



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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## Get Ready . . . Get Set . . . And Go To The Annual Somerset Elementary School Used Book Sale!

By Diane McCabe Smith, Dorset Avenue

Somerset Elementary School's Annual PTA-run used book sale will take place on **Friday, April 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

As in previous years, we are eagerly looking for donations of used books for children and adults, videos, games, audiotapes, CDs and DVDs. The consistent generosity of our Somerset families and neighbors has made the used book sale one of the school's most popular and successful events. So please, once again, we're asking for your help.



"Lightning" The Squirrel Mascot Needs Your Help

**Donations** will be accepted in the School's All Purpose Room starting at **9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 15 through 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 18.** If possible, please pack all books in good, strong cardboard boxes or place them in double bags.

The School's squirrel mascot "Lightning" is once again overseeing the school-wide competition between both upper and lower grades to collect the most books, so if you want to credit your donations to a particular student's class, be sure to mark the child's teacher clearly on your box or bags.

We welcome volunteers to help sort books or work at the sale. If you have time to spare and would like to volunteer, use this link to find a time slot: [www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0948A9AB23A20-2013](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0948A9AB23A20-2013)

For additional information or to arrange an earlier donation, please contact **Diane McCabe Smith** at [fitisinwriting@comcast.net](mailto:fitisinwriting@comcast.net) or call 301-642-9082.

## Calling All Dolphins— Get Ready To Dive Into Summer With The Somerset Swim Team

By Nancy Jardini, Essex Avenue

The **Somerset Dolphins Swim Team** will kick off the **2013 season** with a **registration pool party** on **Friday, May 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** All swim team members— new and old— are invited to come swim, eat pizza, learn about the team, meet the coaches, and participate in some team building while parents take advantage of on-site computers to complete registration. We will

*continued on page 3*

### Calendar

**Monday, April 1**

Council Meeting

**Saturday, April 6**

Earth Day Cleanup

**Friday and Saturday, April 19-20**

Somerset Elementary School Used Book Sale

**Monday, April 22**

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**.



## On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

### Numbers, Numbers, Numbers: Somerset's Budget Process

It's that time of year again as the Council and I grapple with our most important annual task: preparing and passing the Town's operating and capital budgets. Fortunately, we have five highly engaged elected women led by Council Vice President **Marnie Shaul** who are truly up to the job and follow a process that is innovative, transparent, and comprehensive.

As I travel around the County and State on a day-to-day basis, I hear many complaints from other municipal officials about how they handle their budgets. I would suggest that some of them consider the well-designed way we do it.

Our Charter requires the Mayor, in March, to produce a five-year plan, not requiring a vote, ahead of the actual budget introduction in April. This plan provides a forecast of what the revenues and expenses might be in the near future. These numbers provide advance guidance to the Council members. Once I introduce the budget, with lots of help from staff and input from committees, it is widely publicized. The Council considers it, may offer amendments, and votes on the final version in May.

A few years ago, when we were experiencing extreme revenue shortfalls, we came up with the idea of adding a March session, led by the Council, so that the Mayor and staff could go over the potential numbers line by line. In this way the members could learn the rationale for each number and have the opportunity to express their views very early on. As a result, I make changes to reflect the majority view and introduce figures that represent a compromise in advance.

None of this prevents further changes before the final vote in May, and this process gives us time to circulate the numbers to residents and hear their views and possible objections. I encourage amendments at final passage so the budget best reflects the will of the people.

Given the importance of our budget and the many avenues the Town's elected officials have created for everyone to participate in shaping it, I urge all residents to follow this process closely, form your opinions early, and make them heard. I thank everyone involved and want to say how proud this process makes me to be Somerset's Mayor.



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

# Somerset Pool – New Party Rules For 2013



Somerset Pool House –  
New Party Rules

By Debbie Heller, Chairperson,  
Pool Committee

Somerset Pool opening day is almost here. The pool is a wonderful asset for all members of our community and their guests to enjoy. With few exceptions, it is open to all residents and their guests during the pool's hours of operation.

