



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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



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Reminder . . .

Somerset's New Website Up and Running and Ready for Use!

Our new website is available to all Town residents. Here is how to gain access to the new site:

- Your initial login to the new website is the email address you have provided to the Town Hall. (If your email address doesn't work the first time, please contact the Town Hall.)
- When you first log in to the new site, use this password: **somerset1906**.
- After you first log in, please **change your password**. You can change your password through your account settings at the top right portion of the home page.
- After logging in, you will be able to access the site's numerous features.

You will continue to receive Town announcements and other important news from the Town Hall.

It is our goal to ensure every resident in Somerset is able to log into the new site and utilize the communication tools it has to offer! Please contact the Town Hall at manager@townofsomerset.com with any questions.



Somerset's Traffic Count Postponed



By Catherine Pickar, Council Member, Dorset Avenue

Due to a road-resurfacing project that will take place sometime between May and July on parts of Dorset Avenue, the Town is postponing the traffic count until mid-September. We are keeping the names and emails of all those who volunteered and will reach out to you at a later time. We so appreciate your willingness to volunteer for one morning or evening or both to

assess cut-through traffic in our town.

Council Member **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) our Town Manager, **Rich Charnovich**, and I will be speaking with the traffic engineer on April 22 to set the date of the September count as well as the date for the training session.

Calendar

Monday, May 4

Bulk Refuse Pickup

Friday, May 8

Free Tennis Clinics for Kids

Saturday, May 9

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, May 16

Pool Opening

Monday, May 18

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, Warwick Place

Reliving Civil Rights History

Some fifty years after the passage of voting and civil rights acts, many Americans of one race continue to lag behind others, especially in the areas of salary levels, civil rights, jobs, education and housing. Nevertheless, while we still have a long way to go, the impact of these laws cannot be overestimated. And it is sad that the Supreme Court has gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965 while the current Congress has not seen fit to re-invigorate this necessary measure.

Several weeks ago, I had had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to partially relive the history of these laws through an extraordinary week-long bus tour in the Deep South, sponsored for the seventh year by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights. With stops including Atlanta, Tuskegee, Montgomery, Memphis and Cincinnati, I got to see important sites where history was made and visit incredible museums where history is recorded.

Of particular note were the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham where the four little girls were killed, the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery which pays tribute to the "mother" of the movement, and the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on the site of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was shot. Being able to see and feel these places where history was made is something I will never forget and was a reminder of how heroic those who participated in the civil rights struggle were. The experience was way beyond what a movie or lecture could do. We also had the chance to meet folks who were actually at many of the events we have all read about.

This tour will continue in future years, is open to everyone who lives in the County, and is something I highly recommend to all Somerset residents, especially our young people. It is important to study the past so we can be good advocates for continuing the struggle in the years to come. In that way, we can help finally realize Dr. King's dream.

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Barbara Marenus, Editor – bmarenus@gmail.com

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If you prefer to receive the Journal via email, please provide your request to
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.

General Permits



Dumpster Permit

4702 Essex Avenue

Fence Permit

5604 Warwick Place, a wooden fence
installed in the rear yard

Tree Removal Permits

4716 Dorset Avenue, 1 holly and
1 crepe myrtle

5521 Uppingham Street, 1 Japanese maple

5500 Uppingham Street, 1 redbud,
1 southern magnolia

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Monday thru Friday

301-657-3211

Fax: 301-657-2773

TTY users call Maryland Relay

Notice to Town Residents on the FY16 Budget

Dear Residents,

The Council, Staff and I have spent a lot of time preparing the FY16 budget for final consideration at the May meeting. The Town has two primary sources of revenue, income tax and property tax. Income tax revenues over the past several years have not been as healthy as we would have liked, requiring us to limit the number of increases and additions to services and capital improvements. I believe these increases and additions are necessary for maintaining our quality of life and to keep the Town in tip-top shape.

