



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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Annual Community Service Day

Please save **Sunday, December 9, 2012**, from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for Somerset's **Annual Community Service Day**. Plan on having a fun-filled afternoon of

community building to benefit organizations serving our neighbors in need. Details on the event will follow from the Town. Anyone interested in helping plan the event should contact **P. Kaye Haniffee** (Falstone Avenue) at pkaye.haniffee@gmail.com.

Tree Removals

Town Arborist, **Dr. Tolbert Feather**, has recommended that we remove the following Town trees:

4802 Falstone Avenue, Flowering Cherry Tree #394, 24" diameter is 90% dead and has decay and a split in the lower trunk.

5400 Greystone Street on River Road, Norway Maple, not tagged, 18" diameter – tree is dead. This tree is in the entrance planting to the west of Greystone Street and River Road.

Permission to perform these tree removals will be considered at the Town Council meeting on **November 5, 2012**.



Forget Ouija Boards: Contact the Town's Communications Committee

By Cathy Pikar, Council Member

The Town's **Communications Committee** is reconvening and we would like your input on how to improve official Town communications. We would like to know your preferences concerning the use of **electronic** and **web-based** communication. What improvements should the Town consider? Are we meeting the needs of all our residents?

Please share your thoughts and suggestions.

Send your comments to me at cpickar@townofsomerset.com, or to **Rich Charnovich** at manager@townofsomerset.com. We are eager to hear from you.

Calendar

Monday, November 26
MVA Mobile Office

Wednesday, October 31
Brown Bag Lunch

Sunday, December 9
Annual Community Service Day

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**.

The Preliminary Agenda for each month's Town Council meeting is posted on the Town website (www.townofsomerset.com) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.



On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Get Fit and Get Healthy

On the eve of the holiday season, with **Thanksgiving**, **Christmas**, and other **holiday feasts** awaiting us, I can't think of a better time to remind everyone to increase their exercise routine and consume fewer calories. Why not commit now rather than on **January 1**?

Let's face it, most of us are overfed, and we prioritize that extra meeting over the next zumba class. As a result, across the country, too many are obese and are taking medicines that they might be able to avoid. Many new studies show that being overweight is related to more diseases than one might suspect, especially to cancers. In addition, it's troubling that so many children are in worse shape than their parents.

We can change this dynamic in our own close community. I think it is a good time to put programs and policies in place to become healthier. A few years ago,

I signed Somerset up for First Lady **Michelle Obama's** laudatory "**Let's Move**" campaign but haven't really implemented it. Last month, at the **Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference**, I learned about a new **Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Campaign** that will provide training and technical assistance for towns to adopt policies to address this national obesity epidemic.



**HEALTHY EATING
ACTIVE LIVING
CITIES
CAMPAIGN**

In the coming year, I will become the cheerleader in our own

efforts to get all of us more fit and disease-free.

A small group led by wellness coach **Diane Horn** (Surrey Street) started meeting a few years ago to help Somerset in such an effort. I plan to reactivate this group and to invite others to join.

Together, let's become a model municipality in this area. The possibilities are endless and the benefits enormous.



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



Detering Crime

By Birdie Pieczenik, Recent Chair, Somerset Security Committee

Economic times are tough. The area has seen an upward blip in crime and attempted crime. Detering crime is on everyone's mind because it is rare to catch an attempted "perp" in the act.

The idea of deterrence is to discourage people from committing crimes out of fear of being apprehended, convicted, and punished. Unfortunately, some crimes simply will not be deterred. Many crimes are committed during the heat of the moment, or when an opportunity presents itself (the laptop seen through the car window by a passing stranger, a lone walker at 10:00 p.m. on a deserted street). Please remember this.

So what are we to do? We don't have a lot of crime in Somerset or nearby areas. The best we can do is try to deter the little crime we have with tools that will be reasonably effective, not tools that ease our emotions. Some of those tools lie in the hands of Somerset residents as individuals. Others lie within the domain of the Town or the **Montgomery County Police**.