Since the pool house renovation, the pool has become an increasingly popular venue for parties. To balance the desires of those wishing to have parties at the pool with the fact that it is a communal space, the Pool Committee has drafted the following party rules:

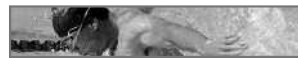
## Somerset Pool Party Rules and Guidelines

1. **Submit the online reservation form to the Town Manager at least one week before a planned party.**
2. Give a printed copy of this form to the **pool manager** for approval at least one week before the event, along with **two separate checks**: one to **Georgetown Aquatics** for extra life guards (pool manager will determine how many guards are needed), and a deposit made out to **Town of Somerset** for \$250.
3. Twelve or more people constitute a party.
4. The maximum number of people (adults plus children) allowed for any party is **20 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays** and **30 on other days**.
5. Fees will be charged for guests who are not Somerset residents. Before the party, you must have a balance in your account sufficient to cover your guest fees.
6. There may only be two parties during any time period and no more than six parties in a day according to the following schedule:  
Morning parties: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Afternoon parties: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Evening parties: 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
7. Parties **may not be held** on Memorial Day, July 4, or Labor Day.
8. You must clean up all areas your guests use by the end of your party time period or deposit will be forfeited. Deposit will be returned the day after the party once the pool manager approves the cleanup.
9. Grills and tables cannot be reserved; others may use them during your party.

10. Party decorations may only be affixed to the white bulletin board in the patio area.
11. **The decision of the pool manager is final for all parties.**

Reminders:

1. **Glass is not allowed in any form at the pool.**
2. Food and drinks other than water are **only allowed in the patio kitchen area, the upper terrace area, and the grassy picnic area at the rear of the pool enclosure.**
3. **Your guests are your responsibility when attending your party.**
4. Please dispose of your recycling items properly.
5. Although a specific time is set for a party, the entire pool area is always a shared facility.



Somerset Swim Team from page 1

also have team swim suits and other spirit wear available for sale. It's a one-stop and shop for all your swim team needs!

Any Town resident between the **ages of 6 and 18 who can pass the deep water test can be a Dolphin!** For children who cannot pass the deep water test and are between the **ages of four and seven, there is the "mini" team.** Minis practice 3 days a week (after school is out), and participate in one swim meet and all social events.

The Dolphins team starts daily practice on May 28th, the Tuesday after Memorial Day. Morning and evening practices are available to accommodate busy schedules. Meets are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and there are many fun social events including a pasta dinner, dessert contest, and banquet with trophies – plus much more!

Swim team members will meet friends new and old, improve their swimming skills, cheer for the team, and create memories that will last a lifetime. We need everyone's help in making this a great experience for our children. All parents are required to help out with timing as well as with other available jobs including concessions, social events, and officiating.

If you can't make it to the registration party, you can register on-line. Keep an eye on our website, [www.somersetswimteam.org](http://www.somersetswimteam.org), for updates on when registration will open. We will also announce it on the list serve and the Town Journal. If you have questions, please check out our website at [www.somersetswimteam.org](http://www.somersetswimteam.org) or drop us a note at [Somersetdolphins@gmail.com](mailto:Somersetdolphins@gmail.com).

**See you at the pool — GO DOLPHINS!**



## Mayor Slavin's Five Year Fiscal Plan

In February, I had the pleasure of working on the Town's Five Year Fiscal Plan with Mayor Slavin. You will find a summary of the document as an insert in this month's Journal. Here are some highlights of the plan that tell the story behind the numbers.

The Town's government has two main sources of **OPERATING REVENUE**: State Income and Property Taxes. Property Taxes are a stable source of income for the Town. The Five Year Plan projects no change in the rate for real estate taxes, however it projects a small growth in yearly revenue received because it expects the value of Somerset's homes to grow. State Income Taxes are the Town's largest source of revenue, but are quite volatile. Several years ago, the Town's state income revenues declined significantly along with a major downturn in the economy. With the economy on the rebound, revenues are projected to increase. The Town's position is to budget for these revenues conservatively in the event of an unexpected downturn, with a 2% increase per year built in.

