



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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★ Save the Date ★

Wednesday, April 2: Somerset Election

The election for Mayor and Two Council seats will take place on April 2 at the Town Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Three incumbents are running: **Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick) for Mayor, and **Barbara Condos** (Falstone) and **Catherine Pickar** (Dorset) for Town Council seats. Statements from these candidates were published in the March 2014 Town Journal.

Please be sure to cast your vote!



Save the Date

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day on Saturday, April 19, by Helping Clean Up the Stream and Remove Invasive Weeds



By Patty Friedman, Chairperson, Parks and Natural Resource Committee

Come celebrate **Earth Day** and **Arbor Day** while providing a much-needed service in our own back yard. **Meet fellow residents at**

the Somerset Pool at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 19. The woodlands of Somerset, along a branch of Little Falls Creek, are in need of their annual stream cleanup.

This coincides with the invasive Garlic Mustard Pull that the County sponsors, and we will also be tackling the growing ivy problem throughout our woodlands. If you have always wanted to know how to safely get rid of the ivy on your trees, this is your opportunity! Since spring is delayed this year, we will do a nature walk and identify spring wildflowers in the area.

Please dress in long pants, long sleeve shirts and closed toe shoes, as poison ivy will be emerging. It would be helpful, but not essential, if you bring clippers (hand held and/or long

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Calendar

Wednesday, April 2
Somerset Election

Saturday, April 19
Somerset's Annual Stream Clean-Up Day

Monday, April 28
MVA Mobile Office

Don't forget to check the Town website throughout the month for an up-to-date calendar. Go to www.townofsomerset.com and click on **Town Calendar**.



On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Voting Makes A Difference

With a new law in place in Maryland, the primary election for State and County offices will take place in June this year for the first time, rather than the traditional September. Because of the unusually large number of candidates, now is the time for Somerset voters to start focusing on the backgrounds and viewpoints of each one. It would also be a good time to start studying the role and duties of many of these elected positions, because some are not as familiar to us but can have a significant impact on our lives.

Accordingly, while there is much attention being placed on the Governor's race, with contested primaries in both parties, let's not forget the campaigns for County Council At Large, School Board, and even the Clerk of the Court. Living in Metro Washington so close to the District line, we are flooded daily with information about national and DC candidates. Our Maryland and Montgomery County campaigns don't get the attention they deserve, especially in the electronic media.

But there are many ways to educate ourselves. Every legitimate candidate has a website today, often with videos, and there are many scheduled candidate debates and neighborhood meet and greets. A lot of those running go door to door and because of our reputation in the County and State, our homes are often visited.

In spite of these efforts, the turnout even in a highly educated municipality like ours is often disappointing. You would think that everyone would vote, but turnout is closer to 50 percent than to 100. Let's try to change that this year when we go to the Somerset Elementary School voting site on June 24.

And while I have your ear, don't forget our own municipal election on Tuesday, April 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at our newly refurbished Town Hall.



Celebrate Earth Day from page 1

handled), gardening gloves, hand saws, and a willingness to get dirty. Children are encouraged to attend. Those under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. This is a fun family activity! School service learning hours are available but you must bring the necessary forms with you. **If you need to arrive late, you can call my cell (301-442-6555) to obtain our location. The cleanup ends at 12:30.**

Hope to see you there!

