



SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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



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Election Time in Somerset!



Elections take place on Tuesday, March 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Three incumbent Town Council Members are running: **Franny Peale** (Uppingham), **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) and **Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent). Statements from the candidates are included in this issue of the Journal. An exhibit of photographs by **Maurice Asseo** (Greystone) will be on display at the Town Hall, and refreshments will be served. Come meet your neighbors, view the outstanding exhibit and exercise your right to vote!

Somerset Artists at Waverly Street Gallery

By Mary Wisniewski, Greystone Street

Bethesda's Waverly Street Gallery is showcasing works by eight of Somerset's talented resident/artists. Our small town boasts a surprising number of gifted artists. Their works in varied media, curated by Jan Maddox, are on display at the gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, from March 7 through April 8. All are invited to an Opening Reception to meet and mingle with the artists on Friday, March 10, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Cathy Abramson (Uppingham)

Cathy Abramson's (Uppingham) representational oil paintings investigate urban life by examining the connections or estrangement of people and neighborhoods in transition. She studies familiar scenes for what they reveal about the nature of change and often finds poetry in the commonplace.



Judith Baldinger (Warwick)

Judith Baldinger (Warwick) explains that she paints like her grandmother baked – no recipe, a little of this, a little of that, and . . . voila!

Mak Dehejia (Surrey), has painted with oil based and acrylic paints, but his preferred medium is watercolor because of its speed, transparency, ability to mix wet-on-wet on paper producing unexpectedly interesting

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Calendar

Thursday, March 9

Fundraiser for B-CC High School Educational Foundation at Woman's Club of Chevy Chase
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday, March 10

Somerset Artists' Reception at Waverly Street Gallery
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

Town Council Elections at Town Hall – 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 22

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

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



On My Mind

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

Civility and Respect, Again

Last month I wrote about how important it is for us all to speak up where there is injustice. This month I want to applaud a Town resident who has done just that.

While we continue to be shocked by some of the language used in the national discourse these days, unfortunately we will have to learn to adjust to this abuse for the next four years – and respond appropriately. However, I am sad to report that even in Somerset not everyone is as respectful of people's differences as I would like.

Last summer at one of our Town facilities, apparently, and for whatever reason, a resident chose to be "extra loud" on a number of occasions and to use what I would consider to be inappropriate references to the diverse ethnic backgrounds of some of those present. I was told that witnesses to these instances were highly offended and one of them, gratefully, reported this to Town leadership.

This presented somewhat of a dilemma because we always allow free speech, per the First Amendment. Fortunately, our Somerset rules are written in such a way that allowed us to apply them in this instance and to reprimand this individual, but perhaps not to the extent that satisfied those allegedly offended.

It is my hope, however, that by using my mayoral bully pulpit here, I can encourage all Somerset residents to be sensitive and respectful in their speech at all times, especially in public spaces in Town. We must learn to understand each other better in order to build an even stronger community.

I want to thank this resident for the persistence in bringing this matter to my attention. I am confident that such persistence will eventually bring positive results.



General Permits



Tree Removal Permits

5524 Warwick Place, 1 Leyland Cypress
and 1 Flowering Cherry

5400 Greystone Street, 2 Leyland Cypress
(1 is under 4" and did not require a permit)

5519 Uppingham Street, 2 American Hollies
5706 Surrey Street, 1 Tulip Poplar

Wall Permits

5522 Warwick Place, construct/repair a
retaining wall in the rear yard
5524 Warwick Place, construct/repair a
retaining wall in the rear yard

Dumpster Permit

4820 Cumberland Avenue

Fence Permit

5602 Surrey Street, replacement of an
existing fence in the right side yard

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

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

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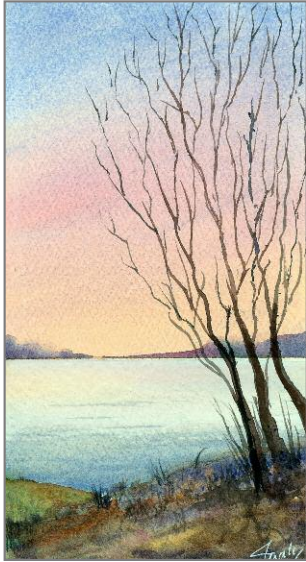
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Monday thru Friday
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Fax: 301-657-2773
TTY users call Maryland Relay



Mak Dehejia (Surrey)

to play with space, feel materials, create a sense of motion, and watch the colors vibrate.



