

"Where People and Trees Have Deep Roots and Grow Strong"



Somerset TOWN JOURNAL



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December 2017

Somerset Employee Holiday Fund Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents,

Our annual holiday fund to thank Somerset employees has been extremely successful in recent years, and I am asking Town residents to recognize our hard-working staff again this year. I began this project in 2012 in response to the many calls and emails I had received asking how to properly thank our dedicated staff. I hope that everyone will show their gratitude by contributing generously. The pooled monies will be distributed based on length of service and responsibility. Other municipalities in the area make the distributions in this manner, which seems fair and equitable. The nine employees who will share in the funds are: one administrative staff member, four police personnel, three maintenance employees, and one arborist. Town Manager Rich Charnovich has chosen not to participate in the program.

All contributions should be made by check made payable to the Town of Somerset, with "Holiday Fund" placed on the note line, or cash. Checks can be mailed or delivered to the Town Hall, 4510 Cumberland Avenue, 20815 or left at my residence at 5706 Warwick Place. Enclosed in this month's Journal is an envelope for your use. Please send in your contributions before 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13. There will be a second distribution after the holidays to take into account any additional contributions received after this date. Your gifts will be greatly appreciated by those who do so much for us.

Best wishes for you and your families
this holiday season,
Jeffrey Slavin
Mayor

IN THIS ISSUE





ON MY MIND

Make 2018 New Year's Resolutions Early

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

Give a gift to yourself this year: make your resolutions for 2018 now and act on them immediately. You will benefit from getting ahead of the game.

Here is the logic: as we age, the years seem to come and go more and more quickly. It seems like January was only yesterday. And how many of last year's resolutions are still in place?

Are we eating smaller portions, exercising more, visiting 90-year-old Aunt Zelda or resolving age-old conflicts? Was any kind of foundation for these resolutions put in place originally?

The holidays are an intense time, y'all. We have crazy schedules with all those holiday parties and the scramble for presents and travel arrangements, etc. The resolutions you should have made last year would have lessened the burden of all this now. Your waistlines would be smaller, fitness level higher and you would be having regular dinners with Auntie.

Most of the public surveys today, especially surveys of millennials, validate the idea that most people's highest goal is happiness, not fame or fortune.

I would suggest that implementing your resolutions now will make you happier. So why don't you try it? Let me know how it works out.

Somerset's Helping Hand Is Just an Email or Phone Call Away



If you need a ride, someone to pick up some groceries or a prescription, a ride to the Metro, or even if you just want to get to a friend's house, please contact **Somerset Helping Hand**. We have a list of 30 Somerset volunteers who can help.

Send an email to HHSomerset@gmail.com or call **Barbara Zeughauer** at 301-951-8560, **Kathleen Kenyon** at 301-656-8581 or **Jim Berry** at 301-656-6089.

If you would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please send an email to HHSomerset@gmail.com.

CONTACT SOMERSET

MAYOR

Jeffrey Z. Slavin, 5706 Warwick Place
301-654-6767 | Town Hall: 301-657-2229
mayor@townofsomerset.com

TOWN COUNCIL

Marnie Shaul, Council Vice President
5509 Uppingham Street
301-913-5973
mshaul@townofsomerset.com

Barbara Condos, 4706 Falstone Avenue
301-656-0461
bcondos@townofsomerset.com

Dudley Fowlkes, 4904 Falstone Avenue
202-351-9398
dfowlkes@townofsomerset.com

Franny Peale, 5521 Uppingham Street
301-652-9695
fpeale@townofsomerset.com

Barbara Zeughauer, 5412 Trent Street
301-951-8560
bzeughauer@townofsomerset.com

TOWN MANAGER

Richard Charnovich
301-657-3211
manager@townofsomerset.com

TOWN ARBORIST

Tolbert Feather
town@townofsomerset.com

TOWN HALL

Open: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday thru Friday
301-657-3211 | Fax: 301-657-2773
TTY users call Maryland Relay

SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

EDITORS

Barbara Marenus
bmarenus@gmail.com

Mary Wisniewski
mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com
Editor for this month's Journal

The Town Journal is the official publication of The Town of Somerset, Montgomery County, MD.