The Town's other primary source of revenue is the property tax, and I would have liked to impose an increase so that some of these services and improvements, such as increased funds for police to enforce traffic laws, could be added. However, there does not appear to be support for a property tax increase on the Council at this time. I hope over the next year Town residents will come to better understand our financial needs and actually lobby the Council for a tax increase during FY17 budget season session.

Our property tax rate is not only lower than other towns in the County, but was decreased by an earlier Council in what I would call a shortsighted move. Somerset pays much more in person taxes to the County than we pay to our own municipality, and an increase of one cent would cost the average homeowner in Town only \$100 or so per year. For each additional cent in property tax, the Town's revenues would increase by about \$40,000 per year. These funds could be used for additional operating expenses or saved to fund larger capital projects. Currently, based on careful analysis, the Town has determined that there will be insufficient funds for improved street lighting and other important capital improvement projects. I suggest that these projects are well worth the small added cost.

I hope all citizens will review the reports of the Town's income tax revenues throughout the upcoming year and be prepared to comment on what might need to be done for FY17.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Slavin
Mayor



New Somerset Art Show on May 31: Judith Baldinger to Exhibit Paintings at Town Hall

Town of Somerset abstract artist **Judith (Judy) Baldinger** (Warwick) will be showing her paintings at the Somerset Town Hall beginning on May 31. Inspired by her visit to Monhegan Island, an artists' colony in Maine, she studied painting at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and at Glen Echo Park.

A member of Outloud Artists, Judy's works have been shown at the Arts Club, Black Rock Center for the Arts, the Yellow Barn in Glen Echo Park, the Arts Barn, Glenview Mansion, Montpelier Mansion, and Somerset and Friendship Heights Community Centers with other Somerset Artists. She exhibited at Chevy Chase Village Art Show (juried) and at The Foundry Gallery (juried). Her works hang in private collections in Maryland, Virginia, New York, and Toronto.

Judith, who has a Master of Arts in Theatre and has taught theatre at UDC since 1976, explains that "Teaching improvisational acting and my passion for dancing influence my painting. An unscripted scene often surprises its creators; scripted scenes sometimes seem to write themselves. I often begin a painting with a large (dance-inspired) gesture on the canvas. Then come additional color and shape and relationships and emotion and not a little serendipity. And sometimes, just sometimes, it all comes together, magically and easily. Or the improvisation keeps going and going and going . . . and hours later, like the scene that bombed, or the paper that was tossed into the vertical file, it is time to start all over again with a clean canvas. The doing is the thing."



No Tax Increase, No Frills FY16 Budget

By Council Vice President Marnie Shaul, Uppingham Street, on behalf of the Town Council

The Town Council will be considering the Mayor's FY16 Budget at its May meeting. Similar to the past few years, the Council had a work session in mid-March with the Mayor, Town Manager, and the Town budget committee to examine each budget element. Accordingly, the budget that will be considered by the Council represents an agreement by the Mayor and Council on revenue estimates and spending based on what we knew in mid-March. Some technical amendments to the operating budget will likely be proposed at the May meeting because of new information about revenues or expenses.

The proposed FY16 budget is very conservative. This fiscal year, income tax revenues are anticipated to be about \$170,000, which is about 20% below the revenues we projected in the spring of 2014. Based on the County's income tax revenue growth, we are projecting very modest growth in this very important revenue source in FY16 resulting in an overall budget below that of two years ago. Total FY16 revenues of \$1.29 million are similar to the anticipated revenues of \$1.28 million in FY15. As a reference point, in FY14 Town revenues were considerably higher at \$1.51 million.

In order to stay within this constrained revenue projection, we carefully scrutinized each operating expense, and overall spending remains nearly the same between current projected FY15 spending and the FY16 budget. Personnel and professional services have no growth projected in FY16. One-time initiatives within this service category include support for updating the Town's code and consultant support if WSSC asks to go ahead with work in the Town's parkland. Some items are increased: the FY16 budget has two new initiatives—composting and a service for environmentally correct lawn care—and increased costs for existing items such as the new 3-year trash contract and increased investment in Town trees. These increases are offset by decreases in other spending categories such as the new pool management contract which is less expensive than the previous vendor's.