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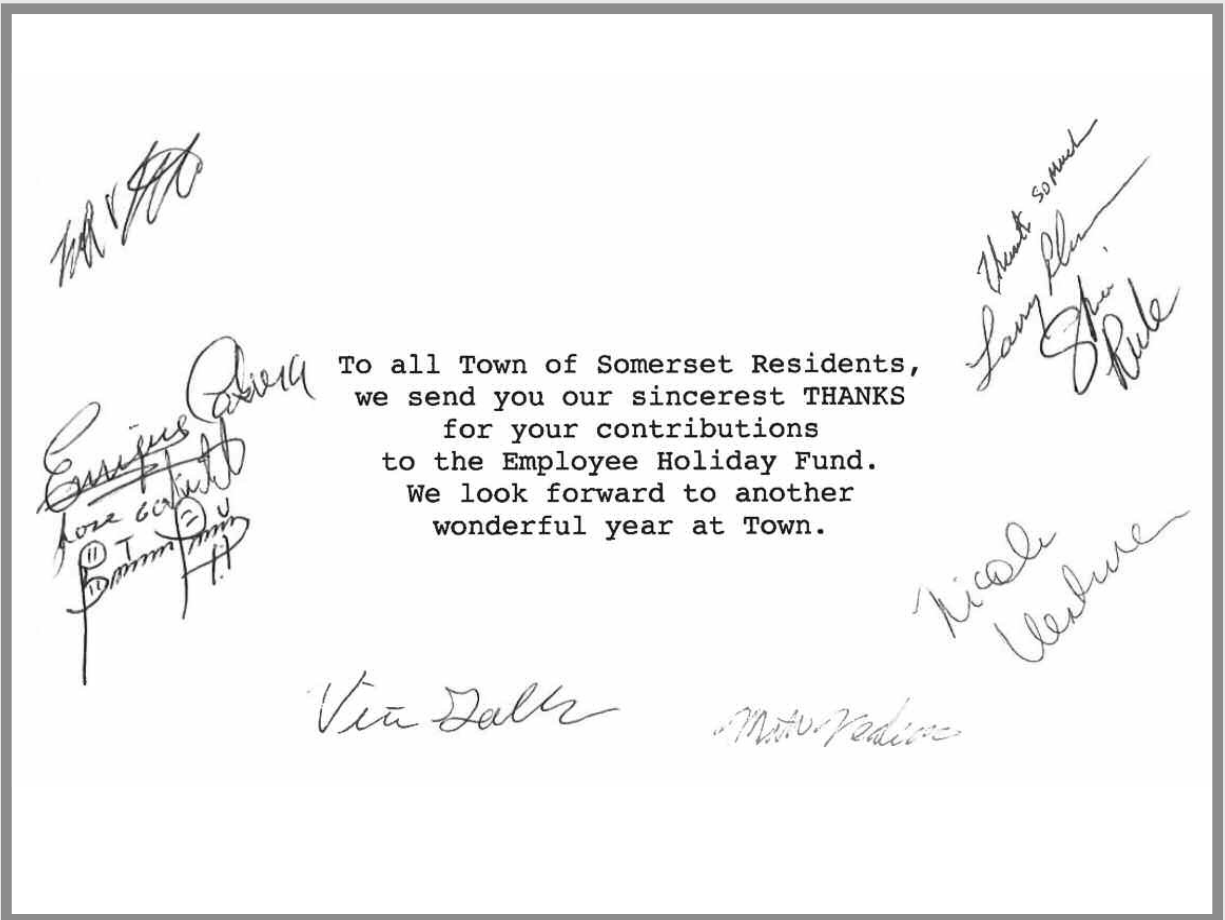
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Deadline for copy and ads is the 15th of the month at 4:30 p.m.

A Thank You from Somerset Staff





Mayor Slavin's Five-Year Fiscal Plan

In the month of February, I had the pleasure of working on the Town's Five-Year Fiscal Plan with Mayor Slavin, Council Vice President Shaul and the Budget Committee. You will find a

summary of the document as an insert in this month's Journal. Here are some of the highlights that tell the story behind the numbers:

The Town's government has two overwhelmingly important sources of **OPERATING REVENUE: State Income and Property Taxes**. Property Taxes are a very stable source of income for the Town. The Five-Year Plan projects no increase in the property tax (\$0.08 per \$100), but collections that rise at a conservative 2 percent, reflecting increasing property values. State Income Taxes are the Town's most important source of revenue; however, it is also the most volatile. Two Town residents, **Robin Barr** (Essex) and **Phil Young** (Greystone), have been leading the Town Budget Committee. They recommended that Somerset follow the County's income tax forecast, which shows a decline of 4 percent in FY15, followed by three years of positive growth averaging about 7 percent. A forecast for FY19 has not yet been provided by the County, but a growth of 5 percent was assumed. In contrast to earlier years, these higher growth forecasts are made possible by the fact that the Town now has a Rainy Day Fund (see below), which can be accessed if revenue falls short of forecast.



General **OPERATING EXPENDITURES** include the following categories:

Personnel and consulting costs are the greatest percentages of the operating budget. The Town employs three public works employees, one administrative assistant, and one Town manager. Contractual employees include three part-time police officers, one arborist, and one code enforcement officer.

