



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL



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## Save the Date

By Diane Horn, Surrey Street

## Somerset Wellness Get-Together On February 5

It's already February and a month has gone by since we made all our healthy living New Year's resolutions. Studies show that it's easier to stick to a plan when you have the support of others. Come to a **casual get-together** with neighbors on **Wednesday, February 5 at 7:30 p.m.** to discuss what's working and not working for you. If you're looking for a walking or accountability buddy or healthy recipe ideas, please stop by. Bring a healthy snack or recipe with you.

Please RSVP to me at [diane.b.horn@gmail.com](mailto:diane.b.horn@gmail.com) or 301-654-0310.

## Save the Date



## February 10th Public Hearing Regarding Traffic Calming

Council Member Catherine Pickar and Council Vice President Marnie Shaul

There will be a public hearing regarding the latest assessment of traffic calming and pedestrian safety on Monday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to give residents an opportunity to discuss potential recommendations made by a traffic consultant for additional traffic calming measures Somerset could undertake.

A little history for those of you who may be new to Somerset. Following the Town of Somerset's traffic calming measures implemented in 2009, the Council promised to follow up on the effectiveness of the new measures and to address potential problems identified by residents since that time. Although delayed by budget cuts during the economic downturn, the Town recently issued Requests for Proposals and subsequently hired Sabra, Wang and Associates, a multi-disciplinary transportation engineering firm, to review calming measures undertaken in 2009, address problems identified subsequently, and review town signage with the desired outcome of reducing clutter and increasing the effectiveness of the remaining signs.

A draft executive summary by Sabra Wang is available on the Town's website at [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) or in hard-copy format at Town Hall. The executive summary focuses on issues residents have identified and makes observations and potential recommendations to address them. It provides

*continued on page 6*

## Calendar

### Wednesday, February 5

Wellness Get-Together

### Monday, February 8

Public Hearing on Traffic Calming

### Sunday, February 23

Forum on Healthy and Safe Yard Care

### Monday, February 24

MVA Mobile Office

Don't forget to check the Town website throughout the month for an up-to-date calendar. Go to [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com) and click on **Town Calendar**.



## On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

### Wake Up Time for Development in Greater Somerset

Over the holidays, we got a jolt as new plans were announced for major projects in our neighborhood that potentially could have a big effect on our daily lives. First, a developer has begun acquiring the parcels of land comprising the Westbard Shopping Center and vicinity. This could ultimately result in the creation of a massive “town center” which will attract customers and residents (and cars!) from all over the area. The sweet little group of shops that we have come to love would all disappear.

At the same time, there is an apparent new move by the Washington Episcopal School, right across Little Falls Parkway, to sell off land where a high rise apartment building will be erected. This structure could loom over our Town while at the same time creating additional traffic worries that we don’t need.

Fortunately, the Town Council and I will closely follow the approval process for both projects to ensure that the views of our residents are heard. We will do everything humanly possible to keep the new construction as small as possible and put safeguards in place to protect our quality of life.

As most know, we are major participants in the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, an historic coalition of community associations and municipalities that has successfully fought for limited density in our area for the past forty plus years. If it was not for this group, our community would look more like Manhattan and less like Main Street.

There is no doubt that during the coming months we will all be called upon to take positions, write letters, and testify at public hearings. We must all now share information, study the proposals, and organize our opposition. Thanks to those who have already contacted us. Now is our chance to activate as many folks as possible so that we can play an active role in responding to these significant changes in our neighborhood.



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

# Why Should Somerset Buy an Umbrella When the Sun is Shining?

By Philip Young (Greystone Street), Robin Barr (Essex Avenue), and Council Vice President Marnie Shaul (Uppingham Street), Members of Somerset Budget Committee



We were hoping the headline would catch your attention. While budget issues don't normally draw many readers, they do matter and affect your family's ability to enjoy Town services without disruption.

At its February 3rd monthly meeting, the Town Council will consider a resolution to establish two special funds: (1) a **Rainy Day Fund**, and (2) a **Special Capital Fund**. The Rainy Day Fund will permit the Town to maintain normal services, even when revenues fall short of projected amounts. During the Great Recession, Town revenues fell by almost half, forcing the Council to make painful decisions to cut back some services.