Len Harris (Trent)

results. The subjects and colors of Mak's landscapes reflect his childhood experiences growing up in the desert areas of rural India.

Len Harris's (Trent) sculpture creates ribbons of wood to capture the essence, a defining form of a subject, be it an object, the human form, a human emotion, nature, or the trajectory of a body in space. His goal is to cause maximum response with a minimum of material.

Carol Jason (Warwick) loves

Joan Krash's (Essex) new work in this exhibit has been created largely with spray paints. She has returned to painting after many years of printmaking.

Richard Lasner's (formerly Somerset resident) acrylic photographic prints on metallic paper represent an entirely new format for him. Images from Iceland and Spain are the subject matter of the work that he is presenting.

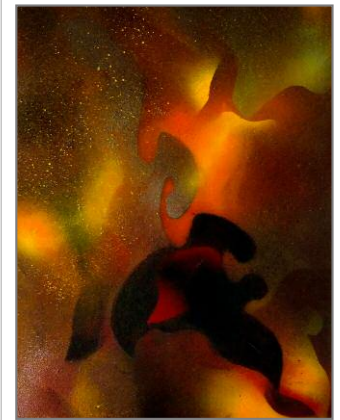


Ginny Mahoney (Cumberland)



Carol Jason (Warwick)

Ginny Mahoney (Cumberland) is interested in lines that describe shapes, and the spaces where shapes meet. These shapes can stand alone, nearing the abstract, and perhaps create a glimpse of the unconscious.



Joan Krash (Essex)



Richard Lasner (formerly Somerset resident)

Helping Hand . . . Lend One or Accept One

By Lucky Marmon, Cumberland Avenue

Take a look at a back page of your Town Journal. There, every month, you will see an image of two slender, gray hands. One reaches up hopefully, while the other reaches down with intent to clasp and help. The small four-line notice that follows tells Somerset residents that a helping hand is just a phone call away . . . be it for a ride to the doctor or a prescription pick-up at the pharmacy.

How does Helping Hand work? Well, it's a two-pronged operation comprised of volunteer helpers and those needing help. You can be both. I signed up to be a volunteer, which, simply put, means that my email address went on a list of volunteers. I am notified, along with 30 other volunteers, when one of our town residents asks for an assist. For example, the email might read, "A neighbor needs someone to take her to an appointment at the Fernwood medical complex on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 1:00 p.m. The appointment will likely last one hour." No name, phone number or address is given. Only when you respond to the request by calling a program facilitator will you be put in touch with the neighbor making the request. The two of you will arrange the details.

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FY18 Budget and 5-Year Fiscal Plan

In the next few months, Town officials will be working on the FY18 budget and 5-year fiscal plan. There are currently two budget workshop sessions scheduled: **March 1 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and March 3 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

in the Town Hall. Any interested member of the public is invited to attend and listen to the discussion.

Income Tax Code for the Town of Somerset

With tax season here, 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 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 to use 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 that 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**.

Winter Season Reminders

Snow Removal

Mulheron Tree Experts will again be the Town's contractor for snow removal. Regarding sidewalk cleaning, please be advised that the Town Code now authorizes our contractor to maintain the public sidewalks in the community. If individual property owners would still like to assist with the clearing of the sidewalk adjacent to your property, please feel free to do so. It would ultimately help the complete operation.



Snow Plows

Please be mindful of the plows that clear our roads by doing your best to keep cars parked in

driveways instead of on the streets. This enables the plows to do a better job.

Odd Jobs Helpers

Please keep in the mind that the "odd jobs" list of potential helpers can be distributed to Town residents upon request. If you are interested in hiring someone for snow shoveling or maintenance around your property during the winter months, take a look at this list. You can also view the list by logging into the new Town website with your unique username and password.

Batting Cage

The batting cage located at the Town Hall has been closed from December through February. The cage will open again in early March.

