



# SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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



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## Town Election for Mayor and Two Council Seats

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



**Gang** (Falstone), **Judith Baldinger** (Warwick), **Cathy Abramson** (Uppingham), and **Jan Kaufman** (Trent).

Please see the candidates' statements on page 5. Come mingle with other Somerset residents, view the superb art exhibit, and exercise your right to vote at this not to be missed community event!

★ *It's Election Time!* ★ *View an Exhibit of Somerset Artists!*  
★ *Refreshments and Gourmet Cookies!*

The election for Mayor and two Town Council Seats will be held on **Tuesday, April 5th** in the Somerset Town Hall from **6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** Three incumbents are running: Mayor **Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick) and Council Members **Barbara Condos** (Falstone) and **Dudley Fowlkes** (Falstone). Statements from the candidates are included in this issue of the Journal.

An exhibit of five of our noted Somerset artists will be on display during voting hours, and refreshments will be served as well. The artists are: **Carol Jason** (Warwick), **Florence Gang** (Falstone), **Judith Baldinger** (Warwick), **Cathy Abramson** (Uppingham), and **Jan Kaufman** (Trent).



## Council Action on WSSC Project

By Franny Peale, Council Member, Uppingham Street

Under the terms of a Consent Decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment, WSSC agreed to rehabilitate sewer pipes, manholes, and streams in environmentally sensitive areas, including the Little Falls Sewershed, a part of which is located in the Town of Somerset's parkland. The Consent Decree took effect on December 7, 2005, following several years of investigation into sewer overflows. WSSC must upgrade its sewer pipes and manholes in order to stop the flow of sewage into our creek and waterways. WSSC must also repair the damage to the creek, using a process known as stream rehabilitation. WSSC seeks a permit for access to its sewers, pipes, and manholes, and to the damaged portions of the creek in our parkland, in order to perform its obligations under the Consent Decree.

WSSC began discussions about this project with the Town of Somerset in the fall of 2014. The community raised many questions and concerns about WSSC's plans to access the repair and rehabilitation sites within the parkland. At the heart of these concerns was the strong sense of our residents that WSSC should minimize its impact on our trees and wildlife. WSSC presented three possible routes into the parkland and outlined their advantages and disadvantages. At the Town's request, WSSC also estimated the three routes for their potential effect on trees, specifically those trees with a diameter of 4 inches or greater.

*continued on page 2*

### Calendar

**Tuesday, April 5**

Town Election

**Tuesday, April 12**

PNRC Book Discussion

**Monday, April 18**

MVA Mobile Office

**Saturday, April 30**

Wider Circle Pickup

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**.

The Preliminary Agenda for each month's Town Council meeting is posted on the Town website ([www.townofsomerset.com](http://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, Warwick Place

## A Discussion on Race

It saddens me that we still have a serious race problem in America. It seems that too many of us have been in denial, thinking that with the passage of strong civil rights laws and the election of the first Black President that we have moved on in this arena. Not!

This year’s presidential campaign has brought the topic back to the forefront in a big way. I am shocked at the boldness of some of the statements being made and the amount of silence coming from so many of our leaders. Perhaps I shouldn’t be surprised since the same thing happened last year after the racially motivated murders at the church in Charleston.

This has really got to change.

But I don’t think this is a problem that can be resolved from the top down. Rather, we must start by having important conversations at the local level—in the grocery store, coffee shops, in our dining rooms. We must be honest and open. We must reach out and get outside of our comfort zones. We must involve all the generations.

I plan to make a special effort about this . . . and hope all in Somerset will too.

### Council Action on WSSC Project from page 1

WSSC identified the number of trees that could be affected by each access route, and the results were: Route A (60), Route B (51), and Route C (54). These estimates could change based on evaluations made in the field, but the Town of Somerset’s approval will be required for each tree removal decision.

The Town Council discussed WSSC’s proposals at its meeting on March 7th. Although everyone agreed that the project would have a huge impact on the Town’s parkland and wildlife, the Council considered it important for the Town to cooperate with WSSC as it meets its obligation to repair its sewer installations and to stop the flow of sewage into our damaged creek. The Council voted to approve Access Route C. This route means that WSSC will construct an entrance from Wisconsin Avenue through the area of Town parkland located south of the Dorset Avenue entrance and north of the creek. This route would minimize traffic concerns for the Town during the project’s duration. The Town Council is committed to negotiating a permit with WSSC that will give us as much control as possible over the planning and execution of this long-overdue work.

