



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

SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



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April 2018

Town Election for Mayor and Two Council Seats on May 8th

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

The election for Mayor and two Town Council seats will be held on **Tuesday, May 8th** in the **SomerseT Town Hall from 6 to 9 p.m.** Nominations for these positions will be accepted at the April 2nd Council Meeting.

You must be registered by Tuesday, April 24th to vote in the election. If you are registered voter in Montgomery County, you are eligible to vote in the Town. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you may vote in the Town Elections if you have filled out a registration form.

Residents can also register directly at the Town Hall, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by mail by sending a completed registration form to the Town Hall, 4510 Cumberland Avenue. Please contact the Town staff at manager@townofsomerset.com or 301-657-3211, if you need a form mailed to you. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Hall beginning April 24th.



To be qualified to vote in the SomerseT election, a resident must be:

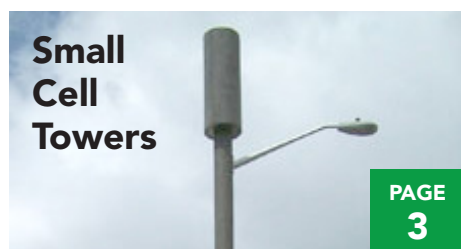
- At least 18 years old by May 8th, 2018;
- A resident of SomerseT for 14 days preceding the election or by April 24, 2018;
- A citizen of the United States or an alien legally authorized to reside in the country; and
- Registered to vote in the Town of SomerseT and/or Montgomery County.

Note from the Editor

I want to remind all Journal readers that our *All About People* column is up and running with a new columnist, **Eugene Tillman** (Warwick). Spring is always a time with lots of Town news, including graduations, travel plans, college acceptances, new jobs, etc. Your Journal staff, **Mary Wisniewski** (Greystone), Eugene and I, look forward to hearing from you. Please send all news to this new address — allaboutsomerset@gmail.com

Barbara Marenus, Co-Editor, Surrey Street

IN THIS ISSUE





ON MY MIND

A Focus on Municipal Elections

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

While we have not had a contested election for any office in Somerset for over a decade—for a variety of good reasons—it remains incumbent on Town leadership to ensure that our policies and procedures are up to date. This is in keeping with my own personal goal of having our municipal government be as effective and efficient as possible.

I think everyone understands that the most important duty of a citizen is to vote. Accordingly, it is essential that we do everything in our power to make it easy to vote, get as many people as possible to vote, protect the integrity of the process, and provide comprehensive election information.

Somerset has been in the forefront of having an expanded electorate because for decades we have allowed resident non-citizens to participate. Until now, only a few cities and towns across the USA have provided this opportunity. And according to our Board of Supervisors of Elections Chair **Phyllis Weisenfelder** (Cumberland), this has been a success. She spoke very eloquently recently at a Town of Chevy Chase forum on this somewhat controversial topic and I hope that that Town will soon join us in this way.

Similarly, recently in Maryland three cities have enlarged the voter base by lowering the voting age to 16. As a result, these young people in Takoma Park, Hyattsville and Greenbelt are able to cast their ballots for Mayor and Council. Since, so much of what we do in Somerset is to educate and train the next generation, I hope that we will follow suit.

Public service is also at the core of a healthy democracy, and in reviewing our Code I think there are changes that could be made that would make it easier and more attractive for folks to run for office. I will ask our Board of Supervisors of Elections to make some recommendations about this, along with “best practice” advice on absentee ballots, campaign finance reporting and uncontested elections.

Since voter participation is a topic all over the news these days, I trust that many residents have opinions on this matter. It is my hope that in the coming months of 2018 they will weigh in.

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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

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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

Small Cell Towers Likely Coming to Somerset: What We Can Do

By Council President Marnie Shaul, *Uppingham Street*

The use of wireless devices is increasing, and the wireless industry would like to deploy small cell towers and antennas as widely as possible to provide more capacity. There are a number of concerns about the impact of this wireless deployment in residential communities like ours. These include the safety of overburdening existing utility poles and street lights with antennas, visual impacts from the placement of these devices, and concerns about the impact on human health, particularly on children and other vulnerable populations.