All residents need to take steps to reduce the likelihood of crime, e.g., having the police evaluate your home's vulnerabilities, keeping lights on all night, locking car and garage doors, trimming high bushes, and installing fake video cameras or real security alarms. These steps help the rest of us as well. When the Town chooses the tools it wants to use (hire police on a random patrols, increase street lights, pay for external floodlights for individual homes, get group rates for alarm systems), the plan should be chosen so as to **increase deterrence**.



We Remember

Obituary

Peter P. Bielak, Sr.

Peter P. Bielak, a former resident of **Trent Street**, passed away at age **92** on **October 10, 2012**, in **Morehead City, North Carolina**. He had lived in Somerset for more than thirty five years. Mr. Bielak

was a veteran of **WWII**, and served as a **USIA Foreign Service Officer** for thirty nine years. During his career at **United States Information Agency**, the **State Department**, and the **Office of American States**, he was stationed in 9 different countries, including **Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Argentina, South Vietnam, Panama, Ecuador, Lesotho El Salvador**, and the **United States**.

Residing after retirement in **Maryland** with his wife **Helen** (deceased), he worked with his son at **International Trophy** in **Bethesda**, enjoyed going to flea markets, looking for antiques, and stamp collecting. He is survived by his son **Peter** of **Maryland**, and daughter **Elizabeth** of **North Carolina**.

Funeral services were scheduled for **Wednesday, October 24, 2012**. A special memorial celebration of his life will be held on **Saturday November 10, 2012** at **St. Ann's Church** located at **400 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC**. For details, contact **Eric** at **301-565-3600** or www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com.

Permits Granted



Wall Permit:

4915 Dorset Avenue, 25' boulder wall located at the left side of driveway.

Dumpster Permit:

5803 Warwick Place, dumpster located in the driveway.

Tree Removal Permits:

4812 Grantham Avenue, Black Cherry. Tree was hazardous and in need of removal.

4801 Cumberland Avenue, 1 White Oak and 1 Hinoko Cypress. Both trees have been deemed hazardous by the Town Arborist and were recommended for removal.

4910 Cumberland Avenue, Canadian Hemlock. The tree is in decline and was a hazard to the house.

Notes From The Manager's Desk

By Rich Charnovich, Town Manager



Town Hall Top 10 List

Each month, I will identify key issues and activities planned or underway in the Town of Somerset. As always, if anyone has questions on Town operations, please contact me at manager@townofsomerset.com or at 301-657-3211.

Leaf Program

The town will begin vacuuming leaves the week of **October 29** and will continue until mid to late December. We are trying something new this year. We are establishing a weekly schedule based on four quadrants in the Town. The schedule is listed in an insert in this month's Journal. Leaves should be



Fall Leaves Vacuuming

raked to the curb, but not into the street. Please make sure that cans, sticks, bottles or rocks do not contaminate your leaves. Do not block leaf piles with your car, **9:00 a.m.** to **2:00 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. Our crew cannot pick up your leaves if a car is blocking the pile. You can also bag leaves to be picked up as part of the weekly **Unity refuse and recycling collection**.

Street Sweeping



Fall Street Sweeping

This fall or winter, we plan to **sweep the Town's streets**. We will make every effort to let all residents know the schedule well ahead of time because street parking will be limited on the days that street sweeping occurs. This is the only way to ensure that the work is done properly. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Employee Holiday Gift Policy

The Town is going to try something new this holiday season by establishing an **employee holiday fund**. The purpose of the fund will be to recognize the Town's employees during the holiday season. This fund only covers Town employees. Residents who wish to provide gratuities to persons such as postal employees should do so at their own discretion. We hope that Town of Somerset residents will show their appreciation by contributing to this special fund. Please follow next month's Journal and the weekly email blasts for further details.



Verizon Prioritization Program

After losing electricity and landline access in the **June 29 derecho storm**, some **Verizon customers** contacted the company to ask if priority would be given to **seniors** and customers with **medical problems**. Verizon reports that it does have a seniors and medical prioritization program that allows residential voice customers who do not have alternative access to emergency **911 service** (i.e., a cell phone or another telephone line in the household) to **pre-certify** that a member of their household has a temporary or permanent medical condition that warrants repair priority, or is age 65 years or older. Persons who are **pre-certified**

by Verizon and report a service outage then will be given repair priority. Repair priority applications are available online at Verizon's website at www.Verizon.com.

