



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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Flu Vaccine Clinic • October 12, 2012 • 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. • Flu Vaccine Clinic
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Save The Date

Flu Vaccine Clinic

October 12, 2012 – 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

We will start taking reservations September 17 at Town Hall. Volunteer help is needed at the clinic. Please contact **Barbara Marblestone** at dbmarblestone@att.net or 301-652-2485 if you are interested in volunteering.

Watch for more information in the next Town Journal. We also will publish information in the weekly e-mail blast.

Annual Welcome Fest

By Nancy Jardini and Morris Panner, Essex Avenue



On Sunday, September 9, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., come one and all to welcome our new neighbors at our beautiful Town pool.

There is much to celebrate this year—25 new families have joined our wonderful community. This is your chance to meet our new neighbors and catch up with old friends.

Bring your children and plan to listen to music and relax with a glass of wine or soda and

some other light refreshments provided by the Town. While the adults socialize, entertainment will be provided for the younger set. Mayor **Jeffrey Slavin** will introduce the new residents at 5:00 p.m. and the puppet show will follow. Plus, if the weather is good, there will be swimming!

Please contact Welcoming Committee members **Nancy Jardini** (202-251-4997) or **Morris Panner** (617-680-3725), if you are able to volunteer to help with setup and cleanup.

The New Residents are:

Cumberland Avenue

- 4819 – **Carsten Utoft Niemann** and **Mette Strand Gjerloff**
- 4814 – **David J. Brown**
- 4723 – **Scott** and **Emily Shewmaker**
- 4722 – **Agnes Holland** and **Matthew Grohowski**
- 4607 – **Cameron Archer** and **Emma White**

Deal Place

Sharmeen Ahsan-Bracciale
and **Guido Bracciale**

Dorset Avenue

- 4816 – **Jay Klug** and **Jamie Hechinger**
- 4807 – **Maya Weil**
- 4721 – **Jonathan Brown** and **Laila Al-Arian**
- 4608 – **Chris** and **Korrina Lindgren**

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Calendar

Sunday, September 9

Save the Date!
Annual Welcoming Party

Tuesday, September 4

Town Council Meeting

Monday, September 10

Environmental Committee Meeting

Monday, September 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 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

The Violence and Hate Must Stop

At the commencement of last month's Town Meeting, I asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the recent gun violence in **Colorado** and **Wisconsin**. I know that all Somerset citizens were shocked and horrified by those terrible events, especially the shootings in suburban **Milwaukee**, which were motivated by "hate" and not just general insanity. It is quite ironic that those murdered in Wisconsin were members of the **Sikh religion**, which advocates for peace and equality for all and has a commitment to social justice.

Following the tragedy, there were a number of memorial services in Sikh temples across the country. I had the privilege of attending one at the largest congregation of its kind in **Maryland**, known as the **Guru Nanak Foundation of America** (GFNA) in **Silver Spring**, with a number of other elected officials from our County. When I spoke, I mentioned that I represented a municipality with a significant number of religious minorities, and that an attack on the Sikhs was really an attack on us all. "We must all stand together," I said. I also mentioned what a shame it is that at my own synagogue, an off-duty police officer's presence is required at most of our services.

What a disgrace it is that in the year 2012 we are dealing with such a level of religious discrimination. In Maryland alone, there are 18 hate groups being monitored by the **FBI**. Even our presidential race is infected, with our President being unjustly accused of an association with radical fringes of the Muslim faith, and his opponent experiencing overt prejudice due to his Mormon beliefs.

Each time I hear on the national news about yet another instance of hate, I feel a deep pain. It's the same kind of feeling I have when I think about the Holocaust. Accordingly, we must all continue to do our part to eradicate this problem; I do believe that better education and more communication is the key. I want to live in a world where gun violence does not exist, and all religions live in harmony. I don't want to attend any more memorial services of this kind.

Never Again.



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Monday thru Friday
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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.