"Other General Government" significant costs as indicated on the summary page include the following: Building

Inspector, Police, Legal Fees, Civic Events, Town Journal Expenses, Property and Casualty Insurance, Website Fees and Debt Service. In FY15, the Mayor is proposing a large-scale project in relation to the Town Code of Ordinances.

"Trees, Grounds and Parks" is the category of the budget that tracks expenditures in relation to Town trees, the Town Arborist and other supplies used to maintain Town parks.

"Sanitation" includes services provided by the Town of once per week refuse and recycling collection as well as two sponsored bulk trash pickups per year. The Town's annual leaf collection contract is also included in this category.

The majority of the "Recreation" category is operating expenses associated with the Town Pool House, including the annual fees paid to the Pool Management Company, utility costs, security monitoring and cleaning. In FY15, the Town intends to obtain the services of a consultant to assess the condition of the pool deck and infrastructure.

Highlights of the Five-Year **CAPITAL BUDGET** include the following potential projects (cost estimates in parentheses):

- Small-to medium-scale capital maintenance improvements to the upstairs and exterior of the Town Hall to increase energy efficiency (110K spread over 5 years);
- Funds to replace a Town Public Works truck, if required (30K);
- Dorset Avenue Project from Warwick to Surrey that would include removing and replacing existing curb and gutter, repair deteriorating sidewalks, increase turning radius at Dorset Avenue and Surrey Street, replace wheelchair ramps, remove deteriorating pavement, and apply 2-inch asphalt overlay (161K);
- Projects in relation to the bridge located near the Town Pool House (115K);
- A project on Cumberland from Deal Place to Wisconsin that would include improved drainage as well as new curbing, sidewalk replacement and 2-inch asphalt overlay (135K), if the County cooperates with financing for its storm sewer system;

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Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on March 3, 2014. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of a 2014 Arbor Day Proclamation.
2. Approval of the Bulk Trash Pick Up date to be set for May 5, 2014.
3. Approval of Mayor Slavin's nomination of Matthew Zaft to serve on the Pool Committee for a term ending December 31, 2016.
4. Approval of Mayor Slavin's nomination of Dolores Bartning to serve on the Pool Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2016.
5. Approval of Mayor Slavin's nomination of Donna Harman to serve on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2016.
6. Approval of the Mayor Slavin's nomination of Judy Bowles to serve on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2016.
7. Approval of Mayor Slavin's nomination of Carol Jason to serve on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for a term expiring on December 31, 2016.
8. Approval of PCO 24 in the amount of \$1,918.00 for the Town Hall renovation project.
9. Approval of a building permit application submitted for 5610 Warwick Place for a porch addition.
10. Approval of an application submitted by WSSC to replace sewer laterals at the following locations on Cumberland Avenue: 4811, 4813, 4814, 4815, 4816, 4818.
11. Approval of a Public Works project for sidewalk, paving, curb and sidewalk work on Essex Avenue, Surrey Street, Trent Court, Falstone Avenue and Cumberland Avenue at a cost not to exceed \$174,000.00.
12. Approval of a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Tennis Courts for the 2014 season.
13. Approval of Resolution confirming the Town of Somerset's intent to pursue the Sustainable Maryland designation.

In addition to the Council actions, a moment of silence was held at the beginning of the meeting for Lib Tolbert, former MML President and Mayor of Barnesville. Lib was an inspiration to Mayor Jeffrey Slavin. Mayor Slavin provided his report to the Council at the end of the meeting.

Town Manager Charnovich presented the March Financial report as well as Mayor Slavin's 5 Year Fiscal Plan. A summary of the 5-year fiscal plan can be found in this month's Journal. Doug White of Thomas Downey, LTD, provided a report to the Council on the condition of the Town Tennis Courts in conjunction with tennis committee members in attendance. Setting the Pool opening and closing dates for the 2014 season was deferred to the April Council meeting.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

The most recent snowfall was not really a welcome sight in Town, and our snow removal expenses this year are now beyond the budgeted amount. However, we can take solace in the fact that our snow removal contractor, Mulheron, has done an admirable job. There have been a few miscues and some have complained about the amount of salt used, but overall we should be happy with the condition of our roads when it snows, and especially the response time. One issue we will look into is the clearing of driveway aprons. I would like to find out what the industry standard is and also what impact an extra effort could have on the bills. Since the contract will be put out to bid for the next snow season, now is the appropriate time to ask these questions.