A **Rainy Day Fund** (targeted to cover 12 months of operating expenditures) would have been sufficient to eliminate the service disruptions Somerset experienced at the time. The **Special Capital Fund** is intended to build a reserve to finance extraordinary capital expenditures, such as an unexpectedly high repair cost to the pool pipes. The Town might also use it to prepay the pool house renovation loan.

Having a reserve cushion is recommended for municipal governments by the Government Finance Officers Association because it is financially prudent. During an unexpected revenue loss, the Town might be able to borrow, but banks will be less willing to make a loan if we have no reserve fund—and for the loans they do make, they will charge a higher interest rate. Just think of your own household. Suppose one day you find yourself temporarily unemployed. With sufficient savings in the bank, such a temporary disruption to income will not force a painful reduction to your standard of living. So it is smart planning for Somerset to create special reserve funds. And the best time to buy an umbrella (build up a **Rainy Day Fund**) is when the sun is shining (revenues are strong). With the economy improving, now is the time to create these funds. The cost of holding formal reserves is offset by the benefits of assuring continuity in Town services in an uncertain future as well as gaining better credit terms with banks.

Having reserves is not new for Somerset. What is new is having a formal written policy that the Town Council commits to follow, and which sets a target for reserves related to how much the Town spends. It also helps protect the Town from future governments running down reserves that past governments have built up to protect against contingencies.

If you have comments on this proposed policy, please send an email to **Rich Charnovich**, Town Manager, at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com).



## ★ Save the Date

### Town Election on April 2 for Mayor and Two Council Seats

By Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Chair, Board of Supervisors of Elections, Cumberland Avenue

Town residents will have an opportunity to vote for Mayor and two Town Council seats in the upcoming election on **April 2, 2014 (National Walking Day) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall**. Nominations for Mayor and the two Council seats will be accepted at the Town Council meeting scheduled for February 3, 2014. Additional nominations may be made if 20 registered voters sign a petition and it is filed with the Clerk-Treasurer not less than 21 days before the election.

The Town Charter requires its elected officials to be:

- Citizens of the United States;
- Residents of the Town of Somerset for at least 18 months preceding the election; and
- Qualified voters in the Town of Somerset and the State of Maryland.

If you are registered in Montgomery County, you are automatically registered in Somerset and can vote in the Town election. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may vote in the Town election by filling out a voter registration form. You can register in person at the Town Hall on Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by sending a completed registration form to the Town Hall. If you would like a registration form, please call the Town Hall at **301-657-3211** or email **Rich Charnovich**, Town Manager, at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com). The deadline for registering to vote is Wednesday, March 19, 2014.



## Town Election

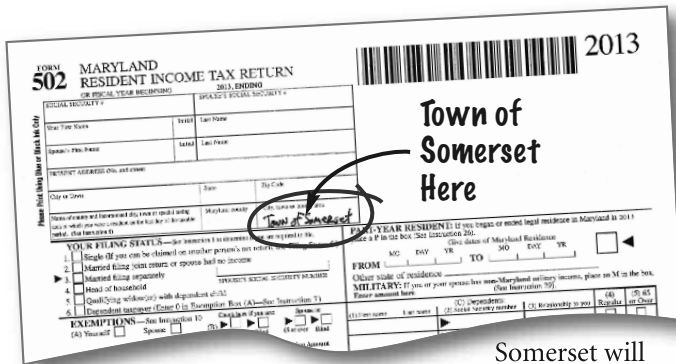
Please refer to the article in this month's Town Journal concerning the upcoming election for Mayor and two Council Members. The election will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

## New Lawn Fertilizer Law

A new Lawn Fertilizer Law became effective in October 2013 in Maryland, and offers guidelines to reduce the risk of nutrient runoff in local waterways. Fertilizer season will resume March 1, 2014, allowing residents and lawn care professionals to apply products with some restrictions. Further information on this new law can be found at the Maryland Department of Agriculture's website at: <http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/fertilizer.aspx>

## Tax Season Approaching

Somerset's largest source of revenue is the portion of State income tax that is paid by Town residents. Unfortunately,



Somerset will not get its share of income taxes unless "Somerset" appears on the Maryland income tax form in the box marked, "City, Town or Taxing Area." Please do not forget to complete this section when filling out your taxes.