The Town of Somerset is tackling this issue in a variety of ways so that we can do our best to ensure the character of our community and the safety of our residents. At its March meeting, the Somerset Town Council voted to send a letter to the County Council expressing its concerns about the language in a proposed zoning text amendment (ZTA). It appears that the ZTA would allow the placement of these devices within 20 feet of a residence. Our Town Council wanted to alert the County Council to our concerns in advance of the County Council's March 20th hearing on the ZTA.

The Town is also working with the Maryland Municipal League to retain local authority over the siting of these devices. Please refer to my article in the January 2018 Journal about the State approach. Since that article was written, bills have been introduced in the Maryland House and Senate to preempt local authority (SB 1188/HB 1767). A hearing on the Senate bill was scheduled for March 20th.

Some Town residents are supporting a letter writing campaign to our state legislators asking them to let local governments retain their authority. Here is their contact information:

- Senator Susan Lee
susan.lee@senate.state.md.us
- Delegate Bill Frick
bill.frick@house.state.md.us
- Delegate Ariana Kelly **ariana.kelly.house.state.md.us**
- Delegate Marc Korman
marc.korman@house.state.md.us

Finally, the Town has asked our attorney to investigate the legality of the Town's adopting an ordinance that would govern the process the Town would use if it received requests for the placement of small cell towers and antennas. The Town also asked our attorney to research the basis of the standards used by other municipalities. Depending on the outcome of these inquiries, the Town may ask our attorney to draft legislation to govern the process.



APRIL CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Planning Workshop for Kids' Pop-Up Marketplace
5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall

MONDAY, APRIL 23

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

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Kids' Pop-Up Marketplace
3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Earth Day Street Party
5:00 p.m., Falstone Avenue and Greystone Street

TUESDAY, MAY 8

Town Election
6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Town Hall

SAVE THE DATE

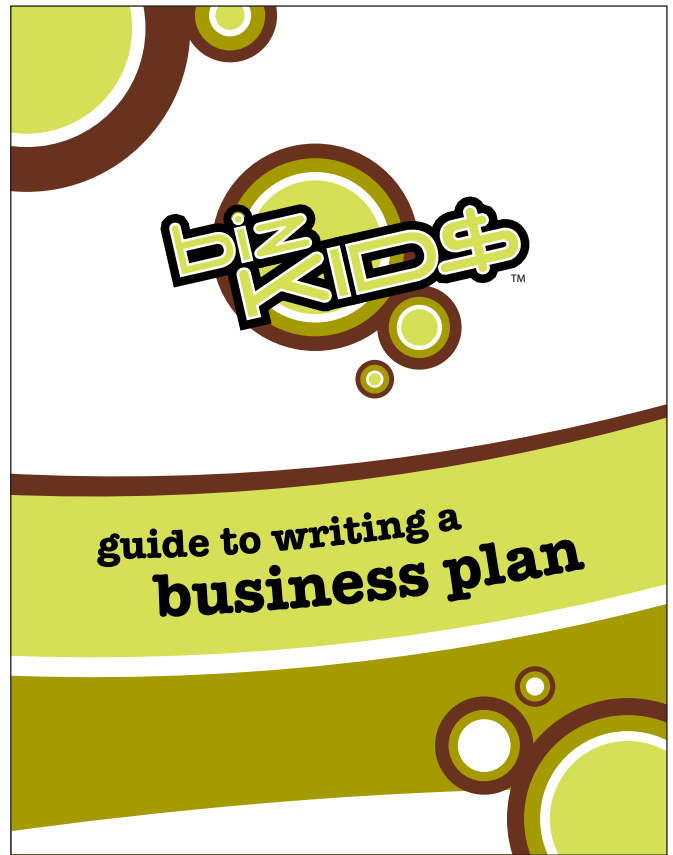
Kids' Pop-Up Marketplace at Town Hall on Sunday, May 20th

Calling all Somerset kids with entrepreneurial spirit to join a one-day Pop-Up Marketplace at the Somerset Town Hall grounds on **Sunday, May 20th, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.** Set-up will begin at 2 p.m. and there will be a debriefing and pizza party afterwards, finishing up at 7 p.m.