The Town's general **OPERATING EXPENDITURES** include several items:

- Personnel and consulting costs account for the greatest percentage of the operating budget. The Town employs three Public Works employees, one Administrative Assistant, and one Town Manager. Contracted employees include three part-time Police Officers, one Arborist, and one Code Enforcement Officer.
- Significant costs of "Other General Government," as indicated on the summary page, include: Building Inspector, Police, Legal Fees, Civic Events, Town Journal Expenses, Property and Casualty Insurance, Website Fees, and Debt Service for the Pool House Renovation Project.
- "Trees, Grounds and Parks" is the budget category that tracks expenditures for Town trees, the Town Arborist, and supplies to maintain Town parks.
- "Sanitation" includes services provided by the Town for weekly refuse and recycling collection, two bulk trash pickups per year, and annual leaf collection.
- Most of the "Recreation" category is for operating expenses associated with the Town Pool House, including the

annual fees paid to the pool management company, utility costs, security monitoring, and cleaning.

Highlights of the Five Year **CAPITAL BUDGET** include the following potential projects:

- Small-scale to medium-scale maintenance and improvements to the interior of the Town Hall;
- Funds to replace a Town public works truck if required;
- Dorset Avenue Project from Warwick Place to Surrey Street that would remove and replace existing curbs and gutters, repair deteriorating sidewalks, increase the turning radius at Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street, replace wheelchair ramps, remove deteriorating pavement, and apply a two-inch asphalt overlay;
- Projects in relation to the bridge located near the Town Pool House;
- If the County cooperates with its storm sewer system, a project on Cumberland Avenue from Deal Place to Wisconsin Avenue that would include improved drainage as well as new curbing, sidewalk replacement and a two-inch asphalt overlay;
- An upgrade to the generator at the Town Hall to ensure it can be used as a resource for Town residents during power outages;
- Planting of approximately 30-37 Town trees each year;
- Conversion of some or all park benches to meet ADA requirements;
- Pool capital equipment purchases;
- Funding to replace infrastructure and concrete at the Pool if required;
- Funding for a complete renovation of the Tennis Courts; and
- Environmental and Parks and Natural Resources Committee projects Town-wide including in the parkland.

As a reminder, the Five Year Fiscal plan is NOT a binding legal document. It is to be used as a general guideline for future operating revenues, expenses and potential capital improvement projects over the next five years.

I am always happy to answer any questions and receive suggestions from residents concerning the plan. Feel free to email me at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com) or call the Town Hall.

# Council Meeting Actions

*The Town Council met in regular session on March 4, 2013. The Council took the following actions:*