## Five Year Fiscal Plan

In the next few months, I will be working with Mayor Slavin on the Town's five year fiscal plan. This document will be presented to the Council at its meeting on March 3, 2014. Although this document is not legally binding, it provides the Town with clear direction for

its revenues, expenditures and capital expenditures in the short and longer term. I welcome comments from Town residents on what could be included in this five year plan as it is being developed.

## Town Website Update

Our new Town website is now not scheduled to go live until the end of January or February 2014. We greatly appreciate your patience as we work toward transitioning to the new website and communications system.

## Private and Town Tree Removal Reminder

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

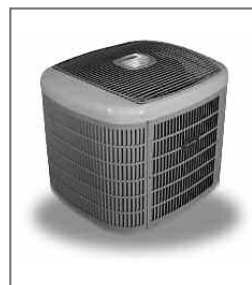


## New Contact Information for Montgomery County Police

I wanted to make sure that all Town residents are aware of the 2nd District Police Department's **new phone number: 240-773-6700**. The Montgomery County non-emergency number is 301-279-8000; dial 911 for emergencies. The Police Department also has a new website that also has valuable information. The web address is [www.mymcpnews.com](http://www.mymcpnews.com)

## HVAC Unit and Generator Permit Reminder

I want to remind residents that a Town permit is required



HVAC Unit Permit Required

to install or replace any type of HVAC unit or emergency generator in your home. Noise level requirements must also be met for these units to protect your neighbors. Please contact the Town Hall or visit the Town website for specific requirements for the installation of HVAC units or generators.

# Council Meeting Actions

*The Town Council met in regular session on January 6, 2014. The Council took the following actions:*

1. Approval of John Stewart to serve on the Board of Supervisor of Elections for a term expiring December 31, 2016.
2. Approval of David Sapin to serve on the Batting Cage Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.
3. Approval of Mark Oxley to serve on the Batting Cage Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2015.
4. Approval of Jeff Macher to serve on the Batting Cage Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2014.
5. Approval of Abby Nolan to serve on the Town Tennis Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2016.
6. Approval of Sue Besharov to serve on the Town Tennis Committee for a term to expired on December 31, 2016.
7. Approval to allocate funding up to \$22,869.00 to the Somerset Dolphins Swim Team for coaches' salaries and fees for the 2014 season.
8. Approval of a building permit application submitted for 4511 Dorset Avenue. The applicant was granted demolition, building, wall, curb cut, dumpster, tree removal and reforestation permits.
9. Approval of a permit extension for Washington Gas for work currently taking place. The permit is extended until February 3, 2014.
10. Approval of the date for the 2014 Somerset election, which will be April 2, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.
11. Approval of PCO14R for the Town Hall interior project which includes the following scope: repair the 1st floor windows, replace cords, replace weights as needed to make windows operable, remove existing sashes as necessary to perform work, and ad additional trim at ceiling of meeting room.
12. During the public comment period, Lucy Freeman (Dorset) requested that the Town consider painting house numbers on curbs as was completed years ago. Matt Vendemio, a newly hired part-time police officer for the Town, was at the meeting to meet the Mayor and Council. Ed Mulheron, representing the Town snow removal contractor, was also at the meeting to provide a report to the Council.
13. 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, Larry Plummer, provided a report to the Council for discussion purposes concerning sidewalk, paving and curb work he would like to complete in calendar year 2014.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Many thanks to the large number of residents who participated in our second annual effort to organize giving for Town employees for the holidays. Thanks to the outpouring of support, we were able to present generous checks to our well-deserving staff. The Council members, the Town's staff, and I want to express our appreciation. The amount collected and the percentage of participation exceeded last year, and that is doubly wonderful. We must never forget that our employees work very hard, and are all subject to the high cost of living in the DC metropolitan area.

During the holidays, I had the pleasure of speaking with many residents who had exciting news such as the arrival of grand and great-grandchildren, engagements, new jobs, retirements, and the like. There is always a great demand for this type of information and the Town Journal's *All About People* column, written so well each month by **Alan Dock** (Falstone), is the perfect place to share your news. Please contact Alan at [alandock26@gmail.com](mailto:alandock26@gmail.com). The frequency of sharing this information has decreased in recent years. While I understand that some folks are shy or modest about providing this type of news, I find that it ties us together as a community.