All Somerset children ages 3 to 18 who want to set up a booth to sell goods or provide a service (lemonade, baked goods, hair-braiding services, gently used toys and books, etc.) are welcome! There will be a \$5 to \$10 participation fee per booth, and kids will be responsible for setting up their own booths (with tables, etc.).

In preparation for the event, please join us on **Tuesday, April 10th** for a **short business planning workshop from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.**

Let's empower our kids! For those not participating, we hope you will mark your calendars and come to shop the marketplace. Please email us directly if you/your kids are interested in participating: **Nicole Totah** (Surrey) at ntotah@gmail.com and **Anne Hawkins** (Falstone) at achacour@yahoo.com or just come to the meeting on April 10th to learn more!



Participants will learn how to write a business plan.

GENERAL PERMITS

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

5415 UPPINGHAM STREET

- 1 Cedar
- 1 Norway Maple

4803 GRANTHAM AVENUE

- 1 twin trunk Red Oak

4802 FALSTONE AVENUE,

- 1 Red Bud
- 1 Mulberry

5521 GREYSTONE STREET

- 1 Silver Maple

5509 UPPINGHAM STREET

- 1 White Pine

Earth Day Is Coming Soon, But Why Wait?

By **Barton Rubenstein**, Co-Founder of the Mother Earth Project, Dorset Avenue

The Mother Earth Project, www.MotherEarthProject.org, a global environment-saving initiative started by the Rubenstein family (Dorset), has now launched the Parachutes For The Planet project. This project encourages people worldwide to lead more sustainable lives, filled with daily acts of saving and protecting the environment. Using artwork as the catalyst for bringing people together, this project helps communities create "Parachutes," circular works of art that are a metaphor for bringing the world back to a safe place. Once created, these communities organize sustainable activities into the future that positively impact their environment.

What Can You Do?

1. Today, we ask you to commit to a weekly sustainable action for 2018. It could be finally changing your light bulbs to LED, picking up 10 pieces of trash on the streets, switching to renewable energy (www.motherearthproject.org/renewables), asking restaurants to change their plastic cups to paper (PLEASE!), composting with our neighborhood Compost Crew Company, or using your bicycle more. There are MANY things you can do to help the planet.
2. Then, we ask that you create a small work of art on a piece of paper about what you have decided to do. This "virtual parachute" can be art or just words! For more info, go to this webpage and watch the time-lapse video: www.motherearthproject.org/parachutes/#examples

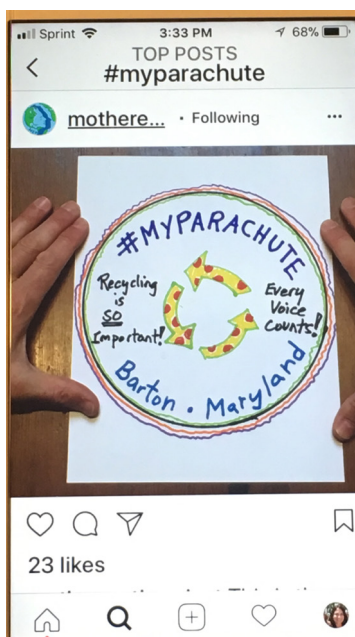
3. Last, we ask that you post your "parachute" on social media: Instagram, Facebook or Twitter with this hashtag: #MyParachute
4. Please email us your artwork, themotherearthproject@gmail.com, and we will also post it for our worldwide followers to see! @MotherEarthProject

If you are more ambitious, you can create a larger 12' diameter circular parachute for the upcoming world exhibition at the Georgetown Waterfront Park. For easy instructions, please visit: www.motherearthproject.org/parachutes. We now have 81 parachutes coming from dozens of countries and when we have 200 in hand we will announce the date of the exhibition.

As many of you know, the 20' high Mother Earth sculpture is in the Georgetown Waterfront Park along the Potomac River. It is now the Symbol of Sustainability worldwide, with other Mother Earth sculptures now in Asia (China), Africa (Cameroon), South America (Chile and Argentina), and the Middle East (Jerusalem). There are plans for two more continents this year, including Europe (Italy) and Antarctica! These sculptures are the physical footprint of the project and act as our environmental stewards.

