



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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**Save
the
Date**



Somerset Elementary Back to School Classic Race on Sunday, October 20 We Need Course Marshals And Race Day Volunteers!

By Kathy Toomey, Warwick Place

The 26th Annual Somerset Back to School Classic is just around the corner on October 20 at 9:00 a.m., and includes 8K and 2K races and a fun run for kids at the school field. The proceeds of this wonderful community event enable Somerset Elementary School to provide scholarships for its afterschool programs, build its library collections and classroom resources, and offer a rich cultural arts program.

It takes many volunteers to make the event a success. Critical to its success is the race marshal team – the folks who cheer on the runners, hand out cups of water, and offer helpful directions. The more marshals we have, the smoother and more fun the event. Volunteers who live along the race course can simply stand in front of their homes and perform their roles (although we need to organize everyone in advance to ensure we have folks posted appropriately). We will assign stations to volunteers who don't live on the course. Most folks will need to be in place by 8:30 a.m. Some may need to be in place a little earlier to redirect errant vehicle traffic, although police are on the course for traffic control.

For information and registration see www.safetyandhealthfoundation.org/somerset or www.facebook.com/Somersetrace. Early bird registration rates are available until September 30.

Please contact **Kathy Toomey** at kttoomey@aol.com as soon as possible to volunteer.



A Wider Circle Will Be Collecting Your Donations.

Preparing for a Green Bulk Trash Day

By Iris Amdur, Warwick Place

For the past few years, I have been working with Somerset staff to help reduce the volume of useful items ending up in the landfill by arranging for charitable organizations to come to Somerset and collect donations before bulk trash day. This year, A Wider Circle will be collecting donations in Somerset on Sunday, October 6. While this process generally has been successful, I do want to share a few observations and concerns. While most people don't want to see useful items go to waste, they prefer not to cart bulky items to donation centers. The expectation is that A Wider Circle will remove useful items placed at the curb

continued on page 3

Calendar

Sunday, October 6

A Wider Circle Pickup

Monday, October 7

Council Meeting

Monday, October 7

Bulk Trask Pickup

Sunday, October 20

Somerset Elementary
Back To School Race

Monday, October 21

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

Coming from a non-majority religious tradition which follows a separate calendar, I have the benefit of two New Year's celebrations annually. This also gives me two opportunities per year to reflect on my life's goals and make personal resolutions.

During the recent Rosh Hashanah season, one of the things I thought about was the importance of formally educating ourselves throughout our lives, whether through a degree, a conference, a seminar or even just a book. And while we all share in the pride of the educational accomplishments of the youth in our Town, I think we are equally proud of the accomplishments of our adults.

As Mayor, I strive to set a good example. This year I chose to learn more about the transportation policies of our region, which are complicated by the fact that we have four competing jurisdictions: Maryland, Virginia, DC, and the Federal government. I am doing this through my appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Transportation Planning Board. I can't begin to tell you how interesting and rewarding this service has been. Among other things, it has provided me with increased and valuable perspective regarding the Town's positions on the BRT and the Purple Line.

Service on the CAC has been time consuming, and other things have had to take a lesser priority. I have not missed one meeting. So, while this new education has been rewarding, it has come at a price – but well worth it.

All of us become comfortable in our particular areas of interest and professional work. But sometimes we are lax in learning about new subjects, and exposing ourselves to new ideas. Let's correct that. Think of how much this can contribute to our daily lives and to our community.



In This Issue

- ATM Skimming: Crime Alert7
- Council Meeting Actions5
- From the Mayor's Desk6
- General Permits8
- Manager's Corner4
- On My Mind2
- Pool House Renovation Wins
Awards for General Contractor . . .3
- Preliminary Agenda9
- Preparing for a Green
Bulk Trash Day1
- Save The Date: Somerset Elementary
Back to School Classic Race
On Sunday, October 201
- Start Of Annual Fundraising
Campaign for the Bethesda
Chevy Chase Rescue Squad8

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

Pool House Renovation Wins Awards for General Contractor

By Marnie Shaul, Council Vice President

At its annual awards program on September 12, 2013, the Associated Builders and Contractors' (ABC) Metropolitan Washington and Virginia Chapters honored Therrien Waddell, Inc. with an Excellence in Construction Award for its renovation of the Somerset pool facility. This award recognizes outstanding quality construction and was in the category of Commercial/Residential Renovation, \$2-4 million. Pictured accepting the award are Lou Balodemas, Somerset's project coordinator, **Council Members Barbara Condos and Marnie Shaul**, and Dan Coffey and Jerry



Pool House Renovation Wins Excellence Award From The Associated Builders and Contractors' Metropolitan Washington and Virginia Chapters.