The capital budget has four major budgeted expenses: tennis court resurfacing (\$165,000), pool/pool house (\$100,000), pool bridge (\$30,000) and Town Hall improvements (\$50,000). These items are major Town assets that require periodic investment. The Town's Rainy Day fund is expected to increase but remains well below our goal.

The FY16 budget has no major initiatives except resurfacing the tennis courts. For example, there are no funds for improved street lighting. Some operating budget items that were considered but not included were funds for clearing sidewalks when snowfall is less than two inches and increased part-time police protection. The Mayor and Council discussed raising the property tax this year in order to pay for some items residents have expressed interest in but decided that we would talk about our constrained budget now and ask that all of us monitor revenue growth over this next year and think about whether there is support for expenditures that could only occur with a tax increase. We plan to update residents about this topic several times during the next fiscal year.



Kids' Free Clinic on Friday, May 8 Kicks Off Somerset Tennis

By Frank Joseph, Chair, Tennis Committee, Warwick Place
There's a party at the tennis courts and YOU are invited!

Kick off the spring tennis season on **Friday, May 8, at 4:00 p.m.** with an all-Somerset get-together featuring **FREE** clinics to introduce your kids to tennis. There'll be drinks and nibbles for all, and clinics taught by tennis pro John Rene. John is Director of the TenniStar summer camps at Bethesda Sport & Health.

The fun starts with a 50-minute clinic for 6-to 8-year-old boys and girls at novice and advanced beginner levels. The 9-and 10-year-olds will take the courts at 5:00 p.m.

Kids will learn the basics of ground strokes, try a few volleys at the net, get familiar with the tennis court, and zoom through tons of fun games. John is ready with advice for both children and adults. From racquets and stringing to sharpening your strokes, John is a dynamic and positive teacher your kids are sure to relate to.

While the children enjoy themselves on the courts, grownups will be getting to know one another. All Town residents are welcome. Whether you're an expert player or a novice, thinking about getting back into tennis or just learning about the game, this is your chance to celebrate spring and tennis with neighbors and friends, and meet a seasoned tennis pro.

To make sure your kids obtain a spot, please register early by contacting me at keycom@verizon.net or 301-656-8753. Be sure to note kids' ages. I can also answer any questions you may have about the event.



FY16 Budget

At the May 4 Town Council Meeting, the Council will consider the adoption of the Mayor's FY16 proposed budget. A consolidated copy of the budget can be found as an insert to this month's Journal. Council Vice President Shaul and Mayor Slavin have authored articles

on the budget in this month's Journal. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Bulk Refuse Pickup in May

The next bulk refuse collection will be on **Monday, May 4, 2015.**

We will be partnering with **A Wider Circle**

for this event. They will be collecting in Somerset on **Saturday, May 2, 2015.** You will need to schedule a pick-up with them in advance by April 27, 2015. You can contact A Wider Circle either via phone at **301-608-3504** or via email at furnish@awidercircle.org

Annual Tennis Passes and Batting Cage Fee

Please contact the Town Hall to obtain your 2015 passes for the tennis courts and batting cage. The costs are:

Tennis Pass: \$20.00 per household for 2015

Batting Cage: \$5.00 for 2015 (\$25.00 key deposit)

Spring Sidewalk, Curb and Paving Work

Work has been scheduled to take place this spring at the following locations:

Cumberland Avenue – Sidewalk and Curb

Deal Place – Sidewalk and Curb

Dorset Avenue – Sidewalk, Curb and Paving

Essex Avenue – Sidewalk
Falstone Avenue – Sidewalk
Grantham Avenue – Sidewalk
Greystone Street – Sidewalk
Surrey Street – Sidewalk
Trent Street – Sidewalk
Uppingham Street – Sidewalk
Warwick Place – Sidewalk

The areas are too widespread to identify each specific location. Please contact the Town Hall if you would like to know if an area near your residence will be worked on. Work is scheduled to begin during the last 10 days of April.