Sled Hill Rules on Cumberland

- The Town Ordinance was amended last winter with respect to how long the hill shall remain unplowed: 24 hours after a substantial snowfall. After this time period, the contractor will plow and salt the roadway.
- Sledgers: sled at your own risk! The Town of Somerset does not monitor the sledding hill. It is the responsibility of parents to supervise children. The sledding area is on Cumberland Avenue from Surrey Street west to 4902 Cumberland Avenue.
- Sledgers: Be courteous to those who live on Cumberland.
- Sledgers: Respect parked cars and private property.
- Motorists: Drive carefully! Children sledding! The street is officially open.
- Motorists: Enter from top of hill and depart downhill. Vehicles are not permitted to travel up Cumberland from Devon Lane.
- Residents on Cumberland: Please consider parking cars in your driveways when sledding is occurring.

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#>

Stop Signs in the Community

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



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Updating Email Addresses

It is important to make sure we have the email addresses for as many of our residents here in Somerset as possible. We find it an important way for our government to communicate with those living here. 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 consideration and cooperation.



Let's Get Ready for Swim Team!

By Nancy Jardini, Essex Avenue

The Basics

The **Somerset Dolphins** compete in the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL). The team is open to any Town resident, 6-18 years of age, who can pass the deep-water test and is assessed by the coaches, in their sole discretion, as being water-safe for the team. The team practices every afternoon after Memorial Day and each morning and afternoon after school is out. There are two meets a week from mid-June through July. All swimmers compete in Wednesday night meets. Competitive Divisional Swim Meets occur every Saturday morning where the top three swimmers in each event (top six in freestyle) compete. There are social events throughout the season, including pizza parties, a pasta potluck, a dessert contest and breakfast with the coaches. At the end of the season we celebrate with a banquet including trophies, skits and a slide show. Our swimmers range from "just for fun" to highly competitive – everyone is welcome and everyone has a chance to participate, have fun and be recognized.

The Minis

Minis are the developmental team for little swimmers who cannot pass the deep-water test. Mini swimmers are between 4 and 7 years old and must be able to put their face under water. They practice three days a week after school is out. There is one Mini meet and Minis are encouraged to attend all social events, including the banquet.

Parent Volunteering

Unlike soccer or basketball where one or two parents coach and organize, swimming requires participation from all parents. It takes at least 20 volunteers to run a home swim meet. If you are not a rep, official, in automation, clerk of course or announcing, you should plan on working concessions or timing. We will send out volunteer options for sign-up, but if you do not volunteer you will be assigned. You don't have to attend in person and you can send a substitute, but if your child is swimming you should expect to have a job.

Leadership Team

The following folks work year-round to ensure a successful swim season. From maintaining the budget and presenting it to the Town, meeting weekly with the League, organizing meet operations, hiring and managing coaches or planning to feed the masses at concessions, this group works hard to make it all run smoothly. Here are the folks you can contact with questions:

Automation: Bob Chlopak, Kristen Khanna, Brian Smith

Banquet: Anne Hawkins

Concessions: Kathy Toomey, Josh Freeman

Officials: Fiona Fox

Mini Coordinator: Jen Mascott

Officials Coordinator: Fiona Fox

Registration: Peta Hellmann

Representatives:

A Reps: Amy Power, Maura Vanderzon

B Reps: Lisa Mortier, Matt Zaft

Team Rep: Nancy Jardini

Timing: Mark Muro

Treasurer: Michael Roark

Website: Josh Bobeck

Help Needed! Please Volunteer!

For the upcoming season we need the following:

- Assistant Registration Coordinator
- B Meet (Wednesday) Concessions Manager

You can view the schedule and other information at our website: www.somersetswimteam.org. Be on the lookout in coming weeks for coaching solicitations and spirit wear orders. This year we will be offering custom silicone caps, baseball caps, visors and more! Registration announcements will be coming out after spring break. **See you at the pool!**

Nate Albert along with The Avalon Institute are hosting a **Special Pre-Season Pump-Up Event for All Team and Minis** at the Town Hall on **Saturday, April 22, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Some of our 15-18's have volunteered to answer any questions about what drove them to choose swimming as their sport. There will be pizza and drinks – there may even be a special guest – and a contest for the 2017 t-shirt slogan! Mark your calendars for April 22 and let's get pumped for the 2K17 Dolphins' season!