Public Safety Forum

At the **November 5, 2012** Town Council Meeting, the Council will hold a public safety forum at approximately **7:30 p.m.** to listen to the views of residents on **police protection** in the neighborhood. While related discussions have taken place on the Town's private list serv, it is important that the Town's government hears the residents' views directly. If you have comments on this issue, please feel free to email me at manager@townofsomerset.com or call the Town Hall.

Private and Town Tree Removal Process

This is a reminder that the Town **must approve** any trees to be removed within the Town, whether they are **Town trees** or **privately owned**. Please make sure that you contact the Town Hall to obtain a permit in advance of removing any trees from your property. **Violators** of this Ordinance are subject to fines in accordance with the Town Code.

HVAC Unit Permitting



HVAC Unit Permit Required

install or replace any type of **HVAC unit** for your home. Per the code,

I don't think many residents realize that a Town permit is **required** if you are going to

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Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on October 1, 2012. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the September 4, 2012, Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of a generator installation permit for 5403 Trent Street.
3. Approval of a HVAC unit installation for 5803 Warwick Place.
4. Approval of a waiver request for 5408 Surrey Street so the property owner can keep a shed in its previous location prior to the derecho storm.
5. Approval of the removal of tree number 464, Red Maple, near 5404 Greystone Street. WSSC requested the tree to be removed so it can replace a line that runs directly under it.
6. Approval of a commemorative gift request in memory of **Sheryl Gilbert**, a 25-year Town resident who recently passed away. A paw paw tree, birdhouse and plaque are being donated and will be installed near the Town pool house.
7. Approval of a Resolution proclaiming November Municipal Government Works Month.
8. Approval of a two-year leaf removal contract with Hughes Landscaping.
9. Approval of a Resolution confirming the closure of Wisconsin Avenue and River Road entrances for the Somerset Elementary School Race on October 14, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
10. Approval to authorize the Mayor and Town Manager to apply for a full exemption from the requirements of Subtitle 8 of the Public Ethics Law.
11. Approval of the purchase of additional furniture from Crate & Barrel Furniture for the Town pool house.
12. Approval of five Tennis Committee member appointments: **Matt Fink** (Dorset Avenue), **Bob Siegel** (Falstone Avenue), **Sue Besharov** (Cumberland Avenue), **Howard Waltzman** (Trent Street), **Frank Joseph** (Warwick Place).

In addition to the items that were approved, the Council and Mayor held an executive session to discuss a legal matter at both the beginning and end of the meeting.

The property owner of 5604 Warwick Place attended the meeting to discuss the special meeting request that was before the Council. It was determined a special meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Mikey Panner (Essex Avenue) read her *“If I were Mayor”* essay to everyone at the meeting. Mikey sat in the Mayor’s seat to read her essay.

Newly hired part-time Police Officer **Sheri Rule** introduced herself to the Mayor, Council and those in attendance at the meeting.

Town Inspector Plummer provided updates on building permits for projects at 5529 Uppingham Street, 5510 Trent Street and 5513 Uppingham Street.

Regarding the proposed Storm Water Management Ordinance, the Council determined that it would ask the Town Environmental Committee to review the Ordinance further following a meeting that was held with a Montgomery County Storm Water Engineer.

Town Manager **Charnovich** provided his monthly financial report to the Council. Mayor **Slavin’s** report was available in the room for review.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Somerset will be holding its annual day of community service on **Sunday, December 9**, from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** I am looking for volunteers to help plan this effort, so please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

At our quarterly **Brown Bag Lunch** on **October 31st**, we will be joined by the Executive Director of **IONA Senior Services Sally White**, who will make a brief presentation about her organization's programs that could be of interest to our residents. IONA's goal is to assist seniors living independently. Its office is located minutes from Somerset. The lunch will begin at **noon** and will conclude by **1:00 p.m.** Please bring a dish or sandwiches to share; utensils and beverages will be provided.