Directory Update

We are preparing to publish 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 listing, please send us an email containing any updated information. You can use the format in the current directory as a guideline.

The deadline for revisions will be May 15, 2015.

E-Journal Sign-Up

We would like to urge as many residents as possible to receive their 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 the Journal via 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.**





Somerset Pool Opens on Saturday, May 16!

By Alexis Carmer, Chair, Pool Committee, Essex Avenue

Ten Things to Know about Pool Season:

1. Opening Day is Saturday, May 16th.

As always, the Pool opens the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend. The operating hours are limited while school is in session until June 15th; please check the Town website at <http://townofsomerset.com/2217/Pool> for details.

2. There is a new pool management company this season, Community Pool Service.

The Pool Committee interviewed several companies last fall, and found Community to be extremely professional and state of the art in both Pool maintenance and staffing. Please welcome our new Pool manager, Neeley Cohen.

3. Replacement key tags can be obtained free of charge at the Town Hall until June 1st.

Now is the time to look through your pool bags and see if you need one. Pool tags are required for entry into the pool, and are available for all residents age 8 and older. After June 1, tag cost is \$5.00

4. Somerset Dolphins (our fabulous swim team) will have a registration party on Friday, May 15th (more information available at <http://somensetswimteam.org>).

The team has 5 home meets this season (check Town website for dates/times). The Pool is closed for general use during the meets, but come out to watch and support our swimmers.

5. Water aerobics will be offered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning (more information-available at <http://townofsomerset.com/2265/Water-Aerobics>).

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the pool or get your workout in early morning (6:30 a.m to 7:30 a.m.) Please call Town Hall for information/registration.

7. Children's group swim lessons will be offered by Community Pool Service.

This program will offer four different levels of group lessons, starting by teaching non-swimmers to become comfortable in the water. Information can be obtained

at the Pool or by contacting Maria Gyorgy (mggyorgy@communitypools.com).

8. Guest fees are unchanged from last season, \$3 per guest.

Guest fees need to be prepaid by depositing into your account at Town Hall (cash or check), or paying online via the website (credit card). Please be sure that you and your guests are familiar with Pool rules (Especially NO GLASS and diapers must be covered by rubber pants and swimsuit).

9. Pool parties require submission of a reservation form and deposit at least one week prior to the event.

Please see <http://townofsomerset.com/DocumentCenter/View/467> for party rules, and <http://townofsomerset.com/DocumentCenter/View/385> for form.

10. The Pool Committee meets every second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Pool; residents are welcome to attend.

The Committee will focus on Pool maintenance and repair this summer and is evaluating options including resurfacing (our Pool and deck are original, vintage 1960s). We recently evaluated saline systems ("salt water Pools") after a request from residents. These systems are used mostly in small private Pools, and are not yet advanced enough to handle larger Pools like Somerset.

Make-and-Take Rain Barrel Workshop: Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

By Sarah Morse, Environment Committee, Dorset Avenue



A free workshop on the use of rain barrels will be held at the **Town Hall on May 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.** This workshop is being sponsored by Environment Committee with help from the Little Falls Watershed Alliance. Rain barrels will be supplied to participants by the Montgomery County DEP. This workshop is limited to 22 slots and you must register

beforehand at <http://www.lfwa.org/event/make-and-take-rain-barrel-workshop>.

Please sign-up early to make sure you get a rain barrel. There is a limit of one rain barrel per household. Remember you need a vehicle large enough to carry a 55-gallon barrel home!

