



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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Pool Project Update

By Alan Proctor, Contract Officer and Council Member



Somerset Pool Facility Renovation Project.

Facility renovation begins **September 7**; ground breaking on September 13.

This will be the first of ten monthly updates that I will be writing to track and report the project of the renovation of the Town's pool facility.

The Town officially signed a contract for the project

with **Gaithersburg** contractor **Therrien Waddell**. To provide a prompt start on the work and to assure the pool opens on time by **Memorial Day** next spring, the pool will be closing early this year, on **Labor Day**, and the contractor will begin work the next day. For those who might be interested, an official groundbreaking for the project is scheduled at the pool site for **10:30 am** on Monday, **September 13**.

I have posted the full project plan on the web site I have maintained for the project, which is linked from the Town's web site; it is also directly accessible at <http://townofsomerset.proctors.us>. First up on the plan is removing **pool furniture** and other equipment that is not part of the project, bringing in temporary facilities from which the project will be run, securing the site for construction and erecting silt fences, tree protection and other measures to protect the stream and environment about the project. **Demolition** of the old baby pool and parts of the deck and pool house to be reconstructed will follow.

For residents who walk through the pool parking lot to access **Willard Avenue** and the **Metro**, be assured that the contractor will maintain access around the construction site.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns about the completion. The **Town's project team** will be working closely with the contractor to assure that we have a successful project, delivered on time and on budget, with an outstanding renovated facility that will provide new generations of enjoyment for our community.

Come To The Welcoming Party

By Bonnie Lewin,
Cumberland Avenue

Our Town remains a **popular choice** for house hunters who are buying or renting. Over the past year, **11 new families** have moved into our wonderful community.

Now it is once again time for the annual **Welcoming Party**, where established residents greet new ones. This year it will take place on Sunday, **September 12**, from **4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** at the **Somerset Town Hall, 4510 Cumberland Avenue**. Bring your children and plan to listen to music and relax with a glass of wine or soda

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Calendar

Monday, September 6

Council Meeting

Sunday, September 12

Welcoming Party

Monday, September 13

Pool House Groundbreaking

Tuesday, September 14

Primary Election

Monday, September 27

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 and click on **Town Calendar**.



On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Get Involved in the Upcoming Primary Election

Every four years, Somerset voters get the chance to help select our **County** and **State** representatives and executives. The importance of full participation in this process cannot be overstated.

Since we live in the shadow of the federal government and on the border of the **District**, local media tends to focus on the **national** and **DC agendas**. As a result, it seems that residents of lower **Montgomery County** know more about the DC mayor's race, for example, than the one involving their own **chief executive**—and the County is now almost twice the size of the City!

I have often said that citizens don't fully realize how significant the impact of decisions by the **Governor, County Executive, State legislators** and **County Council members** have on our daily lives. And even when we closely follow the statewide candidates and vote in large numbers, there still tends to be a drop off when it comes to "**down ballot**" races at the bottom of the list, like the **Sheriff**, and even the all-important **Board of Education**. However, all those elected officials need to be held accountable through our votes.

Our Town is comprised of many highly educated folks with numerous advanced degrees. But how many of us know what the **Comptroller** does? Or the role and duties of the **party committees**?

This year, as the **primary election** approaches on **September 14**, I urge everyone to become as knowledgeable as possible. There will be lots of literature to read, forums to attend, and television ads to absorb. Of course, there is a wealth of information available on the internet, particularly on government websites. While a number of us are more experienced in all this and will give you our views on who are the best candidates—please do your own independent research and make decisions based on your own values and beliefs.

This is one of the great pleasures—and obligations—of being an American.



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

Pool Committee Report

By Barbara Condos, Falstone Avenue



Somerset Pool Facility Renovation Project. (interior)

As the pool season winds down, the pool committee and I thank our pool management company, **Georgetown Aquatics**, our pool managers, **Kirby, Sebastian, Duncan**, and our wonderful, hardworking **lifeguards**. They have done a great job of keeping our pool the best place to be during the summer.

The Town Council has extended the pool season by a week. The pool will be open through **September 6**. The final event will be the **annual dog swim** from **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** on that date. On **September 7**, the construction team will be moving in to begin work on the new pool house.

Our new check-in system is up and running well. From this point on, any changes to your registration, such as adding or deleting people, changing household information, and the like should be done at the Town Hall during regular office hours. The system at the pool will only handle checking in to use the pool and assessing guest and class fees.

Special thanks also to **Debbie Heller, Matt Zaft, and Sarah Morse** for their valiant but unsuccessful attempt to organize the early bird swim program this summer. Not enough people signed up to pay the cost of hiring a lifeguard, so the program was cancelled.