Thanks to **Barbara Marblestone** (Trent Street) for her help in setting up the flu clinic held recently and for once again assembling such an impressive array of volunteers. Because of her efforts, I know there will be much less sickness in Town this winter.

Earlier this month I attended the **Maryland Municipal League Fall Conference** in **Hagerstown** where the League's legislative agenda for **2013** was determined. Check the MML website for details. There were also classes on a number of topics that will improve my service along with a four-hour seminar on civility. I participated in a meeting of the **Maryland Mayor's Association**, of which I am treasurer, and shared stories with other mayors in our State. I continue to learn from their experiences. We also had a strategic planning session of the executive committee.



Essay Winner Mikey Panner and Mayor

Mikey Panner (Essex Avenue), one of the two Somerset students who won the State and local essay contests during the last school year on the topic of **"If I Were Mayor, I Would..."**, read her winning essay at the last Town meeting. The other winner, **Alison Mills** (Uppingham Street), daughter of Council member **Franny Peale** and **Kevin Mills**, has promised to read her essay at a future session. Both girls were also treated to police ride-alongs and were given other gifts. I am very proud of these talented young people and hope that there will be more winners from Somerset in 2013. Get ready all 4th graders!

I want to thank the incoming chairperson of the new official **Tennis Committee Matt Fink** (Dorset Avenue) for his outstanding work in leading the previous ad hoc committee and getting the Town to establish a permanent committee in the Code with motivated committee members ready to go. Since we put this new group in motion, the tennis court is running much more efficiently and there are far fewer complaints. ***Congratulations to these leaders!***



HAPPY HALLOWEEN TO ALL

noise level requirements must be met for these units as well for the protection of your neighbors. Please contact the Town Hall or visit the Town website for specific requirements for the installation of HVAC units. The Town Council has recently adopted an Ordinance that now permits the emergency installation of HVAC Units.

Construction Noise Amendments Passed

The Town has recently adopted amendments in relation to noise restrictions for construction activities. A full copy of the Ordinance can be obtained by contacting Town Hall. Here is a summary of the Ordinance:

- **Weekdays** (Non-Holidays) – No construction activities shall commence prior to **7:00 a.m.** and all construction activities shall end by **7:00 p.m.**
- **Saturdays** – No construction activities shall commence prior to **9:00 a.m.** and all construction activities shall end by **7:00 p.m.**
- **Sundays** – Construction activities are prohibited unless for interior work that cannot be heard by neighbors.
- **Holidays** – Construction activities on a holiday weekday or a holiday Saturday are limited to the hours of **9:00 a.m.** to **7:00 p.m.**
- **Lawn maintenance** activities that involve the use of power equipment are permitted on non-holiday weekdays between the hours of **8:00 a.m.** and **7:00 p.m.**, except that such work is also permitted on non-holiday weekdays between the hours of **7:00 a.m.** and **8:00 p.m.** if only one piece of power equipment is used. On weekends and holidays, lawn maintenance activities that involve the use of power equipment are permitted between the hours of **9:00 a.m.** and **7:00 p.m.**

Donation Referral List

The Town Hall maintains a list of organizations that accept donations of various items. Thanks to **P. Kaye Hanifée** (Falstone Avenue) who provided us with this list which is on file at the Town Hall. If you need some advice on where to donate, please contact the Town Hall for assistance.

E-Journal Sign Up

We would like to urge as many residents as possible to receive their Town Journal via email. As a **Tree City USA** and a **PLANT Maryland Community**, Somerset wants to reduce its impact on the environment. If you are not currently on the Town Journal email distribution list and would like to receive an electronic copy, please contact Town Hall at manager@townofsomerset.com or at 301-657-3211.



Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall – Monday, November 5, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, November 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall. Agenda updates are posted on the Town website: www.townofsomerset.com.

Regular Meeting of the Town Council

Audit Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.

Council Work Session – 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting Convenes – 7:30 p.m.

