 – 9:05 p.m.
14. Action on extension of contract with Gayley Knight of Mother Geek Productions for managing Town Website for monthly fee of \$200, to include monthly update and thorough review annually – 9:15 p.m.
15. Mayor’s report – 9:30 p.m.
16. Update on pool renovation and action on required resolution for application of State Infrastructure loan – 9:35 p.m.\*\*
17. Adjournment – 9:45 p.m.

*This is a preliminary agenda prepared to meet the Journal press deadline, which typically is two weeks prior to the next Town Council meeting. During this period there will likely be changes to the timing of items, and some items may be added or deleted. Please consult the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch or the Town web site for the most up-to-date agenda.*

*Residents who wish to be present for a particular agenda item are advised to arrive 15 minutes ahead of the item’s scheduled discussion time as discussion sometimes run ahead of schedule.*

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



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