



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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

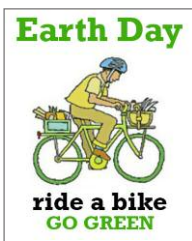


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Somerset's Earth Day Bike Fest Set for Saturday, April 22



By Dudley Fowlkes, Council Member, Falstone Avenue

Last year's Somerset Earth Day Bike Fest came off so well that it would be a sin of omission not to try another. To throw in a wrinkle, the second will involve a neighborhood ride! Why not, right? If you are worried about how that's going to go, fear not because Officer Tony Galladora of the Montgomery County Department of Police will be in the group, on his bike, in his capacity as a public safety official, as will a strong contingent of moms and dads. Helmets are required by law for anyone under the age of eighteen, all passengers, and strongly suggested for everyone else.

On **Saturday, April 22 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Somerset will celebrate Earth Day with a group bike ride from the Town Hall down Cumberland Avenue, along “The Little Falls,” and up and over “Falstone Hill” to the pool. The ride is not long

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Somerset Spring Tennis Celebration on Sunday, April 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

By Frank Joseph, Chair, Tennis Committee, Warwick Place

It's spring at last and time for Somerset tennis. Come by the courts on April 2, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and there will be:

- **FREE** clinics for adults and children with popular pro Dara Mirala
- A ball machine to practice your strokes
- Snacks and refreshments
- Tennis cards for sale

Meet neighbors and friends and greet the new tennis season. All Somerset households are welcome, tennis players and otherwise. And while you're at it, mark your calendar for the following future tennis season events:

- Sunday, May 21, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Spring Round Robin
- Tuesday, July 4, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – Kids-only tennis championships
- Sunday, Sept. 10, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Watch the U.S. Open Men's Championship with us
- Sunday, Oct. 1, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Fall Round Robin

Details coming. Happy spring, everyone!



Somerset Spring
Tennis Celebration

Calendar

Sunday, April 2

Spring Tennis Celebration
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
Tennis Courts

Saturday, April 22

Earth Day Bike Fest
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 22

Pre-Season Swim Meet
Pump-Up Event
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Monday, April 24

MVA Mobile Office at Friendship
Heights – 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

Happy National Nutrition Month

By now, many of us who made New Year’s resolutions to lose weight may have lost the momentum or even the interest. Because March is National Nutrition Month, let’s

all get excited about this year’s theme, “Put Your Best Fork Forward,” and focus on our eating again.

Medical experts agree that obesity causes or is related to all of the deadly diseases. And, partnering with exercise, eating “right” is essential to taking off our excess poundage. Thus we have a great incentive to eat right!

We can start with better menu choices: selecting fatty fish like tuna and salmon (with a limit on tuna due to the mercury), filling up on fruits and vegetables, and limiting sugar, white flour and processed meats. Soft drinks are worthless and indeed harmful.

Just as important as what we eat is portion control. Since to me “diet” is a dirty word and trying to eliminate things like desserts and cheese only makes me crave them more, I suggest considering just a taste of these things rather than the whole slice!

As someone who has been in this food battle for decades, I know that having a nutritious diet makes me feel better and appreciate a mirror more. It is easy to procrastinate, so start today rather than tomorrow. And if you have a slip now and then, don’t worry about it—but get right back on the horse.

I don’t want to be the food police, just a “Town Crier” about the great benefits of eating the right way! Good luck to all.



General Permits



Tree Removal Permits

4902 Cumberland Avenue, 1 White Oak and 1 Flowering Dogwood

4905 Dorset Avenue, 1 Spruce

5510 Surrey Street, 1 18’ tree (unidentifiable)

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

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TTY users call Maryland Relay

but some will find it a challenge, and so we urge all participants to work together to keep the group in order. In this way we recognize how our own individual and collective physiologies can directly help steward our natural world.

In addition to being fun, the ride will serve as a live forum in which participants can discuss safety issues and concerns related to bike riding in real-time. **Let's gather at the Town Hall at 4:00 p.m.** Don't miss the bike check and prepare time. The group will depart after a time to consider proper adjustment of brakes and tire pressure, along with riding strategy. Come one, come all! Ride! Cheer! Celebrate! On the bridge, neighbors will break bread, play music, sit around a fire, and think about living in a healthy physical world. We also will inspect and perform maintenance on bikes, pull a few weeds, pick up trash, and hear and talk about environmental and natural resource issues in Town.