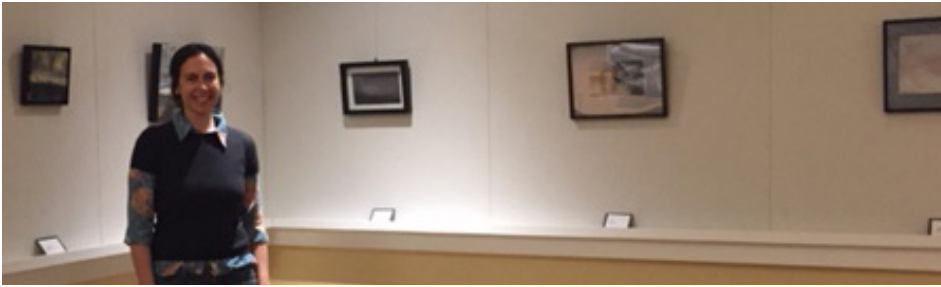
If you prefer to receive the Journal via email, please provide your request to manager@townofsomerset.com or call Town Hall at 301-657-3211.

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

POST OFFICE ADDRESS:
4510 Cumberland Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
www.townofsomerset.com

Art Exhibit at Town Hall Gallery

By Council Member Barbara Zeughauser, Trent Street



Storm Studies, an exhibit by artist Montserrat Daubon, opened on Thursday, November 16, at our Town Hall Gallery. The exhibit comprises mostly a collection of plein-air sketches made on the mesa outside Taos, New Mexico, in the month of August, over many years. August is the monsoon season, and according to Montserrat, the sky becomes an infinite source of inspiration for reflection and reaction. Observing and drawing alone during the oncoming storms on that mesa has become a kind of personal communion with nature, time and space for her.

Although Montserrat currently lives and works in Harlem, New York, she grew up in Chevy Chase West and attended Somerset Elementary School. Her parents still live in the house where she grew up.

Montserrat's show is dedicated to those who suffered the devastation in Puerto Rico, after hurricane Maria. She will donate 25% of all sale proceeds to the Foundation for Puerto Rico (www.foundationforpuertorico.org), to aid in their reconstruction efforts.

Please stop by the Town Hall, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to view Montserrat's exhibit. Her work can also be seen on her website at www.montserratdaubon.com. The show is on view at Town Hall through February 2.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

B-CC High School Used
Book Sale Drop-Off
12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Toys for Tots donations to
be picked up
Town Hall Porch

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Town Hall Closed

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Town Hall Closed

Public Information Act Requests (Maryland Public Information Act)

By Rich Charnovich, Town Manager

The Somerset Town Council will consider adoption of Rules and Regulations for Public Information Act requests at the December 4 meeting. Our Town Attorney has provided the Council with the proposed Rules and Regulations in conjunction with requirements set forth by the State of Maryland. The proposed Rules and Regulations are divided into two chapters. The first chapter outlines procedures under the Public Information Act for filing and processing requests to the Town for inspection and copying. It includes the method required to submit a request,

response timing, denial reasons, and fees associated with copying requested documents. The second chapter explains procedures under which an interested person may request the correction or amendment of public records of the Town.

A copy of the Resolution containing the proposed Rules and Regulations can be requested and viewed in the Town Hall in advance of the meeting. A public hearing will be held at the December 4 meeting as well. The public will be able to comment and ask questions at this time.

Community Service Day A Success

By Council Member Barbara Condos, *Falstone Avenue*

A group of residents, administrative staff and elected officials gathered at Town Hall on November 4 for Community Service Day, an annual Town event. The group formed assembly lines to make more than 200 sandwiches which, along with juice, granola bars, applesauce and condiments, were transported by a volunteer driver to the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless men's shelter. Pulls toys for dogs and catnip socks for cats were also made and will be delivered to the Humane Rescue Alliance shelter. Thanks to all who participated in Community Service Day, including those who picked up the supplies, who attended the event, and who delivered the food and toys. Next year let's hope for even more helpers.



Miriam Hakim, June Zaft, Khadija Mobarak, Olivia Zaft, Zaina Mobarak enter into the community spirit.

Students, don't forget that this is a good way to earn service hours.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Stanley J. Weiss, 1937 – 2017



Dr. Stanley J. Weiss, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, passed away on November 2, 2017, his 80th birthday, after a courageous three-year battle with ALS. He is survived by his beloved family, including his wife of 55 years, Joan McWilliams Weiss; his daughters, Juliet Blackford and Philana Weiss; brother Richard Weiss

and his wife Nancy; son-in-law Timothy Blackford; and grandchildren Katherine and Jonathan Blackford.