A map of the area affected by this project, including the access route, is posted on the Town’s website at [townofsomerset.com](http://townofsomerset.com)

## In This Issue

- All About People .....10
- A Storm Water Management Plan for Somerset .....9
- Candidate Statements .....5
- Classified Ads .....11
- Council Action on WSSC Project ...1
- Council Meeting Actions .....7
- CPR Class Held at the Town Hall ...8
- From the Mayor’s Desk .....8
- General Permits .....7
- Manager’s Corner .....4
- On My Mind .....2
- Preliminary Agenda .....12
- Save the Date: Parks and Natural Resources Committee Book Discussion on April 12 .....6
- Somerset’s Helping Hand .....11
- Somerset Recycling: Do’s and Dont’s .....3
- Tennis Court Renovation Draws Near .....6
- Town Hall Talk on Sustainable Landscaping a Big Success! ....3

**Barbara Marenus, Editor – [bmarenus@gmail.com](mailto:bmarenus@gmail.com)**

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If you prefer to receive the Journal via email, please provide your request to [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto: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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Monday thru Friday  
301-657-3211  
Fax: 301-657-2773  
TTY users call Maryland Relay



## Somerset Recycling: Do's and Dont's

By Robin Barr, Chair, Environment Committee, Essex Avenue and Sarah Morse, Environment Committee, Dorset Avenue

Please be sure to take a look at the 2016 recycling flyer in this month's Journal. The "big news" is what we mentioned last year – **no plastic bags go in our recycling bins**. The reason is simple. Waste Management Inc., the company that processes our recycling, does not accept plastic bags. The bags blow around and clog the conveyor belt that is used to sort the recycling. **So we shouldn't even use plastic bags to gather our recycled materials together**. We can use paper bags for that or leave the material loose. Remember that we can take all types of plastic bags to the grocery store. The stores do have a recycling service for them. If taking out the trash is handled by someone else in your household (amazing children, dutiful husband, housekeeper, cleaning staff), please spread the word to them: **NO PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING**.

**The other major change is that we need to flatten cartons now**. Go on, stomp on them! It's a good way to work out frustrations over this year's political campaign season! And we should put most lids from bottles, milk and juice cartons, and jars, into the trash. Usually the lids and containers are made from different materials and so cannot be sorted

together. There's an exception for large lids – greater than two inches – and for lids that are attached to the container. These can be recycled.

And **remember that the Town now has a municipal composting service. The service takes everything related to food and more**. Because of the heat generated by large piles, the service can take many more items than home composting can manage. These extra items include meat, fish, oils, wine corks, wool or cotton yarn, and much else because the heat in the big composting pile breaks down even these complex materials. So even if you compost at home you can benefit from the service. You can still **sign up** on the Town website. After an initial \$16 fee to purchase the bin, the service is otherwise free. You can reduce landfill trash, avoid methane build-up in our landfills (bad for global warming) and know that your compost is giving back to the land. And you can do all that simply by participating in the Town's composting program!

And lastly, we cannot avoid a word on the ever popular **disposal of pizza boxes**. If they are very lightly soiled or not at all, then you may put them in recycling. If they are more heavily soiled, stomp on them, break them down, and place under your compost bin when you put it out. Our service will accept these boxes as long as they are broken down. Of course that works only if you have signed up for the composting service!



Thomas Rainer speaking at Town Hall

## Town Hall Talk on Sustainable Landscaping a Big Success!

By Paige Whitley, Member, Parks and Natural Resources Committee, Cumberland Avenue

On Sunday, March 6th, Somerset's Parks and Natural Resources Committee (PNRC) hosted a program on Sustainable Landscaping at the Town Hall. Our featured speaker was Thomas Rainer, noted landscape architect and co-author with Claudia West of *Planting in a Post-Wild World*. Rainer outlined for a rapt audience of 40 townspeople his vision of how to plan and plant low-input, dynamic, colorful and ecologically functional designed landscapes. According to Rainer, whether we have large private spaces or small public areas like "hell strips" abutting roads, we can design plant communities for resilient landscapes. Carla Ellern from the Montgomery County Rainscapes Program then summarized successful conservation landscaping projects in Somerset and the surrounding area.

