



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

*“Where People Have Deep Roots
and Grow Strong”*



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Town Election for Three Council Seats on March 23rd

| By Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Chair, Board of Supervisors of Elections

- ★ *It's Election Time!*
- ★ *View an Exhibit of Somerset Artist Carol Jason*
- ★ *Refreshments Will be Served*

The election for three Town Council seats will be held on **Monday, March 23rd** in the Somerset Town Hall **from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Three incumbents are running for Town Council: **Council Member Franny Peale** (Uppingham), **Council Vice President**

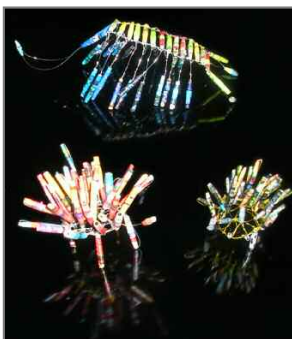
Marnie Shaul (Uppingham), and **Council Member Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent). Statements from the candidates are included in this issue of the Journal.

An exhibit of noted Somerset artist, **Carol Jason** (Warwick) will be on display during voting hours and refreshments will be served as well. Come mingle with other Somerset residents and view the superb art exhibit while exercising your right to vote.

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Save The Date

New Art Exhibit at Town Hall on March 23



Carol A. Jason, a resident of Warwick Place since 1981, will have an exhibit of abstract acrylic paintings at the Town Hall from **Monday, March 23** (Town Election Day), through **Wednesday, May 20**. On March 23rd only, there will be a special sale when Carol's wire and bead "critter" sculptures will make their Town Hall appearance. Take this opportunity to vote in the Town election, to meet Carol, and adopt a "critter" to a new home.

Carol has shown her artwork at numerous shows in the Washington/Maryland/Virginia and Philadelphia areas. She is a founding member of the OUTLOUD group of abstract painters, a member of the Washington Sculptors Guild, and a member of Group 93 painters. She received her M.F.A. in sculpture from the American University, and studied abstract painting with her mentor, Helen Corning, at the Yellow Barn. She also studied printmaking and hand-built sculpture at the Corcoran

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Calendar

Monday, March 23

Town Elections

Monday, March 23

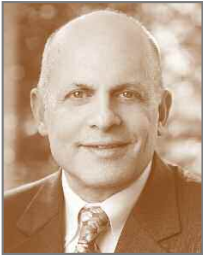
New Town Art Exhibit Opening

Monday, March 23

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

Public Engagement

As I have gotten to know hundreds of Town residents throughout my thirteen years in office here, I have always found it remarkable how talented, well educated and streetwise Somerseters are as a group. And I am always impressed with how willing you are to get involved in what some refer to as the “Greater Good,” whether it’s in politics, government or the nonprofit sector.

I hope most of you realize that I am your biggest cheerleader and advocate. And I take special pride in your accomplishments and contributions. As a full-time philanthropist in one of my other lives, I strongly believe that all those as able and resource-laden as we are have a duty and obligation to take on at least one leadership opportunity during our lifetime. That is why, for example, I am constantly recruiting residents for County boards and commissions in such areas as criminal justice, seniors, transportation, the environment, and the arts.

In addition, there are important federal and state positions, opportunities to run for elected office, political party posts, and leadership roles in religious institutions that I want to see filled by our citizens. Even more importantly, in Montgomery County there is a thriving and robust nonprofit sector that plays a vital role in the County’s success and there often is a need for a new executive director or member of a board of directors.

I know that it’s often difficult to sift through all the possibilities and indeed to find something that is truly meaningful. Please know that I am always willing to help in this regard. Along with supporting your applications and initiatives, I am easy to get in touch with.

Finally, for those who cannot commit to a specific leadership role, the County offers a large menu of opportunities for one time only tasks through its volunteer center.

Nothing would please me more than to read about all of your new commitments in the **All About People** columns throughout the rest of the year.