Stanley was born on November 2, 1937, the oldest son of Philip and Gloria Weiss, and grew up in a close family with many relatives in the Bronx. He graduated from the City College of New York in 1959 with a major in psychology and minor in physics. He completed his Ph.D. in experimental psychology in 1963 at The Ohio State University, where he met the love of his life, Joan. After serving on the faculty at SUNY Stony Brook, Stanley joined the Department of Psychology at American University in 1968 and spent the rest of his career at AU until he retired in 2012. Stanley and Joan were involved residents of the Town of Somerset for 48 years.

During his long career as a tenured professor and researcher, Stanley made valuable contributions to the field of psychology, in particular to the study of animal learning, and mentored many students. He attended meetings of the Eastern Psychological Association throughout his career and was proud to serve a term as its president. He also organized the Winter Conference on Animal Learning and Behavior for many years. He was an international expert in the area of stimulus compounding and was a visiting professor in several countries, including as a Fulbright Scholar at the Pavlov Medical University in St. Petersburg, Russia. Additionally, he had competitive research grants for over 30 years and over 70 professional publications to his credit.

Stanley will be remembered for his devotion to his family and friends, his scientific curiosity and hard work, and his willingness to fight for what he believed in. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and colleagues. A memorial will be held at the Kay Spiritual Life Center at the American University on January 4, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ALS Association.

Tribute written by Dr. Weiss's daughters, Juliet Blackford and Philana Weiss

Democracy at Work in Somerset

By Barbara Marenus, *Surrey Street*



More than 100 persons attended the District 1 Candidates Forum at Somerset Elementary School on November 14. The Forum provided information on a broad range of issues facing

Montgomery County, and was sponsored jointly by the Town of Somerset and the Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association. Somerset's **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick) served as moderator. Town Council Vice-President **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) and Joan Barron from the Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association planned the event. The Maryland primary is June 26, 2018.

Eight candidates running for a seat on the County Council attended the session: Bill Cook, Pete Fosselman, Andrew Friedson, Ana Sol Gutierrez, Jim McGee, Reggie Oldak, Dalbin Osorio, and Meredith Wellington. The eight candidates answered questions collected before the start of the discussion from members of the audience and provided brief personal statements. Many topics were discussed: problems with traffic congestion, overcrowding in schools, priorities in the County's FY18 budget and items that may have been underfunded, whether taxes should be increased, affordable housing for persons working in the County and the responsibility of developers to provide affordable housing, the expansion of public parks, how the County should handle food waste and food insecurity, and whether a candidate was accepting public financing for his/her campaign.

Overall, the Forum provided an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the views of these eight candidates and to hear about important issues facing County voters. Judging from the audience's reaction, it is clear that the Town may wish to consider sponsoring more of these conversations so that we can continue to learn about the decisions we face in upcoming elections.



CLASSIFIED ADS

BOZEMAN, MONTANA: Ski Big Sky & the Bridgers! Enjoy our furnished four-bedroom+ home on 20 acres with spectacular 360 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. 9 BR/9.5 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.

BIKE SAFETY IS UP TO YOU: A Brief Meditation on a Broad Subject

By Council Member Dudley Fowlkes, *Falstone Avenue*

A neighbor recently asked me: is it safe to ride a bike on Dorset Avenue?

I ride my bike everywhere, often with my kids, so this is something I think about all the time. Of course, no answer to this inquiry can fail to mention helmets, lights and reflectors, bells and voices, laws, signage, and things like GPS and recording devices. All of these serve their purposes. However, **even all of these precautions taken together do not provide anything near complete safety** for bicycles on the common thoroughfare, dominated as it is by cars and trucks. The danger to cyclists can't be overstated. It is a fundamentally unsafe world that we ride in and it would be a dangerous illusion to perceive it otherwise.

Perhaps the most important safety tool cyclists have at their disposal is extreme vigilance. For self-preservation, the cyclist must strive to understand and anticipate how cars and trucks behave on the road more astutely than the operators of the cars and trucks. Perhaps it seems counterintuitive, but the cyclist has certain advantages over the automobile driver when it comes to observation. The cyclist has a superior field of vision, more maneuverability, and is less encumbered by capacity for grievous harm to others. Furthermore, the cyclist is constantly observing the traffic as it flows by, while the motorist is generally restricted to observing the vehicle in front and the vehicle behind.