Bethesda Fire Department Open House

By Gail Werner, Surrey Street

The Bethesda Fire Department at **Bradley Boulevard** and **Wisconsin Avenue** will hold an Open House from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 29. Bring your whole family to meet and say “**Thank You**” to the brave firefighters. This is a celebration honoring the first responders in our area—the men and women who rush to your house, car,



Thank You Firefighters.

or office when a fire or other disaster strikes, and put their own lives on the line to rescue your family, friends, and neighbors.

The Open House will feature free games, demonstrations, and food. Fire trucks and equipment will be showcased. All the children and the child in all of will be able to climb aboard a real fire engine and have pictures taken. You can tour a burn house and hose down a fire, and lots more. **Ronald McDonald** will be on-hand with his fire safety tips and entertainment. There will be fire hats, stickers, balloons, coloring books, crayons, hot dogs, drinks, and a good time for everyone.

Plus, this is a great learning opportunity and a chance for you to review your own fire prevention plans. Is your smoke detector working? Are you doing all you can to prevent a house fire? Do you know the best way to evacuate your home and keep your family safe?

The Bethesda Fire Station has been serving our community since 1932. Come visit the Open House. For more information call **301-652-5602**.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Mayor and Town Council,

This letter is to acknowledge the well-run meeting on August 6, 2012. I thought the Town Engineer, **Larry Plummer**, made an especially good presentation on the

Town’s solution to the water problem on **Surrey Street** and **Falstone Avenue**.

On a personal note, every time I have heard Larry, he has come very well prepared and serves the Town with thoughtfulness and diligent work.

Susan G. Rosenthal, Surrey Street

Somerset Partners With County To Correct Stormwater Problems

By Marnie Shaul, Council Member

In order to correct long-standing water problems, **Montgomery County** will put new storm drain inlets at the intersection of **Falstone Avenue** and **Surrey Street** starting sometime in the fall. The County will also place a storm drain under Falstone to collect the water. The engineer for the project estimates it will cost approximately \$150,000, which will be funded by the County’s **Drainage Assistance Request Program**.

In return for this investment in Somerset, the County requires that the Town upgrade curbs adjacent to the project to the current standard, which is 6 inches, so stormwater is properly conveyed to the inlets. The County is responsible for the storm drain system, but the curbs are a Town responsibility. The Council set aside an additional \$150,000 in this year’s capital budget to put in new curbs along the affected properties and to make other improvements associated with the project.

Over the past several years, the Town has received complaints about problems created by stormwater around Falstone Avenue. One problem has been icing on Falstone near **Warwick** that makes the surface unsafe for cars and pedestrians. Furthermore, several residents near the intersection of Falstone and Surrey



Stormwater Problems.

Streets have experienced flooding in strong rainstorms. There is no storm drain on Falstone beyond Surrey Street until the bottom of the road near Warwick. According to the **Center for Watershed Protection**, the drains at the bottom of Falstone collect water from a 6.3-acre area that includes portions of Falstone, **Trent Court**, and Surrey Street.

In addition to the new storm drain inlets, the County will run a pipe up Trent Court and another pipe on Falstone to alleviate icing. Both of these pipes will be connected to the new underground storm pipe under Falstone. Besides new curbs, the Town will add a French drain to alleviate icing, bring wheelchair ramps on Falstone up to current standards, and eliminate curb openings for stormwater and replace them with pop-up drains.

The Town has sent letters to homeowners whose properties are affected by the project explaining what is being done, and Town staff are available to answer questions about the project. According to the County, the project will take four to six weeks; during this time it may be challenging to drive on Falstone. The Town will let residents know when the project is specifically scheduled to start.

Stormwater Management Ordinance To Be Introduced At September Council Meeting

By George Wyeth, Chair, Environmental Committee



Stormwater Code

The Town **Environmental Committee** has prepared a proposal for an ordinance that would create requirements for management of stormwater when new houses are built or existing ones are changed in a way that significantly increases the amount of impervious surface. The ordinance is being reviewed by the Town Attorney, and we expect it to be introduced at the Council's September meeting. To inform citizens about the contents of the ordinance and get feedback, a public hearing will be held on September 10 at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. The Council is scheduled to act on this proposed Code amendment in October.