New Art Exhibit at Town Hall from page 1

School of Art. Carol holds a diploma in design from the Chicago Academy of Fine Art. Carol describes her work as follows: “My paintings mix subtle colors and elegant meditative space, evoking a sense of calmness and mystery. Painting has allowed me to bring the elements of color, light and air into my art. My sculptures investigate how balance and emotion/feeling can be expressed through the figure and also in abstracts.”

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manager@townofsomerset.com or call the Town Hall at **301-657-3211**.

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

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Open: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday thru Friday
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Fax: 301-657-2773
TTY users call Maryland Relay

Westbard Update and Infrastructure Symposium on March 7th



By Council Vice President Marnie Shaul, Uppingham Street

Somerset residents have had multiple opportunities to learn about and

speak out on the River Road-Westbard Sector Plan. High on the list of concerns is the potential for school overcrowding and increased traffic. These concerns are also voiced by residents in nearby neighborhoods and also neighbors of the Downtown Bethesda Sector Plan. In response to these concerns, our District 1 County Council representative, Roger Berliner, is holding a symposium entitled “Infrastructure and Growth: Are We Keeping Pace?” The Symposium is on **Saturday, March 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria at **Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School**. The symposium is supported by the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Planning Department. You can register for this event and find details on Council Member Berliner’s website at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/berliner/>.

More than 40 Somerset residents attended a public meeting on Westbard on January 28th in the Town Hall. Gwen

Wright, Director of Montgomery County’s Planning Department, and her staff presented their current designs for the River Road-Westbard area. They also answered residents’ questions about the potential effects of increased development on schools and the environment. In response to questions about traffic, they said that the work of their traffic consultant is not finished, and they expect to get results in another month or so. Somerset and Kenwood will be taking a careful look at how proposed changes might affect traffic on our roads and will likely work together to mitigate traffic.

During the first week of February, Equity One, owner of a large parcel of land in the Westbard area, presented its current plan to a variety of groups, including the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (to which Somerset belongs), and also to the media. Highlights of the plan include 500-700 units of housing, retail buildings mainly 50-75 feet in height, several small parks, and potentially a community building. You can read about Equity One’s plans in more detail in two summaries that include drawings at <http://www.bethesdamagazine.com/Bethesda-Beat/2015/Equity-One-Unveils-Westbard-Development-Plans/> and <http://robertdyer.blogspot.com/2015/02/equity-one-unveils-westbard.html>.

Both the Planning Department and Equity One will continue to refine their plans so it’s important to continue to let them know what you like and what you’d like to see changed. You can do that directly or through your elected Town representatives.



Town Election for Three Council Seats *from page 1*

Please note that you must be registered by Monday, March 9th to vote in the election. If you are a registered voter in Montgomery County, you are eligible to vote in the Town. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may vote in the Town Elections if you have filled out a registration form. A member of the Board of Supervisors of Elections will be at the Town Hall on Monday, March 2nd from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to register new voters.

Residents can also register directly at the Town Hall, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by mail by sending a completed registration form to the Town Hall, 4510 Cumberland Avenue. Please contact the Town staff at manager@townofsomerset.com or 301-657-3211 if you need a form mailed to you. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Hall beginning March 9th.

To be qualified to vote in the Somerset election, a resident must be:

- At least 18 years old by March 23rd;
- A resident of Somerset for 14 days preceding the election or by March 9, 2015;
- A citizen of the United States or an alien legally authorized to reside in the country; and
- Registered to vote in the Town of Somerset and/or Montgomery County.

Don’t Forget to Vote!



Franny Peale
(Uppingham Street)



Candidate
for Town
Council



Our Town Council elections are coming up in March, and I would like to ask for your vote of support for my candidacy. I have been on the Council since May 2012 when I was appointed to fill a vacancy, a step that formed our historic all-female team.