Some of you already have gotten involved with the local nonprofit **Bethesda Green**, founded in 2008. This public-private partnership has accomplished a great deal in making a positive difference on our local environment. One of my resolutions for 2014 is to engage our Town more officially with this group during the upcoming year. A few weeks ago, Environment Committee Chair **Robin Barr** (Essex) and I attended a social gathering sponsored by Bethesda Green to facilitate establishing stronger relationships with this group. For those interested, check out their website at [bethesdagreen.org](http://bethesdagreen.org) and give me a call if you would like to volunteer to help.

While I hope that the snowfall this winter will be minimal, on those days when it is necessary to put salt on our driveways and sidewalks, let's use products that are not harmful to the paws of our dogs. Somerset is known as a pet loving Town and I want to keep it that way.

**Don't forget that Valentine's Day  
is just around the corner.**



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**Save the Date: February 10th Public Hearing Regarding Traffic Calming** *from page 1*

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key information for the public discussion on February 10th. The issues are:

1. Speeding on lower Falstone on the Little Falls Parkway side and on Surrey between Greystone and Falstone;
2. Stop sign observance at Dorset and Deal and at Surrey and Grantham;
3. Installation of safe passage crossing at Warwick and Essex where a conventional crosswalk may be difficult to implement;
4. Pedestrian safety on lower Trent where no sidewalk exists;
5. Pedestrian safety on Essex on the Little Falls Parkway side where no sidewalk exists;
6. Improvement of corner sight distance on Surrey at Falstone involving on-street parking and bushes;
7. Cut-through rush hour traffic that travels from Drummond through the alley down Cumberland and exiting onto Dorset at Devon Lane in the morning;
8. Visibility of all stop signs;
9. Dorset rush hour turn restrictions;
10. An EZ Pass that requires residents to have a transponder to enter parts of Town; and
11. A speed hump request for Uppingham between Greystone and Trent.

Sabra Wang's executive study organizes its observations and recommendations into categories such as speeding, stop sign compliance, cut-through traffic, and pedestrian issues.

Please take time to review the executive summary prior to attending the February 10th meeting at Town Hall. We want this meeting to be a productive discussion between informed residents and the Sabra Wang engineer.

Sabra Wang's work was based on a review of prior studies done for Somerset or other public bodies, data collected by Somerset's Speed Sentry Machine, and the firm's observations, including an origin and destination study it conducted when school was not in session.

The final report will have detailed information on all of these topics.

## Want to Create a Healthier Yard and A Safer Environment?

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Sunday, February 23rd from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Please join us at Town Hall on **Sunday, February 23, 2014** to learn about safe yard care and compliance with the State of Maryland's new laws on fertilizer and pesticide use, and to hear from national leaders in conservation landscaping.

### Come meet our Expert Panel!



**Paul Tukey**, the first Chief Sustainability Officer for Glenstone ([www.glenstone.org](http://www.glenstone.org)), a museum with beautiful grounds and gardens in Potomac, which has been maintained without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers since 2010. Tukey recently joined Glenstone with the goal of creating a “living classroom”. The Founder and former Director of the SafeLawns Foundation, Tukey is the HGTV host who authored *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*. In 2009, Tukey produced and starred in the award-winning documentary, “A Chemical Reaction,” about Hudson, Quebec, the first town in North America to ban lawn and garden chemicals.



**David Mizejewski**, a Naturalist at the National Wildlife Federation ([www.nwf.org/David-Mizejewski.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/David-Mizejewski.aspx)), who produces and hosts the Animal Planet show, “Backyard Habitat.” Mizejewski is frequently seen on the Today show (and is known for protecting hosts and guest alike from wildlife) and is a contributor to other national broadcasts and print media. David is the author of the bestseller, *Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife*. His passions are nature and wildlife and he loves getting people interested and educated in both, wherever they live.



**Ann English** is the Rainscapes Coordinator with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Watershed Management Division. Ann runs the RainScapes Rewards Rebate Program, which is designed to reduce storm water impact on the County's streams and waterways. The program rewards eligible residents, businesses, and others for installing rain gardens, conservation landscaping, canopy trees, permeable pavers, green roofs, cisterns, rain barrels or dry wells. This year's program has new application forms and restructured rebate amounts. Residents receive a maximum rebate of \$1,200 per property.