Once again, the Maryland Municipal League, of which Somerset is an extremely active member, is sponsoring an essay contest for all of Maryland's fourth graders. The contest is, "If I Were Mayor, I Would . . ." The deadline for submission is the end of March. On a recent weekday, several Council members and I visited with all the fourth graders at Somerset Elementary School, as we do every year, to encourage the students to participate. There will be a winner from our region, and our Town has its own contest-within-a-contest just for our school. Additionally, the Council and I want to encourage all of our fourth graders who attend private and parochial schools to be a part of this fun and educational project. Further information and applications are available at <http://www.mdmunicipal.org/DocumentCenter/View/1022>.

As Mayor, I try to be active both in and outside of our wonderful municipality, and especially to engage residents in County affairs. Last year I was honored to be appointed by the County Executive to the Landlord-Tenant Commission and several other residents have also been named to important posts. I frequently send announcements of vacancies on boards and commissions to the listserv and I encourage everyone to take note of this and consider applying for appointment. For those who do decide to take the plunge, please let me know so that I can actively support you. Give me a call if you would like further information about this. We have a lot of expertise in Town and have an opportunity to play a positive role in Montgomery County life.

With the release of the Mayor's Five-Year Plan and completion of our now annual Council budget session, our annual fiscal review is now in full force. While Somerset is in very good shape financially, there are several capital projects on the table and not enough funds available to do everything at once. Therefore, I am asking everyone to pay close attention to the budget discussions this year and weigh in on what you feel the priorities are. Examples of projects under consideration include total renovation of the tennis courts, restoration of the second floor of the Town Hall, street and curb improvements, necessary rebuilding of the bridge between the parking lot and the pool house, and an engineering study of the swimming pool. The Council and I look forward to hearing from any and all of you.

As a reminder, we had extended the time period until the end of this month for submission to our contest to create a Town Motto. We are looking for a catchy phrase that captures the essence of Somerset. A citizens' panel will recommend the best entries to the Town Council for approval. The person who submits the ultimate choice will receive a cash prize of \$250. We are also having a lottery so that each entry will be eligible for a drawing for a dinner for two at Clyde's Chevy Chase. All submissions should be sent to bmarenius@gmail.com; the contest is for Somerset residents of any age! There is no limit on the number of entries.

Now that spring is on the horizon, it's time for all of us to again focus on our streetscape, which adds so much value to our properties—and our lives.

Town Council Roundup

By Council Vice President Marnie Shaul on behalf Of the Council



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

It's been suggested to me that many residents may not be aware of what the Council does to improve our Town and to represent us on issues

outside Somerset that are related to our community. So this article covers some activities your Council Members have undertaken in the past few weeks on Somerset's behalf.

Town Business

Council Members worked on many Town projects.

Town Website: Council Member Catherine Pickar continued to lead a very time-intensive effort to develop and design a new Town website, which should be online soon. She has reviewed many forms and photos, as well as formulating how the website is set up. Most recently, she has been working on having the website include a feature to permit residents to pay Town bills online.

Town Hall Renovation: Council Member Barbara Zeughauser continued to work with our consulting architect to finish the punch list and consider new chairs for the meeting room.

Healthier Yard and Safe Environment Seminar on February 23: Council Members Zeughauser and Marnie Shaul provided support for the event. Council Members Barbara Condos and Pickar attended the event.

Pool: Council Member Condos arranged for the architect to meet with the County at the pool site to determine how to meet the County's fence requirement. Although Somerset had thought the pool site renovation met County regulations, a recent inspection found that the fencing did not do so at some spots. The pool cannot open until the County is satisfied that its regulations are met. Council Member Condos also attended the Pool Committee meeting at which guest fees, pool salinization, and opening and closing dates were discussed.

Traffic: Somerset sponsored a meeting on February 10 to discuss the results of the traffic consultant's study. Council

Members Condos, Pickar, Shaul, and Zeughauser participated in the meeting, and the Council will include recommendations such as painting crosswalks in an upcoming road paving contract.

FY15 Budget: The Council held a work session on March 10 to discuss every estimated revenue source and proposed expenditure in next fiscal year's budget, which begins July 1, 2014. The budget will be introduced at the April Council meeting and there will be a public hearing and Council vote at the May Council meeting.