The Town Council has been very effective in the last few years, in my opinion. I hope you agree. When I sit in the Town Hall each month for meetings, I appreciate the work and

resources that we put into renovating the space. It is now a lovely, accessible spot, and a showcase for our community art exhibits. This year the Town Council will follow through on a planned review of the Town Code. We think that the Code can be updated and streamlined into a relevant and useful guide for our residents. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in this long-range project.

Although I only have a few years of perspective as a Council Member, I believe that our Town government works efficiently and cooperatively on regular matters. Every month we review building permit applications and third-party contracts. We tackle seasonal issues ranging from snow and ice removal to maintenance of the Town pool and tennis courts. Each year we review the Town's operating and capital budgets. We consider our Town's impact on our environment, and we build up our Town's relationship with neighboring communities.

This year our Town is under extra pressure. WSSC is required to repair and rehabilitate the polluted stream in our parkland. This project is important and could lead to a long-term benefit for our community, but it is crucial to minimize the impact of the work on our trees and our wildlife. Our Council has already been active in defense of our Town's interests, and our role will become even more important as we negotiate a final contract with WSSC.

It seems to me that it is harder than ever to run a quick errand. Traffic on the cut-through streets of our Town is terrible. The Council recently engaged a traffic consultant to provide current data. This will be important in light of the major development projects that are being planned for the Westbard area and the Washington Episcopal School site. Our strong Council team hopes to influence the planners to reduce the scale of the development, and to commit resources to public safety and school construction projects.

Marnie Shaul
(Uppingham Street)



Candidate
for Town
Council



I feel so lucky to live in Somerset and enjoy the special sense of community our Town offers to residents of all ages. I treasure the many wonderful friends I've made here over 25 years. I'm running again because I want to continue to help build and maintain a strong, secure and healthy Town along with our mayor, my council colleagues, and many residents who give guidance on committees, attend public meetings, and send me suggestions by email about issues they care about and want the Council to pay attention to.

As Council Vice-President for the past 7 years, I have provided leadership on a variety of Town issues including the budget and long-term capital investments. I have also fostered links to external organizations such as the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship, which represents 19 neighborhood groups including Somerset on development issues like Westbard. I have listened to residents' concerns and been respectful of their views when making decisions on the complex and controversial issues the Town sometimes faces.

In the 8 years I've been on the Council we've had many achievements, foremost among them renovating the pool house, which is the center of Town activity in the summer. We also weathered the financial downturn in the great recession and have undertaken initiatives to improve our environment. But we continue to face challenges. This fiscal year our income tax revenues are likely to fall so we will need to assess carefully our potential expenditures and how we can continue to invest in our Town's physical assets.

We also face challenges from nearby development. We can expect increased building in Downtown Bethesda, at the Washington Episcopal School, on River Road and along Westbard Avenue. Potential changes in these areas could have a substantial effect on our residential community. I have publicized plans for River Road-Westbard in the Town Journal and in two recent public meetings and provided opportunities for Somerset residents to express their concerns. If re-elected, my goal is to engage Town residents as much as possible over the next year as Montgomery County finalizes its sector plans in both Westbard and Bethesda and to convey our residents' concerns about school overcrowding, traffic, and building heights and density to county decision-makers.

I have been honored to serve as your Council representative and would appreciate your vote on Monday, March 23rd.



Barbara Zeughouser
(Trent Street)



**Candidate
for Town
Council**



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

I have truly enjoyed serving on the Town Council since 2009, and hope to continue to serve the Town as a Council Member for the next two years.

For the past two years, I was the Council point person for the design and renovation of our new Town Hall, and I believe the project reflects well on our Town and its residents. Part of the renovation included an art hanging system, and I now work alongside our resident artists to schedule art shows in our newly refurbished space. With each and every art opening, I've come to treasure the sense of community that our artists bring to Somerset.

In addition, I've continued to serve as the Council liaison to our Parks and Natural Resources Committee and as the alternate to our Environmental Committee; I've worked hard to preserve our trees and protect the surrounding parkland, and make Somerset worthy of our designation as a "Tree City USA."