The ordinance responds to two types of concerns: (1) that new construction or major remodeling can increase or change the flow of stormwater onto neighboring properties, and (2) that it may also increase the volume of stormwater diverted to the street, which directly impacts local water bodies, and ultimately the **Potomac River**. Although some requirements of this nature already exist in the County code, the Council desires a Town ordinance that will give it authority to act when reviewing development proposals.

The ordinance can be found on the Environmental Committee website, www.townofsomerset.com/environment, under "Stormwater." The Committee welcomes comments and feedback, which can be sent to me at george.wyeth@verizon.net, or to the Town Manager at manager@townofsomerset.com.

The main provisions of the ordinance require stormwater management plans for any construction that either involves the replacement of an existing home, or an expansion of more than 400 square feet of impervious surface (i.e., a roofed structure, concrete parking area, etc.). In those cases, the plan must ensure that runoff will not be increased (either to neighboring properties or to the street) and that any additional runoff can be contained onsite for storms up to a 3-month event. For a home replacement (but not an expansion), additional steps to reduce runoff must be taken to the extent practicable.

The draft ordinance would also require homeowners to prevent any increase in runoff from an expansion of a driveway, or installation of an impervious driveway where it had previously been pervious (e.g., a gravel driveway). Replacement of an existing impervious driveway with no increase in size would not require a plan. The draft ordinance would also prohibit any new direct piping of stormwater to the street.

The ordinance is based on one currently in effect in the **Town of Chevy Chase**.

Annual Welcome Fest *from page 1*

Essex Avenue

4906 – **Andrew Peckerar** and **Cathleen Pearl**

4923 – **Shari Hall**

4825 – **Jim** and **Vicki Margolis**

4810 – **David** and **Jelena Mann**

Falstone

4812 – **Robert** and **Anne Hawkins**

4806 – **John** and **Katherine Coleman**

4708 – **Stephanie Ridgway McClellan**

Surrey Street

5707 – **Del Wilber** and

Laura Sullivan Wilber

5603 – **Allison** and **Steve Lockshin**

Trent

5510 – **Meredith Persily Lamel** and

Josh Lamel

Uppingham Street

5529 – **Andri Haraldsson** and

Fiona Fox

5528 – **Kelly Swain** and **Kahir Kumar**

5513 – **Jeremy** and **Beth Steindecker**

Warwick Place

5711 – **Elisabeth** and **Steve Spiegel**

5613 – **Peter Capozza** and

May Pat Selvaggio

5607 – **Seth** and **Jill Cohen**

5604 – **Alex** and **Laurent Guinand**

5523 – **Diogo Gugisch** and

Tatiana Faucz



Annual Welcome Fest

Permits Granted



Tree Removal Permits: 5505 **Greystone Street**, two silver maples. | 5519 **Trent Street**, one crepe myrtle. 4909 **Essex Avenue**, one tulip poplar and one sycamore. | 5406 **Surrey Street**, one mulberry and one American elm tree. 4806 **Essex Avenue**, one post oak tree that was severely damaged as a result of the June 29, 2012 storm.

Storage Unit Permits: 5513 **Uppingham Street**, storage pod permit. | 4814 **Cumberland Avenue**, storage pod permit. | 4608 **Dorset Avenue**, storage pod permit.

Fence Permits: 5707 **Surrey Street**, cedar fence surrounding the back yard on three sides to replace existing cedar fence.

Notes From The Manager's Desk

By Rich Charnovich, Town Manager



Town Hall Top 10 List

Each month, I will try to do my best to inform our residents on 10 important issues I currently see happening in Somerset. As always, if anyone has any questions regarding Town operations, please feel free to contact me at Town Hall at manager@townofsomerset.com or 301-657-3211.

Falstone Avenue Project

This fall, likely in September, the Town is going to be undertaking a joint drainage project with **Montgomery County** on **Falstone Avenue** and a small portion of **Surrey Street**. Further details on the project can be found in an article in this month's Town Journal. Also, Town Hall will be providing notices to all of the residents in this area who will be directly affected by the project. The Town will be improving the curbing in the area to bring them up to standard, and Montgomery County will be completing the related storm drain improvements.