Food Truck for the Dolphins?

By Dudley Fowlkes, Council Member, Falstone Avenue

The Town Council will vote at its April 3 meeting on whether to allow a food truck

to operate at the pool during a B home swim meet on Wednesday, June 21. This request comes from the swim team and, if passed, would allow the operation of a food truck on a one-time trial basis in the Town parkland. As Council Liaison to the swim team committee, I introduce this measure in the hopes of finally resolving this issue.

Before voting on the issue, the Council Members are asking for more information on such issues as whether the proposed site for the food truck, under the basketball hoop on the pool side of the bridge, is too tight. What would be the Town's legal liability in case of problems stemming from receiving food from a privately provided food source? Would the truck interfere with emergency vehicle access? Would the truck create trash problems? Would the swim team collect revenue from the concession? Clearly, it would be helpful to have the Fire Marshall come by to evaluate the space, and to obtain legal advice from the Town attorney.

Those who would like to try out the food truck believe that the team would benefit greatly from this kind of service. Many, if not most, families on the swim team have two parents holding down full-time jobs, and it is increasingly difficult, says Swim Team Committee Chair **Nancy Jardini** (Essex), to secure parent-volunteers for food concessions. Yet unlike in the good old days, there are a great many food trucks out there, with wholesome and delicious fare. Since the truck would be open to all customers, not just those from the swim team, its food could add a little spice to all of our lives. **Matthew Zaft** (Dorset), Pool Committee Chair, notes that a professional food service truck, with its efficiency of materials, would probably generate less waste than our present system of concession provision. Furthermore, he assures, with careful placement, the food truck would not impede emergency vehicle access or parking.

Beyond that, participating in swim team activities, whether as a spectator, competitor, or volunteer, builds strong bonds in the community. The Town takes great pride in its swim team and is committed to improving the experience for everybody.

If you have concerns or ideas about this issue, please take time to tell the Council, either by e-mail, letter, or at the 7:30 p.m. April 3 Council meeting at the Town Hall.

Art Shows by Somerset Elementary School Fifth Graders

By Barbara Zeughauser, Council Member, Trent Street

Lynn Lewis, the art teacher at Somerset Elementary School, has been working with the fifth graders of Somerset Elementary School on a project entitled: *Mother Earth: Micro, Macro and Me*. In Ms. Lewis's art class, the fifth graders are exploring different perspectives of life on Earth through mix media artworks and connecting art with environmental awareness. Their work entails tooling metal discs of a microscopic view of plant or animal cellular structures. In addition, they are examining an interstellar view of the universe and using watercolor to create their own versions, while referring to photographs taken from the Hubel telescope. The final step of the artwork is to superimpose a silhouette of themselves which depicts a setting on Earth where they feel most at peace. Sculptor **Bart Rubenstein** (Dorset) is the founder of the Mother Earth Project, an Instagram movement, and this art project was created in conjunction with the Mother Earth Project.



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Spring Bulk Refuse Pick Up

The next bulk refuse collection will be on Monday, May 1, 2017.

Pool Opening in May

April is upon us! That means the Pool will be opening next month on May 20, 2017. Please mark your calendars!

Stop Signs in the Community

I am periodically contacted by residents to tell me that they notice motorists not stopping at stop signs in the community. It is essential that we make every effort to obey traffic sign laws and speed limits. This is especially critical when kids are walking to and home from school. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



FY18 Budget and 5-Year Fiscal Plan

The FY 18 budget will be introduced at the April 3 Council meeting. A summary of the budget will be included in the May Town Journal, and a full copy will be available in the Town Hall. The 5-year fiscal plan will also be discussed at the April 3 Council Meeting and will be available in the Town Hall for review.

Income Tax Code for the Town of Somerset

With the April 15 deadline looming, this is just a friendly reminder to make sure you mark the Town of Somerset as your local jurisdiction on your tax returns. This will help to ensure that Somerset receives its appropriate allocation of income tax revenue. In addition to marking Town of Somerset, please mark the appropriate tax return code for Somerset, which is 1610.