To learn how to get up to \$2,500 rebate from Montgomery County through installation conservation planting, permeable pavers in the driveway, rain gardens and more, please see <http://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/Rainscapes/>



Left to right: Thomas Rainer, author and speaker, Kristin Khana, PNRC member; Patty Friedman, PNRC Committee Chair



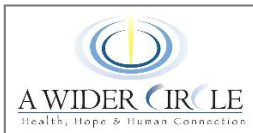
## Spring Bulk Refuse Pickup and A Wider Circle

The next bulk refuse collection will be on **Monday, May 2, 2016**. We will be partnering with A Wider Circle for this event. A Wider Circle will be collecting in Somerset on **Saturday, April 30, 2016**. A Wider Circle will pick up gently used

home furnishings and household items. To arrange a pickup, you must schedule it in advance by Monday, April 25th. You can contact A Wider Circle either via phone at

**301-608-3504** or via email at [furnish@awidercircle.org](mailto:furnish@awidercircle.org)

We strongly encourage you to donate your items!



## Tennis Court Project in May of 2016

At its March 7 meeting, the Town Council approved a final contract with Bishop's Tennis to install Nova Probounce on the courts. The project is scheduled to commence sometime in May of 2016. Once we know the exact date when the project will start, it will be publicized widely. The Town is working on an arrangement that will enable Somerset tennis cardholders to use the neighboring Somerset House courts while construction is underway. The project is scheduled to take approximately 45 days, weather permitting. Please let the Town Hall or Tennis Committee know if you have any questions.



## WSSC Project Town Parkland

At its March 7 meeting, the Town Council unanimously approved the Wisconsin Avenue entrance point for the sewer rehabilitation project that WSSC will undertake in the Town parkland. Our legal team is currently putting together a permit with conditions that the Council will consider adopting at its April 4, 2016 meeting.

## FY17 Budget and 5-Year Fiscal Plan

Mayor Slavin is scheduled to introduce his FY17 budget on April 4 and also present his 5-year fiscal plan. These documents will be published in the May issue of the Town Journal. The FY17 budget is scheduled to be adopted at the Town Council meeting the first Monday in May. Once the

budget is introduced, the document will be available for inspection in the Town Hall. It will also be posted on the Town website.

## Updating the Town Code

Town officials are continuing to meet in pursuit of a complete update of the Town Code. The next scheduled meeting dates are: **April 11, April 27, May 4** and **May 24**. All meetings will start at noon in the Town Hall.

## 2016 Recycling Flyer Insert

Please be sure to refer to and save the 2016 recycling flyer in this month's Journal. The Town's Environmental Committee develops and updates this guide each year for Town residents.

## Reminder: Cleaning Up After Pets



Please remember it is both a Town and a County law to clean up after your pets! There are three pet waste disposal receptacles located throughout the Town. Please read the following excerpt from the Montgomery County website on the "Pooper Scooper Law": Animal Defecation ("pooper scooper" law) (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a)(2)):

*An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner's property. An animal may defecate on public property or the common area of property in which the owner shares an interest if the owner immediately removes and disposes of the feces by a sanitary method. Feces may be picked up in a plastic bag. If this bag is placed inside another plastic bag, it may be put out for disposal in your normal household trash. The penalty for a violation is \$100.00.*

## Directory Update

We are currently working on the 2016 Town Directory, and we know there may be incorrect email addresses in the current directory. Please email any changes to [town@townofsomerset.com](mailto: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 guide.

**The deadline for revisions will be May 16, 2016.**

## Somerset Election on Tuesday, April 5th



### Candidate Statements



**Jeffrey Slavin**  
(Warwick Place)



Candidate  
for Mayor



It has been one of life's great honors to serve as Somerset's mayor these past eight years. While I am unopposed once again, an election will take place. Accordingly, I feel it's important to state my case for another term.

I take pride in the advances the Town continues to make under my leadership—with an efficient government, well maintained streets and parks, and an engaged community of caring individuals who are well connected to each other. I could not do this without an outstanding “team” of council members and staff for whom I am grateful.

In the next two years I want to work harder to get our younger and newer residents more involved, oversee the establishment of a procurement law and sound communications policy, and cheerlead the increase of use of technology and our beautiful new website.

I humbly ask for your vote on April 5, or by absentee ballot in advance.