Bulk Trash Pick Up



Fall Bulk Trash Pickup

The Town will hold its fall bulk trash pickup on Monday, October 15, 2012. Please place your trash to the curb by 7:00 am on this particular morning. No liquid latex paint. Appliances must have Freon removed. No hazardous waste, construction debris, or yard waste. If you have any questions, please contact Town Hall or Unity directly at **301-490-8604** (ask for **Darlene**). The Town will be partnering with "**A Wider**

Circle" again on this particular weekend. Please follow the e-blast and next month's journal for the final details.

Registering To Vote Online

You can now register to vote online for **Maryland Elections** at the **Maryland State Board of Elections** website. Deadline to register for the November 6 general election is October 16. The deadline to vote in the November 6 election is October 16 by 9:00 p.m. for online registration. If mailed in, the postmark date must be by October 16. To participate in online voting in Maryland, you must have a state drivers' license or identification card issued by the **Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration**.

Refuse/Recycling Collection Reminder

Just a friendly reminder to everyone that refuse and recycling containers are to be put curbside (but not on the sidewalk or street) no longer than 24 hours in advance of collection, and empty containers are to be removed from the curbside no later than 24 hours after collection as per the Town of Somerset Code of Ordinances. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Pool Guest Fees

It is highly recommended that pool guest fees be paid in advance at the Town Hall. No cash will be exchanged for guest fees at the pool, only checks. Guest fees will remain at \$2 per guest for this pool season. Please contact the Town Hall with any questions.

Public Safety Information

Please report any suspicious persons and vehicles immediately to the **Police** at **301-279-8000** or **911**. This includes solicitors going door-to-door who appear to be suspicious. Never invite a suspicious person into your home. Also, please keep your car doors and houses locked at all times when left unattended. Reminder: Free home security surveys by Officer **Denise Gill** at **240-876-1277** by appointment to assess security risks of your residence. Here are some safety recommendations for those of you who do a lot of walking for either work or leisure:

- Walk briskly, with your head up, eyes scanning, and alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid using earbuds or headphones, and avoid talking on a cell phone while walking.
- Walk in groups whenever possible
- Trust your instincts; if someone makes you feel uncomfortable, avoid them by changing your direction and increasing your pace; go directly to a well-lit public place if possible.
- Call the police immediately and report any suspicious person or circumstance.

Construction Noise Amendments Passed

The Town has recently adopted Code amendments relating to its construction activities noise restrictions. 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. on and all construction activities shall end no later than 7:00 p.m.

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Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on August 6, 2012. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the July 2, 2012 Council Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of a HVAC Unit Application submitted for 5407 Surrey Street
3. Approval of a HVAC Unit Application submitted for 4816 Dorset Avenue
4. Denial of a rear yard setback waiver request for 5529 Uppingham Street
5. Approval of emergency removal of a hazardous tree in Capello Park as recommended by the Town Arborist
6. Approval to send a letter to the State Highway Administration in relation to the proposed sidewalk project on Wisconsin Avenue
7. Approval to send a comment letter to the Public Service Commission to be read and submitted at the August 7, 2012 Pepco Hearing.
8. Approval to send a letter to the Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board in relation to the proposed changes in the process for siting an accessory apartment.
9. Approval of an Ordinance amending the Town Code to require that applicants for a Demolition Permit submit a copy of the signed rodent control affidavit that is submitted to Montgomery County
10. A Storm Water Management Ordinance was introduced and will be introduced again in September. A public hearing will be held on September 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall concerning the proposed Ordinance.
11. An Ordinance Amendment was introduced in relation to establishing a Tennis Committee. A public hearing will be held in September on the proposed Amendment.
12. Approval of the Flu Shot Clinic date for October 12, 2012
13. Approval of the fall bulk trash pick up for October 15, 2012
14. Approval of the Mayor's nomination of Kristen Khanna to the Town Parks and Natural Resources Committee. Her term will expire April 4, 2013.
15. Approval of the Mayor's nomination of Patty Friedman to the Town Parks and Natural Resources Committee. Her term will expire on April 4, 2015

Mayor Slavin began the meeting by asking for a moment of silence for the Colorado and Wisconsin shooting tragedy victims. Mayor Slavin also recognized that Council Member Barbara Condos's daughter and two of her children were in the audience at the meeting.