Therrien Waddell.

Therrien Waddell also received an Excellence in Construction Award in the single family residence category for

the "Net Zero" Residential Test Facility in Gaithersburg, MD. This project is a unique laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that will allow researchers to test the performance of various construction materials, high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, and alternative design approaches to achieve zero overall energy use in single-family homes. NIST researchers will simulate a family of four living in an energy efficient home and demonstrate that a net-zero energy house—one that produces as much energy as it consumes over the course of a year—can fit into any neighborhood. Over the long term, the facility will be used to test new energy efficient technologies and develop methods of test that better reflect how those technologies will perform in a real home, rather than a laboratory.

We are very pleased to be continuing our relationship with Therrien Waddell. They will be serving as our general contractor for the cosmetic changes, such as floor refinishing and painting, that will be taking place in the Somerset Town Hall during October and November.

Green Bulk Trash Day from page 1

to help others in need. However, A Wider Circle only takes what their clients can use, i.e., items in very good condition which will help struggling citizens improve their quality of life. A perfectly useful item with an easily repaired/minor imperfection may not fit this requirement. Additionally, even an item in perfectly usable condition may still be passed over if A Wider Circle runs out of collection time or storage space. This means that many items that another family could use end up being crushed by the Unity trucks that come through Town on the Monday bulk pickup and are then carted to the landfill.

I have a few suggestions for dealing with this problem:

- Decide what you want to give away well before the pickup date;
- Call your favorite charity and request a pickup (see Town website for resources);
- Offer items your charity won't take to others in the Town via the Somerset listserv;
- Join **Freecycle** and offer your items to the larger community. Check it out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/freecycle-bcc-md/info>. If you need help posting, contact me at irisamdur@greenshape.com or 301-654-1713; and
- Do not put out large cardboard boxes. These can be recycled with normal pickup.

Thanks for helping to make Somerset even greener this year!



Somerset's Annual End Of Season Dog Swim.



Sign Up to Receive Somerset Town Journal Online

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.

Utility Projects



By the end of September, WSSC should finish its projects in the Town. Work on Essex Avenue is scheduled to begin in the middle of September. WSSC is also in the process of developing plans for work in the environmentally sensitive areas in Somerset. These plans have not yet been submitted to the Town. Washington Gas is still in negotiations with the Town for planned work on Essex Avenue, and final approval of this project may be on the October 7 Council Agenda.

Bulk Trash Pickup



Fall Bulk Trash Pickup

The Town will hold its fall bulk trash pickup on **Monday, October 7**. Please place your trash at the **curb by 7:00 a.m.** **Do not include latex paint, hazardous waste, construction debris, or yard waste.**

If you have any questions, contact Unity Disposal directly at **301-490-8604** (ask for Darlene).

We also are partnering with **A Wider Circle**, a non-profit organization that provides holistic support to families in

poverty. They will pick up donations curbside on **Sunday, October 6 from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.** All items should be marked "A Wider Circle."

To schedule a pickup for large items

that you need help moving, please call **301-608-3504** or email furnish@awidercircle.org by Wednesday, October 2. A Wider Circle redistributes items free of charge to families transitioning from shelters or other homeless circumstances. Gently-used mattresses that are free of rips and stains are



always a much-needed item. Other needed items include kitchen/dining room tables, living room furniture, dressers, lamps, gently used linens and towels, dish sets, baby items and children's clothing up to size 4T. Healthy non-perishables and unopened personal care items such as toothpaste, soap, deodorant and cleaning supplies are always welcome. For more information, visit www.awidercircle.org. All donors receive a tax-deductible receipt.

Town Hall Interior Work



A contract has been approved to complete interior work within the Town Hall including painting, acoustical panels, floor refinishing, signage and general electrical upgrades. **From October 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013, no rentals**

of the Town Hall or exercise classes will be taking place.

We are currently working on obtaining a venue for our October and November Town Council meetings. Please contact the Town Hall with any specific questions.

Fall Town Tree Plantings

Town Tree plantings will take place in early October. Please refer to the September 3, 2013 Council meeting actions in this month's Journal for the planting locations.

Leaf Collection



The Town will begin vacuuming leaves at the end of October and will continue until mid-December. As we did last year, we have developed a schedule for collection that divides the Town into quadrants. In next month's Journal, there will be an insert indicating the location of these quadrants. The map of last year's quadrants can be found on the Town website.

All leaves should be raked to the curb. Do not rake your leaves into the street. Please make sure that there are no cans, sticks, bottles or rocks in your leaf pile. It is also important that you do not block leaf piles with your cars during collection hours, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, because our crew cannot do its work if there is a car blocking the pile.