Extreme vigilance does not stop at observation and anticipation. For me, it means a specific mindset. Many motorists are attentive and considerate, but not all. All it takes is one distracted, aggressive, or clueless driver to

spell disaster for a cyclist. The cyclist cannot afford to trust the motorist to do the right thing. Unfortunately, the safe cyclist must assume that the motorist is a bad actor. This presumption may seem hyperbolic, but it adds a layer of protection. I routinely tell my boys as they approach our neighborhood's stop signs, "assume the driver is not going to stop." Far too often, that prediction comes true.

It's also important for cyclists and drivers to remind themselves constantly that cyclists have as much right to our roads as cars. Many people think cyclists can stay safe by avoiding friction, disruption, and conflict. But defensive cycling is not necessarily always safe cycling. A safe cyclist must know when to assert herself in traffic, and have a strategy for doing so without exposing herself to further danger.

But now I come to the part that often frustrates my non-cycling friends. Without the vigilance of drivers — and their deep understanding of cyclists' vulnerability and their right to share the road — these efforts can be rendered useless. It's easy to forget how dangerous your car is when you are encased in steel and tempered glass.

Cyclists are not going away, nor should they. Climate change, crippling traffic, and the health effects of sedentary life all argue for more people to saddle up and cycle to work and to play. Bike commuting is surging in our region. Each and every one of these cyclists must learn how to protect themselves, and I urge everyone on a bike to do everything they can to keep themselves and those around them safe. But I hope that we can all begin to think about bike safety as a communal priority and responsibility. Bike safety is attainable on Dorset, but only with committed effort.

GENERAL PERMITS

FENCE PERMIT

4827 CUMBERLAND AVENUE

- installation of fence in the rear yard and a small portion in the right side yard

WALL PERMIT

4827 CUMBERLAND AVENUE

TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

4918 CUMBERLAND AVENUE

- 1 Ash

5517 TRENT STREET

- 2 White Pines

4900 CUMBERLAND AVENUE

- 1 Hickory and 1 Cedar

DUMPSTER PERMIT

4701 CUMBERLAND AVENUE



Manager's Corner

By Rich Charnovich, *Town Manager*

Toys for Tots

The Town is partnering with Toys for Tots once more this holiday season to help kids in need. A box for donations is now placed on the porch at the Town Hall. Collections will be received until December 13. Please contact the Town Hall with any questions. You can also visit the Toys for Tots website to obtain further donation information.

Tips for Protecting Your Packages This Holiday Season

Montgomery County police provides tips for protecting gifts delivered to your homes this holiday season. Here is a web link where you can read over these tips: <http://www.mymcpnews.com/2016/12/01/tips-to-prevent-package-theft-this-holiday-season/>

Christmas Tree Pick-Up

The annual Christmas tree pick-up will be on Tuesday, January 9. Unity Disposal will collect trees curbside on this day. They will also pick up trees on any other Tuesday as well during the holiday season.

Text Message Alerts Reminder

Following up on the article in last month's Journal, please contact the Town Hall if you are interested in signing up for text message alerts as a complement to email message alerts.

Leaf Collection Is Ongoing

Hughes Landscaping is collecting leaves directly from the curbside this year. Hughes is visiting the Town every Wednesday. If collection can't be completed on Wednesday, they have been returning on Thursday. This is all weather permitting. Leaf collection is scheduled to occur through the end of the calendar year.

Parking Near Driveways

Town Hall is periodically contacted concerning cars parking too close to driveways. This is a friendly reminder; we hope neighbors can be courteous when parking on the street near driveways. Per the Code, vehicles cannot be parked within five feet of a driveway. If necessary, call the police non-emergency number, and officers can write a ticket and/or locate the owner and have the car moved.

Keep Your Cars Parked on the Street Locked!