1. Approval of demolition, building, curb cut, dumpster, tree removal and reforestation permits at 4806 Essex Avenue.
2. Approval of recommendations of Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission for the following modifications at 4727 Essex Avenue: previously permitted 10' high shed to be relocated 5' from the property line; previously permitted gravel driveway to rear of house to be relocated and now proposed as a concrete basketball pad; existing front path to be made wider and new walkways added; and new HVAC units relocated, as requested at April 17, 2012 meeting.
3. Approval of a bid for paving work on portions of Falstone, Trent Court, Surrey and Uppingham that were included in the joint storm water project in the Fall of 2012.
4. Approval of a tree removal modification plan at 4812 Falstone Avenue to approve the removal of an additional cherry tree located in the rear yard.
5. Approval of the removal of 5 trees in the rear yard at 5409 Surrey Street: 1 Mulberry, 1 Red Bud and 3 Hemlocks.
6. Adoption of a Joint Pesticide Resolution as recommended by the Environmental and Parks and Natural Resources Committees.
7. Approval to authorize Pepco to plant these Town trees at the following locations: 5800 Deal Place – 1 Yellowwood (on Dorset Avenue), 5800 Deal Place – 1 Yellowwood (on Dorset Avenue), 4525 Dorset Avenue – 1 Yellowwood, 4817 Dorset Avenue – 1 Yellowwood, 4823 Dorset Avenue – 2 Yellowwood, 4915 Dorset Avenue – 2 Yellowwood, 4731 Essex Avenue – 2 Yellowwood, 4807 Essex Avenue – 2 Yellowwood, 4906 Falstone Avenue – 1 Redbud, 5403 Greystone Street – 1 Redbud, 5413 Surrey Street – 1 Dogwood, 5702 Warwick Place – 1 Redbud.
8. Approval to authorize the planting of Town trees at the following locations: 4910 Dorset Avenue – 1 Willow Oak, 5510 Uppingham Street – 1 Red Maple, 4817 Dorset Avenue – 1 Sugar Maple (To be planted on private property with waiver of liability to be signed).
9. Approval to send a letter in support of Delegate Al Carr's three bills that propose to make reforms to the Public Service Commission.
10. Approval of a bid to replace the two pool heaters at the Town Pool
11. Approval to renew the contract with Georgetown Aquatics to manage the Town Pool for the 2013 and 2014 seasons.
12. Approval of a proposal to refurbish the diving board at the Town Pool.
13. Approval of a renewal contract with Aqua Free Services, Inc. for cleaning services at the Town Pool for the 2013 season.
14. Approval of the following individuals to serve on the Swim Team Committee: Nancy Jardini, Maura Vanderzon, Courtenay Labson, Michele Friedman, Amy Power, Alexis Carmer, Bob Chlopak, Josh Bobeck, Jennie Litvack, Mark Muro.
15. Re-appointment of Missy Reingruber to serve on the Pool Committee.
16. Adoption of a 2013 Arbor Day Proclamation.

In addition to Council actions, Mayor Slavin introduced his 5 Year Fiscal Plan and provided his Mayor's Report. Town Manager Charnovich presented the March Financial Report. Town Inspector Larry Plummer provided construction update reports for projects at 5529 Uppingham, 5510 Trent, and 5513 Uppingham Street. The installation of a water cooler to be installed in the Town Hall was tabled in order to better determine how it might fit into the overall scope of other potential projects in the Town Hall.

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## Somerset Tree Replacements

### **Pepco Replacement Trees:**

Pepco will replace the following trees (all locations currently marked in the field with white flags):

- 4807 Dorset Avenue – 11 trees Serviceberry or Redbud
- 5812 Warwick Place – 1 tree Dogwood (on Cumberland Ave.)

### **Trees Previously Approved by the Council:**

- 4906 Falstone Avenue – 1 tree Redbud
- 5403 Greystone Street – 1 tree Redbud
- 5413 Surrey Street – 1 tree Dogwood
- 5702 Warwick Place – 1 tree Redbud



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Our own Somerset resident **Senator Brian Frosh** (Grantham) had an incredible week in Annapolis recently, culminating in the passage by the Maryland Senate of the Governor's comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation. Brian, as Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, worked doggedly to secure its passage. I know that many of our residents are extremely happy about this turn of events and Brian's role in it because they are alarmed by

the level of gun violence in our country. As a proud member of the national organization Mayors Against Illegal Guns, I have talked to many of you and am so happy for your support of Senator Frosh's efforts. Many of us hope that the House of Delegates will follow the Senate's lead so that Governor O'Malley can sign the bill into law, making Maryland an example for the nation.

As many of you know, I place great value in leadership training. Accordingly, this year I am supporting a contest for all Somerset high schoolers. The winner will receive a full \$695 scholarship this summer in a program called **Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW)**. The Town sent out two email announcements on this opportunity on March 1 and 15. I want to encourage all Somerset high school students to consider participating in the program and to enter the contest for the scholarship. Applications, which are due by April 1, will be reviewed by a committee of Town residents. For over 50 years, MLW has been providing programs that empower each student delegate to achieve his or her leadership potential. The program will take place from July 28 to August 3 in Chestertown. Good luck to all of the contestants. For further information, go to [www.mlw.org](http://www.mlw.org) or call MLW at 301-444-8623.