I continue to work with Helping Hands and have come to know many of our senior residents. In addition, I have enjoyed meeting our many "fourth graders," through my involvement with the "If I Were Mayor" contest at Somerset Elementary School. Being a member of our multi-generational community is something I treasure.

If re-elected, I will remain focused on your concerns in a fiscally responsible manner so that sound decisions, fiscal and otherwise, can and will be made for the Town of Somerset.

My Council experience has reinforced what I've learned from living in Somerset for 29 years; Somerset is an incredibly special community. Having served on the Council for six years now, I have listened to your concerns and made certain those concerns were heard and addressed. I find this process rewarding and would be honored to serve for another term. I respectfully ask for your vote on March 23.

Recent Town Hall Art Show



Florence Gang's (seated at left) art show reception

A Brief History of Utility Undergrounding Discussions in Somerset

By Jack Frink, Environment Committee, Cumberland Avenue

Some residents have recently expressed interest in placing utility wires underground, aka “undergrounding.” Proponents hope that undergrounding would reduce power outages and allow better street lighting. This discussion has prompted me to return to the report that the Town commissioned 10 years ago. In 2004, I had the honor to work briefly with the **late Council Member Alan Proctor** on the feasibility of undergrounding all utilities on PEPCO poles, and replacing the poles with decorative street lamps. The Town paid KCI Technologies \$20,000 to do a study and estimate costs of undergrounding. Here is a brief synopsis of the May 20, 2005 study that is available for review in the Town Hall.

Their lowest construction estimate for undergrounding the entire Town was \$14,035,000, which is about \$17,000,000 in 2014 adjusted dollars. This estimate does not include recommended contingency, design, and administrative costs of an additional 46%, which would bring the total to around \$25,000,000. It also does not include utility hookups to homes, estimated to be about \$5000 per home, or about \$2,000,000 total. I don’t believe the estimate included repaving roads that would be heavily damaged by the extensive trenching under the asphalt.

Alan thought there might be cost savings if the work was done in conjunction with planned water and sewer work but KCI said the utilities (PEPCO, WSSC, Washington Gas, Verizon and Comcast) don’t like to cooperate on projects since each wants their own trench installed by their own contractor and under their direct supervision. A unified trench might be possible if contractors could meet all utility installation requirements in one trench. Sounds complicated.

In June 1968, the Maryland Public Service Commission issued a ruling that all new residential and commercial construction have electric distribution cables underground. They also issued a ruling prohibiting utilities from paying for undergrounding existing utilities for aesthetic reasons. New construction in Westbard will default to underground utilities but not affect existing communities like Somerset.

So, for about \$27,000,000 (\$65,000 per lot) we might be able to get underground utilities. I say might because I frankly believe an undertaking of this magnitude will

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Traffic Update

By Council Member Cathy Pickar, Dorset Avenue and Council Vice President Marnie Shaul, Uppingham Street

Some residents have expressed concern about increased traffic in Somerset, especially on Dorset Avenue. In response, at its February meeting, the Council voted to undertake a small contract with Sabra Wang to help us do an updated traffic count on Dorset and a couple of other intersections. Sabra Wang did the last traffic study the Town contracted for and we received its final report in 2014. It is posted on the Town’s website under the Our Community heading.

Before we undertake a traffic count, Somerset officials want to meet with representatives of the State Highway Authority (SHA) and the County Department of Transportation to learn what information they would require to make changes where our intersections meet with their roads. (River Road and Wisconsin Avenue are State highways and Little Falls Parkway is a County road.)

In addition, Town officials have been in contact with both Chevy Chase Village and the Town of Chevy Chase about their traffic restrictions. According to the Village Town Manager, the Village implemented no turn restrictions and blocked off some of its roads more than 20 years ago. Previously the Village had a number of through streets from Wisconsin to Connecticut Avenues. Somerset never had through streets except Dorset because the county never put through roads to Little Falls Parkway on its right-of-ways on Essex and Falstone Avenues. In contrast, the Town of Chevy Chase, instituted its turn restrictions many years ago and could not provide us with details about how that was done. Both the Village and Town have significant police enforcement.