Somerset Election is Tuesday, March 21



Candidate Statements



Franny Peale
(Uppingham Street)



**Candidate
for Town
Council**



In the words of Tip O'Neill, "all politics is local." I agree. Serving as a member of our Town Council has given me the opportunity to appreciate our community's shared values, such as fairness and transparency, and our shared goals, such as environmental stewardship and reasonable governance. Our town elections are coming up soon, and I hope you will support my candidacy with your vote.

Serving on the Town Council has been rewarding for me. It is a pleasure to be part of this team. I believe the Council has been effective because the members tackle a broad range of issues and challenges in a thoughtful and professional manner. Many of you have attended our regular meetings so you know about our thorough building permit reviews and our careful financial management. Recently we have had to advocate for the town's parkland, which will be significantly affected by the work that WSSC is required to complete there on its infrastructure. Although we cannot stop the project, we were able to negotiate some protections for the parkland and the community in our permit. The Council became very informed and engaged in the process, and we are ready to monitor the project when it begins.

This year the Town Council took on a special project under my leadership. We have just completed our review of the entire Town Code, and have developed a set of recommendations on general policy issues and specific language changes. You will see all of our proposals when we introduce them in an ordinance for your review and consideration. Our next step is to review our Town Charter to make sure it is up-to-date under state law, and to prepare and publish updated regulations and permit materials. I'd like to thank my fellow Council members, our mayor, and our town manager for their unwavering support for the project, and for their patience and good humor throughout this process. ("If you like laws and sausages, you should never watch either one being made." – Bismarck)

If re-elected, I hope to contribute my knowledge of our Town's legislation and regulations to our regular Council actions and governance. I look forward to this opportunity to represent our community.

Marnie Shaul
(Uppingham Street)



**Candidate
for Town
Council**



I feel so lucky to live in Somerset and enjoy the special sense of community our Town offers to residents of all ages. I treasure the many wonderful friends I've made here over 27 years. I'm running again because I want to continue to help build and maintain a strong, secure and healthy Town. This work can only be accomplished with the active cooperation of all of us—the mayor, my Council colleagues, and the many residents who give

guidance on committees, attend public meetings, and send me suggestions by email about issues they care about and want the Council to pay attention to.

I have enjoyed working with Somerset residents to foster community spirit and make improvements in our wonderful Town. During my time on the Council, I have supported initiatives to invest in Town assets like our pool house, tennis courts, parks and the Town Hall. I have also supported a variety of Town events that generate fun for families and seniors and provide education on topics such as the Town's history and improving the environment.

I have been honored to be elected by my Council colleagues to serve as the head of our Council for the past nine years. We work well together, and together I think we have accomplished much on behalf of our Town. We each take the lead on different activities important to Somerset. For example, I'm the budget lead and have worked with our staff, the Town's Budget Committee, and my Council colleagues to deal with major issues that affect our revenues. I have also been our lead on development issues associated with the Westbard Sector Plan and the Downtown Bethesda plan.

I enjoy hearing what is on residents' minds and have listened to suggestions and concerns from many of you over the years. My dog Lady accompanies me on daily walks through Town, and we enjoy chatting with our neighbors.

If elected, I promise to keep listening to your ideas and concerns. I will continue to work on limiting nearby development so that our schools and streets aren't overcrowded. I would also like to develop a plan for increasing lighting on our sidewalks and streets.

I have been honored to serve as your Council representative and would very much appreciate your vote on Tuesday, March 21.



Candidate Statements



**Barbara
Zeughauser**
(Trent Street)



**Candidate
for Town
Council**



I have enjoyed serving on the Town Council since 2009, and hope to continue to serve for another term.

During my most recent term, the Council worked effectively on many things, including reviewing and revising the Town Code, the WSSC project, resurfacing the tennis courts, maintaining our pool and pool house, and monitoring the Westbard and Bethesda development plans. At our monthly Council meetings, each agenda brings new challenges to the Town, and with determination and patience, the Council works efficiently and cooperatively; we listen to one another and most importantly, listen to the residents and agree that the Town's best interests are our number-one priority.