Letter to the Editor

From Ellen and Gabriel Roth, Falstone Avenue

The well-deserved tributes to retired Clerk-Treasurer **Tom Carter** seem to make no mention of his helpfulness in witnessing and notarizing signatures, which he did for us most graciously on numerous occasions.

Thank you Tom, and please accept our best wishes for the next stages in your career.

come To The Party from page 1

and some and other light refreshments provided by the Town. While the adults socialize, the children will be entertained by former Somerset resident **Nancy Edson** of the widely acclaimed **Nanny Goat Productions**, who will perform her enchanting **3 Billy Goats Gruff in Switzerland** show. Official introduction of new residents by Mayor **Jeffrey Slavin** and the puppet show will start at **5:00 p.m.**, don't miss it!

Please contact **Welcoming Committee** members, **Bonnie Lewin (301-332-0171)**; **Lyndsey Gerber (301 654-2984)**; and **Ann Brown (301 986-8811)**, if you would like to volunteer with set up and clean up.

The new residents are:

Dorset Avenue

4507 – **Alessandra Guedes** and
Alexandre Rego

Essex Avenue

4801 – **Dabney** and **Matt Friedrich**
4904 – **Kathryn** and **Ed Schwartz**

Falstone Avenue

4721 – **Chizuru Aoki** and
Mark Stoughton

Greystone Street

5404 – **Beth Palmer**

River Road

5019 – **Beatriz** and **John Rogers**

Surrey Street

5410 – **Annie VanKirk** and
Peter Davidov
5413 – **Rebeka Holman** and
Edward Siskel

Warwick Place

5528 – **Jan** and **Erica Singelman**
5531 – **Carina** and **Michael Veksler**
5615 – **Leslie Stone** and **Felipe Zanna**

Things Burglars Wouldn't Like You To Know (Part 2)

By Birdie Pieczenik, Security Committee Chair



The “tips” below, from burglars, are a continuation of those that appeared last month. It is some old stuff said in a new way; but I think it

is fun to read, think about, and then take action.

1. **You're right:** I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
2. **A loud TV or radio** can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a **\$35 device** that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it atfaketv.com.)
3. Sometimes, I carry a **clipboard**. Sometimes, I dress like a **lawn guy** and carry a rake. I do my best never ever to look like a **crook**.
4. **The two things I hate most:** loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
5. I'll **break a window** to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.

6. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy **alarm system** and leave your house without setting it?
7. I love **looking in your windows**. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
8. Avoid announcing your vacation on your **Facebook page**. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
9. To you, leaving that **window open** just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
10. If you don't answer when I knock, **I try the door**. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.
11. **Wasp spray** is my worst nightmare. It will temporarily blind me, can shoot up to twenty feet away, is a lot more accurate than pepper spray, and you don't have to get close to me.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; Security Consultant Chris McGoey, who runs www.crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who interviewed 105 burglars for his book "Burglars on the Job".



Somerset Singers wanted

By Jeanette Kreiser, Falstone Avenue

We are interested in establishing an ongoing group of singers from Somerset who, along with any interested friends in neighboring communities, would meet regularly (probably once a month or so, in the evenings). The type of music to be sung would be determined by the interests and abilities of the group.

Although the ability to read music is preferable, it is not a requirement; participants are expected, however, to have general knowledge of choral singing and to have a sense of pitch that enables them to hold their own part. If you are not sure you fit into this category, let us know and we'll help you find out.

Council member **Cathy Pickar** is willing to lead the group musically and to run rehearsals, but the other aspects would be up to the participants to organize and coordinate.

The group would meet initially to establish our goals and structure. After that, we would sing together for one to two hours monthly during an evening hour.

If you are interested or have questions or suggestions, please contact **Jeanette Kreiser** at jskreiser@yahoo.com or 301-907-8805 (home) or 301-580-5162 (cell).

Latest News From Town Hall

By Josh Russin, Clerk-Treasure



Odd Jobs List

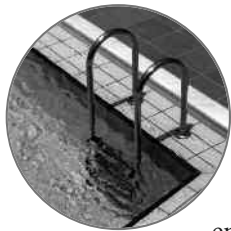
Please take a moment to review the **Odd Jobs list** enclosed with this edition of the Town Journal. We have received several calls saying that some of the people listed no longer are interested in doing the tasks they originally signed up to do. Please let Josh know if there are any changes, additions, or deletions so this list is fully accurate. Call **301-657-3211**

with these corrections.

Town Trees and Grounds

Don't forget to help us when it has not rained in several days by **watering** the Town trees in your yard. We have lost many trees from lack of water during the previous years of drought and we do not want the current drought to claim additional trees.