After we meet with state and county officials, the Town will put out a call for volunteers to do the traffic count. Sabra Wang will design how we do the count and will analyze the data, but we have stipulated that Town residents will do the actual counts.



Once the Town has the necessary information, we will hold a public meeting to discuss our options and invite SHA and County officials to join us. Even if the traffic counts on Dorset warranted restrictions per the SHA and County requirements,

the Council is very aware that changes in one location could increase traffic on other streets. In addition, any restrictions would apply to all vehicles so residents would have to change their driving patterns. Thus, it would be very important to have community-wide support for any proposed changes.



5-Year Fiscal Plan

Mayor Slavin's 5-Year Fiscal Plan will be presented to the Council at its March 2, 2015 meeting. Although this document is not legally binding, it provides the Town with an important outline for its revenues, expenditures and capital expenditures in the short

and longer term. The document will be published in the April edition of the Town Journal.

Tennis Passes and Batting Cage

Starting in March, residents can obtain a 2015 tennis pass and pay the annual batting cage fee. The tennis pass fee for 2015 will again be \$20.00 per household. This is the same rate as it was in 2014. The 2015 batting cage fee is again \$5.00.

Tax Season Approaching



Somerset's largest source of revenue is the portion of State income tax paid by Town residents. Unfortunately, Somerset will not get its share of income taxes unless our name 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.

Town Code and Charter Project Update

The first part of this project will be to review the recommendations from our consultant, General Code, on how to best organize the current Town code. We anticipate beginning this segment of the project in early March.

Directory Update

We are currently working on the 2015 Town Directory, and we know there may be incorrect email addresses in the current one. Please email any changes to town@townofsomerset.com. If you are new to Somerset, or you wish to amend your household's entry, please send us an email containing any updated information for your listing. You can use the format in the current directory as a guideline. The deadline for revisions will be May 15, 2015.

Bulk Refuse Pickup

The tentative date for the next bulk refuse pickup is May 4, 2015. The exact date will be set at the March 2, 2015 Council meeting. Please follow the Town Journal and email blasts for the exact date once it is confirmed.



Private and Town Tree Removal Process

This is a reminder that the Town of Somerset must approve any trees to be removed 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.

E-Journal Sign-Up

We would like to urge as many residents as possible to elect to receive the Town Journal electronically. As a Tree City USA and a PLANT Maryland Community, Somerset wants to reduce its impact on the environment by encouraging residents to receive their copy of the Town Journal by email. If you are not currently on the Town Journal email distribution list and would like to receive an electronic copy, please contact the Town Hall at manager@townofsomerset.com or at 301-657-3211.



Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on February 2, 2015. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the January 5, 2015 Closed Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval to change the September, 2015 Regular Council Meeting date to September 8, 2015.
3. Approval of the Mayor's re-nomination of Debbie Heller to serve on the Pool Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2017.
4. Approval of the Mayor's nomination of Nancy Zuckerbrod to serve on the Pool Committee for a term expiring December 31, 2017.
5. Jeffrey Slavin nominated 3 individuals for the March 23 election for 3 Council seats: Marnie Shaul, Barbara Zeughausser, and Franny Peale. Chairwoman Phyllis Wiesenfelder attended the meeting to accept the nominations on behalf of the Board of Supervisor of Elections.
6. Approval of a building permit application at 4704 Falstone Avenue to construct a new deck and fence.
7. Approval of a 6-month permit extension for the generator permit at 4901 Essex Avenue.
8. Approval of a consulting agreement with Sabra Wang for traffic consulting services not to exceed \$4,000.00 for traffic services mainly focusing on Dorset Avenue.
9. Approval of a proposal from Ward Pest Control for monthly pest control monitoring in the area near the Town Pool house.
10. At the beginning of the meeting, Mayor Slavin called for a moment of silence in remembrance of former Mayor Walter Behr and former Council Member Alan Proctor. Mayor Slavin and Town Manager Charnovich presented their monthly reports. A representative from Outdoor Illumination attended the meeting and discussed lighting options for the parking lot near the tennis courts. Council Members Peale and Condos provided an update on the Town Code and Charter project with General Code.