Whether or not you can do any or all of the above, please share information on this project with your friends and family. In this way, every neighbor can have an impact!

A Virtual Parachute posted to #MyParachute



A Real Parachute (12' diameter)

UPDATE ON THE SOMERSET DOLPHINS

Swim Season is Getting Close!

By **Nancy Jardini**, *Team Representative, Essex Avenue*

The Somerset Dolphins swim team is gearing up for another great season in 2018! The Executive Committee met this past week to prepare for registration, coach selection and other important planning activities. This is a good time to make sure all of our residents, and especially new families, know where to go for swim team information.

The Basics

The Somerset Dolphins compete in the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL <http://www.mcsl.org/>) and participation 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 when the top 3 swimmers in each event (top 6 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 is the developmental team for little swimmers who cannot pass the deep-water test. Mini swimmers must be between 4 and 7 years old and be able to put their face under water. They practice three days a week after school is out. There is also one Mini meet, and Mini swimmers are encouraged to attend all social events. **We will be looking for a new mini coordinator this year so please reach out if you are interested!**

Parent Volunteering

If your child is participating on the swim team you are required to volunteer. 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 can send a grandma, babysitter or friend, but if your child is swimming you should expect to have a job.

We will be filling several key roles in the 2018 season — please contact us at somersetdolphins@gmail.com if you are willing to help!

Executive Committee

The following folks work year-round to ensure a successful swim season. From maintaining the budget and presenting it to the Town Council, 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. These are also the folks you can contact about questions.

- Automation: **Bob Chlopak** (Dorset), **Kristen Khanna** (Uppingham), **Brian Smith** (Uppingham)
- Concessions: **Kathy Toomey** (Warwick), **Josh Freeman** (Warwick), **Debbie Berger Fox** (Cumberland)
- Officials: **Fiona Fox** (Uppingham)
Reps: A: **Amy Power** (Uppingham), **Maura Vanderzon** (Falstone) and B: **Lisa Mortier** (Grantham), **Matt Zaft** (Dorset)
- Team: **Nancy Jardini** (Essex) and **Jeff Mascott** (Surrey)
Treasurer: **Michael Roark** (Dorset)

You can also see the schedule and get other information at our website: www.somersetswimteam.org

Coming Up... Be on the lookout for coaching solicitations and spirit wear orders and registration information. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at somersetdolphins@gmail.com if you have any questions.

See you at the Pool!



Manager's Corner

By Rich Charnovich, *Town Manager*

FY19 Budget and 5-Year Fiscal Plan

The FY19 operating and capital budgets are scheduled to be introduced at the April 2, 2018 Town Council Meeting. After introduction, a summary copy will be published in the May Town Journal and on the website, and a full copy can be viewed in the Town Hall. Mayor Slavin's 5-year fiscal plan is also scheduled to be discussed at the April 2 meeting.

Nicole Ventura's Departure from Somerset

At the end of February, Nicole Ventura, a long-time employee of Somerset, stepped away from her position to pursue other endeavors. Known for the phrase she always said, "1-800 call Nicole," for solutions to your questions, Somerset will miss her hard work and dedication. I enjoyed the near 7 years we worked together and wish her all the best in the future.

Traffic Pattern on Dorset near Wisconsin

In 2017, the Town adopted a temporary Ordinance moving the No Parking regulation farther down Dorset toward Deal Place. The goal was to help traffic congestion and back-ups in the vicinity of Dorset and Wisconsin. I welcome your feedback on this topic, both positive and negative. This summer, we will consider making this temporary parking restriction a permanent one via a permanent Town Ordinance.

Proposed Maintenance Work on Bridge near Town Pool Update

It is anticipated that the maintenance work will take place at some point in April. Public notice will be provided in advance of the work starting. The contractor has stated that pedestrian access will be allowed during construction.

Underwater Lights at Town Pool

In mid-March, Community Pools started a capital project at the Pool to replace some of the underwater lights. Work is scheduled to be completed before the start of the 2018 pool season.