**Seating is limited so please arrive early to reserve your seat!**

Please call or email Town Hall ([301-657-3211](tel:301-657-3211)/[manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com)) or **Kristen Khanna** ([301-654-5602](tel:301-654-5602) / [kkhanna@animalci.com](mailto:kkhanna@animalci.com)) with questions.

# Town of Somerset Files to Intervene in Pepco Rate Case

Council Member Catherine Pickar, Dorset Avenue



On December 4th, Pepco filed a request, yet again, with the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) for a \$43.3 million increase in base rates, which would translate to approximately \$5 per month on an average consumer Pepco bill. In addition, Pepco is asking for an increase on the return (Return on Equity) paid to Pepco shareholders from the recently approved 9.36 percent to 10.25 percent,

and a 12 percent increase on fees paid by municipalities for their street lights. Although Pepco did recently inform its municipal customers that it would negotiate costs for LED installation on an individual basis, the cost per pole to replace old technology with more energy-efficient induction lighting is approximately \$3,000 per street light. Somerset has more than 160 street lights. Clearly, this \$3,000 per street light cost represents a high profit margin that is untenable for most small municipalities.

On December 30, the Town of Somerset filed a petition to intervene in protest of the rate request (Case 9336). The petition was filed at no cost to the Town. Montgomery County Council member Roger Berliner was very helpful in preparing the legal filing. Several other entities filed to intervene in the case, including the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg.

As excerpted from the filing, the Town specifically:

- Urges the Commission to carefully scrutinize Pepco's \$43.3 million request and limit the amount granted to only those items absolutely required by law. The Commission found, in Pepco's last rate case, that more than half of Pepco's request was not eligible or proper for recovery from ratepayers.
- Opposes the increase of Pepco's return on equity from 9.36 percent 10.25 percent and strongly urges the Commission to continue to tie Pepco's return to its performance. While Pepco argues that its performance has improved, given where it started from, that is hardly surprising. Pepco's performance is, most assuredly, not at a high level at this time.
- Urges the Commission and its staff to carefully examine the basis of the increase in charges for monthly maintenance and distribution rates for street lights. Small municipalities like ours must rely upon the Commission, its staff, and the Office of People's Counsel to protect the legitimate interests of small municipal governments who possess neither the technical expertise nor the financial resources to effectively fight Pepco on this important issue.

The Public Service Commission will soon announce the date, time, and location for two public hearings on the current rate request in Montgomery County. Any individual can speak at these hearings, which are in front of the Commissioners. The Commission will announce its decision regarding the current request in July 2014.



Pepco will negotiate costs for LED installation on an individual basis.



*Editor's Note: This article was submitted in response to the Washington Post Metro section article on Somerset, "Proud of Their Oasis," October 18, 2013. ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-stones-throw-from-friendship-heights-somerset-guards-its-small-town-charm/2013/10/17/4edf2f7a-3284-11e3-89ae-16e186e117d8\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-stones-throw-from-friendship-heights-somerset-guards-its-small-town-charm/2013/10/17/4edf2f7a-3284-11e3-89ae-16e186e117d8_story.html)). Faye Cohen and her husband Sheldon have lived in Somerset for 52 years. Faye played a key role in the de-annexation described in this article.*



## Somerset's De-annexation: A History

By Faye Cohen, Trent Street

During the past fifty years, the citizens of the Town of Somerset were faced with some important challenges to preserve the charm and character of their Town. The first challenge occurred when the Mayor and Council signed a legal agreement that prevented them from questioning any re-zoning the developers of the Bergdoll Tract wanted in exchange for the land in the flood plain upon which the Town swimming pool was built. The Bergdoll Tract, the location of the current Somerset House condominiums, was then a part of Somerset. This legal agreement was binding upon four mayors and all of the Council members of Somerset.

The Somerset Citizens Association was created to bolster the Town's defense of its open space and boundaries during a period of intense development. The formation of the Citizens Association made it possible for Somerset to be represented in the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights. (CCFH is a group of 16 citizen associations in the vicinity of Somerset that had previous to the County Council and the Planning Board on the development of Friendship Heights). The Mayor and Council could not represent the Town in these discussions, being legally bound, but the Citizens' Association could and did. The Association, for example, was the plaintiff in a lawsuit against an apartment building being built without a sewer or building permit at the edge of the Town, and it insisted that the Somerset town attorney be changed when it was discovered that the same law firm also represented the developer of land within the Town—a clear conflict of interest. At about the same time, the Town expressed interest in the acquisition of "peak" property on both sides of Dorset Avenue at Wisconsin Avenue. The Somerset Citizens Association became active in bringing this transaction to fruition.