I have a strong interest in maintaining the "historical" portion of our Town Hall. At our February Council meeting, the Town approved a proposal for architectural and engineering services to support a potential renovation/alteration of the Town Hall's second floor, and I look forward to working on this project. The newly renovated meeting room serves as a wonderful gallery for the art shows of Somerset residents. This spring, for the very first time, the gallery will display the art work of Somerset Elementary School's fifth graders.

I serve as the Council liaison to our Parks and Natural Resources Committee and as the alternate to our Environment Committee; I work hard to preserve our trees and protect the surrounding parkland, and make Somerset worthy of our designation as a "Tree City USA."

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

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

My council experience has reinforced what I've learned from living in Somerset for 31 years; Somerset is an incredibly special community. Having served on the Council for eight years, I have listened to your concerns and made sure those concerns were heard and addressed. I find this process rewarding and would be honored to serve for another term.

I respectfully ask for your vote on March 21.

Helping Hand . . . Lend One or Accept One *from page 3*

Being on the list comes without obligation. You may go weeks or months without responding due to your own busy life and obligations. Requests vary. Over the years, I have brought meals (even frozen ones from Trader Joe's) to post-op patients, taken a wheelchair-bound neighbor to his office, another to chemo at Georgetown University Hospital, and babysat a sick husband while his wife went out for a quick run. It's been fun and rewarding. I have struck up friendships with people I would never have met otherwise. Know this: Just because you help someone once, does not mean that you become their "go-to" helper the next time round. If they need help again, they must once again call a facilitator.

Harder for me was asking for help. After shoulder replacement surgery last year when I couldn't drive to my physical therapy sessions, I exhausted other options before picking up the phone and calling Helping Hand. To think of oneself as a "helper," but not someone who ever needs help, is sheer arrogance, I finally concluded. I called and a kind man named Jim gathered me up and delivered me to my appointment and home again. Next time, I won't hesitate. Since then, I have talked to several people who have been reluctant to ask for help. Once they understood how Helping Hand works, they embraced the program.

We are a lucky, lucky Town to have Helping Hand, and lucky again to have three dedicated facilitators who will sign you up to be a helper and take your request for help when you need it. Please don't hesitate to call **Zola Schneider** (Warwick) at **301-654-7481**, **Council Member Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent) at **301-951-8560**, or **Kathleen Kenyon** (Grantham) at **301-656-8581**.

Editor's note: Look for the story of how Helping Hand began, 10 years ago, in next month's Town Journal.

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on February 6, 2017.

The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the January 3, 2017, Council meeting minutes.
2. Approval of Matthew Zaft to serve on the Pool Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
3. Approval of Matthew Zaft to serve as Pool Committee Chair for calendar year 2017.
4. Approval of Dr. Alexis Carmer to serve on the Pool Committee for a term ending December 31, 2018.
5. Approval of Anne Hawkins to serve on the Pool Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
6. Approval of Seth Cohen to serve on the Pool Committee for a term ending December 31, 2018.
7. Approval of Debbie Berger Fox to serve on the Pool Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
8. Approval of Carrie Wofford to serve on the Tennis Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
9. Approval of Abbie Nolan to serve on the Tennis Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
10. Approval of Phyllis Wiesenfelder to serve on the Board of Supervisor of Elections for a term ending December 31, 2019.
11. Approval of Josh Rosenthal to serve on the Board of Supervisor of Elections for a term ending December 31, 2019.
12. Approval of Kristen Khanna to serve on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
13. Approval of Alan Dock to serve on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
14. Approval of Donna Harman to serve on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for a term ending December 31, 2019.
15. Franny Peale was nominated for a 2-year term on the Town Council.
16. Marnie Shaul was nominated for a 2-year term on the Town Council.
17. Barbara Zeughauser was nominated for a 2-year term on the Town Council.
18. Approval of 15-foot rear-yard setback variance to construct a second story at the rear of the house at 4919 Cumberland Avenue. (Variance also previously granted by Montgomery County).
19. Approval of an application submitted at 4919 Cumberland Avenue to construct a second story at the rear, left corner of the house and to issue a dumpster permit.
20. Approval of an application submitted at 4818 Cumberland Avenue for the following permits: demolition, building, driveway apron, dumpster, 4 retaining walls, 8 tree removals, and reforestation of 12 new trees.
21. Approval of a recommendation of the Town Council, acting as Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission, on an application submitted at 4715 Cumberland Avenue. The Council recommended that the HPC review the generator in the side yard, install a wooden fence in the rear yard, and relocate the front walkway.
22. Approval of a permit at 4515 Dorset Avenue to install a shed in the rear yard.
23. Approval of a recommendation of the Town Council, acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission, on an application submitted at 4807 Dorset Avenue to install a shed in the rear yard. The Council recommended the HPC review this shed installation in the rear yard.
24. Approval of a building permit extension for the project currently occurring at 4814 Falstone Avenue until May 1, 2017.
25. Approval of a proposal for architectural and engineering services with Balodemas Architects in relation to a potential renovation/alteration to the Town Hall second floor.
26. Approval of the 2017 pool management contract with Community Pool Service.
27. Approval to set the 2017 Tennis Court fee at \$25.00 per household for the year.
28. Mayor Slavin presented his monthly report. Town Manager Charnovich presented the January Financial Report. A brief discussion was held concerning the General Code Project and the next steps to be taken. An update on the proposed "A Day in the Life of a Storm Drain" was discussed along with representatives of the Environment Committee.