You will learn about how to gather water from your rooftop to help control the stormwater impact from your yard, and store it for use in your landscape. You will learn about

continued on page 8

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on April 6, 2015. The Council took the following actions:

1. Mayor Slavin swore in Marnie Shaul and Barbara Zeughauser as re-elected Council Members. Franny Peale was unable to attend the meeting and would be sworn in upon her return.
2. Marnie Shaul was approved as Council Vice President.
3. Approval to accept the proposal of Lindsey and Associates to complete the FY15 Audit at a cost of \$10,000.00.
4. Mayor Slavin's FY16 budget was introduced.
5. Approval of a site plan amendment at 4712 Cumberland Avenue to install a wall in the rear yard.
6. Approval of a replacement HVAC Unit application at 4715 Trent Court.
7. Approval of a site plan amendment at 4704 Falstone Avenue to reduce the size of the deck by 30 square feet.
8. Approval of a site plan amendment at 4511 Dorset Avenue to install an emergency generator, fence replacement, installation of a retaining wall, removal of 2 trees and the reforestation of an additional 2 trees.
9. Approval of curb, sidewalk and paving work at the following locations:

Cumberland Avenue – Sidewalk and Curb	Greystone Street – Sidewalk
Deal Place – Sidewalk and Curb	Surrey Street – Sidewalk
Dorset Avenue – Sidewalk, curb and paving	Trent Street – Sidewalk
Essex Avenue – Sidewalk	Uppingham Street – Sidewalk
Falstone Avenue – Sidewalk	Warwick Place – Sidewalk
Grantham Avenue – Sidewalk	

10. Approval of a permit extension until May 4, 2015 for the Permit in place for Washington Gas to complete spring restoration work.
11. Approval of the following spring tree plantings as recommended by the Town Arborist and Parks and Natural Resources Committee:

PEPCO installations	
4818 Cumberland, 2 Serviceberry	5501 Surrey, 2 Dogwood
4900 Cumberland, 3 Dogwood	4707 Trent Court, 1 Flowering Cherry
4902 Cumberland, 2 Dogwood	4715 Trent Court, 2 Flowering Cherry
4910 Cumberland, 1 Redbud	5510 Trent Street, 1 Flowering Cherry
4909 Falstone, 2 Serviceberry	5503 Uppingham, 2 Serviceberry
4816 Grantham on Greystone, 2 Serviceberry	5702 Warwick, 2 Redbud
5413 Surrey, 1 Dogwood	5706 Warwick, 2 Dogwood
5415 Surrey, 2 Dogwood	5812 Warwick, 3 Dogwood

Town of Somerset installations	
4914 Dorset, 1 Willow Oak	5601 Warwick, 1 Blackgum
5526 Greystone, 1 Yellowwood	5613 Warwick, Red Oak
5410 Surrey, 1 Red Oak	5800 Warwick Place on Dorset Avenue, 1 Yellowwood
5712 Surrey, 1 Red Oak	4519 Dorset, 4 Nelly Stevens Holly
5545 Warwick, 1 American Beech	(by Town parking lot / tennis courts)

12. Approval to enter into an Agreement with Richard Bajana Landscaping, Inc. at a cost of \$3,000.00 to implement the Town spring fertilization program on Town parkland.
13. Approval of a bid submitted by Unity Disposal for a 3 year refuse and recycling contract with a 2 year option.
14. Approval for painting and varnishing work to be completed at the Town Pool.
15. Approval of a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool for the 2015 season.
16. Approval of a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Tennis Courts for the 2015 season.
17. Mayor Slavin and Town Manager Charnovich presented their monthly reports. Council Member Peale provided an update on the Town Code and Charter project with General Code. The organizational analysis should be completed by the end of April. Representatives were in attendance who spoke on the status of the renovation project taking place at 4701 Willard Avenue. It was reported it would be complete in approximately 1 month.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Now that we are finally in the spring season with the flowers starting to bloom, our streets are looking particularly lovely. I would like to encourage everyone to do everything possible to maintain and enhance our impressive streetscape. Please let's all use the trashcans to dispose of waste—especially cigarettes butts, small pieces of paper and chewing gum—and most importantly, dispose of dog poop!