The Town Inspector and Town Manager provided updates on two building permit projects for properties located at 5529 Uppingham Street and 5510 Trent Street. In addition, comments were provided by Town residents concerning the upcoming Falstone Avenue drainage improvement project scheduled for the end of September/early October.

In addition to the items approved at the Regular Meeting, the Council also heard the Financial Report from the Town Manager, Richard Charnovich, and a Pool House punch list update from Lou Balodemas. Mayor Slavin had his monthly report available at the meeting for anyone who wanted to review it.

Tree Removals

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

5608 **Warwick Place** – Pin oak 24" DBH (diameter at breast height) Tree #778 – very sparse foliage, tree has been in decline for past two years.

4902 **Essex Avenue** – Pin oak 24" DBH Tree # 336 – extensive decay at the base of the tree

4704 **Falstone Avenue** – Bradford Pear 20" DBH Tree # 364 – tree is beginning to split apart, topped by Pepco.

4911 **Falstone Avenue** – Ash 18" DBH Tree # 417 – tree in decline, extensive decay in main trunk.

5514 **Greystone Street** – Red Maple 24" Tree # 492 – tree in decline, decay in large branches and main trunk.

5506 **Greystone Street** – Red Maple 24" Tree # 482 – tree in decline, decay in main trunk.

Capello Park – Box elder–20" Tree # 910 – decay in main trunk

Capello Park – Box elder–18" DBH Tree # 909 – decay in main trunk

These trees will be considered for removal by the Town Council at the September 4, 2012 Town Council Meeting.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Thanks to **Morris Panner** and his wife **Nancy Jardini** (Essex) who have the honor of chairing this year's **Welcoming Party** for the first time. I want to send my appreciation to the former longtime chair **Bonnie Lewin** (Cumberland) for her assistance in easing the transition of leadership

With all the tree work that has been required by our residents this summer, I want to caution everyone to make sure they submit the required applications to Town Hall, and especially to be sure to use a licensed tree contractor. Those who haven't in the past have really suffered the consequences

Recently, **Maryland's Public Service Commission** held a hearing in our region on a pending case regarding the frustrating power blackout that began in late June and lasted almost five days. Council Members **Cathy Pickar**, **Marnie Shaul**, and **Barbara Condos** attended and I was there a bit late. It was a great opportunity for citizens to air their views on **Pepco's** performance and urge the Commission to take some action. I also want to congratulate Council Member Pickar for her successful launch of the **Pack Up Pepco group**, which will work with the community to get our Governor and state legislators to make changes regarding the power company, and will help lead to more reliable service. It would be great if everyone visits the group's website and takes appropriate action, because I believe that Pepco will only make improvements in response to a large grassroots effort. In addition, we are getting a rash of applications for generators, and the Staff is doing its best to answer questions and explain the process. I hope everyone who is considering a generator will seriously consider the environmental and noise angles before making the final (expensive) decision.

Our fine Police Officer, **Sherif Almiggabber**, has announced his retirement from Town duty. I want to thank him for his outstanding work over the years. Our Town Manager has engaged a new Officer, **Sheri Rule**, to take his place on the schedule and she will begin her service in the near future. Coincidentally, she is the sister of our other Officer, **Tony Galladora**, a **Montgomery College** alum. They are from a "**police family**;" both their parents have been on the force. I also want to take this opportunity to remind residents that the primary function of these public servants is to enforce speeding and stop sign violations, and we continue to get a rash of reports of violations, including many that involve our own residents! Please everyone, **SLOW DOWN**, and be mindful of all of the appropriate traffic controls that have been put in place over time, all for good reason. Also, please lock your car, house and garage doors; this is one of the best ways to prevent many of the minor crimes that continue to occur here,

Our third **Brown Bag lunch** of the year took place on a recent Friday, and a nice group appeared with lots of goodies to share. We were also graced with an appearance by Officer Galladora, who answered a number of questions. Our final lunch in this series will be in October. I have invited a representative from the nearby **IONA Senior Services** in **Tenleytown** to make a visit and share with us the many programs and opportunities that organization provides that might be of interest and assistance to Somerset residents and/or local members of their families. Look for the notice of the date of this lunch next month.