Here are examples of vehicle anti-theft prevention:

- Lock all your doors and close the windows
- Remove all valuables from inside the vehicle, including GPS systems, or lock them in your trunk
- Do not leave electronic devices or accessories visible
- Keep the registration in your wallet or purse rather than the vehicle
- Park in a well lit and populated area
- Use a visible anti-theft device that has a visible indicator (these cost about \$20 to \$50). They lock the steering wheel in a fixed position so the vehicle cannot be driven.
- Install an alarm system
- Do not leave money in your vehicle
- Do not hide a key in your vehicle
- Report suspicious activity to the police: Emergency **911**, non-emergency **240-773-6700**

Pet Reminders: Pet Waste and Leash Law

This is a friendly reminder to clean up after pet waste in the community. By law, dog waste must be cleaned up on private property and in public spaces. Also, dogs must be kept on a leash when not on the owner's premises. Thank you for complying with these laws and for being a good neighbor. Please visit the Montgomery County website for a comprehensive list of pet laws at this link:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/asd/laws.html>

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



The Town's Halloween hosting for all the trick-or-treaters seemed to be a big success once again this year. We had a police officer present for most of the evening on Cumberland Avenue, as we had planned, and I know that was beneficial. I am happy to report that I personally welcomed approximately 367 trick-or-treaters (an all-time record) to my house on Warwick Place between the hours of 6:00 and 9:00 p.m., and the costumes were all wonderful. Amazingly, there were reports of some houses on Cumberland receiving over 900 visitors! A small group on lower Dorset Avenue created a beautiful light display. Very soon I will be convening a planning committee for Halloween 2018 so we can enhance the day next year and make it even more enjoyable for residents of all ages ...

While I was only able to stop in for a brief period, I am delighted that Somerset's annual Community Service Day was once again a rewarding experience, especially for the number of children involved. I had the opportunity to speak with a group of youngsters to explain the mission

of the Humane Rescue Alliance — for which they were assembling pet toys — and how they might become otherwise engaged. I know the folks at the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, where I have been very active, are extremely appreciative of the sandwiches our residents prepared. Because of the great need in the County, we will be looking for ways to make our valued community service efforts even more effective next year ...

In addition to an ad hoc committee to plan Somerset Halloween 2018 and one to plan Community Service, I am also looking for volunteers for an Archives and Records Committee, a committee on traffic, and another on planning the 2018 Flu Clinic. I would like each of these committees to hold their initial meetings in December. We will also be reviving the Public Safety Committee next year (formerly called Security Committee) so anyone interested, please let me know ...

Please give generously to the Holiday Fund because we are grateful for the work of our outstanding employees.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY CHANUKAH AND BLESSED KWANZAA TO ALL
AND SAFE TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON!

December Viewing Schedule for Somerset Stories on Channel 16

Somerset participates with Montgomery Municipal Cable TV Channel 16 in a series of interviews with Town residents who have interesting stories to share. Somerset Stories can be seen on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. Here's the December schedule:

- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6** -- Council Vice-President Marnie Shaul
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13** – Somerset resident and artist Barton Rubenstein and son Ari, with Somerset Elementary art teacher Lynn Lewis and student, discuss Barton's Mother Earth Sculpture and Project

- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20** – Council Members Barbara Condos, Franny Peale, and Barbara Zeughauser
- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27** - Somerset residents Paige Whitley and David Kathan discuss their project, "The Forgotten African-American Community of River Road"

Residents can find a page for Somerset Stories at MMCTV's website: <https://www.mmctv.org/programs/somerset-stories/>.