**Barbara Condos**  
(Falstone Avenue)



Candidate  
for Town  
Council



My daughters, Cathy and Liz, and I moved to Somerset in 1978. At the time, I had graduated from George Washington University's law school and was practicing with a small litigation firm in Washington, D.C. In 2012, after retiring, I was privileged to be elected to serve on Somerset's Town Council. This year will mark the completion of my second term.

During my tenure, I completed the requirements for certification by the Maryland Municipal League's Academy of Excellence in Local Government and continue to take advantage of MML's educational and networking opportunities. I am also certified in traffic signage and storm water drainage through classes sponsored by the University of Maryland. I represent Somerset on the Friendship Heights Transportation Advisory Committee (vice-chair) and the Bus Rapid Transit Advisory Committee (355 Corridor at large member). I am the Town representative on the Bethesda Fire Department Board of Directors. I serve as Council liaison to the Pool Committee and ad hoc Traffic Committee and as alternate liaison to the Swim Team Committee.

If re-elected to the Town Council, I will build on the experience gained during my two terms in office and continue to listen to the voices of Town residents. I will work to support common sense solutions which best accommodate residents' needs within our governing framework. Your vote would be appreciated on April 5.



**Dudley Fowlkes**  
(Falstone Avenue)



Candidate  
for Town  
Council



I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Council last November. This year I stand for election and ask for your vote. As I grow into my role on the Council, I see myself as an integrator. Somerset rests on the precipice of change as the city around it continues to redevelop at a rate unprecedented in our lifetime. What was once a sleepy suburb is now interwoven and commingled with a bustling, thriving metropolis. Clearly, the trend will continue. While we will always embrace our history and traditions, we must also embrace the change that the future will inevitably bring. We have an active citizenry, an independent government, and an opportunity to be a beacon for the good that change can bring. The best is yet to come.

My wife and I moved to town in 2013 to raise our three boys. We wanted to live in a place where we could walk, and where we and our children could develop lasting relationships. I believe that walking and forging relationships go together. I believe the streets of the happiest neighborhoods are full of people of all ages, particularly children. If elected, I promise to chase every opportunity to get people out into the streets and parks, coming together, celebrating, and sharing our immense good fortune. I promise to represent the children and the young families, and to convey to them my respect for you—longest-tenured residents—who have been here since I went to Somerset Elementary in the 1970's. You blazed this trail for us, you secured the park lands, built the pool and the tennis courts. Your imagination and foresight made this town a highly desirable place for young families. It is our generation's responsibility and our great privilege to pick up where you left off, to navigate change, and to imagine an even better future.

*continued on page 6*

## Somerset Election on Tuesday, April 5th



### Candidate Statements



Dudley Fowlkes from page 5

I promise to show up for every meeting, to arm myself with knowledge and understanding of the complex issues that affect our town. I will be available to every individual no matter how unpopular their opinions might be, and to do my best to determine the views of the majority. I promise to defer to those with more experience and expertise than I have, and to give appropriate weight to their views even if they are at odds with my own vision for a happy and healthy town. I promise to move among you, spreading the knowledge and the understanding that accrues to me on the job and help you be the informed, connected citizen that this town deserves. Please vote for me on April 5.

*Election for  
Mayor and Two  
Council Seats*



## Tennis Court Renovation Draws Near

By Frank Joseph, Chair,  
Tennis Committee,  
Warwick Place

At its March 7 meeting, the Town Council approved a final contract to resurface and renovate Somerset's three tennis courts. The project is scheduled to commence in May. As soon as the exact date is known, the Town will publicize it. The project is expected to take some 45 days, weather permitting.

**During the renovation, we will have tennis privileges at the Somerset House condominiums** under a reciprocal arrangement being worked out now. Watch for details as the renovation draws near.

**Please remember that you can't play tennis without a card.** One card confers tennis privileges for your entire household. Note that during the renovation, you'll need to flash your Town of Somerset tennis card to gain admission to Somerset House parking and tennis courts – all the more reason to **get your card now**. The price is still \$20 for the entire year. There are a variety of ways to obtain a tennis card: visit the Town Hall during business hours, call the Town Hall at **301-657-3211**, email [clerk@townofsomerset.com](mailto:clerk@townofsomerset.com), or complete the online form available on the Town's website at <https://md-somerset.civicplus.com/FormCenter/EPayments-Form-5/Paying-Tennis-Court-Fees-Online-39>.