Testimony on Municipal Street Lights: Council Member Pickar drafted testimony in support of a bill sponsored by State Delegate Al Carr that would allow Maryland municipalities to have a fair purchase price for their street lights.

The Council greatly appreciates the work of the Town Manager, who is integral to Town operations and projects.

Public Meetings

The Council has also been busy attending a variety of public meetings.

Wisconsin Avenue sidewalk: Council Members Condos and Zeughauser attended the final State Highway Administration (SHA) meeting at which SHA presented its plan for a sidewalk on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue. We have met with SHA and monitored its plans for more than a year to minimize the number of trees removed during construction and ensure replacement of as many trees as possible along Wisconsin Avenue.

Friendship Heights playground at Page Park (at the top of the pool path): Friendship Heights is planning to install a playground at Page Park. Council Members Peale and Shaul attended the Friendship Heights Council meeting and Council Members Condos and Shaul met with the Friendship Heights Town Manager to underscore our concern about children's safety because of the steep hill on Town land behind the proposed playground. Friendship Heights is considering installing a fence near the top of the hill at the property line, and Somerset will do what it can to make that happen

Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (CCCFH): Council Members Condos, Shaul and Zeughauser attended the February CCCFH meeting at which the guest speakers were the Director and Deputy Director of the County Planning Department. The topics were the process for development at Westbard (the area near the Giant) and the zoning rewrite, both of which can affect density and traffic near Somerset.

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Improving Pedestrian Safety in Somerset

By Council Members Catherine Pickar and Marnie Shaul



In March, the Town Council approved a paving and curb replacement project that includes portions of Falstone, Essex, Trent Court, and Surrey, all of which have had considerable disruption from utility work. As part of that project, the Town plans to implement some traffic calming recommendations. These recommendations come from a report written by a traffic consultant at the firm of Sabra, Wang, and Associates, Inc. Some years ago, the Town addressed traffic calming problems identified by residents, and agreed to revisit the situation two years later to assess the effectiveness of these fixes. Because residents have brought more concerns to our attention, we asked the firm to review the earlier traffic calming actions, and to make recommendations about these new concerns. Portions of the report are on the Town website. The Town held a public meeting in February to discuss the study's recommendations and observations with the traffic consultant.

As part of the project, the Town plans to paint crosswalks that are worn and to include new crosswalk painting and ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps at Warwick and Essex. In several locations, "stop ahead" will be painted on the pavement to alert drivers to the upcoming stop sign.

A new speed hump is proposed on Surrey, midway between Grantham and Greystone. Legislation for a speed hump at this location was introduced at the March Council meeting. There will be a public hearing and Council vote at the April Town meeting about this speed hump. The hump is in response to residents' concerns about speed and lack of stop sign observance on Surrey. Based on the distance and lack of curves along this segment of Surrey, the consultant recommended midway between Grantham and Greystone as the most suitable location for a speed hump. He said that the block between Falstone and Grantham isn't as good a location for a speed hump because that block is short and has a sharp curve, reducing the opportunity for speeding there.

Over time, the Council will review other recommendations in the report and determine whether to implement them.



“ A new speed hump is proposed on Surrey ”

Report on Somerset's Environmental Forum: Growing A Healthier Yard And a Safer Environment

By Paige Whitley, Cumberland Avenue

“You are what you eat.” “You reap what you sow.” These maxims could summarize the talks given on February 23rd when residents crowded the Town Hall to hear three knowledgeable and passionate speakers discuss how to create healthier yards, invite varied and increased wildlife species to our area, and increase the health of our Little Falls Watershed – and get tax rebates, too!

Paul Tukey, nationally known author of *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* and now Chief Sustainability Officer at the Glenstone museum complex, has since 2010 successfully instituted a lawn care system at Glenstone free of synthetic pesticides or herbicides. At Glenstone, turf maintenance is based on keeping grass height at 3”, allowing grass clippings to stay on the lawn to feed the microbes in the healthy soil, and periodically spraying the lawn with “compost tea,” a nutrient-rich brew of compost and water, to nurture healthy grass that grows deep roots, crowds out weeds, and eliminates bad bugs.

David Mizejewski of the National Wildlife Federation is author of *Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife*. David outlined the four things needed to attract wildlife: food, water, a place to hide, and a place to raise young. He recommended two books, *Bringing Nature Home* by Tallamy and *Noah's Garden* by Stein, and pointed out that the National Wildlife Federation certifies landscape professionals who work with clients to make their properties more friendly to wildlife and the environment.