There have been rumors for years that the generator at Town Hall does not conform to our strict noise requirements. Since it wouldn't be fair if the Town wasn't abiding by its own rules, I asked Code Enforcement Officer **Larry Plummer** to test it. Good news! While our generator might seem noisy to some, the decibel level is lower than the requirement, so no action is necessary at present

We had a visit last week from our well-liked former Town Clerk **Josh Russin**, who continues to hold the position as Executive Assistant to the Mayor of **Frederick**. Josh is doing well in this prestigious position, and he has been doing an impressive job dealing with unions, an airport, and a stadium, among other subjects

For the first time since I was elected to office in Somerset over 10 years ago, I will be missing a Town Meeting because I will be representing the residents of our **Congressional District** as an elected delegate to the **Democratic National Convention** in **Charlotte**. While I will be sad to end my perfect attendance record, I will be doing something I feel is important to our residents, and I know that I will be ably replaced in chairing the meeting by our esteemed and experienced Council Vice President.

- Saturdays. No construction activities shall commence prior to 9:00 a.m. and all construction activities shall end no later than 7:00 p.m.
- Sundays. Construction activities are prohibited unless it is 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., with the sole exception that lawn maintenance work that involves the use of power equipment is also permitted on non-holiday weekdays between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. only if one piece of power equipment is used.
- Lawn maintenance activities that involve the use of power equipment are permitted on weekends and holidays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

HVAC Unit Permitting



HVAC Unit Permit Required

I don't think many residents realize that a Town permit is required if you are going to install or replace any type of HVAC unit for your home. 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. Please contact the Town Hall for further details.

Private and Town Tree Removal Process

This is just a reminder that the Town of Somerset must approve any trees to be removed whether they are public 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.

E-Journal Sign Up

We would like to urge as many residents as possible to receive their Town Journal electronically. As a **Tree City USA**, and a **PLANT Maryland Community**, Somerset wants to reduce its impact on the environment by encouraging residents to receive their copy of the Town Journal by email. 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.

Security Report

By Birdie Pieczenik, Chairperson,
Somerset Security Committee

Cross Your Fingers . . . and Lock Your Doors!



It's good to be able to report that the June spike in the **Bethesda police** district (primarily car break-ins and theft

from front lawns) is now down. Most of those break-ins (90 percent), occurred in unlocked cars. So thanks for taking the police captain's advice (and maybe even that of your **Security Committee**) and locking your car doors every time you leave the car, your house doors every time you leave the house, and keeping tempting valuables out of public view.

Also, the man who runs up to women and hugs them seems to select women who are walking with headphones on. So think twice about whether you really need to be plugged in when making your way through the streets.

Now that it's almost September and school is starting, it's time to have a discussion with your kids about safety measures they should take when in the street and in the house (particularly when alone) if they feel suspicious of anyone or anything. Identify a trusted neighbor they can go to if they feel scared.

Also, as the daylight wanes, remember to put those exterior lights on timers that keep your lights lit 'round the clock.

Welcome back to Somerset, and our little corner of relatively crimeless urban heaven.

New Pool Party Guidelines And Rules

By Barbara Condos, Town Council Liaison to Pool Committee

The Somerset pool is a wonderful Town asset. It is a space for all residents and their guests to use and enjoy. The pool is open to all residents and their guests during its hours of operation, with a few limited exceptions. Since the pool house renovation, it has become an increasingly popular venue for parties. New party rules have recently been approved that are an attempt to balance the desires of those wishing to have parties at the pool with the fact that it is a communal space. Due to the increasing number and size of parties, the **Pool Committee** decided that rules were needed to ensure that the pool a pleasant, clean place for Town members as well as those wishing to celebrate special events. The pool lifeguard staff and manager are there to ensure we have a safe pool for everyone, but they are not there to police or clean up after parties.