Somerset citizens organized again to oppose construction of high-rise condominiums planned on the Bergdoll Tract. The projected condominium population would outnumber the Town's single-family home residents, and when their interests diverged, as seemed likely, single-family home owners could be easily outvoted. A group of Town citizens concluded that de-annexation of the Bergdoll Tract would avert this possibility. They named their group the Somerset De-Annexation Initiative (SDI). For more than a year SDI met to formulate plans to de-annex the Bergdoll Tract. They conducted a long and arduous door-to-door campaign to allow for a citizen referendum so Town residents could decide their own future; hired a lawyer to draft the necessary legal documents; and arranged a debate chaired by the League of Women Voters, which was held at Somerset Elementary School to accommodate the overflow crowd. Both sides of the issue were presented: on the one hand, keeping the larger condominium population within the Town would boost tax revenues substantially, but, alternatively, homeowners could be outvoted on issues they considered vital.

Somerset citizens chose overwhelmingly to continue their way of life as a community of single-family homes by voting 90% in favor of de-annexation. Contrary to the article in the Washington Post of October 18, 2013, there was no knight in shining armor to guide us through a quick and easy fix. The Mayor, Council, and Town Attorney did not help (they could not) or even make a statement. It is also interesting to note that most of the people involved in the Somerset Citizens' Association did not participate in SDI. De-annexation was decided by Somerset residents who voted "bigger is not always better." It is the citizens of this Town who are the real heroes of this story.

# Calling All Somerset Artists!

By Council Member Barbara Zeughauser, Trent Street



Somerset Town Hall.

In the fall of last year, the Council approved a proposal to complete some much needed interior work in the Town Hall. Most of the work is now complete, including interior painting, acoustical panels (so that conversations can now be heard during gatherings!), floor refinishing, signage, handicap accessible front and side doors, and general electrical upgrades. In addition to the fact that the offices and meeting room look much better, specific upgrades were included in the proposal to make the building more useful and appealing to our residents.

One specific upgrade is a track picture hanging system. The Council has discussed the possibility of hosting art shows to display the paintings/drawings of artists in the community (with a new artist “opening” evening every other month). Although there

is not an enormous amount of space, there is certainly plenty of room to hang several pieces of art. Our newly renovated Town Hall would be a great place to display the talent of our Somerset artists!

If you have any questions or have an interest in participating, please email the Council at [council@townofsomerset.com](mailto:council@townofsomerset.com).



Enjoy a new artist “opening” evening every other month at Somerset Town Hall.

## Save the Date

### Somerset Chorus on March 2

By Jeanette Kreiser, Falstone Avenue

Mark your calendars for the late afternoon/early evening of **Sunday, March 2** when we have scheduled our next Somerset Singers. Our last get-together in December, which included a potluck at the end, worked very well. We had a lot of fun. More information will be forthcoming in March. Hope to see you there.