For the past several months, I have been publicizing the availability of The Agenda News, a free online monthly publication that features Chevy Chase and the surrounding area. The publication has no commercial advertisements. It is available at [www.theagendanews.com](http://www.theagendanews.com). The most recent edition has photos of some of Somerset's public gardens. Readers who would like to be notified by email when each new edition is published can contact editor **Bob Joiner** at [bjoiner@verizon.net](mailto:bjoiner@verizon.net). Residents who already subscribe have told me they like the high quality of this news service, both in writing and graphics, so I encourage everyone to add their names to the list.

Once again, the Maryland Municipal League, of which Somerset is an extremely active member, is sponsoring the **"If I Were Mayor, I Would"** essay contest for all of Maryland's fourth graders. Essays must be received by March 30. Early in March, Council Vice President **Marnie Shaul**, Council member **Barbara Zeughauser**, and I visited all the fourth graders at Somerset Elementary School, as we do every year, to encourage the students to participate. There will be an MML contest winner from our region. In addition, our Town has its own contest-within-a-contest just for our school, and last year both winners were Town residents. I hope this happens again! Additionally, the Council and I want to encourage our fourth graders who attend local private and parochial schools to be a part of this fun and educational project. Further information and applications are available at [www.mdmunicipal.org](http://www.mdmunicipal.org).

Also in March, Marnie, Barbara, and I met with a Girl Scout troop that meets at the school. The girls were working on their government badge as we talked on a variety of topics about our elected roles. They had a lot of excellent questions and were particularly impressed with Vice President Shaul. She was a great role model because she was a Scout in her youth, and wore some of her own badges to prove it!

As Mayor, I'm active in and outside of our wonderful municipality. This month, I was honored to be appointed by the County Council to the Committee to Study Compensation of the County Executive, County Council, Sheriff, and State's Attorney. Last month, I reported on my appointment to the Transportation Planning Board's Citizens Advisory Committee. At its first meeting, we received an alarming tutorial on how increasing freight deliveries in our metro area impact our neighborhoods. I will appreciate any thoughts you may have on the work of these committees to help me do the best job possible for you.

## Permits Granted



### Fence Permits

4505 Cumberland Avenue, rear yard 6' wooden fence

### Portable Storage Unit

5510 Trent Street

# Earth Day Cleanup On April 6

By Patty Friedman, Chairperson, Parks and Natural Resource Committee



Somerset Earth Day Cleanup 2012

It's that time of year again to help nurture our Somerset woodland treasure, Vinton Woods. In case you were unaware, our community contains 17 acres of beautiful woods with a stream running through it. Unfortunately, that gem is riddled with invasive weeds.

To return it to a better state, we will have a group cleanup on **Saturday, April 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The rain date will be April 7th.** We will concentrate our efforts on garlic mustard and English ivy, as well as pulling trash from the stream. No experience is necessary as instruction will be provided. Children are welcome as long as they are supervised by an adult.

We will meet at the pool at 9:00 a.m. Everyone should wear long pants, a long sleeve shirt, and closed toe shoes. Poison ivy will just be coming out and it can be very toxic this time of year. Please bring clippers, garden gloves, and small saws if you have them.

There will be a short nature walk during this event as the wildflowers should just be presenting themselves. Expect trout lilies, spring beauties and, if we are lucky, bloodroot. Unfortunately, there are fewer flowers today than when I moved here 19 years ago because of the invasion of English ivy.

This is an annual event that honors both Earth Day and Arbor Day and is a great way to get outside as a family and to enjoy the outdoors, while providing a service to the community.

## Nearby Friendship Heights Apartment To Begin Exterior Work

By Marnie Shaul, Council Vice President

You may have noticed that 4701 Willard Avenue (formerly the Irene property) was on the February and March Council agendas. The new owner of the building plans to do substantial work on its facade over a two-year period and has asked Somerset for access to and use of our park land. According to a survey done for the owner of 4701 Willard, the land behind the building and some land to the left of the building (as one faces the building from Willard) is Somerset park land. The owner would like to put a trailer, staging material and supplies on the left side of the building and would need access to the Town's land to do the exterior repairs on the rear of the building. At the Journal's deadline, the Town was finalizing conditions for this work. These conditions will likely include: (1) the staging area will be shielded from view, (2) the contractors will follow a tree protection plan and a sediment control plan approved by the Town's Arborist and Permits Inspector, respectively, (3) most work will be done using hand-held equipment (which is less noisy), (4) the rear of the building will be completed first, (5) workers will only access the site from Willard Avenue, and (6) the land will be returned to its initial condition (or better) when the work is finished. The Council expects to approve a final agreement either at the April Council meeting or at a special Council meeting if necessary. If a special meeting is called, it will be publicized.