Tennis Passes for 2017

2017 tennis passes are now available in the Town Hall. The cost per

household for 2017 is \$25.00 for a family pass. Please stop into the Town Hall to secure your pass if you intend on utilizing the courts this year.

Door-To-Door Solicitation

I periodically receive messages concerning door-to-door solicitation in the neighborhood. Applicants can get door-to-door vendor licenses from Montgomery County. However, they should clearly present their badge and information concerning their license. Door-to-door solicitors should be reported to the Montgomery County 2nd district in the interest of safety. The Police Department has the ability to check if the solicitor has a permit. The contact info for the Montgomery County 2nd district is 240-773-6700. Email is 2DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov. The **non-emergency police** phone number for all of Montgomery County is 301-279-8000. **In an emergency, dial 911.**

Temporary Signs in the Right of Way and Private Property

Please keep in mind that commercial signs are not permitted to be placed in the Town Right of Way. To place temporary signs on your private property, a permit is required from Montgomery County. Here is a web link where you can find the Montgomery County regulations on limited duration sign permits: <http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps/building/LimitedDurationSignPermit.aspx#>

Updating Email Addresses

It is important to make sure we have the email addresses for as many of our residents as possible. It is an important way for our government to communicate with residents. If you want to provide the Town Hall with your email address or update your email address, please email us at town@townofsomerset.com. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. **The deadline for revisions will be May 16, 2017.**

Art Shows by Somerset Elementary School Fifth Graders *from page 3*

In order to show the work of all the fifth graders, there will be three separate shows and three opening celebrations: **The first show will be from March 31 through April 25, with the opening celebration on Thursday, April 6, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The second show will be from April 27-May 18, with the opening celebration on May 2, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. And the last show will be from May 19-June 9, with the opening celebration on May 23, from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

We hope many of you will take the time to stop by the Town Hall to see what will likely be three truly extraordinary exhibits by the children of Somerset Elementary School.

Addressing Queuing on Dorset Avenue

By Marnie Shaul, Council Vice President, Uppingham Street



I recently wrote an article for the February Journal about two traffic issues. One of these issues concerns the queuing of cars on Dorset Avenue near Wisconsin, especially during rush hour and school drop-off and pick-up times. At the January Council Meeting, a resident living in that area presented a case for moving the “No Parking” sign because of the queuing and road rage in front of her home. She said that the cars parked there were usually not residents of Somerset.

In response to complaints from residents about the problem, we asked a traffic consultant for advice about where the “No Parking” sign could be moved. As I explained in my earlier article:

*Council Member **Barbara Condos** (Falstone) and I observed the queuing. Because of the location of the fire hydrant we thought that a “No Parking” sign might be placed on the other side of the hydrant, a little farther into Somerset than the consultant recommended. None of the three cars we observed between the current location of the No Parking sign and the hydrant had Maryland tags: they had Virginia, DC and Pennsylvania tags. The addresses affected by a change in sign location include 4507, 4509, 4511, and 4515. If the Council chose to change the No Parking sign location, it would need to change the code because no parking signs are in the code so that they can be enforced. The process would be to introduce an ordinance at one Council meeting and vote on it at the next Council meeting.*

During February, the Town contacted the residents who live adjacent to the area being considered for “No Parking” and suggested that they let the Council know their thoughts. I introduced the proposed “No Parking” change at the March Council meeting and two residents suggested that “No Parking” be limited to Monday through Friday and to daytime hours. Those suggestions made sense to the Council.

Currently the Council is considering what weekday hours “No Parking” should be in effect. The residents suggested 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. When I walked along Dorset to look at the current signs, it seems the daytime parking restrictions on Dorset between Deal and Warwick are from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. except for those signs that are for 2 hour limits or are the “No Parking” from here to the

corner. We will be discussing no parking time limits again at the April 3 Council meeting and will likely vote on a no parking measure. Because it is helpful to have as many observations as possible, if you observe queuing or a lack of queuing between 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., your observations would be helpful to the Council as it decides which time restrictions would be most likely to correct the queuing problem.