General Permits | 

Dumpster Permit
4906 Dorset Avenue



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

It is a pleasure to report that **Carrie Wofford** (Essex) was recently appointed by County Executive Ike Leggett to the prestigious Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, which offers advice on local issues and needs to the County's elected leadership. This influential body has committees on land use, transportation, budget, public safety and quality of life. We know that Carrie will be a big advocate on the topics Somerset residents are most interested in. Additionally, **Council Member Barbara Condos** (Falstone) has been named to one of the regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) committees whose specific purpose will be to review any plans for such bus service on the Maryland 355 (Wisconsin Avenue-Rockville Pike) corridor. Both of these committees attracted a large number of applicants, and the Council and I strongly lobbied County Executive Leggett on behalf of Carrie and Barbara. There are many other MoCo committees and commissions on which our citizens can serve and I highly encourage such public participation.

Earlier this month, I was in Annapolis attending the yearly Maryland Mayor's Association meeting on the Town's behalf. Among the highlights were a breakfast keynoted by our new **Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh** (Grantham) who "wowed" the audience with incredible knowledge of practically every pending State legal issue, legislative briefings by MML staff, lunch with Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker who is the incoming National League of Cities President, and a reception at the Governor's mansion where the mayors were able to chat with the new chief executive. This conference is always a great opportunity to learn about new ideas and practices from my fellow mayors. I am honored to continue in my role as elected Treasurer of this group.

The Town Council, our Ad Hoc Budget Committee, and I met with Maryland Assistant Comptroller Joseph Shapiro recently to learn more about revenue forecasts and discuss the latest economic trends in the State. This has become a yearly discussion, and it greatly assists the Council and me as we prepare for the upcoming budget process. I hope that many residents will be engaged with this important Town activity in 2015.

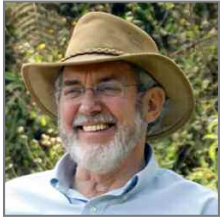
The Council and I were pleased with the standing-room-only turnout several weeks ago for the Town's latest public information session on anticipated zoning/master plan changes for the Westbard redevelopment area. Planner Gwen Wright, Director of Montgomery County's Planning Department, and two of her colleagues made a presentation that included a proposed timeline, and then spent most of the evening responding to comments and answering a large number of excellent questions from the audience. The all important staff recommendations to the Planning Board will be announced this spring followed by anticipated action by the County Council. It was pointed all that there will be numerous opportunities for public comment at every step of the way, and I urge everyone interested to take part.

A Brief History of Utility Undergrounding Discussions *from page 6*

encounter unforeseen problems and end up costing much more. And the complexity of coordinating with existing gas, water and sewer underground infrastructure was not in the study.

Before moving to Somerset I had the benefit of underground utilities in a post 1968 community, and would welcome it here but the cost of retrofitting seems excessive for my pocketbook.

As always, discourse is encouraged.



All About People

By Alan Dock, Falstone Avenue

I write this in mid-February, and nature reminds me that winter has not relaxed its grip – in fact, the grip is tightening as we prepare for more snow. Hopefully, when you read this, winter will be relaxing that grip.

“ Have a Happy St. Patrick’s Day ”

We welcome another new family to Somerset, **James and Suzanne Rianhard** and their children **Blair** (16 years) and **Brinley** (13 years). The family has recently become my neighbors on Falstone. James and Suzanne—have your kids discovered the sledding on Cumberland Avenue? Allow me to thank the residents of Cumberland who graciously each winter agree not to have their hill ploughed for a few days, to the intense enjoyment of all our community’s children!