This also includes include making little stops on your walks (or even your drives) to bend down to pick up unsightly items. The Council, Staff and I will be greatly appreciative. It is also important to put away toys and garden supplies when we are not using them and remove basketball hoops when game time is over.



Election night at Town Hall

Congratulations to our three newly re-elected Council Members: **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham), **Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent), and **Franny Peale** (Uppingham). I continue to be honored to serve with these three hard working officials who have contributed so greatly to the Town. I am also pleased that our extremely knowledgeable Council Vice President **Marnie Shaul** was unanimously re-elected to her leadership position by the Council at its last meeting.

All of us have now hit the ground running to get ready for the upcoming consideration of the Town's budget and a year's worth of work revising and updating our Town Charter and Code.

Thanks also to **Phyllis Wiesenfelder** (Cumberland), Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections, for running a smooth Town election in March and organizing the beautiful art show displaying the work of **Carol Jason** (Warwick) which continues to adorn the walls of the Town Hall.

In my capacity as a member this year of the nominating committee for the Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League, I am happy to report that **Council Member Shaul** has again been placed on the slate for its board of directors. She will continue to represent us on this important policy making body. In addition, **Council Member Zeughauser** has agreed to be placed on the slate to become Vice President of the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights. This "umbrella" organization comprises the civic associations and municipalities in the area and monitors development in the environs of Somerset. Both of these appointments will be of great benefit to the Town.

I hope that everyone had wonderful spring vacations. It is now time to get ready for the exciting start of the swim team season and the annual opening of Camp Summerset.

Make-and-Take Rain Barrel Workshop *from page 6*

watershed health in the County and how you can help, starting at your own home. Rain barrel with fittings and easy instructions provided. Everyone will leave with a rain barrel ready to install on their down spouts.

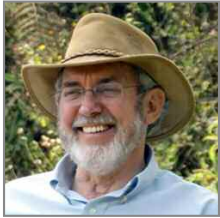
Exactly what is a rain barrel?

Rain barrels and cisterns collect and temporarily store rainwater from roofs. This water can be used to water gardens, lawns, and trees. Rainwater enters them from gutters and downspouts and there is an outlet that can be connected to a garden hose. When they overflow, excess water is directed away from the building to a location on the property where it can soak into the ground.

By collecting your roof runoff in rain barrels, you can reduce polluted stormwater runoff from your property. Stormwater runoff is reduced, because you are collecting the stormwater and allowing it to soak into the ground when you use it for irrigation.

When you use the rainwater to water your gardens and landscaping, you also use less potable (tap) water for this purpose, which can lower your WSSC bill. Since rain barrels collect rainwater for use on site, they can reduce the harmful effects to streams caused by large and rapid stormwater runoff flows.

More information is available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/water/rain-barrels.html>



All About People

By Alan Dock, Falstone Avenue

Here in Somerset in mid-April, as I write this column after winter has reluctantly released its grip, the cherry blossoms exploded with a gorgeous heralding of spring. Now these pink harbingers gently carpet the streets, awaiting April showers to wash them away. I must congratulate the community – I received a record number of ten pieces of news for this month’s column, so lets get started!

“
Have a
Happy
Mother’s Day!

” **Deborah Goodings** (Dorset) wrote that their son, **Tom Swartz**, rowed for the dark blues (Oxford) against the light blues (Cambridge) in the 161st Oxford-Cambridge boat race on the 11th of April. Oxford handily beat Cambridge by 6 lengths over the 4.2-mile course. The crew, which includes Olympic rowers, trains all year for this one race. Since the first race in 1829, Cambridge has won 80 times and Oxford 76. Deborah noted that Tom began his rowing career at BCC high school. Well done Tom! When I watched the race I didn’t realize Somerset was represented!

” **Mak Dehejia** (Surrey) dropped me a note that he is exhibiting some of his recent watercolors at the County’s Bethesda library on Arlington Road for the month of April. Since this column appears in your mail before the end of the month, you should have time to take in Mak’s exhibition!