Somerset’s Part-Time Police Team: Additional Support for the Town

By Corporal Dave Cohen, Montgomery County Department of Police

The Town of Somerset employs off-duty Montgomery County Police officers to provide added protection to Town residents. Our officers provide visible crime deterrence and enforce traffic laws in the Town. Our Police Team does not have a fixed schedule; rather, their schedules vary to provide an element of surprise for any individuals wishing to commit crimes in the neighborhood.

Not all police officers have the same training and skills. Many officers train and specialize in various disciplines from patrol and traffic to investigations and tactics. Our Police Team includes officers who work full time in patrol, community crime suppression, collision reconstruction, and district-level criminal investigations. Two of our officers are also Emergency Medical Technicians.

The Town has created a new email address so that residents can contact police officers directly about community concerns, traffic complaints, or to simply ask questions about law enforcement. That email is police@townofsomerset.com. We hope our Police Team can now address complaints that are regularly raised on the list serve. Please note that this email address is not monitored 24/7 and should not be used to request a police response or to file a police report. Residents are reminded to **dial 911 for emergency police responses or (301) 279-8000 for non-emergency police responses.**



We Remember

**In Memoriam
Ellie Fink (Dorset Avenue)
Passed away on March 19, 2017**

Municipal Officials Meet with Legislators



Left to right: Ryan Spiegel, President of the Montgomery County Chapter MML, Council Vice President Marnie Shaul, Council Member Barbara Condos, Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, State Senator Susan Lee

By Marnie Shaul, Council Vice President, Uppingham Street

Our Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League sponsored a lunch with members of the Maryland legislature and their staffs on March 7th. The Town of Somerset contributed to this effort. The lunch provided an opportunity for local municipal officials to talk with legislators about our legislative priorities. One of these priorities is the amount of state funds set-aside to help municipalities provide local services such as street paving. This year Mayor **Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick), Council Member **Barbara Condos** (Falstone) and I represented Somerset. The accompanying photo shows Somerset officials with State Senator Susan Lee, who represents us in Annapolis, and Gaithersburg Council Member Ryan Spiegel, who is our chapter president.



Short-Term Residential Rental Legislation in Montgomery County

Franny Peale, Council Member, Uppingham Street

At our March meeting the Council heard a presentation from Ron Bolt, our Town Attorney, about the status of short-term residential rentals (also known as transient leasing) under current and proposed zoning rules and legislation. At the moment, the County zoning rules for the Town's R-60 classification prohibit short-term rentals because they are considered to be operating a hotel or B&B. As a result, leasing through online short-term rental agencies such as Air BnB is prohibited in the Town of Somerset, unless special permission is obtained from the County.

As a practical matter, it is difficult for the County to enforce its zoning laws to prevent this type of online short-term leasing in Somerset. Because of this, the County is now considering permitting such rentals under a licensing and taxing structure. This would mean changing the rules for R-60 and other residential zones to allow B&Bs as permissible land uses, subject to the County's regulations. The County Council has asked the Planning Department to provide a recommendation concerning the County Council's draft legislation. Our Town Attorney has been engaged to follow the issue and to keep the Council up to date. The status of the Planning Department's assessment can be reviewed here: <http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/functional-planning/short-term-residential-rentals/>

Although the Town of Somerset, as a municipality, has some ability to opt in or out of County legislation, we are not able to opt out of changes to land use regulations. A change at the County level would affect the Town. If the County changes our permissible zoned land uses, then any house in Somerset could become a licensed B&B, subject to the County's rules and taxes.

Town residents should think about the pros and cons of this proposed change. Our neighborhood would be attractive to Air BnB users for a number of reasons including our proximity to the Metro. Short-term rentals may not fit with some of the Town's priorities for parking, traffic, or access to the pool and tennis courts. Renters might not be motivated to follow our Town laws or regulations. The other Council Members and I would like to hear your views on this issue.



Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of Helping Hand, A Neighborhood Treasure

By Barbara Marenus, Surrey Street

One of Somerset's greatest attributes is its sense of community. A perfect example of this is **Helping Hand**, a service founded and run by residents, in which neighbor volunteers help other neighbors. This wonderful activity was founded 10 years ago by **Zola Schneider** (Warwick). After a neighbor had asked Zola for help on several occasions, she decided that this kind of support system could be the basis for a neighbor to neighbor service. Initially Zola solicited other volunteers, and requests for assistance came in by phone. The one requirement was that all requests were to be anonymous until a request was accepted by a specific volunteer. Requests for rides to the doctor, grocery shopping for those who were unable to venture out on their own, pickups after same day surgeries, and unanticipated rides home from school were the most frequent requests. A year later, in 2008, Zola held a meeting with the many volunteers who had signed up to discuss how **Helping Hand** should function. Zola explains that it was then that Council Member **Barbara Zeughouser** (Trent) joined the group, and since then she and Zola have worked diligently to expand the neighbor pool and to increase awareness of the service.

While many people have used **Helping Hand** over the past ten years, Zola and Barbara are still committed to making the service even more useful in the future. Another neighbor, **Kathleen Kenyon** (Grantham) has volunteered to act as an additional point of contact for the group. There are currently 25 neighbors who recently committed to work as volunteers. As Barbara explains, "it is now time to push the refresh button and look for more ways to encourage people to use this unique support system." These could include offering to pick up newspapers when people are

away, moving trash cans to and from the curb, moving delivered newspapers to the front door and the like.

Sentiments of appreciation are heartily felt by neighbors who have used this neighborhood service. **Lois Levitan** (Falstone) remarked that

Helping Hand was a lifesaver to me. Helping Hand sent out an SOS and different neighbors came to help me with a problem twice a day for 10 days. I met many new people and it was great!

Alan Dock (Falstone), a long-term volunteer, notes that

Most of the fellow Somerset residents I helped needed assistance getting to medical institutions around the city. One elderly lady, since passed on, required transport to Georgetown Hospital and took great delight in showing me a short-cut for returning from her appointment. I still use her short-cut and often think of her when I pass what was her home, reflecting on her cheerfulness and positive attitude to life when she must have known her time was running out. A lesson to those of us still enjoying good health, but feeling 'down in the dumps'!

Maura Vanderzon (Falstone), another volunteer, describes her volunteering this way:

*Assisting some of my neighbors through **Helping Hand** has been such a gratifying experience. I've met people with whom I normally wouldn't have crossed paths and have enjoyed learning from them about what it was like to raise a family in Somerset in years past. The chance to meet and interact with wonderful neighbors has really helped me as much as any help that I may have offered to them. Helping Hand is a great program and another aspect of life in Somerset that makes it such a special community.*

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Council Member **Barbara Zeughouser** at 301-951-8560.



Batting Cage Update

By Franny Peale, Council Member, Uppingham Street

The Council discussed the Town's batting cage at our budget work sessions at the beginning of March. The cage needs a new net, which should cost around \$1,500. The Council tentatively allocated money in the FY18 budget for this expense. However, the group also discussed the future of the batting cage, both as a maintenance commitment and as an ongoing administrative task for the Town.

As the Council liaison to the Batting Cage Committee, I would be interested in hearing from Town residents about their use of the batting cage.