Pool Invoices



This pool season kicked-off a new **pool management software** program. In mid-August, many pool users will receive their **first bill** for use of the pool and other ancillary services (there will be two billings this season). The software program registers pool users by the individual (including guests), not by household. When the pool bills arrive at your home, there may be several statements in each envelope, because the software tracks the fees accumulated per person rather than by household.

Grass Clippings

As an environmentally conscientious community, residents try to make Somerset a better place by protecting our green spaces and trees for current and future generations. This drive to mitigate our impact on the local environment extends to the **Chesapeake Bay watershed** cherished across the region. I would like to remind residents to refrain from plowing grass clippings into the local streets because the clippings eventually find their way into the Bay. Please be sure to collect your grass clippings into suitable receptacles, or allow them to compost on your lawn or in your compost pile.



Recycle Bins

Please be sure you **wash out** your blue recycle bins occasionally. If they are not relatively clean, our trash haulers can refuse to pick them up.

Yard Refuse

Remember that your yard refuse containers must be **marked** to indicate they contain yard waste. Josh has a few of these stickers at Town Hall, or you may call **240-777-6400** and request some from the County.

Calendars

2011 **League of Women Voter** calendars are now available at the Town Hall.

MVA Mobile Office

The MVA's **mobile office** will be in **Friendship Heights** on Monday, **September 27**, from **10:00 a.m.** to **2:00 p.m.**

Permits Granted



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

Trees:

Dabney Goold, 5812 Surrey Street, to remove a juniper shrub from the side of her driveway.

Carina & Michael Veksler, 5531 Warwick Place, to remove spruce tree and replace tree with a minimum 2 1/2 caliper tree.

Janet Leissner, 4818 Essex Avenue, to remove a horse chestnut tree that was across front of neighbors' house.

Marian Scheiner, 4913 Falstone Avenue, to remove ash tree.







Steven & Cindy Arkin, 5520 Trent Street, to remove holly tree.

Welcome Josh!



Single Stream Recycling Guidelines

Recycling Guide

| YES | | NO | |
|--|---|---|--|
|  <p>Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drink boxes • milk cartons • newspaper and inserts • white or colored paper • food and snack boxes • hard and soft cover books • greeting cards • non-foil gift wrap • catalogs and magazines • junk mail • phone books • bagged shredded paper • three ring binders | | <p>Paper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper towels • tissues • food-soiled paper plates or cups • foil gift wrap | |
|  <p>Plastic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bottles (milk jugs, soda, detergent, salad dressing, cooking oil, shampoo, liquid soap, spray products, etc.) • tubs • jars • trays • disposable cups • plates • flower pots • toys • buckets • plastic grocery bags bundled together | | <p>Plastic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • styrofoam • plastic clam shells (packaging for electronics, toys, batteries, etc.) • CD jewel cases • motor oil containers • pesticide or solvent bottles • VHS tapes • plastic electronics | |
|  <p>Cans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aluminum and steel cans (drink, food, and pet food) • EMPTY aerosol cans (hairspray, whipped cream, etc.) • aluminum foil • pie and cake pans | | <p>Cans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • propane cylinders • beach or lawn chairs • pots and pans • scrap metal | |
|  <p>Glass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any color glass • bottles • jars |  | <p>Glass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • window glass • drinking glasses • mirrors • ceramics • crystal • cookware • light bulbs | |
|  <p>Cardboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flatten all boxes to less than 4' x 6' • bundling is preferred but not required • bundles should be no higher than 6 inches | | <p>Cardboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • styrofoam inserts • food-soiled boxes | |

Please no yardwaste or trash in your recycling container.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Our new Clerk-Treasurer **Josh Russin** is settling well into his position and learning all the intricacies of the job. I thank his predecessor **Tom Carter**, who officially retired at the end of last month, for the time he spent orienting Josh in Town policy, procedures, and history. Administrative Assistant **Nicole Ventura** worked full-time during Josh's first week to lend her expertise, and we are grateful for that. We recently held a nice staff luncheon in Tom and **Corrie Morsey's** (Surrey) honor and presented them with keys to the City. We are thankful for the years of service by Tom and Corrie and for their roles in keeping Somerset in such outstanding condition.

After a great deal of review, elaboration, and amending, the contract with **Therrien Waddell Construction Group** to rebuild our pool house was signed earlier this month, soon after the final Council vote. I want to express my appreciation to the Council for their hard work in bringing this document to the table, with a special thanks to Council member **Alan Proctor** for serving with such distinction as our contract officer. It was an historic week because the loan with **SunTrust** to pay the contractor was settled and the funds put at the Town's disposal. For that, we all owe our deep appreciation to Council Vice President **Marnie Shaul** for her diligence in keeping the loan application on course and dealing on a daily basis with the appropriate personnel. We are now looking forward to commencement of the work.