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on September 3, 2013. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of May 6, 2013 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of an application for 5524 Warwick Place for demolition, building, dumpster, wall, permanent curb cut, temporary curb cut, tree removal and tree reforestation permits.
3. Approval of a reforestation plan for 4603 Dorset Avenue to plant 1 black gum and 2 fruit trees.
4. Approval of the fall tree plantings in the following locations:
 - 5800 Deal Place, 2 Single Stem Yellowwoods
 - 4525 Dorset Avenue, 1 Single Stem Yellowwood
 - 4817 Dorset Avenue, 1 Single Stem Yellowwood
 - 4823 Dorset Avenue, 2 Single Stem Yellowwoods
 - 4915 Dorset Avenue, 2 Single Stem Yellowwoods
 - 4809 Falstone Avenue, 1 Yoshino Cherry
 - 4505 Cumberland Avenue, 1 Sugar Maple
5. Approval of the removal of 1 Red Maple tree at 4510 Cumberland Avenue as recommended by the Town Arborist.
6. Approval of a final contract with Therrien Waddell for maintenance work to be completed in the Town Hall, including interior painting, acoustical panels, floor refinishing, signage and general electrical upgrades.
7. Approval of draft testimony to be presented at the September 24 hearing on the County Bus Rapid Transit Plan.
8. Approval of a lawn care program that will significantly reduce the use of pesticides for the treatment and maintenance of Town property and parkland, as recommended by the Environmental and Parks and Natural Resources Committees.
9. Approval of the temporary use of the Town tennis courts by the Somerset House from August 30, 2013 through September 16, 2013, as was recommended by the Tennis Committee. There will be a reciprocal arrangement when the Town resurfaces its courts.
10. Approval of a Resolution confirming the closure of Wisconsin Avenue and River Road entrances on Sunday, October 20, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for the 8 km road race sponsored by the Somerset Elementary School PTA.
11. Approval of Piano Rules for use of the piano located in the Town Hall.
12. In addition to the Council actions, Mayor Slavin provided his report to the Council, and Town Manager Charnovich provided the Financial Report to the Council. Town Inspector Plummer provided a report to the Council on the construction project at 5513 Uppingham Street.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Once again, there was an outstanding turnout at our recent annual Newcomers' Party where we greeted the newest residents of our wonderful Town at our award winning pool house. This year, there are more than 20 new families and most of them were in attendance, including two new residents who, interestingly enough, attended Somerset Elementary School! Thanks to **Nancy Jardini** and **Morris Panner** (Essex) for putting this event together. The party also served as a

great opportunity for reuniting longstanding residents and catching up on summer travel news.

All of us in Town government are excited about the Town's new website that is currently under development and which will make its debut sometime this fall. We all owe a great amount of gratitude to **Council Member Cathy Pickar** (Dorset) who has spearheaded this effort with her Ad Hoc Committee, composed of Journal Editor **Barbara Marenus** (Surrey), **Diane Horn** (Surrey) and our esteemed **Town Manager, Rich Charnovich**. I have been following the work of this committee and it's amazing how much time and effort is required to get this important Town asset up and running. I look forward to the launch . . . so everyone stay tuned!

Later this month I will be testifying before the Montgomery County Council, on behalf of our Town Council, on the subject of the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). There is great concern in the Town that a "rapid" bus line down Wisconsin Avenue from Bethesda to Friendship Heights would place our sidewalks and trees at risk, along with pedestrians and our children. Additionally, if there is a dedicated lane, traffic would be unbearable. The BRT is still in the early stages of design and there is currently no funding identified; nevertheless, it is important that we weigh in early. I would urge all those interested to submit written comments. Kudos to the Town residents who have taken the lead on this issue and have made great efforts to educate others.

On another topic, we are so fortunate to have a great organization like the BCC Rescue Squad providing ambulance and other emergency services to our community. However, this organization is private and non-profit, and is highly dependent upon contributions. While I always discourage door to door solicitation/fundraising in Somerset, because of the quasi-governmental status of the BCC Rescue Squad, I would encourage you to consider making a contribution. For further information, and to learn about their national reputation, check their website at <http://bccrs.org>.

Happy Back to School to all of our students. We miss our out of state college freshmen!

Annual Newcomers' Party



ATM Skimming: Crime Alert

By Officer Dana Stroman, 2nd District, Montgomery County Police

Please review the following information on ATM Skimming.