The **Morse/Kathan** family (Dorset) announces that they have two graduations this May. **Abby** is graduating from Warren Wilson College with a ceramic sculpture major. She will stay in Asheville, North Carolina after graduation. **Joey** is graduating from Grinnell College with a double major in history and women’s studies. He will be moving to St. Paul to work with students who are at risk of dropping out of school. And **Toby**, after working in the education field for 4 years, has taken a job as a graphic designer. He’s in his last year of a MFA program at the University of Iowa where his wife attends medical school.

Esther and **Nat Finkelstein** (Surrey) have exciting news of their daughter **Maura**. She is currently a visiting professor of anthropology at Mills College in Oakland, California, and has accepted a professorship at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Maura was a graduate of BCC High School, having gone through the BCC cluster at Somerset and Westland. She went on to get her Bachelor’s Degree at Colorado State, her masters at Columbia University, and her PhD at Stanford University. She and her spouse **Finn Lewis** will be returning to the east coast in August. This is of course much closer to home. **Mike, Hilary** and **Zach** are excited to have their sister and aunt on the east coast. **Scooter** (the family dog of several previous mentions in this column), of course, is also anxious to have them here.

News now of grandkids: **Debbie** and **Jamie Heller** (Falstone) announced they have just returned from a wonderful trip to London where they visited their son **Adam**, his wife **Heather** and their two beautiful children, **Alistair** (21 months) and **Vesper** (4 months). Debbie notes that “This new role of grandparenting is great fun. Watching Alistair acquire language and mobility is really great. We are looking forward to their making a home visit beginning late May for about two months, before they take off to their new post in Kazakhstan!”

Still on Falstone Avenue: **Leah Greenberg**, daughter of **Mark Greenberg** and **Sara Anderson** (and class of Somerset '97), married **Ezra Levin** on March 28, 2015 at the Mexican Cultural Institute on 16th Street NW. Leah works at Humanity United, managing grants and projects to combat human trafficking and slavery. Ezra works at the Corporation for Enterprise Development, a nonprofit organization that seeks to help low and moderate income households build and preserve assets. Two Somerset contributions to the wedding: **Phyllis Wiesenfelder** (Cumberland) lent Leah her daughter’s beautiful wedding dress, and **Julie Abrams** (Trent) suggested the spectacular venue. Sara is now available for wedding consultations (as are four other class of ‘97 mothers whose children married in the last six months!)

Turning now to Somerset FOX News **Bruce** and **Barbara Tulley** (Warwick)) sent me photos of the latest breakfast and dinner guests at the Tulley Backyard Café!

Phil and **Sylvia Young** (Greystone) spotted what they think is a juvenile red-tailed hawk in their front yard maple tree learning to fly. I seem to recall someone mentioning a pair of hawks were nesting at the bottom end of Warwick. Anyone else seen them?



Juvenile hawk. Photographer: Phil Young (Greystone)

Ours is a neighborhood of long staying residents, but after almost 34 years in their house on Surrey Street and raising their two sons, **Tim Sprehe** and **Elaine Bloomfield** are moving to a one-floor condo in Sumner Village, located just 2.7 miles from their present house. The community off Sangamore Road offers 16 low rise buildings in a woodsy location, a community center with pool, exercise rooms, a huge storage locker and large living spaces. Right next to Sumner Village is The Shops, including a good Chinese restaurant, an excellent Sushi place, a large Safeway and a CVS. They have much to do before they move, including giving away, donating and selling a lot of furniture, so keep an eye on our list serv! Tim and Elaine

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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**.

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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chose Sumner Village because it is close to Somerset where their neighbors have all become close friends over the years. I'm sure we will see them occasionally roaming the streets of Somerset.