Tennis Season Begins: 2017 Cards Available Now

By Frank S. Joseph, Chair, Tennis Committee, Warwick Place



Spring – and Somerset tennis – are just around the corner. It's time to get your family's 2017 tennis card. Cards are \$25 at the Town Hall. Your card entitles

everyone in your household to use the tennis courts seven days a week. You cannot enter the courts without a current tennis card, so make sure to get yours right now.

Certain restrictions apply on play. Group lessons, for example, are not permitted on weekend mornings. Now is a good moment to familiarize yourself with all the tennis court rules. They're posted on the Town website at <http://townofsomerset.com/DocumentCenter/View/574>.

And while you're at it, have a look at the Tennis Code of Etiquette, too. Courtesy on the courts benefits everyone – you, your fellow players and other players as well. The Code of Etiquette is posted at <http://townofsomerset.com/DocumentCenter/View/659>.

Plan on plenty of tennis fun in 2017. We kick off with a spring get-together for all Town residents, kids and grown-ups alike, featuring free clinics with popular pro Dara Mirala. On the morning of July Fourth, prior to the Town holiday celebration, the courts will be reserved for a kids-only round robin. Adult round robins will be scheduled in spring, fall, and maybe summer, too. Watch for full details in next month's Town Journal.



By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

I want to again publicly thank **Council Vice President Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) and **Council Member Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent) for their efforts in planning and arranging for the highly informative presentation on Somerset's history that many residents attended at the Town Hall last month. **History Committee Chair Donna Harman** (Dorset) did an amazing job of recounting many of the highlights of our 110-year history and letting us know where we can get

more information. I want to urge everyone to take the time to watch the televised recording that is available on our website, townofsomerset.com. It was fun to make history on January 12, 2017!

This is my annual reminder: since the Somerset listserv is private and independent (although "endorsed" by the Town government) – thereby creating an opportunity for residents to recommend commercial ventures and make political statements – I do want to urge everyone that when you have specific questions about Somerset services or policies, please contact the Town Manager at manager@townofsomerset.com, the Council at council@townofsomerset.com or me at mayor@townofsomerset.com. Failure to do so can create unnecessary delays in response. In addition, **Sarah Morse** (Dorset), who does an excellent job overseeing this listserv, periodically sends out a message to say that many of us (including me) don't always follow the easy-to-follow guidelines. So I pledge to do a better job of that this year.

Another annual reminder: the Council, staff and I are ready to be of assistance to those who lose family or household members during the year. Among other things, we can help publicize memorial services, contact neighbors and provide space in the Town Journal for obituaries. We are sorry when you have a loss and will assist in lessening burdens wherever possible.