ATM Skimming

Skimming is an illegal activity that involves the installation of a device, usually undetectable by ATM users, that secretly records bank account data when the user inserts an ATM card into the machine. Criminals can then encode the stolen data onto a blank card and use it to loot the customer's bank account.

1 Hidden camera

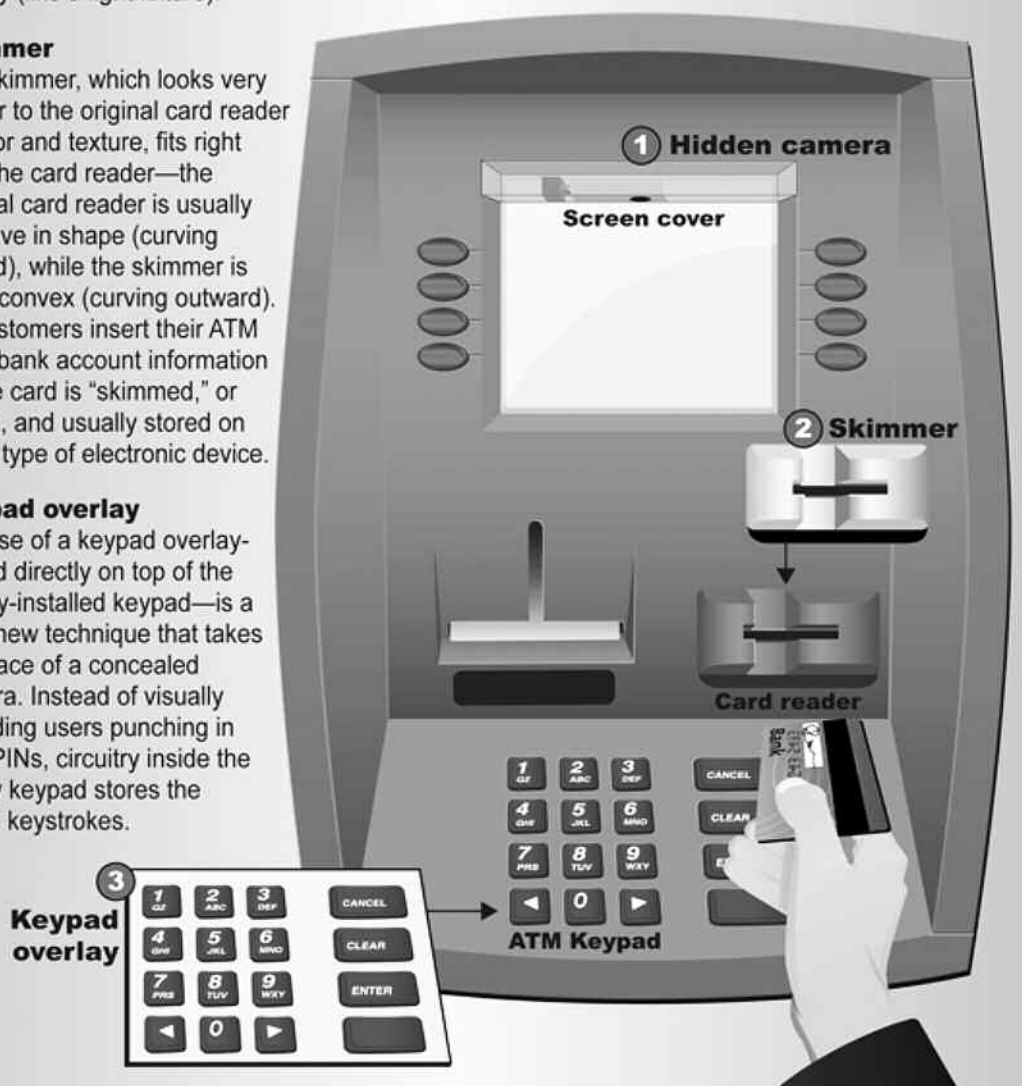
A concealed camera is typically used in conjunction with the skimming device in order to record customers typing their PIN into the ATM keypad. Cameras are usually concealed somewhere on the front of the ATM—in this example, just above the screen in a phony ATM part—or somewhere nearby (like a light fixture).

2 Skimmer

The skimmer, which looks very similar to the original card reader in color and texture, fits right over the card reader—the original card reader is usually concave in shape (curving inward), while the skimmer is more convex (curving outward). As customers insert their ATM card, bank account information on the card is “skimmed,” or stolen, and usually stored on some type of electronic device.