The Pool Committee has worked hard to develop the party rules. The rules provide for on-line registration, define what constitutes a party, set a maximum size for parties, set out specific time periods for parties, provide for a refundable deposit to ensure that the area is cleaned up after a party, and prohibit parties on certain holidays. Copies of the complete party rules are available at the Town Hall and will be posted on the Town website. They will go in to effect next summer.



New Pool Party Guidelines and Rules.

Solar Power As An Alternative To A Generator

By Julie Greenberg, Falstone Avenue



Solar Power Alternative.

While it's not surprising that a group of residents is organizing a "**buy in bulk**" generator deal, who among us wants more generators in Town? They're loud, and for those of us who are climate change believers, it's disheartening to see our neighbors use more carbon-generated power when we see carbon at the root of the extreme weather that is causing many outages in the first place.

I hope those interested in a generator will consider investing instead in a solar system. An "AC couple system" would allow you to have a solar system that's tied to the grid and produces daily power, but that also provides limited power to your house when the grid is down. Once you've installed a solar system (these are now capable of producing a large share of your normal power) that's connected to the grid, it's possible you could add the inverter and back-up battery for a 10KW solar system for outages for slightly less than the price of a 20KW gas generator and line.

We considered a solar system for outages, but instead just signed a contract for a leased system that is tied into the grid. I'm no expert on solar, but I can provide to anyone who is interested in exploring the solar alternative to gas generators the name of a local company that can help you. You can contact me at Julie.greenberg@verizon.net.

Code Amendment For Tennis Committee

Council to consider amendment to Town Code establishing a Tennis Committee

At its September 4, 2012 meeting, the Town Council will consider adopting **Mayor Slavin's** recommendation to establish a formal **Tennis Committee** within the Town's Code. This Code Amendment was introduced at the Council's August 6, 2012 meeting and has been developed through discussions with the current Ad Hoc Tennis Committee. This portion of the Code is similar to other Committees in the Code such as the **Pool Committee**.

The Code Amendment in its entirety can be reviewed by contacting the Town Hall or visiting the Town website. A summary of the Code Amendment is as follows:

- Committee shall consist of five members who are Town residents. Terms shall be three years.
- The Mayor shall appoint a chairperson each year subject to Council approval.
- A member of the Town Council will serve as a liaison to the Committee.
- The Mayor may suspend for up to two months the privileges of any user who repeatedly violates the rules.
- The Mayor shall set reduced user fees for households moving to the Town after August.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall – Tuesday, September 4, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Tuesday, September 4, 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

Council Work Session – 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting Convenes – 7:30 p.m.



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

1. **Comments:** Public Comment Period – 7:30 p.m.
2. **Motion:** To approve the August 6, 2012 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – 7:50 p.m.
3. **Discussion:** Town Manager's September Financial Report – 7:55 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Status update on two construction projects at 5529 Uppingham Street and 5510 Trent Street – 8:00 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the removal of the following Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist: – 8:10 p.m.*
5608 Warwick Place, pin oak, tree 778 | 4902 Essex Avenue, pin oak, tree 336 | 4704 Falstone Avenue, Bradford pear, tree 364 | 4911 Falstone Avenue, ash, tree 417 | 5514 Greystone Street, red maple, tree 492 | 5506 Greystone Street, red maple, tree 482 | Capello Park, box elder, tree 910 | Capello Park, box elder, tree 909
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following Town trees to be planted in Fall 2012 as recommended by the Town Arborist: – 8:15 p.m.
4510 Cumberland Avenue, red maple | 4603 Dorset Avenue, yellowwood | 4721 Dorset Avenue, yellowwood | 4911 Falstone Avenue, red maple | 5514 Greystone Street, red maple
7. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider sending a letter to the Public Service Commission for the September 24, 2012 hearing regarding the Bill Stabilization Adjustment surcharge subsequent to the derecho outage – 8:20 p.m.
8. **Discussion:** Introduction of a Storm Water Management Ordinance as recommended by the Town Environmental Committee – 8:30 p.m.*
9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of an Ordinance establishing a Tennis Committee – 8:35 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Village of Drummond concerning Warwick Lane – 8:40 p.m.
11. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 8:45 p.m.
12. Adjourn – 8:50 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.