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on November 6, 2017. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the August 7, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the September 5, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Proclamation naming November Municipal Government Works Month.
4. Approval of the FY17 Audit as recommended by the Audit Committee. Bob Diss of Lindsey and Associates was in attendance and made a brief presentation on the audit.
5. Approval of the following permits at 5710 Surrey Street: building permit for a rear yard addition, dumpster permit, HVAC unit installation, and three tree removal permits. The permits do not include construction of the steps and wall in the side yard at this time.
6. Approval of a recommendation of the Town Council acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission on an application submitted at 5813 Surrey Street for the following scope of work: enlarge an existing one-story addition and below-grade garage at the right side of the property, construct a second story expansion over the enlarged right-side addition and garage, enlarge the existing driveway at the front of the property, and construct a new central walkway/steps at the front of the property.
7. Approval of an established building line (EBL) waiver request of 8 feet 3 inches submitted for 5813 Surrey Street to construct an addition that will project into the setback on Surrey Street.
8. Approval of a HVAC unit installation permit at 4518 Cumberland Avenue.
9. Approval of a HVAC unit installation permit at 5511 Uppingham Street.
10. Approval of a permit to remove the following trees at 4810 Falstone Avenue:
 - 1 Cherry
 - 2 Black Cherry
11. Approval of a permit to remove the following trees at 4718 Essex Avenue:
 - 1 Southern Magnolia
 - 1 Cryptomeria
 - 5 Leyland Cypress
 - 1 Blackgum
 - 3 Birch
 - 1 American Holly
12. Approval of the removal of the following two Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist:
 - 1 Ash at 4715 Essex Avenue
 - 1 Pin Oak at 4816 Grantham Avenue
13. Tabled a proposed Ordinance to amend Section 6-102 Definitions of the Town Code to revise the defined terms for the designation of corner lots, the replacement of fences or walls, and the distinctions between types of walls.
14. Tabled the purchase of a new compact utility tractor.
15. Mayor Slavin provided his report. Town Manager Charnovich provided administrative and financial reports. Ed Mulheron of Mulheron Tree Experts was in attendance at the Meeting to provide an update on winter season preparedness. Town residents of 4819 Dorset Avenue spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting about renewable energy options. Residents of 4801 Falstone spoke concerning a street tree that was planted near their property. A hearing would be held at the next Council Meeting on December 4 to discuss the matter further.

News from the Pool Committee

By **Matthew Zaft**, *Dorset Avenue*

The Pool Committee tackled a number of different subjects at its final meeting of the year on November 2.

Below is a summary of topics discussed and recommendations to the Town Council:

- In response to inquiries, we want to assure all residents that the entire pool house and bathrooms, including the rafters, were checked, and no evidence of any video surveillance or recording devices was found. We briefed Phil Carter (head of Community Pools) on the recent police matter and told him that Community needs to ensure that all managers/guards/staff are trained in how to spot disguised recording devices as well as the proper procedure to follow if devices are found. Additionally, as part of the contract for next summer and beyond, we recommend that there be a full-time desk attendant.

Updates to Pool rules:

- Recommendation that the pool rules be updated to rename "parties" as "group events"
- Recommendation that the pool rules be updated to define a group event as "more than 10 non-residents" (instead of "10 or more") on a single day
- Recommendation that the pool rules be updated to redefine relatives who can use the pool without the resident present as "children, grandchildren, and parents." Currently it reads, "children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, and in-laws"
- Recommendation that the pool rules be updated to ban from the pool any registered sex offender

- Recommendation that the pool rules be updated to ban cell phones, cameras, and other recording devices from use in the locker rooms and bathrooms.

We further recommend that the Town Council and Mayor work with the Town Attorney to determine proper repercussions for circumventing/violating policies as follows:

- Glass: we want to ensure that all residents know that in addition to the obvious risk of cut feet/spilled blood, broken glass in the pool would require us to close the pool for at least 10 days and incur costs to the Town of approximately \$3,000.
- Group Events: we want to issue a reminder to all that pre-registering events is for the safety of everyone. It is imperative for the pool manager to know about any large influx of non-residents in order to ensure proper guard coverage and staffing.
- Baby diapers and plastic/rubber covers: as a reminder, these are available for purchase at the lifeguard office. It is also worth noting that this is a Montgomery County rule and violating it could result in the closure of our pool.
- Sexual Harassment of guards: this should not be tolerated in any way, shape or form, and the Town needs to have proper measures in place to handle and prevent it from continuing.

We look forward to the solutions that the Town Council and Town Attorney provide for handling these issues and are happy to help in any way we can. Our next meeting will be held in the spring prior to the pool opening.



All About People

By Alan Dock, *Falstone Avenue*

The end of the year is fast approaching, and like most of us in the Town of Somerset, Mary and I have plans for Thanksgiving, and then comes the major festive time of year, when our grown son and daughter, Chris and Katie, are home for a short while, and we relive the delights of bringing up children in our Town!

In last month's column, I asked for news about these upcoming times, and only had one response. I guess everyone is busy planning... **Barbara Shea** (Surrey) wrote, "Katie Shea, our daughter, will be home for the Christmas holiday through New Year's taking time off from her job at Microsoft in Seattle, Washington, where she works on HoloLens (mixed reality) and virtual reality applications for Windows. We can't wait to have her home and I'm sure she will be looking to connect with all her Somerset and school friends. If you are around, let her know. She'd love to hear from you. She's been drafted for jury duty so she may be here past New Year's Day if she gets selected to serve."