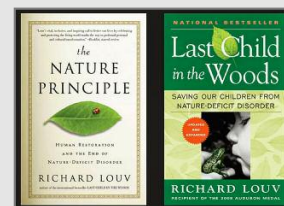
## Save The Date

## Parks and Natural Resources Committee Book Discussion on April 12, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

By Kristen Khanna, Member, PNRC, Uppingham Street

Looking for some inspiration to put down your phone, walk away from your computer screen, and get outdoors? The Parks and Natural Resources Committee (PNRC) suggests you read the *The Nature Principle* by Richard Louv (<http://richardlouv.com/books/nature-principle/>) Mr. Louv's mission is to inspire us to experience the natural world. He is also the author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*.

The PNRC also invites you to attend a discussion of *The Nature Principle* on **Tuesday, April 12, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at 5412 Uppingham Street. An RSVP to [kkhanna@animalci.com](mailto:kkhanna@animalci.com) is welcome but not required. Feel free to come by even if you have not read the book. Refreshments will be provided.



# Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on March 7, 2016. The Town Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the January 4, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the February 1, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Approval of the spring bulk refuse collection date of May 2, 2016.
4. Approval of a 2016 Arbor Day Proclamation.
5. Election nominations: Jeffrey Slavin for Mayor, Barbara Condos and Dudley Fowlkes for Town Council.
6. Approval to defer the Mayor's 5 year budget plan until April 4, 2016 to be presented along with the FY17 budget.
7. Approval of a building permit application at 4911 Cumberland Avenue to enclose the porch in the right side yard.
8. Approval of building and dumpster permit applications at 4922 Cumberland Avenue. The applicants have been approved for the following: enlarge the existing front porch and add a new deck to the west side of the existing house.
9. Approval of a 6-month building permit extension for the project occurring at 5605 Warwick Place.
10. Approval of access Route C off of Wisconsin Avenue for the proposed WSSC sewer rehabilitation project in Town parkland. A final agreement will be scheduled to be voted on along with permit conditions at the Town Council's April 4, 2016 meeting.
11. Approval to send a letter to the Montgomery County Council in relation to a proposal to widen River Road near Little Falls Parkway in conjunction with the Westbard Sector Plan.
12. Approval of a final resurfacing contract for the Town tennis courts with Bishop Tennis.
13. Approval of a drainage plan to be implemented around the tennis courts by Ground Works, LLC.
14. Approval of the tennis pass fee for 2016 at \$20.00 per household.
15. Approval to obtain the services of Richard Bajana Landscaping, Inc. for the spring fertilization program on Town parkland.
16. Approval of a proposal received from Next Day Blinds to install blinds in the Council meeting room.
17. Adoption of a Resolution adopting the amended and restated ICMA-RC Governmental Money Purchase Plan and Trust Document.
18. Mayor Slavin presented his monthly report. Town Manager Charnovich presented the February Financial Report. A representative from the Somerset Dolphins Swim Team was in attendance to present the 2016 Swim Team budget. Two new Town consultants were in attendance. Doug Lohmeyer will now be reviewing building plans for the Town, and Wayne Fowler will be the Code Enforcement Officer in the field. Council Member Condos, Council Member Peale, and Town Manager Charnovich provided an update on the Town Code and Charter project with General Code. Dates were chosen for the next set of workshop sessions in April and May.

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## General Permits



### Portable Storage Unit Permit

5515 Surrey Street

### Retaining Wall Permit

5412 Surrey Street  
4817 Dorset Avenue

### Tree Removal Permits

4906 Falstone Avenue, 1 pin oak



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

It's getting tiresome to write about this each month, but we continue to get complaints about the amount of dog poop that is not being picked up by those walking their pets. It is my hope that the violators are not the Somerset residents that I have been hounding but rather outsiders. The Council and I will have to do some brainstorming to figure out a solution to this problem. In the meantime, what I am now doing is taking extra bags with me and picking up this poop myself

when I am walking Molly. I am trying to set an example as a "good citizen." And, of course, I am already "famous" for picking up litter at the same time.

As everyone should know, the Somerset election will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on April 5th, the day after the monthly Town Council meeting. I want to encourage everyone to vote that night, or by absentee ballot in advance. I want to say again this year that given the fact that so many of our forefathers and foremothers worked hard to achieve universal suffrage and given that voting rights are under attack all over the USA, I hope you all will make a special effort to come to the Town Hall to cast your ballot!