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on March 5, 2017. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval to set the date for the spring bulk pick up collection for May 1, 2017.
2. Approval of a 2017 Arbor Day Proclamation.
3. Approval of Nancy Jardini to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
4. Approval of Amy Power to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
5. Approval of Maura Vanderzon to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
6. Approval of Matt Zaft to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
7. Approval of Josh Bobeck to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
8. Approval of Bob Chlopak to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
9. Approval of Michael Roark to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
10. Approval of an application before the Town Council acting as Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission on an application at 4722 Dorset Avenue to construct two additions in the rear of the house and enclose the existing porch.
11. Approval of an application before the Town Council acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission on an application at 5809 Surrey Street to complete cosmetic repair work at the rear and sides of the house.
12. Approval of a proposal submitted by Denchfield Landscaping, Inc. to install a replacement fence near the Town Hall garage bordering the 4515 Dorset Avenue property.
13. An Ordinance was introduced to consider amending Section 9-202 of the Town Code related to No Parking restrictions on Dorset Avenue between Wisconsin Avenue and Deal Place. An article will be included in this Journal issue with further details, and final action will be considered at the April 3, 2017 Council Meeting.
14. Approval of a proposal from Outdoor Illumination, Inc. to install safety lighting along the Town Hall driveway adjacent to the tennis courts, amended lighting near the garage, and additional lighting in the parking lot.
15. Approval of a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool for the 2017 season.
16. Approval of a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Tennis Courts for the 2017 season.
17. Approval of a proposal from Mid-Atlantic Inspections to update the Town property conditions report from April of 2014.
18. Approval of the 2017 special events calendar for all special events in Somerset. The events will be published on the Town website and in email notices.
19. Mayor Slavin and Town Manager Charnovich each provided their monthly reports. A Somerset Dolphins Swim Team representative was in attendance to discuss their 2017 budget. Town Manager Charnovich provided an update on the construction project currently occurring at 4814 Falstone Avenue. Town Attorney Ron Bolt attended the Council meeting and discussed the current status of short-term rentals legislation at the Montgomery County level. Next steps were discussed concerning the Town Code update project. A meeting will be scheduled with the Town Attorney on the project, and more work will be completed after the FY18 budget is introduced on April 3.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Let me congratulate newly re-elected Council Members **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham), **Barbara Zeughauer** (Trent) and **Franny Peale** (Uppingham) for their recent victories. I look forward to our continuing and future work together. I also want to thank all the registered voters who made the special effort to come to the Town Hall on March 21 to support the democratic process. In addition, that night voters were able to view the current exhibit of beautiful photographs by **Maurice Asseo** (Greystone) and enjoy some refreshments. Our election has become similar to a family reunion as people linger long after they vote.

Once again, this year, the Maryland Municipal League, of which Somerset is an extremely active member, is sponsoring an essay contest "If I Were Mayor, I Would" for all of Maryland's 4th graders. The deadline for submission is the end of March. Several weeks ago, three Council Members and I visited with all the fourth graders at Somerset Elementary School, as we do every year, to encourage the students to participate. There will be a 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.mdmunicipal.org.



Admiration for Somerset artist's work at Waverly Gallery reception

With the completion of three Council budget sessions which were open to the public, Somerset's annual budget season is now in full force. While Somerset overall is still relatively prosperous, we are not able to fund everything—so public input is very important when we set priorities. There are always a number of capital projects on the table and not enough funds available to do everything at once. The Council and I always look forward to hearing interested residents on these matters.

In mid-March, I attended the National League of Cities annual Congressional City Conference at the Wardman Marriott in the District on behalf of the Town and learned, among other things, about some of the latest national trends which could/can/would affect Somerset. I attend this conference at my own expense each year because I feel it is so important to my leadership.

Eight (yes 8!) Town artists are being showcased in downtown Bethesda at the Waverly Street Gallery, located at 4600 East-West Highway, through April 8. There was a lovely opening reception held earlier this month. I hope many of you will come to see the beautiful works of art on display.



Somerset artist Len Harris's sculpture draws an audience

As a warning to our many Somerseters who frequently park in the District, those red-top parking meters which you see everywhere, installed years ago and often the source of confusion, will now be the subject of strict enforcement. Starting next month, these spaces will only be available for those with disability parking placards or license plates, and in most cases payment will be required. Don't needlessly support the DC government by getting a ticket! I am sure you can find more specific rules online.

I have been getting complaints recently about Town residents who leave trash and recycling bins at curbside, or in view from the street, throughout the week rather than moving them away after the trash and recycling are picked up by our contractors. This is against Town code and policy and is a detriment to our streetscape. Please assist the Council, staff and me in our efforts to maintain a pristine environment in our beloved municipality.

And last but not least, our stalwart Journal editor of the last four plus years, **Barbara Marenus** (Surrey), has officially enlisted **Mary Wisniewski** (Greystone) to come on board and be co-editor of the Journal. I know our highly valued publication is in capable hands. Thank you, Barbara and Mary!