Now here’s an update on the Town’s garbage collection figures. Apparently, the current contractor does not give us a monthly breakdown anymore, but here are the figures for 2014: of the total of 479 tons of garbage collected from Somerset during 2014, some 44% was sent to the recycle facility.

Your Environment Committee is currently working on an upgrade to the ‘Recyclables’ flyer, so take a look at it when it comes through your mailbox, post it somewhere prominent in your kitchen, and let’s see if we can push the recycle figures over 50% in 2015.

One last item out of Town Hall . . . there has been no further news from WSSC on when and where they want to make inroads to the creek for the sewer pipe repairs. Let’s hope no news is good news.

Cathy Bernard (Greystone) has recently created an award for songwriting in honor of Fred Ebb, her uncle and renowned songwriter. The first live concert of award finalists takes place in the Bethesda Blues and Jazz Club at 8:00 p.m. on Friday March 6th. Cathy tells me they have had 258 entries for the competition, so it promises to be a good night!

In a previous column, I mentioned **Michael Pack’s** (Surrey) recent documentary, “Rickover: The Birth of Nuclear Power” which was televised on PBS. There is another chance to see it on a big screen here in town. The film has been selected to screen at the Environmental Film Festival <http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/films> at the National Portrait Gallery on March 26 at 5:00 p.m. A Q&A with producer-director Michael Pack will follow the screening. The show is free, but reservations are required.

On the **Gina and Michael Pack** home front (Surrey), Gina tells me their son **Alex**, a junior at St. Albans School, just won the Eisenstein Fellowship that will allow for summer travel to Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic where he and a classmate will be doing a personal research project, “Memory and Oblivion: A Study of Holocaust Remembrance in a Time of Re-surg-ing Anti-Semitism.” It does sound like a heavy subject for summer, but the pair will no doubt find some time to enjoy their surroundings while there! International Fellowships at St. Albans are highly competitive and Alex is thrilled to be awarded this opportunity. Not to be outdone, **Thomas**, Alex’s brother, a sophomore at St. John’s College in Annapolis, is excited to be heading to Rome this summer to study art history and philosophy with a full tuition scholarship award. Well done all round for the Pack family!

Did any of you spot some of our younger residents on the front page of the Capital Gazette recently? **Lilly Behbehani** (Falstone), **Gavin and Patrick Crowell** (Essex), **Ava Haraldsson** (Uppingham), **Emily Smith** (Uppingham), and **Delia and Nicole Vanderzon** (Falstone) represented Somerset youth as part of a protest “Sleep-In” at the offices of the Montgomery County Board of Education in advance of the Board meeting the following day in which the decision was being made to change school start times. The kids were dressed in their PJs and brought sleeping bags, pillows and protest signs to the rally, and several of them were interviewed on local radio and evening news programs, and were featured in local publications in both print and online. **Maura Vanderzon** (Falstone) wrote me “it was a fun experience for the kids, and I think they also learned that you can mobilize a group to try and enact a political change.”

More Town news . . . **Deborah Shulman** and **Harry Holzer** (Falstone) report that their daughter, Simone, is leaving for a semester in Argentina where she will be studying social movements and human rights. Simone is a junior at Kenyon College.

Frank Joseph (Warwick) has organized the new Teen Writers’ Club, hosted by the Bethesda library under the auspices of the Maryland Writers Association. Teens gather each Tuesday evening to write and brainstorm together, critique one another’s work and hone their skills. There are no grades, no assignments, and no costs. The only requirements are a desire to write and enrollment in high school. Frank, whose 2006 novel *To Love Mercy* has won seven awards, recently

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Classified Ads



Miscellaneous

BOZEMAN, MONTANA: Ski Big Sky & the Bridgers! Enjoy our furnished four-bedroom+ home on 20 acres with spectacular 360 degree vistas. Only ten minutes from downtown Bozeman, 30 from skiing at Bridger Bowl, and 60 from Big Sky Ski /Resort. Hiking/biking trails everywhere! And then there's the fishing! Weekly/monthly rentals. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** for more details at srpvacationhomes@gmail.com or 301-652-1207.