Once again, the Maryland Municipal League, of which Somerset is an extremely active member, is sponsoring the "If I Were Mayor, I Would" essay contest for all of Maryland's 4th graders. The deadline for submission is the end of this month. A few weeks ago, several Council members and I paid our annual visit to the fourth graders at Somerset Elementary School to encourage these students to participate in the contest. Meeting these students is truly one of my favorite activities as Mayor. There will be a contest winner from our region, and our Town has its own contest-within-a-contest just for our school. Additionally, the Council and I want to encourage our 4th graders who attend local private and parochial schools—and those who are home schooled—to be a part of this fun and educational project. Further information and applications are available at [www.mdunicipal.org](http://www.mdunicipal.org)

Somerset's annual fiscal review is now in full swing. For the first time, we have now completed two Council budget work sessions. These sessions are open to residents, and I encourage everyone to attend. While Somerset is still fairly prosperous overall, the recent Wynne Supreme Court case and other developments have created a new level of uncertainty about future revenues. There are always a number of capital projects on the table and not enough funds available to do everything at once. Therefore, I am again asking all residents to pay close attention to the budget discussions and weigh in on what you feel the priorities are. The Council and I look forward to hearing from many of you. The final vote on the FY17 budget takes place at the Council meeting on May 2.

Earlier this month, I attended the National League of Cities annual Congressional City Conference on behalf of the Town and learned, among other things, about some of the latest national trends that could affect Somerset. I attend this conference at my own expense because I feel it is so important, and will plan on making reports when and where appropriate. Among the speakers were two U.S. Cabinet Secretaries and the hilarious CNN political commentator Ana Navarro. I also attend the US Conference of Mayors meetings on a regular basis which can be an equally educational experience.

The Little Falls Watershed Alliance, a local environmental advocacy group with a lot of Somerset involvement, celebrated its 8th birthday at a special event on a recent Sunday. Executive Director/Founder **Sarah Morse** (Dorset) was primary host and gave an informative report on the group's work. **Mark Oxley** (Dorset) was one of the special honorees and **David Batson** (Falstone) was part of the outstanding musical entertainment. To top it off, **Anne Yap** (Cumberland) created an amazing birthday cake. I am member of this important organization and I urge all residents to get involved. Please go to [www.lfwa.org](http://www.lfwa.org) for more information.



## CPR Class Held at the Town Hall

By Diane Horn, Surrey Street

On February 27th, the Ad Hoc Wellness Committee sponsored a CPR training class at the Town Hall. Twelve Somerset residents participated in a two hour class provided by a certified CRP trainer on how to administer CPR to children and adults. Training was also given on the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). A few younger Town residents who participated in the class received special training to obtain their Heart Saver cards for babysitting purposes.

If you are interested in attending CPR training in the future, please contact me at [diane.b.horn@gmail.com](mailto:diane.b.horn@gmail.com).



# A Storm Water Management Plan for Somerset



By Robin Barr, Chair,  
Environment Committee,  
Essex Avenue

The Somerset Environment Committee is submitting recommendations to the Town Council to develop a storm water management

plan for the Town. This article provides background and introduces the recommendations.

In Somerset, across Montgomery County, throughout Maryland, and across the nation, increased development (homes, businesses) and changed farming practices have led to an increase in large land areas being covered with impermeable surfaces and an increase in the use of nutrients and other chemicals. The increased water runoff from these surfaces contributes to floods, and washes too many nutrients and contaminants into our streams and rivers. Locally, this brew finds its way to the Chesapeake Bay, and is responsible for the unsightly algae blooms that we see there and for the decline of native crab and oyster populations.

The need for Somerset action is evident whenever we experience a storm: heavy rains produce flooding in Somerset. We have seen the streambed erode and expose the sewage pipes beneath. We have seen a substantial decline in aquatic life in our streams. Too many residents in downhill locations suffer recurrent floods on their property. Other governments are taking action to address these problems. Federal actions have prompted state and county governments to change permitting rules and establish programs to encourage resident action. Municipalities across Maryland have also established programs in their own communities. Some of these apply to the Town's property and land. Some encourage residents to use landscaping that will absorb storm water. Some include improved management practices for particularly flood-prone areas in the Town.