We are once again getting complaints about residents who are not using leashes for their dogs. Please remember that this is against the law and is not in the best interest of your beloved pet, either. Some of the comments I have received included references to an unflattering sense of entitlement that the non-leash-users have. I would hate to have these dog-loving folks gain that type of reputation!

In the past year I have stepped up my use of my Twitter account and many of the issues I write about are relevant to Somerset. I encourage all of the "tweeters" in Town to follow me at [@jzslavin](https://twitter.com/jzslavin). I will be happy to follow you back.

New Lawn Care Law



By Patty Friedman, Chair, Parks and Natural Resources Committee, Grantham Avenue

On January 29th, Stan Edwards from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection educated

a group of Somerset residents on the new County Lawn Care Law that will take effect in January, 2018. This law states that potentially hazardous pesticides (includes insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) cannot be used to treat residential lawns or playgrounds. Montgomery County will implement a "pesticide free" parks program. There are exceptions to this law, as certain invasive plants can warrant targeted pesticide use. Agricultural lands, athletic fields and golf courses are not subject to this law. The purpose of this law is to protect the public health and welfare of its citizens, especially children who are most vulnerable to the harmful effects of these substances. For this reason, the Town of Somerset limited the use of pesticides on town land back in 2013.

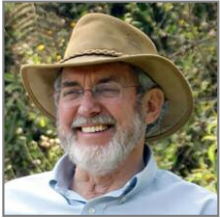
A panel of landscapers, including John Shorb from Shorb Landscaping, Edamarie Mattei from Backyard Bounty and Matt Glover and David Wray from Wray Brothers also addressed the group. They all concurred that the law will not greatly affect their lawn-care services. They are already following the Maryland Fertilizer Law that limits the amounts of nutrients that can be applied to lawns and

their main strategy is to test the soil, aerate and add compost, reseeding when necessary. They also emphasized that grass should not be cut too short and that applying infrequent deep watering is preferable to use of a daily sprinkler. They were clear that they listen to their customers' desires. If you want a sustainable lawn and a lawn without pesticides this year, speak up to your landscaper!

Further information on these laws can be found on the website of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Thanks to the Environment Committee and the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for sponsoring this education forum to keep Somerset residents informed.

Save the Date:

Join friends, community members, faculty, alumni and parents at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Educational Foundation's annual "**Wine, Chocolate, and Cheese**" friend - and fundraiser on **Thursday, March 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**, at the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase. For more information and to RSVP, go to www.bccedfoundation.org. Hope you will join us!



All About People

By Alan Dock, Falstone Avenue

When I last wrote this column, for the January Town Journal, the old year was being ushered off the stage and 2017 was making a boisterous entrance! I mentioned in that column that I was going to be in South Africa for much of the month and would not be around to write the February column. My apologies, but the distances and technical challenges were too great to make preparing the column feasible.

“

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day

”

With many adventures behind us, the Docks are back in this part of the world! I had forgotten how beautiful the African bush could be, and our two weeks in Zebula, a game park about two hours from Pretoria, were idyllic. We have a time-share in a house there and made the trip with our two Berkeley students, **Chris** and **Katie**, and six of their friends. We hope to repeat the experience next year, notwithstanding the 14-hour flight and the jet lag!

Now I return to pick up the threads of life in Somerset. I had hoped to face a bursting mailbox with interesting bits of news from the community to share with you, and I did, but not nearly enough to embarrass the Journal editor or me!

I did however glean an important item from the Somerset listserv: **Sarah Morse** (Surrey), our custodian of the listserv and indefatigable protagonist and team leader against invasive weeds in our parks and streams, recently was whisked off to the emergency room for an appendectomy in the middle of the night! I understand Sarah wanted to wait until morning, “when maybe the pain will have gone,” but thankfully her neighbors decided otherwise. Glad to learn Sarah is progressing toward a rapid recovery, and we look forward to seeing her back in Town!

Nicole Ventura, our Town Administrative Assistant, is the first point of call when newcomers are about to become residents. Nicole has alerted me again, and so on your behalf, I can now welcome an Australian family to join our community: **Rob** and **Liz Williams** and their children, **Sarah** (14), **Ben** (12), and **Jessie** (11), are putting down roots on Uppingham Street. Rob and Liz, I know “Uppinghamers” will have by now reached out to make you welcome, and we all look forward to seeing you as Somerset comes to life in the spring!