PEPCO Tree Removals and Tree Plantings

Recently, PEPCO removed numerous Town trees in the right of way across Somerset. It is important for everyone to know that our Town Arborist, Dr. Tolbert Feather, worked closely with PEPCO in deciding which trees were hazardous. PEPCO has committed to reforesting the trees that were removed with both ornamental and canopy trees. Dr. Feather is actively working with both PEPCO and our Parks and Natural Resources Committee on replanting plans during 2018.

Parking Near Driveways: Montgomery County Police Law

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. Vehicles cannot be parked within 5 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.

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 extremely useful way of communicating with Town residents. If you want to provide the Town Hall with your email address or update your email address, please email us at townofsomerset.com and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



My last month's On My Mind column urging the Council to end sledding on Cumberland generated a lot of heated arguments for and against maintaining the sledding hill. While I appreciate hearing the strongly-held views of so many residents, I still feel it is our duty to end this practice because of risk of injury and liability issues. However, all residents should understand that sledding will continue to be permitted unless the Council decides to legislate against it.

Along this line, I do want to remind everyone that, as has been discussed on numerous occasions, Town issues and service requests should be addressed directly to the Town government. While I would like to continue to encourage active use of the listserv, residents should realize that **it's not** the official Town communications vehicle. The appropriate way to send your views to the Town is an email to **council@townofsomerset.com**. and service requests go to **manager@townofsomerset.com**.

I also was extremely impressed with our residents' reactions to a possible change by the County to the traffic designation of our "main street"—Dorset Avenue. Ad Hoc Traffic Committee Chair **Elizabeth Hurwitt** (Dorset) recently placed a request for input on this proposed policy on the listserv— and within 24 hours received comments from over 250 folks. That's Power Rising.

Our well liked, long time Administrative Assistant Nicole Ventura quietly retired from her position recently, as she expressed a desire to pursue other adventures in life. The

Council and I worked very closely with Nicole for all these years and appreciate the many contributions she made to the Town. She will always be part of the Somerset family!

Somerset's important budget process is now in full operation as we have already had two Council budget work sessions and we are working towards Council passage of the FY 2019 budget at the May meeting. While Somerset is a prosperous community, we are not always able to fund everything we would like to do, so public input is very important as we set priorities. For example, there are currently 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 from those interested.

Several weeks ago I attended the National League of Cities (NLC) annual Congressional City Conference on behalf of the Town and again learned, among other things, about some of the latest national trends which could affect Somerset. I attend this conference at my own expense because I feel it is so important for all of us. Among the highlights this time was an inspirational speech by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio who urged us to keep the faith in light of the horrific public policy on municipalities coming forth from the federal government these days. I also enjoyed a fiery speech by Congresswoman Maxine Waters on the topic of government ethics. I look forward to the NLC Fall Conference in Los Angeles.

Somerset on TV

As many residents know, Somerset participates with Montgomery Municipal Cable TV Channel 16 in a series of interviews with Town residents who have fascinating stories to share. Somerset Stories can be seen on Wednesdays at 10:00 p.m. and can be viewed on **<https://www.mmctv.org/programs/>** And our Town is also represented in another Channel 16 program, *The*

Art Scene with host and Somerset resident **Lila Snow** (Essex). Lila covers art, film, books and TV. Her show airs on Mondays at 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 12:15 p.m. and also streams to the website **www.mmctv.org**. Click on video and then scroll to the *Art Scene* and choose an episode.



All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*

We are fortunate to live in a town where so many are working to help others in our region, our country, and beyond. To my mind, our neighbor, **Lauren Rubenstein** (Surrey), exemplifies this great spirit. Lauren and her husband, **Steve Shapiro**, have lived in Somerset for 20 years and raised their two sons, **Jake** and **Marc**, here. Lauren is a psychologist and registered yoga teacher.

This month's column spotlights Lauren's remarkable work with children in Haiti over the past seven years. The story starts in 2009 when Lauren went through training to teach yoga to children. Within a couple of years, she received an email from an organization seeking volunteers to do just that in Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. Lauren didn't view herself as particularly adventurous, but she looked at the pictures of the children and "immediately knew [she] was going."