Anne English, Rainscapes Coordinator with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, pointed out that rooftops comprise the greatest percentage of impervious surface in our county and that the water running off these surfaces runs fast, leading to erosion, and often warm, killing off beneficial invertebrates in the streams. The Rainscapes Rebate Program aims to encourage residents to clean up the water and slow down water run-off by creating areas for run-off to be absorbed in the ground before reaching storm drains. Residents may qualify for up to \$2,500 in rebates.

For more information, check out Montgomery County's RainScapes Workshop on Monday, March 31 at our Town Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or the RainScapes website, <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=\content\dep\water\rainscapes.asp>. For more details on the February 23 meeting, contact **Paige Whitley** at lpwhitley@me.com.



Paul Tukey



David Mizejewski



Anne English

Spring Public Works Projects

By Rich Charnovich, Town Manager

At the March 2014 Council meeting, a public works project plan presented by our Town Code Enforcement Officer, Larry Plummer, was approved for implementation and is scheduled to be completed on June 30, 2014.

The project will include the following activities:

1. Mill and overlay approximately 2,641 square yards of Essex Avenue;
2. Construct 2,741 feet of curb and gutter on Essex Avenue, Trent Court, and Surrey Street. The curb, gutter and paving work is the final phase of work following that which took place on Essex by WSSC and Washington Gas;
3. Sidewalk work on Essex Avenue and Cumberland Avenue; and
4. Mill and overlay Falstone Avenue, Trent Court and short sections of Trent and Uppingham Streets resulting from the Falstone Avenue Stormwater Project that occurred last year.

Construction work on these projects is likely to take place in May and June. Please contact Town Hall if you have any questions.

Manager's Corner from page 4

- An upgrade to the Generator at the Town Hall to ensure it can be used as a resource for Town residents during power outages (20K);
- Planting of approximately 30-37 Town trees each year (10K per year);
- Funding to replace infrastructure and concrete at Pool if required (300K);
- Funding for a complete renovation of the Tennis Court (175K); and
- Environmental and PNR Committee projects Town wide including in parkland (50K spread over 5 years).

The Budget Committee has also been working with the Mayor and Town Council on establishing a Rainy Day Fund. A resolution was adopted recently to establish this fund. This five-year budget plan includes the established Rainy Day Fund.

As a reminder, in contrast to the annual budget, the Five-Year Fiscal plan is NOT a binding and 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/receive suggestions from residents concerning the Five-Year plan. Feel free to email me at manager@townofsomerset.com or call the Town Hall.



Tennis Passes Now Available

Residents may pick up tennis passes at the Town Hall. The cost per household for the 2014 season is \$20, the same as last year. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Ventura at townofsomerset.com or call Town Hall.

Town Council Roundup from page 7

Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League (MML): Council Members Condos and Shaul attended a briefing about the County's economic health by County Executive Leggett and his staff and provided that information to the Town's budget committee. They also attended a lunch reception in Annapolis at which the chapter hosted state legislators in an informal get-together. Council Members Condos, Pickar, Shaul, and Zeughouser joined the Mayor at Somerset Elementary School to discuss the MML contest for 4th graders, an essay for the "If I Were Mayor" contest.

Friendship Heights Transportation Management District (TMD) Advisory Committee: Council Member Condos, who represents Somerset on the Advisory Committee, reported that the Chief of Parking Management parking management for the County is considering installing parking meters on Friendship Boulevard and Willard Avenue. Council Member Condos notes that this could potentially increase parking on Somerset streets. The Advisory Committee also has been looking at the implementation of the Montgomery County bikeshare program and improving pedestrian safety.

Downtown Bethesda Sector Plan Update: Council Member Shaul attended a March 1 public meeting sponsored by Montgomery County's Planning Department to discuss aspects of development. She also attended a meeting on that topic in the Town of Chevy Chase. Somerset will be working with nearby neighborhoods to minimize the impact of development on our neighborhoods from the increased density and traffic expected as a result of the sector plan update. Buildings as tall as 250 feet may be allowed at the proposed new subway entrance at Elm Street, with building height stepping down from that point. Somerset and our neighbors would like to maintain green space and have buffers between potentially tall buildings and our neighborhoods. This is an important consideration for preserving the residential character of all our neighborhoods.