Indeed much of the action to solve these problems must happen at the local and household level. This is reflected in the recent increased requirement for storm water retention for new homes and for substantially modified homes in Somerset. Additionally, the County sponsors programs and grants to encourage residents to use conservation landscaping to help capture storm water.

Though the County does its part in Town by changing permitting requirements for new construction, and by (limited) grant programs for resident action, these actions leave Town property and parks not covered and provide only very limited help to residents in existing homes on good storm water management practices. These are the targets of our recommendations.

Somerset is a very small Town. The municipalities that have taken action to date in Maryland are larger and have more resources to apply to storm water treatment than does Somerset. In developing our recommendations, we have tailored them to Somerset's size. That means we are emphasizing prevention through education of residents, limited action on Town lands that helps to serve as a model for residents, and measurement of runoff to raise awareness of the Town's contribution to the storm water problem. We do propose storm water management actions but we integrate these into existing Town plans and show that other entities (the school and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission) also have a responsibility for these flood-prone zones.

The committee recommends a series of additional steps that Somerset can take.

These recommendations were submitted to the Council by the Town's Environment Committee on Monday, March 15.

1. Education of residents (annual winter time lectures/ symposiums with themes related to ground water retention, rich vegetative landscapes, and maintaining wildlife – butterflies, birds and bees – all of which are connected to storm water management), contractor to advise on drain pipe placement and/or disconnection.
2. Model initiative on Town-owned land (landscaping to reduce run-off from the basketball courts).
3. Measurement – (Measuring run-off at one storm drain to understand the rate of flow and volume of water run-off during and after a storm).
4. Water management actions – advise further on improving the tennis courts and parking lot. Work with the school and with the Parks service on storm water management on their properties.

You may contact Robin Barr at [robmattles@aol.com](mailto:robmattles@aol.com) for more information about the recommendations. I welcome comments on them too.



**Somerset's Storm Water  
Management Plan**



## All About People

By Alan Dock, Falstone Avenue

I'm reminded in of I think last month, when there was no news and hence no "All About People" column, was the first time I had missed a column since I took over from the late and sadly missed Alan Procter some 48 columns ago!

“

Welcome to  
Springtime in  
Somerset!

”

A mixed bundle this month, and thank you to all who responded to my plea on the listserv. So let's get started. Firstly, a note from Nicole Ventura in the Town Hall office informing me that we have a new family moving onto Cumberland Avenue, although it will not be until their newly constructed house is ready for them. Welcome to **Chris Borek** and **Irene Cortese**, and their children **Milo** and **Naomi**. We hope the construction proceeds smoothly and on schedule, and look forward to meeting you around the neighborhood in the ensuing months.

Some interesting sports news from BCC. The wrestling team consisting of Captain **Colin Cowie**, and his brother **Leo** (Uppingham), **Eli Guttentag** (Warwick), **Justin Smith** (Uppingham), **Daniel White** (Dorset), and **Tommy Turi** (Trent) finished 8th in the State competition. **Eli Guttentag**

finished 3rd in the State individual championship. Great effort guys, we look forward to hearing more from you in the new season.

More sporting news from the Cowie family: twins **Kate** and **Colin** are *both* captains of their respective lacrosse teams at BCC! I'm told this is the first time in the history of BCC lacrosse that a sister and brother have been captains in the same year. Still on the sports roll, **Devan Graham**, 18 year old daughter of **Torie Clarke** and **Brian Graham** (Dorset), decided to defer her first year of college to pursue her equestrian career. After eight years competing at events nationwide, Devan finished as the top junior in Virginia, Maryland, the mid-Atlantic region, and 11th nationwide for 2015. Congratulations, Devan—a stunning finish! Devan's parents tell me she is currently on a four month service trip in Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. Sounds like a well-spent gap year to me.

**Zola Schneider** (Warwick ), a proud grandmother, dropped me a note about her grandson **David Schneider**, son of **Norm Schneider** and **Linda Kanefield** of Greystone Street. David, a recent honors graduate of the University of Massachusetts's Sports Management Department, was promoted to President and General Manager of the Bethesda Big Train, a summer collegiate baseball team that plays its home games at Shirley Povich Field in Cabin John Regional Park. Big Train, named for Walter Johnson's nickname, is a member of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League and is an entity of BCC Baseball that represents the Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Potomac areas.