Lauren and Michelda, the little girl Lauren has been sponsoring since 2011



Lauren was on the ground in Haiti in early 2011 as part of a team working through Partners in Development, an organization focused on alleviating extreme poverty. She didn't know what to expect and said her "biggest terror" was of being overwhelmed by sadness. She did in fact see poverty she could never have imagined. The sessions with the children included yoga, arts and crafts, and a meal. For the yoga, each child had his or her own mat and space. Working hand to hand, and "sole of foot to sole of foot" had a tremendous impact. Contrary to expectations, the children had not lost their capacity for joy which was brought to the fore by the yoga, the other activities, and the sustained and supportive attention of adults.

According to Lauren, the yoga provides a "stealthy way to help children develop 'self-regulation' – both physical and emotional." In an environment marked by scarcity and privation, the children learn to cooperate and communicate in more appropriate ways. Lauren described

one moment that did bring her close to tears. On a hot day, the children were outside drawing with pastel chalk on concrete walls. Most drew houses – ones which had been destroyed by the earthquake or in which they hoped to live in the future.

Lauren has made eight trips to Haiti and plans to continue her periodic visits. Many Somerset residents have supported these trips with generous in-kind donations of yoga mats, suitcases, snacks, and clothing. Children in Somerset have sent homemade Valentine cards. A former Somerset Elementary School student collected Bat Mitzvah money to donate to Go Give Yoga (Lauren's nonprofit group which you can find at www.gogiveyoga.org). While Lauren has taken her talents and commitment elsewhere, Haiti has remained a focus because of the enormous needs. As she also explained, notwithstanding the vast number of NGOs operating worthwhile programs in the country, very few focus on children and "letting them be children."

Over time, the goal of the trips has shifted from just teaching yoga to also training locals to be yoga teachers – particularly those connected with the children such as coaches, school teachers, and orphanage personnel. Thus, a program which started with volunteer yoga teachers shuttling from outside the country has transitioned to a sustainable model with local players taking the lead.

For Lauren, the yoga provides a fulfilling, non-verbal way to connect and play with the children. It also has special poignancy for her since the experience sits at the intersection of her own experience with yoga and her work as a mental health professional. Lauren has also taught yoga in impoverished areas in the US – both in Appalachia (Eastern Kentucky) and the Mississippi Delta (Glendora, MS). Lauren and Steve took a trip to the Delta last summer, and she found the visit "every bit as much a learning experience as Haiti." Closer to home and in a much different environment, Lauren conducts yoga classes for students before school at Somerset Elementary and is teaching mindfulness practice to the 4th and 5th graders as well.

So, a hat tip to Lauren for her contributions to the greater good!

Continued on page 10

All About People

Turning to local politics, last month's Journal reported that Council Member **Barbara Condos** (Falstone) and Council Member **Dudley Fowlkes** (Falstone) are not seeking new terms on the Town Council. Barbara served three terms for a total of six years, and Dudley served 2 ½ years (starting with the balance of an unexpired term followed by a full two-year term). I recently caught up with each of them and asked if there were any parting words they wanted to share with their neighbors about their service. Barbara described the experience as "rewarding, fascinating, and an opportunity to see politics at its best." She hopes her stepping aside will make room for others to learn more about the intricacies of municipal government. With Council service behind her, Barbara is looking forward to more freedom to travel including visits with her grandchildren in Colorado. Dudley echoed many of Barbara's comments and said the experience further heightened his respect for his peers. He hopes his service "has made [him] a better citizen." He would encourage others to consider Council service since it provides "a chance to help write the future." You will find Dudley out and about spending time with his three children.

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOZEMAN, MONTANA: Awesome Every Season! Ski Big Sky & the Bridgers! Fly fishing. Trail rides. White-water rafting. Hiking/ biking everywhere. Enjoy our 4-bedroom home on 20 acres with spectacular 360-degree vistas. Four-night minimum stay. Just four miles to downtown Bozeman. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at SRPVacationHomes@gmail.com or 301-652-1207.

PARIS, FRANCE: Picturesque Day and Nite! And more affordable than ever! Enjoy our one-bedroom apartment in the 2nd arrondissement — the heart of historic Paris. Walk to the Louvre, the Pompidou Center, the Seine and two Metro stops. Four-night minimum stay. 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.