Richard Furcolo (Grantham) alerted me to the career of **Nathan Resnick** (formerly of Grantham), who is an entrepreneur and currently CEO of Sourcify, a marketplace of the world’s top manufacturers. Nathan has been a part of major projects on Kickstarter that have raised over one million dollars in funding, and prides himself on his ability to swiftly turn ideas into realities. Anyone nursing a special project for Somerset that they would like to see advanced?

Carrie Wofford (Essex) and others drew my attention to the wonderful coup achieved by **Jim Losey** and **Alex Acosta** (Essex) in working with their local church, St. Columba’s Episcopal, to successfully bring in and resettle a refugee family in the face of the new severely restrictive immigration policies. Their work was profiled in the *Washington Post* on the front page of Metro recently if anyone wants more detail. Well done, all involved, and I wish that refugee family joy as they settle in to life in the United States.

How many of you dip into TV Channel 16, the Montgomery municipal channel, when your regular channels become boring or the commercials seem endless? **Lila Snow** (Essex) hosts “The Art Scene with Lila Snow” on Monday at 9:00 p.m., repeated on Tuesday at 9:30 p.m. and Saturday at 12:15 p.m. Lila writes: “It mostly covers art, books and film with an occasional rant about the grammar on TV where they start sentences with ‘me, him and her’!” The program can also be seen online by going to mmctv.org and clicking on video and scrolling down to The Art Scene and choosing an episode. Check it out.

Well, that’s all I have in my mail box – except to remind you to take in the new exhibit of photographs by **Maurice Asseo** (Greystone) at the Town Hall, and stop in at the Waverly Street Gallery this month where Somerset artists **Cathy Abramson** (Uppingham), former resident **Dick Lasner**, **Len Harris** (Trent), **Ginny Mahoney** (Cumberland), **Carol Jason** (Warwick), **Makarand Dehejia** (Surrey), **Judy Baldinger** (Warwick) and **Joan Krash** (Essex) will be showing their creations.

News deadline for the April column is March 15!



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.



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.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, Monday, March 6, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, March 6, 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 February 6, 2017, Council Meeting Minutes.
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the Spring bulk refuse collection date of May 1, 2017.
3. **Motion:** To consider approval of a 2017 Arbor Day Proclamation
4. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of the Mayor's nomination of Nancy Jardini to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
5. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of the Mayor's nomination of Amy Power to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
6. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of the Mayor's nomination of Maura Vanderzon to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
7. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of the Mayor's nomination of Matt Zaft to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
8. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of the Mayor's nomination of Josh Bobeck to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
9. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of the Mayor's nomination of Bob Chlopak to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.
10. **Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of the Mayor's nomination of Michael Roark to serve on the Swim Team Committee for a term ending August 30, 2019.

NON-CONSENT

11. **Discussion:** Town Manager's February Financial Report – 7:40 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a recommendation of the Council acting as the Local Advisory Panel to the Historic Preservation Commission on an application submitted for 4722 Dorset Avenue. The applicants are requesting the following: two additions in the rear of the house and to enclose the existing porch – 7:45 p.m.
13. **Discussion/Motion:** 4814 Falstone Avenue project update from February 6, 2017, Council Meeting – 7:50 p.m.
14. **Introduction:** Ordinance amendment to consider amending Section 9-202 of the Town Code related to the No Parking restrictions on Dorset Avenue near Wisconsin Avenue – 8:00 p.m.
15. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Montgomery County short-term rentals legislation – 8:05 p.m.
16. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Proposal on safety lighting around the Town Hall, parking lot, and garage area – 8:20 p.m.
17. **Motion:** To consider approval entering into a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool for the 2017 season – 8:35 p.m.
18. **Motion:** To consider approval entering into a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Tennis Courts for the 2017 season – 8:40 p.m.
19. **Discussion:** General Code Project Update – 8:45 p.m.
20. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 8:50 p.m.
21. **Adjourn:** – 8:55 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.