1. **Comments:** Public Comment Period – 7:30 p.m.
2. **Public Hearing:** Public Safety Forum – 7:50 p.m.
3. **Motion:** To approve October 1, 2012 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, October 1, 2012 Closed Meeting Minutes and October 10, 2012 Special Council Meeting Minutes – 8:05 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Town Manager's October Financial Report – 8:10 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the FY12 Audit as recommended by the Town Audit Committee – 8:15 p.m.
6. **Discussion:** Status update on two construction projects at 5529 Uppingham Street, 5510 Trent Street and 5513 Uppingham Street – 8:20 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the removal of the following Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist – 8:30 p.m.
 - 4802 Falstone Avenue, Flowering Cherry, Tree #394
 - 5400 Greystone Street, Norway Maple, no tree number
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following Town trees that PEPCO has requested to be removed as reviewed by the Town Arborist – 8:35 p.m.
 - 5800 Deal Place, Linden, Tree 175
 - 5800 Deal Place, Red Maple, Tree 173
 - 4807 Dorset Avenue, Hemlock, not tagged
 - 4525 Dorset Avenue, Red Maple, not tagged
 - 4817 Dorset Avenue, Sugar Maple, Tree 221
 - 4823 Dorset Avenue, White Oak, Tree 231
 - 4910 Dorset Avenue, Norway Maple, not tagged
 - 4915 Dorset Avenue, Norway Maple, Tree 255
 - 4731 Essex Avenue, Pin Oak, Tree 303
 - 4807 Essex Avenue, Sugar Maple, Tree 309
 - 4906 Falstone Street on Greystone Street, Red Maple, Tree 499
 - 5403 Greystone Street, Red Maple, Tree 463
 - 5501 Surrey Street, Willow Oak, Tree 535



Council Members: Barbara Zeughauser, Cathy Pickar, Marnie Shaul, Franny Peale, Barbara Condos

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- 5413 Surrey Street (across from), Willow Oak, Tree 534
 - 5912 Surrey Street (across from), Pin Oak, Tree 585
 - 5510 Uppingham Street, Red Maple, not tagged
 - 5702 Warwick Place, Sugar Maple, Tree 788
9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the tree removal application submitted by Guido Bracciale, 5800 Deal Place, for the following 4 private trees as recommended by the Town Arborist – 8:50 p.m.
 - 39” Black Cherry 4.5’ above the ground
 - 14” Tree of Heaven twin trunks 4.5’ above the ground
 - 5” Black Walnut 4.5’ above the ground
 - 11” Hemlock 4.5’ above the ground
 10. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider approval of a proposal submitted by Capitol Greenroofs at a cost not to exceed \$3,968.00 for materials and labor for the removal and replacement of soil and plantings in the planters adjacent to the baby pool at the Town Pool House – 9:00 p.m.
 11. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider proposal(s) in relation to soil and erosion work to be completed at the Town Pool site on the hillside near the pool house main entrance and walking path – 9:10 p.m.
 12. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider approval of a proposal submitted by Bethesda Lawn and Power Equipment in the amount of \$2,695.00 to purchase a 48” 16-horsepower lawn mower. The proposal is based on piggyback pricing to realize a cost savings – 9:20 p.m.
 13. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider the Mayor’s nomination of Ellie Fink (Dorset Avenue) to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for a term to expire December 31, 2015 – 9:25 p.m.
 14. **Discussion:** Mayor’s Report – 9:30 p.m.
 15. **Adjourn:** 9:35 p.m.

Key

Public Hearing Item: Agenda item where public comment is permitted.

Discussion Item: Agenda item limited to discussion among the Council, Mayor and Town Staff.

Motion Item: Agenda item requesting action, limited to Council discussion.

Comments: Opinions and Questions from Town residents.

Please note the Public Comment Period at 7:30 p.m. may run less than 20 minutes. Residents who wish to be present for a particular Agenda item are advised to arrive 20 minutes ahead of the item’s scheduled discussion time since discussions sometimes run ahead of schedule.

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

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 contact Rich Charnovich at Town Hall if you are interested in what has been added, or consult the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch or the Town website for the most up-to-date Agenda.