PARIS, FRANCE: Paris is affordable again. Enjoy our furnished, one-bedroom, well-located apartment in the heart of historic Paris. Walk to the Louvre, the Pompidou Center, the Seine and two Metro stops. Available to rent on a weekly or monthly basis. For additional information, contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at srpvacationhomes@gmail.com or 301-652-1207.

Shereen's PEACE OF MIND SOAP: Homemade soap in the neighborhood! Essential oils and dazzling colors make these soaps the perfect and unique "feel good" gift for friends and family. Also popular for teachers, bar/bat mitzvah hotel bags, wedding/bridal/baby shower favors, office parties, etc. You can choose the fragrance and color to match your occasion! Call **Shereen Rubenstein** at 301-613-3838.

HOME HEALTH-CARE AND LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING: My late wife was provided those services by a woman who is now available for other assignments in or near Somerset on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Outstanding initiative and reliability. For details, contact **Jim Wachob** at 301-656-5251 or at Jwsomerset@msn.com.

LIFESTYLE AND WELLNESS COACHING: Would you like to get unstuck and upgrade your lifestyle and wellness habits? Small changes can make a lasting difference. If you are curious to see if coaching is right for you, contact Certified Wellness Coach **Diane Horn RDH CHHC** at 301-654-0310 or at diane.b.horn@gmail.com.

Ads are printed as a courtesy to Town residents. The Town makes no representations as to quality, safety or otherwise regarding the goods and services advertised. Readers should make their own inquiries. To place an ad, submit typed or neatly printed copy to the Clerk-Treasurer. Ads must include a Somerset phone number.

Price: \$5 per advertisement per issue. Check or exact change. **Fifty word** limit per advertisement.



Somerset's Helping Hand Is Just a Phone Call Away

If you need a ride, someone to pick up some groceries or a prescription, or even if you just want to get to a friend's house, give us a ring. We have a list of 30 Somerset volunteers who can help. Call **Zola Schneider** at 301-654-7481 or **Council Member Barbara Zeughauser** at 301-951-8560 and we will set it up.

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stepped down from the board of the Friends of the Library. The next meeting of the Teen Writers' Club is Tuesday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bethesda Library. Any budding young writers in Somerset? Here's your chance!

One last item of significant news: **Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick) our own esteemed **Mayor**, has recently been elected 1st Vice Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party. Jeffrey is now a member of the Democratic National Committee. Many congratulations to Jeffrey!

As a final note, check out this web site for beautiful and awe inspiring views of trees, some offering a glimpse of the summer ahead – <http://www.duskywondersite.com/tag/amazing-trees>

Stay warm.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, March 2, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, March 2, 2015 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 Zeughauser, Cathy Pickar, Marnie Shaul, Franny Peale, Barbara Condos

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider adoption of a 2015 Arbor Day Proclamation.
2. **Motion:** To consider tentatively setting the Bulk Trash Pickup Date for May 4, 2015 as recommended by the Town Manager.

NON-CONSENT

1. **Discussion:** Town Manager's February Financial Report – 7:40 p.m.
2. **Discussion:** Mayor Slavin's 5 Year Fiscal Plan – 7:45 p.m.
3. **Public Hearing / Motion:** To consider approval of a permit submitted by Jennifer Marron and Tom Eldridge, 5607 Warwick Place. The applicants are requesting demolition, building, curb, dumpster, and a tree removal permit to remove 2 trees – 7:55 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing / Motion:** To consider a proposal to convert the bench near the intersection of Wisconsin and Dorset Avenue to make it ADA accessible – 8:10 p.m.
5. **Discussion:** General Code Project Update – 8:20 p.m.
6. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 8:30 p.m.
7. **Adjourn:** – 8:35 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.