The Council notes and appreciates that the Mayor attended some of these meetings.

If you would like to learn more about any of these activities, please contact your Council Members at council@townofsomerset.com.

We are considering doing a Roundup column either on a regular or occasional basis. I would like to hear your thoughts; please send your comments to me at mshaul@townofsomerset.com.

Recycling Rates: Somerset 41%, Montgomery County 58%



By Sarah Morse (Dorset) and Robin Barr (Essex), for the Environment Committee

Below average! Sadly, that is where we are. In February 2014, 59 pounds went to the landfill for every 41 pounds we recycled. That's better than we were doing ten years ago but look at the County – a goal of 70% recycling by 2020!

The best way to keep things out of the landfill is easy – recycle more things. Most all paper can be recycled (minus patterned foil wrapping paper), including books, junk mail, magazines, instruction inserts, and cardboard boxes. Almost all plastics can be recycled, including plastic children's toys,

clam-shell packaging, take-out containers, and all plastic bags. Remember glass bottles and jars, too.

To break out of our recycling lethargy we need to cast off old habits. Something as simple as placing a recycling bin in bathrooms or bedrooms can waken us up to more recycling possibilities. (Come on– were you really putting those toilet roll cores in the landfill trash?). Appointing a “recycling czar” (younger siblings are ideal, but others can do in a pinch) can do wonders for your recycling numbers.

We have a reputation to recover. Recycling is good for the environment and saves the Town money in dumping fees. Let's get to work!

For a list of recycling do's and don'ts, visit the Town's website at <http://townofsomerset.com/SomersetRecyclingFlyer2013pdf>. The Environment Committee will be issuing a new list shortly and it will be available online.

General Permits



Tree Removal Permit

5527 Trent Street, 1 Silver Maple. Tree was hazardous.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, April 7, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the 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.*

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider the Mayor's recommendation of Joan Rabinor (Trent) to serve on the Pool Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the August 6, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. **Motion:** To consider approval of the September 3, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes.
4. **Motion:** To consider approval of the October 7, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes.
5. **Motion:** To consider approval of the November 4, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes.
6. **Motion:** To consider approval of the December 2, 2013 Council Meeting Minutes.
7. **Motion:** To consider approval of the January 6, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes.
8. **Motion:** To consider approval of the February 3, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes.
9. **Motion:** To consider approval of the March 3, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes.

NON-CONSENT

Swearing In: Mayor and Two Council Members – 7:40 p.m.

1. **Discussion:** Town Manager's April Financial Report – 7:45 p.m.
2. **Discussion:** Introduction of Mayor Slavin's FY15 budget – 7:50 p.m.
3. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider approval of a proposal submitted by Town Arborist, Dr. Feather, to map Town trees and to create a GIS Technology file – 8:00 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of a policy of the Town of Somerset indicating its intent to take a leadership role in reducing electricity consumption within the Town, by partnering with the Maryland Energy Administration and enrolling the Town as a Smart Energy Community – 8:05 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of a policy of the Town of Somerset indicating its intent to take a leadership role in reducing transportation petroleum consumption in and by the Town of Somerset, by partnering with the Maryland Energy Administration and enrolling as a Smart Energy Community – 8:10 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider setting opening and closing dates for the Pool season. The proposed opening date is May 17, 2014 and closing date is September 14, 2014 as recommended by the Pool Committee – 8:15 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider setting the hours for the 2014 pool season as recommended by the Pool Committee – 8:25 p.m.

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Hours when school is in session:

- Monday – Thursday: 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday: 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Hours when school is not in session:

- Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Friday – Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Holiday Hours:

- Memorial Day: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Fourth of July: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Labor Day: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Closing Day: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider setting the Pool guest fee rate per guest, per day at \$4.00 as recommended by the Pool Committee – 8:35 p.m.
9. **Discussion/Motion:** To consider approval entering into a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool for the 2014 season – 8:45 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a Town Hall Art Display Application and Agreement – 8:50 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval to purchase new tables to be used in the Town Hall – 9:05 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider payment to Balodemas Architects in the amount of \$4,230.00 – 9:10 p.m.
13. **Discussion:** Mayor’s Report – 9:15 p.m.
14. **Adjourn:** – 9:20 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.

* 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.

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.