The tailpiece this month is a letter from another long-time resident family member, former Council Member **Anne Proctor**, (Cumberland) addressed to all of you, so I quote it in its entirety:

Dear Somerset,

I guess this is as good a time as any to send you, my friends and neighbors, an update. The boys and I miss Alan terribly. He passed away peacefully on the evening of December 8th. A pear tree is planted, with his ashes, in the garden of the house he once owned as a Stanford student. We call it "Harvard Street." It's in a neighborhood adjacent to Stanford campus strikingly similar to Somerset. Harvard Street was a place where our many friendships were born and endured over the decades. We sold it to our dear friends, the Cassidy's, at the time we moved to Somerset. It became our West Coast "home away from home." Over the years, three of our four sons lived at Harvard Street at various times. They now are sinking roots in the area, at least for now. Chris, newly married to Zuz, will begin a PhD program at Stanford in the fall, in Education and Technology. Devon lives with his girlfriend, Caitlin, in San Francisco, and commutes to his job in Mountain View (often by bike) at Google, where he is a software engineer. Doug is settling into his new job in Palo Alto, at Palantir. Haley is maintaining a Proctor presence on the East Coast, where he works in finance at the D.C.-based Rock Creek Group. So, the question became, what will Anne do? Well, I bought a house in Carmel Valley and moved in last weekend. I'll spend the next year working toward certification in Healing Touch. The Valley is a healing place, filled with wonderful people, including some very old friends of Alan's and mine, who've been most welcoming. It's only a one and a half hour drive from the SF Bay Area, which will allow me to remain in close touch with the boys and friends there. I hope to get "home" to Somerset as often as possible to be with Haley, my siblings, and friends. Don't be surprised to see me wandering the neighborhood! So many of you opened your arms and hearts wide to Alan, the boys and me during his illness. I remain stumped as to how best express my deep gratitude. I imagine all you really need to know is that your individual gestures of kindness knit together an unbelievable network of support that made all the difference. Thank you so very much.

*Much love,
Anne*

And that's why we call ourselves a community! | P.S. – If anyone wishes to contact Anne, email me for the details

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, May 4, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, May 4, 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 approval of the March 2, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the April 6, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Motion:** To consider approval of the Council liaison assignments for 2015-2016

NON-CONSENT

1. **Discussion:** Town Manager's April Financial Report – 7:35 p.m.
2. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of the FY16 Budget and set the real and personal property tax rates – 7:40 p.m.
3. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a HVAC replacement unit application submitted by David Juster, 5509 Trent Street – 7:50 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a HVAC Unit replacement unit application submitted by Brian Smith and Amy Power, 5507 Uppingham Street – 7:55 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a HVAC Unit replacement unit application submitted by Tom and Judy Bowles, 5816 Surrey Street – 8:00 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a building permit submitted by Daniel Butts and Marta Woskinka, 5803 Warwick Place. The applicants are installing steps from the rear door to the level of the backyard – 8:05 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the removal of the following two trees as recommended by the Town Arborist: – 8:15 p.m.
5812 Warwick Place, 1 Willow
5802 Deal Place, 1 Red Maple
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of an Agreement with Sabra Wang Associates to review and provide a report on the traffic studies for River Road-Westbard including the Montgomery County Planning Department study – 8:20 p.m.
9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval to authorize Mayor Slavin to send a letter to the Planning Board concerning the River Road-Westbard Development Plan – 8:30 p.m.

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Preliminary Agenda from page 11

10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a contract with NB Health and Fitness, L.L.C. DBA Wet Yet? Water Fitness for water aerobics classes at the Town Pool for 2015 – 8:40 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of a Town Pool cleaning contract with AquaFree Facilities Services, Inc. for the 2015 season – 8:45 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a proposal from Vigilant Security for security monitoring at the Town Pool for the 2015 season – 8:50 p.m.
13. **Public Hearing/Motion:** General Code Project Update – 8:55 p.m.
14. **Discussion:** Mayor’s Report – 9:05 p.m.
15. **Adjourn:** – 9:10 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.