3 Keypad overlay

The use of a keypad overlay—placed directly on top of the factory-installed keypad—is a fairly new technique that takes the place of a concealed camera. Instead of visually recording users punching in their PINs, circuitry inside the phony keypad stores the actual keystrokes.



continued on page 8

Here are some things you can do to protect yourself from ATM skimming:

- Inspect the ATM, gas pump, or credit card reader before using it. Be suspicious if you see anything loose, crooked, or damaged, or if you notice scratches or adhesive/tape residue.
- When entering your PIN, block the keypad with your other hand to prevent possible hidden cameras from recording your number.
- If possible, use an ATM at an inside location (less access for criminals to install skimmers).
- Be careful of ATMs in tourist areas; they are a popular target of skimmers.

One last note: ATMs aren't the only target of skimmers; we've also seen it at gas pumps and other point-of-sale locations where customers swipe their cards and enter their PIN.

If you have additional **questions**, please **contact Montgomery County Police, Fraud Unit**, at **240-773- 6330** or 2nd District Community Services **Officers Stroman** or **Officer Janney** at **301-652-9200**. **Report suspicious activity to Police at 911** or for non-emergencies to **301-279-8000**.



Thank You Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad.

Start of Annual Fundraising Campaign for The Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad

By Steve Friedman, Essex Avenue

It's the time of year again when the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad volunteer EMTs, paramedics, and firefighters go from door-to-door to raise the funds necessary to cover the Squad's \$1.8 million annual operating budget. The BCCRS does not use paid solicitors or call on the phone. Each donation is vital to its ability to provide unparalleled emergency medical and fire/rescue services. Because their volunteers are an integral part of raising the funds necessary to run the organization, less than 4 percent of expenses goes to fundraising. When you donate to BCCRS, you can be sure that your donation goes directly to helping carry out our life-saving missions, and helping maintain the high standards that make the BCCRS one of the best fire/rescue organizations in the United States. Take a look at www.bccrs.org for more information.

General Permits



Tree Removal Permits

4725 Dorset Avenue, Okame Cherry, 26" diameter

5617 Warwick Place, 1 tulip poplar, 35" diameter, 1 Hickory, 18" diameter

4515 Dorset Avenue, 1 Red Maple, 28", 1 Pear, 14"

Wall Permit

5409 Surrey Street, stone retaining wall along the perimeter of the back yard

Portable Storage Unit Permit

4721 Falstone Avenue, 1 portable storage unit

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

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

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, October 7, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall. Agenda updates are posted on the Town website: www.townofsomerset.com.

Council Work Session – 7:00 p.m.

Council Meeting Convenes – 7:30 p.m.

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



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

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider approval of the August 5, 2013 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the September 3, 2013 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
3. **Motion:** To consider adoption of a Resolution proclaiming November to be Municipal Government Works Month.

NON-CONSENT

1. **Discussion:** Town Manager's September Financial Report – 7:55 p.m.
2. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of an emergency HVAC Unit submitted by John and Jennifer Mesirow, 4701 Cumberland Avenue – 8:00 p.m.
3. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider an application submitted by Maurice and Lina Asseo, 5524 Greystone Street. The applicants are requesting a building permit to enclose a portion of their existing pergola – 8:05 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider an application submitted by Elizabeth Thompson and Steve Surko, 5500 Uppingham Street. The applicants are requesting a permit to raise and slope the sunroom (porch) roof – 8:15 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a 20 KW generator installation application submitted by David and Samantha Sapin, 4806 Essex Avenue, contingent upon the generator passing the required noise levels – 8:25 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a 20 KW generator installation application submitted by Brian and Meredith Davis, 4515 Cumberland Avenue, contingent upon the generator passing the required noise levels – 8:35 p.m.
7. **Discussion:** Status update on construction project at 5513 Uppingham Street – 8:45 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider tree removal application submitted by Jan and Erica Singelmann, 5401 Uppingham Street. The applicants are requesting removal of the following 6 trees: – 8:50 p.m.
 - 1 Magnolia
 - 1 Holly
 - 2 Cherry
 - 1 White Pine
 - 1 Birch

continued on page 10

9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider final approval of a Permit request submitted by Washington Gas to replace approximately 1545' of Bare Steel Main and service lines on Essex Avenue from Warwick Place to the Essex Avenue cul-de-sac – 9:00 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Status update on the 4701 Willard Avenue Project as per the Agreement – 9:15 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a bid for a proposed 3-year snow removal contract as recommended by the Town Manager – 9:25 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of additional funds in the amount of \$5,470.00 to be paid to Balodemas Architects for the Town Hall interior cosmetic work – 9:35 p.m.
13. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 9:40 p.m.
14. **Adjourn:** – 9:45 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 15 minutes ahead of the item's scheduled discussion time since discussions sometimes run ahead of schedule.

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.