All About People

By Alan Dock, Falstone Avenue

Three days of winter – global warming or just random luck – I’ll take it! The mini winter in mid March reminded us what winter can be (and has been in the past – remember snowmagedon?) Now spring is here and the daffodils and cherry blossoms have been and gone. Pool opening is around the corner, tennis courts are ready, and neighbors are out talking to each other on the streets of our Town.

“

Welcome to Springtime in Somerset!

”

Alas it seems it may be too early in the year for much news to have emerged. I only have one item from **Suzan Kovarick** (Cumberland): “**Lida Sunderland**, former Dolphin and Somerset graduate gave birth to a baby boy on 2/21/17. **Rockland Joseph Simpson** is the second grandchild of Suzan Kovarick and **Trey Sunderland** of Cumberland Avenue. Rocky and his family reside in Washington DC.”

In the absence of Town news, I’m going to stir the pot on a couple of ideas that have been making the rounds in Somerset for years, and will continue to comment on them in this column over the next few months. The first of these is about our freshly refurbished tennis courts. As the year

advances, members of our community who like to play tennis will be lining up to find playing time, as Town regulations only permit the courts to be used during daylight hours. While not a tennis player myself, I have heard it discussed that perhaps we could extend the use of this Town amenity into the early evening by installing lights?

Perhaps the time has come to reopen these discussions? State of the art lighting systems can be designed to focus only on the courts and not splash into neighboring gardens. Tennis etiquette would need to include limiting noise so as not to affect fellow residents living on Cumberland.

What do you think? I invite comments from all residents and promise to include those comments in a future column.

Enjoy the spring and the unfolding of summer!



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, or **Kathleen Kenyon** at 301-656-8581 and we will set it up.



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.

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.

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.

WINTERGREEN, VIRGINIA RESORT: vrbo.com/757252. 7 BR/7.5 baths. Wintergreen's premier Mountaintop Lodge. Seasonal Blue Ridge views. Ideal for retreats, reunions, vacations, couples weekends; ski, golf, tennis, spa, hiking getaways. Enormous decks, floor-to-ceiling windows, natural woodwork, soaring Great Room. Near outstanding Nelson County micro-brewery/vineyard route near Charlottesville. **Bob Gage** at rgage@cov.com; 202-744-5943.

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.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, Monday, April 3, 2017

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, April 3, 2017 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.

Swearing In of 3 Council Members

Election of Council Vice President

Comments: Public Comment Period – 7:35 p.m.*



Council Members: Barbara Zeughausen, Franny Peale, Dudley Fowlkes, Marnie Shaul, Barbara Condos

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider approval of a HVAC unit permit application request submitted at 4915 Dorset Avenue.

NON-CONSENT

2. **Discussion:** Town Manager's March Financial Report – 7:40 p.m.
3. **Introduction:** Mayor Slavin's FY18 budget – 7:45 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Mayor Slavin's 5 year fiscal plan – 7:55 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider an amendment to the Town Rainy Day Fund policy as recommended by the Budget Committee – 8:05 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following Town tree plantings for the Spring of 2017 as recommended by the Parks and Natural Resources Committee and the Town Arborist – 8:10 p.m.

4510 Cumberland Avenue – 7 White Fringe Tree
4707 Cumberland Avenue – 1 Red Maple
4810 Cumberland Avenue – 1 Yellowwood

4813 Cumberland Avenue – 1 River Birch
5605 Warwick Place – 1 Blackgum

7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of an Ordinance of the Town of Somerset, Chevy Chase, Maryland, amending section "9-202 No Parking Zones" of the Town Code, to change No Parking restriction times on Dorset Avenue between Wisconsin Avenue and Deal Place – 8:15 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider granting approval to allow for a one-time food truck set up at the Town Pool on June 21 during the Swim Team B home meet – 8:30 p.m.
9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Proposals to replace the deck area at the Town Hall – 8:40 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Proposal to repair or replace the slide located at the Town Pool from Community Pools, Inc. – 8:50 p.m.
11. **Discussion:** General Code Update – 8:55 p.m.
12. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 9:00 p.m.
13. **Adjourn:** – 9:05 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.

The Mayor and Town Council may entertain a motion during the open meeting to close a portion of the meeting, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) of the Open Meetings Act (Maryland Code, General Provisions Article), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.