Some of you may recall that **Alison Fortier** (Falstone) wrote a book entitled *A History Lover's Guide to Washington DC*. In February, her **second** book, *A History Lover's Guide to New York City* was released by The History Press. She is particularly pleased in how it demonstrates the importance of immigration and diversity to the success of New York City. I seem to remember this book was reviewed recently in the Washington Post. Alison is working on a third book now – a children's book on Washington D.C.

Here is news of quite a different kind from **Ilene Heller** (Uppingham). She writes:

*I just graduated from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Permanent Exhibition tour guide training course. The four-month course prepares volunteers to become docents who will lead tours for new FBI and Secret Service agents and other law enforcement personnel, as well as student groups. As part of my graduation requirements, I was required to lead a tour for several guests,*

*which included Somerset residents Barry Heller and Marnie Shaul. The tour was a bit more challenging than expected because I had to conduct it from a wheelchair as a result of undergoing surgery 10 days before graduation to repair a broken bone in my foot. I look forward to resuming tours in late spring at the Holocaust Museum, as well as at the Newseum – where I have been a volunteer guide for the past three years.*



All About People – Snowstorm Puzzle Picture

If you are planning on a visit to either of these Institutions, keep a look out for our own docent!

Finally, a puzzle picture: can you recognize the scene from our recent snowstorm?



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:srpvacationhomes@gmail.com) or 301-652-1207.

**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 [diane.b.horn@gmail.com](mailto:diane.b.horn@gmail.com).

**HAVING TROUBLE WITH TECHNOLOGY?** Let me untangle it for you. Hire your own personal technology concierge, who helps you figure out what to buy, how it works, and keep it working. I am available for any question or issue. Call **Jonathan Horn** at 202-557-1151 or email [Jon.m.horn@gmail.com](mailto:Jon.m.horn@gmail.com).

**DON'T HAVE THE TIME OR INCLINATION TO TACKLE ALL YOUR TO DO'S?** Please let me help you troubleshoot, research and resolve those problems hanging over your head. Think of me as an extra set of hands to complete whatever projects need attention. Contact **Rob Albert** at 202-436-1115 or email [Rob@DependableDad.com](mailto:Rob@DependableDad.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.

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, Monday, April 4, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset 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, Franny Peale, Dudley Fowlkes, Marnie Shaul, Barbara Condos

### CONSENT

- Motion:** To consider approval of the March 7, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes.
- Motion:** To consider a proposal submitted by Lindsey and Associates for Professional Auditing Services for FY16 at a cost of \$10,500.00
- 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 2016.
- Motion:** To consider approval entering into a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool for the 2016 season.
- Motion:** To consider approval of a proposal from Vigilant Security for security monitoring at the Town Pool for the 2016 season:  
5/16/15 – 6/30/16: \$1,250.00 — 7/1/15 – 9/18/16: \$3,750.00
- Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of a Town Pool cleaning contract with AquaFree Facilities Services, Inc. for the 2016 season.

### NON-CONSENT

- Discussion:** Town Manager's March Financial Report – 7:40 p.m.
- Introduction:** Mayor Slavin's FY17 budget – 7:45 p.m.
- Discussion:** Mayor Slavin's 5 year fiscal plan – 7:55 p.m.
- Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a demolition permit for an accessory building and a dumpster permit at 4910 Dorset Avenue – 8:00 p.m.
- Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following Town tree plantings for the spring of 2016 as recommended by the Parks and Natural Resources Committee and the Town Arborist – 8:05 p.m.

|                                 |                                   |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4816 Cumberland, 2 serviceberry | 5514 Uppingham, 1 redbud          | 5801 Warwick, 1 white oak         |
| 4813 Grantham, 1 white oak      | 5702 Warwick, 1 redbud            | 5812 Warwick, 1 celestial dogwood |
| 5509 Uppingham, 1 redbud        | 5706 Warwick, 1 celestial dogwood | 4723 Cumberland, 1 red oak        |

- Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider permit authorization of a request submitted by PEPCO to complete the following work to improve reliability on feeder #14949 on Dorset Avenue, Surrey Street and Greystone Streets – 8:10 p.m.  
– replace 6 poles, 5 overhead transformers and associated equipment
- Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a permit request submitted by the WSSC to complete a pipe rehabilitation project in Town parkland adjacent to Wisconsin Avenue – 8:15 p.m.
- Discussion:** General Code Update – 8:40 p.m.
- Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 8:45 p.m.
- Adjourn:** – 8:50 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.