## Look For A More Efficient Town Meeting Agenda

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

In order to make our Town meetings more efficient and speedy, this month I will be debuting the consent/non-consent agenda format. Early in each meeting, the Council will collectively pass all non-controversial items that do not require a public hearing. Our meetings have gotten longer lately and each month many proposals pass unanimously with no comment from Council members or residents.

Many legislative bodies use this format. I am quite familiar with its success at the DC Council, where I served as a legislative assistant many years ago. The Town Council approved this idea last month.

At the start of each meeting, any Council member can remove an item from the consent agenda, so the Council can debate something that becomes controversial after the agenda is announced. I trust that everyone will be pleased with this change.



## Janet Schwartz: 1927-2013 (Obituary) By Ellie Fink, Dorset Avenue

Janet Gisela Sperber Schwartz was born in Kolomyja, Poland on January 10, 1927. She lost her home, her community and her family in the Holocaust. After World War II, she came to New York City, learned English, and earned a degree from City College before going to Cornell, where she earned a Masters and a Ph.D. in sociology. She and her family moved to Somerset in 1968, and Janet spent 45 years of her life in the Washington area teaching at the university level, doing academic research, and publishing. She was the author of several sociology textbooks and articles about her experiences growing up.

Janet had a penetrating intellect and a great curiosity. She loved doing research at the Library of Congress. She was active in the early Civil Rights movement and stood up against intolerance and injustice her whole life. She marched against the Vietnam War and took her children with her to the protests. Her daughter Katy said, "Her determination showed up in her sense of self-sufficiency and pride of independence. Her sheer guts and will got her through the terrible events of her early life and powered her through the rest." She was determined not to be seen as a victim and never wanted to be described as a survivor.

Janet had five children: Adam, Katy, Neil, David, and Joe, and six grandchildren, whom she adored. She was a loving presence in their lives and took great pride in their accomplishments as they grew older. She was a wonderful neighbor and friend to many in Somerset. Katy said, "She loved living in Somerset, in large measure because she made such wonderful friends."

Janet suffered from Alzheimer's for seven years but fought it to the end. She died on February 13, 2013, surrounded by her family.

*Janet Schwartz: 1927-2013* |



*We  
Remember*

| *Paul Dorn: 1930-2013*

## Paul Dorn: 1930-2013 (Obituary)

Our Somerset neighbor, Dr. Paul Austin Dorn, Jr., died of congestive heart failure on February 16, 2013. He was born in Cambridge, Mass. in 1930 and was raised in New Hampshire where he received a bachelor's degree from St. Anselm's College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1958. After briefly working in business, he enrolled at Boston College to pursue pre-medical studies. At college, he met and married the former Georgette Magassy.

Dr. Dorn graduated from the Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1965 and completed a residency in Ophthalmology at the George Washington University Hospital. He practiced as a successful Ophthalmologist in Temple Hills, MD until 2011, and was a Clinical Associate Professor at the George Washington University Hospital. He combined his private practice with charitable work at the Archdiocese of Washington Health Care Network and did surgery in a clinic in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

He enjoyed traveling with his family throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America. Survivors include his wife Georgette, as well as his four children who grew up in Somerset: Georgette (Gigi) Verdin of Boston, Dr. Elizabeth Dorn and Susan Dorn of Seattle, and Paul Gabriel Dorn of San Francisco. He also leaves three beloved grandsons.