SEA COLONY - BETHANY BEACH - EDGEWATER BUILDING OCEAN FRONT: 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Sunday to Sunday rentals - \$2,900 per week (Somerset special price) Call 301-233-2727, **Luba Marx**.

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.

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on March 5, 2018. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the February 5, 2018 Closed Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval to set the Spring Bulk Refuse Collection date on May 7, 2018.
3. Approval of a 2018 Arbor Day Proclamation.
4. Approval of a 1-foot setback variance in the right side yard for a proposed project at 5415 Trent Street.
5. Approval of a 5 feet, 2 inches variance request in the rear yard for a proposed project at 5415 Trent Street.
6. Approval of a 4.8 feet variance request at the left side of the existing house (Uppingham Street side) for a proposed project at 5415 Trent Street.
7. Approval of a HVAC unit permit application at 4901 Dorset Avenue.
8. Approval to authorize Balodemas Architects to go to bid for proposed interior and exterior work at the Town Hall.
9. Approval to set the 2018 Tennis Courts Permit Fee at \$25.00 per household as recommended by the Tennis Committee.
10. Approval of a contract with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Tennis Courts for the 2018 season.
11. Approval of a contract with Camp Summerset for the use of the Town Pool for the 2018 season.
12. Approval to send a letter to the Montgomery County Council regarding the proposed Zoning Text Amendment related to the installation of small cell towers.
13. Mayor Slavin provided his report. Town Manager Charnovich provided administrative and financial reports. Members of the Swim Team Committee were in attendance to go over their 2018 budget with the Mayor and Council. Adoption of 2018 amended Town Pool Rules was tabled until the April Council Meeting for further discussion. An update on the General Code Town Charter and Code project was discussed.

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 Zeughauser** 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.



Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting Somerset Town Hall, Monday, April 2, 2018

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, April 2, 2018 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 Zeughouser, Franny Peale, Dudley Fowlkes, Marnie Shaul, Barbara Condos

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider approval of the February 5, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the March 5, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes.

NON-CONSENT

3. **Nominations:** 2 Council seats and 1 Mayoral seat for the May 8, 2018 Town election –7:35 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Town Manager March Administrative and Financial Reports – 7:40 p.m.
5. **Introduction:** FY19 Operating and Capital Budget– 7:50 p.m.
6. **Discussion:** Mayor Slavin's 5 year fiscal plan– 7:55 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a building permit request at 4801 Falstone Avenue to install a screened porch at the rear of the property – 8:05 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following Spring tree plantings as recommended by the Town Arborist – 8:10 p.m.
 - Capello Park – Sugar Maple Green Mountain
 - Vinton Park – Swamp White Oak
 - Dorset and Wisconsin Avenue, Vinton Park – London Plane Tree
 - Dorset and Wisconsin Avenue, Capello Park – Rutgers Dogwood Celestial

- 4607 Dorset Avenue – Rutgers Dogwood Celestial
- 4722 Dorset Avenue – Red Oak
- 4715 Essex Avenue – Rutgers Dogwood Celestial
- 4900 Essex Avenue – Willow Oak
- 4811 Falstone Avenue – October Glory Red Maple
- 4906 Falstone Avenue – October Glory Red Maple
- 4816 Grantham Avenue – Red Oak
- 5509 Greystone Street – Blackgum
- 5504 Uppingham Street – London Plane Tree
- 5519 Uppingham Street – Blackgum
- 5529 Uppingham Street – Willow Oak
- 5532 Warwick Place – Redbud Forest Pansy
- 5606 Warwick Place – Redbud Forest Pansy
- 4801 Falstone Avenue – 2 Flowering Dogwoods

9. **Introduction:** Ordinance to amend Section 5-301 of the Town Code related to Pool Rules Enforcement – 8:15 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of the 2018 Pool Rules, including amendments, as recommended by the Pool Committee – 8:20 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider proposal(s) received for annual audit services – 8:30 p.m.
12. **Discussion:** General Code Update – 8:35 p.m.
13. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 8:40 p.m.
14. **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.