Bruce and Barbara Tully (Warwick) have been off on their travels again, informing groups of people on security issues. This time they were in Queenstown, New Zealand, (and a stopover in Sydney, Australia) for almost two weeks in support of Harding University's International Study Abroad Program doing interactive teaching/briefings at Queenstown University. They saw such key spots as Mount Cook and Milford Sound with the 27 students and staff involved. Bruce wrote, "NZ is a beautiful paradise!" I am envious, Bruce. New Zealand has long been on my "bucket list," and maybe next year I'll have the chance to get there!

We have two major community assets in Somerset: the pool and the tennis courts. Last month I showed how much the pool house had cost us, and how much the pool costs in running expenses. We only have the pool open for about a third of the year and running expenses, averaged over that time, are around \$1,500 a day. While taking my dog on a walk last month I came across a notice of some

upcoming activities at the Bannockburn pool complex, and on researching this lead further, found the Carderock pool complex offers a similar range of winter and year-round activities that support their community assets.

Somerset supports community needs. An example is our partnering with the Toys for Tots campaign to collect presents for needy children over the festive season. Donated toys can be placed in the box on the porch of the Town Hall. If you're planning a party for this month, why not ask your guests to bring a small toy to add to the collection for this year?

Some of you may have received, along with your electricity bill, a notice from Pepco about the option of switching your household electricity supply to wind-generated power, thereby doing your part to reduce our dependence on coal-fired generators, and thus reducing the carbon dioxide loading of our atmosphere. **Barton Rubenstein** (Dorset), scientist, sculptor, activist and co-founder of the Mother Earth Project, along with his wife **Shereen** and their children **Benjamin, Sabrina, and Ari**, are urging residents to take up this option with the aim of making Somerset a 100% wind-powered community! We did this several years ago, and it is very easy. It may even save you money on the monthly energy bill!

I inherited this column from the late and much missed Alan Proctor who lived on Cumberland Ave for many years. My first column was written for the January 2012 Journal. Over the past five years I have enjoyed enormously playing a small part in building a strong sense of community in Somerset, but I feel that it is time to pass the torch to another resident. Please contact Mayor Jeffrey Slavin (Warwick) if you would like to take it on. I assure you, the rewards and satisfaction of shaping a column to the needs of our community more than compensate for the monthly time spent running down news items. I would also be available to advise on what I have learned about writing "All About People" over these years.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, Monday, December 4, 2017

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, December 4, 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.**
- **Comments: Public Comment Period–7:30 p.m.***



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

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider approval of the October 2, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the October 24, 2017 Special Council Meeting Minutes
3. **Motion:** To consider approval of the November 6, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes
4. **Motion:** To consider approval setting the January 2018 regular Town Council Meeting date for Tuesday, January 2, 2018.
5. **Motion:** To consider approval setting the September 2018 regular Town Council Meeting date for Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

NON-CONSENT

6. **Discussion:** Town Manager November Administrative and Financial Reports - 7:40 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a waiver request submitted for 5803 Warwick Place. The applicant is requesting a 2-foot waiver from the side yard setback in order to enclose an existing second floor deck - 7:45 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of permits to complete the following scope of work at 5803 Warwick Place: adding a new shed dormer to the attic, screening an existing second floor deck,

temporary dumpster permit, and installation of a HVAC unit - 7:55 p.m.

9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of a replacement HVAC unit installation permit at 5412 Trent Street - 8:00 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of a replacement HVAC unit installation permit at 5524 Greystone Street - 8:05 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider an appeal by the owners of the lot at 4801 Falstone Avenue concerning a Sugar Maple tree that has been planted in the public right-of-way adjacent to 4801 Falstone Avenue - 8:10 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of a Resolution adopting a policy for Historic Area Work Permit review by the Town Council acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission - 8:20 p.m.
13. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of a Resolution establishing Rules and Regulations for public information requests under the Maryland Public Information Act -8:30 p.m.
14. **Discussion:** General Code Update - 8:35 p.m.
15. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report - 8:40 p.m.
16. **Adjourn** - 8:45 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 blast 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.

The Preliminary Agenda for each month's Town Council meeting is posted on the Town website (www.townofsomerset.com) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.