## Tree Planting in Somerset: Spring 2014

4510 Cumberland Ave. – 1 Red Maple, 2-2.5” caliper

4516 Dorset Ave. – 1 Scarlet Oak, 2-2.5” caliper

4604 Dorset Ave. – 1 Scarlet Oak, 2-2.5” caliper

4725 Dorset Ave. – 2 Yellowwood, 2-2.5” caliper

4700 Essex Ave. – 1 Willow Oak, 2-2.5” caliper

4807 Essex Ave. – 2 Yellowwood, 2-2.5” caliper

4701 Falstone Ave. – 1 Yellowwood, 2-2.5” caliper

4710 Falstone Ave. – 2 Yoshino Cherry, 2-2.5” caliper

4810 Falstone Ave. – 1 Yoshino Cherry, 2-2.5” caliper

4904 Falstone Ave. – 1 Red Maple, 2-2.5” caliper

5505 Greystone St. – 1 Red Maple, 2-2.5” caliper

5417 Surrey St. – 1 Yellowwood, 2-2.5” caliper

5511 Trent St. – 2 Yoshino Cherry, 2-2.5” caliper

5612 Warwick Pl. – 1 Yellowwood, 2-2.5” caliper

## General Permits

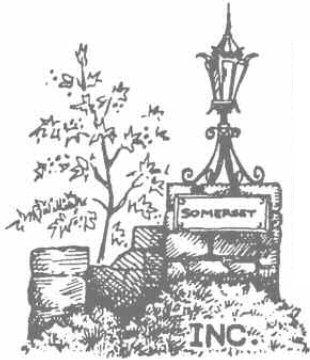


### Tree Removal Permit

5409 Surrey Street

### Tree Removal Permit

4918 Cumberland Avenue, 1 Mulberry Tree. The tree was hazardous.



*We're Having a  
Lotto to Choose a  
Town Motto!*



Unlike many other communities, Somerset does not have a motto! To remedy this glaring omission, Somerset is holding a contest for our Town Motto. We need a catchy phrase that captures the essence of our Town. A citizens' panel will recommend best entries to the Mayor and the Town Council. The Grand Prize will be the sum of \$250. Enter as often as you like. Each entry will be eligible for a drawing for a dinner for two at Clyde's of Chevy Chase, sponsored by Mayor Slavin.

Entries should be sent to [bmarenus@gmail.com](mailto:bmarenus@gmail.com) or dropped off at Town Hall. Closing date is March 3. This contest is open to Somerset residents of any age!



**Enter the Town motto contest today!**

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, February 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on February 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the 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.**

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



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

### CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of Mayor Slavin's nomination of a Town resident to serve as Pool Committee Chair for calendar year 2014 – 7:35 p.m.

### NON-CONSENT

1. **Public Hearing:** The Board of Supervisors of Elections will receive nominations for 2 Council positions and 1 Mayoral seat for 2 year terms. The election will be on April 2, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.
2. **Discussion:** Town Manager's February Financial Report – 7:45 p.m.
3. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of a Resolution establishing a Rainy Day/Special Capital Fund – 7:50 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider an application submitted by Patrick and Vicki Malone, 4901 Essex Avenue, to install an emergency generator contingent upon the generator passing all of the required noise level requirements – 8:00 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider an application submitted by Washington Gas to replace 8 services in Somerset via Keyhole and Insertion on Cumberland Avenue, Dorset Avenue, and Warwick Place – 8:10 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Discussion:** To consider approval of a proposal submitted by Larry Plummer, Town Roads Inspector, for sidewalk, paving and curb work on Town streets and sidewalks – 8:25 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider the following spring tree plantings as recommended by the Town Arborist and Parks and Natural Resources Committee – 8:40 p.m.

4510 Cumberland Avenue, 1 Red Maple  
4516 Dorset Avenue, 1 Scarlet Oak  
4604 Dorset Avenue, 1 Scarlet Oak  
4725 Dorset Avenue, 2 Yellowwood  
4700 Essex Avenue, 1 Willow Oak  
4807 Essex Avenue, 2 Yellowwood  
4701 Falstone Avenue, 1 Yellowwood  
4710 Falstone Avenue, 2 Yoshino Cherry

4701 Falstone Avenue, 1 Yellowwood  
4710 Falstone Avenue, 2 Yoshino Cherry  
4810 Falstone Avenue, 1 Yoshino Cherry  
4904 Falstone, 1 Red Maple  
5505 Greystone Street, 1 Red Maple  
5417 Surrey Street, 1 Yellowwood  
5511 Trent Street, 2 Yoshino Cherry  
5612 Warwick Place, 1 Yellowwood

8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider setting the Town Pool opening and closing dates for the 2014 season.

*continued on page 14*

9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider proposal submitted by Criterion, Inc. to re-strap and paint 28 chairs (white) and only strap 11 other chairs (gold) at a cost of \$2,482.00 at the town pool – 8:55 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of an invoice submitted by Michael J. Thomas Plumbing and Heating Co. in the amount of \$3,233.00. The invoice was authorized in an emergency in the Town Hall when water pipes broke under the building – 9:00 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of a Resolution confirming the Town of Somerset’s intent to pursue the Sustainable Maryland certification – 9:05 p.m.
12. **Discussion:** Mayor’s Report – 9:10 p.m.
13. **Adjourn:** – 9:15 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.*