## Landscaping For Home Security By Birdie Pieczenik, Recent Chairperson, Security Committee

Spring is here and so is an increase in crime, such as from scam artists trying to distract you while you are working in the garden. In addition, strangers cruising the area as if they were part of contracting teams and solicitors for (un)worthy causes may be scouting the area for vulnerabilities in our homes. This month's security tips focus on how the right kind of landscaping can be part of your home security plan.

- Keep trees trimmed back, away from your house, so that tree branches can't be used as a ladder if they are next to a window or skylight.
- Keep your lawn mowed regularly, especially when you are on vacation. An unmowed lawn suggests that the residents of the house are away.
- Store ladders, lawn chairs, and patio tables out of sight from the street so they won't be thought of as a means to reach high windows.
- Keep shrubs near doors and walkways trimmed to three feet or shorter so no one can hide behind them.
- Consider planting low-growing thorny bushes under windows, such as hawthorne, rose shrub, and barberry.
- Consider keeping trees and shrubs trimmed back enough to allow a clear view of the outside of your house. You might lose some privacy, but the ability of neighbors to see who is near your house will make intruders think twice before looking at your home as their prey.
- Keep your yard well lit. Consider installing motion detectors, timers, or sensors triggered by body heat.

Please think about these tips. And happy planting for home security and deterring intruders!



# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, April 1, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, April 1, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall. Agenda updates are posted on the Town website: [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com).

**Council Work Session – 7:00 p.m.**

**Council Meeting Convenes – 7:30 p.m.**

1. **Comments:** Public Comment Period – 7:30 p.m.\*

### CONSENT

2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the February 4, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Motion:** To consider approval of the March 4, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes
4. **Motion:** To consider approval of the March 7, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
5. **Motion:** To consider approval of the March 18, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
6. **Motion:** To consider approval of the March 20, 2013 Closed Meeting Minutes
7. **Motion:** To consider setting the Bulk Trash Pick Up Date for Monday, May 6, 2013 – 7:50 p.m.

### NON-CONSENT

8. **Discussion:** Town Manager's April Financial Report – 7:55 p.m.
9. **Discussion:** Introduction of Mayor Slavin's FY14 budget – 8:00 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of an application submitted by Sara Ridgway, 4708 Falstone Avenue, to install a replacement HVAC Unit – 8:10 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of an application submitted by Steven Guttentag and Stacey Winick, 5608 Warwick Place, to install a replacement HVAC Unit – 8:15 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider a recommendation by the Council acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission on an application modification submitted by Barnes Vanze Architects Inc. on behalf of Melissa and Alan Davidson, 4727 Essex Avenue. The applicant is proposing a revision to the fencing on the property – 8:20 p.m.
13. **Discussion:** Status update on construction projects at: 5529 Uppingham Street, 5510 Trent Street, and 5513 Uppingham Street – 8:30 p.m.
14. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the final letter of conditions for the 4701 Willard Avenue Project as reviewed by the Town Attorney – 8:40 p.m.
15. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following trees to be planted by PEPCO (These 12 trees will replace the 12 Yellowwoods that were approved at the March 4, 2013 Meeting) – 8:50 p.m.  
4807 Dorset Avenue, 11 trees, Serviceberry or Redbud  
5812 Warwick Place, 1 tree, Dogwood (on Cumberland Avenue)
16. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To discuss and consider approval of a contract with Icon Enterprises, Inc., d/b/a CivicPlus for the re-design and maintenance of the Town Website as recommended by the Ad Hoc Communications Committee – 8:55 p.m.
17. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider approval entering into a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool for the 2013 season – 9:10 p.m.



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

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18. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of revised Pool Party Rules as recommended by the Pool Committee – 9:15 p.m.
19. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider adoption of the Swim Team Rules for calendar year 2013 – 9:30 p.m.
20. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider approval of a proposal from Vigilant Security for remote monitoring at the Town Pool for the 2013 season – 9:35 p.m.
21. **Discussion:** Mayor’s Report – 9:40 p.m.
22. **Adjourn** – 9:45p.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 to three 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/email blasts for the most up-to-date Agenda.*