The Town will be coordinating with **Therrien Waddell** for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the start of the pool house project, currently planned for the morning of **September 13**. All residents are invited. Those expected to participate include our bank, architects, financial advisors, environmental consultants, and attorneys. We are also inviting a number of elected officials.

The exhibition of work by **14 Somerset artists** continues until the end of the month at the **Friendship Heights Village Center**. The show is dedicated to the memory of the late **Alice Rowen**, who lived in our Town for over half-century and was one of our greatest arts patrons. The opening reception attracted a crowd of more than 100 people and was said to have been the largest of its kind ever held at the Village. It is hoped the exhibition will become a regular event. I want to give special recognition to artists **Florence Gang** (Falstone) and **Lila Snow** (Essex) for being the inspiration behind this significant undertaking.

As many residents are away during the month of August, this is a time to really make sure that all doors are locked (especially cars) and strategic lights left on at night. It is during this month that we are, unfortunately, often subject to increased vandalism, so it is important to take these extra steps.



Legislation

At the August 2 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Approved ordinance to provide for regulations and fees for portable storage units and dumpsters within Town limits, deletion of retaining wall exemption and clarifying other permits relating to construction. Vote: Pickar, Proctor, Shaul & Zeughauser for; Farley opposed. Motion passed 4-1. Ordinances will go into effect September 8, 2010.
-

Council Activity

At the July 26 Special Council Meeting:

1. Approved pool-house construction contract at a cost of up to \$1,900,000. Construction and final inspection is to be completed by May 6, 2011. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed 5-0.

At the August 2 meeting, the Town Council:

1. Council members deferred approval of the July 26 special meeting minutes due to a need for additional review.
2. Authorized the following fund transfers:

| Amount | From | To |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| \$10,000 | GF Trees Contract | GF Salaries/Wages |
| \$11,000 | GF Pool | GF Legal |
| \$ 8,000 | GF Trees Contract | GF Cable TV |
| \$13,000 | GF Pool | GF Recycling |

3. Approved the renewal of Somerset's membership with Montgomery Municipal Cable by contributing \$6,000. Vote: Unanimous.
4. Approved building permit application for Barbara Zeughauser and George Schlossberg, 5412 Surrey Street, to add a screened porch to the rear of the residence subject to all fees and tree protection plan. Unanimous. Motion passed 3-0-(Zeughauser recused herself).
5. Approved fence waiver for Tom Joseph, 5604 Surrey Street, which meets the County code but did not fall under the Town Code's setback requirement of 20 feet. The proposed fence has a setback of 14 feet from the road. Council viewed new fence would be in line with neighbors' fence. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Approved building permit application for Michael and Carina Veckler at 5531 Warwick Place to add small addition to rear of the house subject to approval by the County for the building permit, fees, tree protection plan, and tree replacement plan. Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed 5-0.
7. Approved ordinance to provide for regulations and fees for portable storage units and dumpsters within Town limits, deletion of retaining wall exemption and clarifying other permits relating to construction. Vote: Pickar, Proctor, Shaul & Zeughauser for; Farley opposed. Motion passed 4-1. Ordinances will go into effect September 8, 2010.
8. Postponed action on snow removal contract for 2010-2011 season. Council wanted last year's contractor, Ed Mulheron, to answer questions concerning snow removal at the next Council meeting.

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.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Meeting of Town Council

Tuesday, September 7, 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. Approval of minutes from the July 26 special Council meeting – 7:30 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes from the August 2 regular meeting – 7:35 p.m.
3. Suggestions and questions from residents – 7:40 p.m.
4. Recommendation to Historic Preservation Commission and fact finding hearing and action on application by Brian Graham and Torie Clarke, 4728 Dorset Avenue, to add a small addition to the left side of their house, remove the deck and replace it with a patio, replace the covered pool with an outdoor pool and upgrade the bathhouse – 7:50 p.m.
5. Action authorizing special trash pickup Friday, October 15 – 8:05 p.m.
6. Update from current snow contractor Ed Mulheron regarding snow removal contract – 8:10 p.m.
7. Action on three-year snow removal contract for calendar year 2010 to 2013 – 8:20 p.m.
8. Action on contract for leaf removal from pool upper parking lot for this calendar year – 8:30 p.m.
9. Action on contract to repair broken curbs – 8:40 p.m.
10. Update on pool renovation and action on authorization of up to \$25,000 for “third party” construction testing services for pool house renovation project – 9:00 p.m.
11. Discussion and action on EYA, Inc. proposal for BETCO site development (at the end of Butler Road in preparation for Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights September meeting) – 9:10 p.m.
12. Mayor’s report – 9:20 p.m.
13. Adjournment – 9:25 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