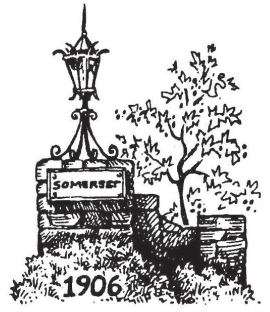


"Where People and Trees Have Deep Roots and Grow Strong"

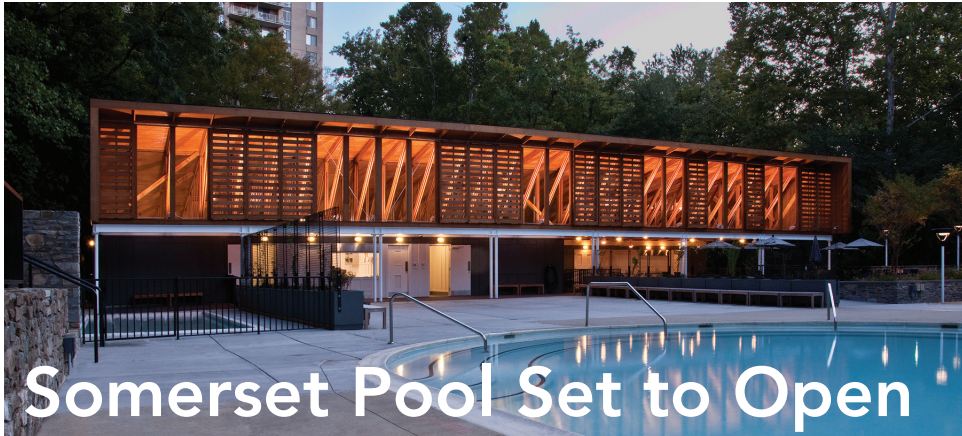


Somerset TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 63 • No. 5

May 2018



Somerset Pool Set to Open

By Matthew Zaft, Chair, Pool Committee, Dorset Avenue

Are you ready for some swimming?

We are only a few weeks away from the pool opening on Saturday, May 19! While the pool has been closed for the past seven months, a lot has been going on. Here is what you need to know:

- Repairs were made to the underwater lights.
- We have a new pool vacuum that we hope will keep things much cleaner this year.
- Community Pools is continuing as our management company, and we are delighted that Cori Duffer will be returning as Pool Manager. Due to a pre-planned international trip, Cori won't be present for opening weekend, but rest assured she will be back soon thereafter.
- We are hoping to install a Dry Dek 4 Square Court in the grassy area adjacent to the deep end.
- This year we will have a full-time desk attendant who will not do double duty as a lifeguard.

Continued on page 6

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

Vote on May 8th for Mayor and Two Council Seats

A Wonderful Community Event

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

The election for Mayor and two Town Council seats takes place on Tuesday, May 8 in the Somerset Town Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick) is running for another term and **Morris Panner** (Essex) and **Stephen Surko** (Uppingham) are the candidates for the two open Council seats. Statements from the candidates are included in this issue of the Journal.

Come mingle with other Somerset residents, enjoy refreshments and exercise your right to vote at this not-to-be-missed community event!

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ON MY MIND

Reevaluating our Streetscape

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

With the change of seasons and the advent of nice weather and flowers in bloom, the appearance of our Town comes into focus for many of us. As you may recall, one of the great lessons I learned from former Code Enforcement Officer Larry Plummer is the importance of having a highly desirable streetscape.

In this regard, a number of residents have recently complained to me about the unsightly appearance of the increased number of trash cans and recycling bins that appear at our curbs far in advance of the Tuesday pickup. In checking the Code, Town Manager Rich Charnovich has reminded me that while there is a law on the time required to put away these items after the pickup, there are no restrictions on how early they can appear. Perhaps this is something we should change.

In addition, a citizen indicated he would support a requirement that all trashcans have lids. There are others who feel that nothing should be stored during the week in a place that can be seen from the roadway.

While these ideas seem logical, there are some residents for which such changes would have a negative impact or create a burden. Some properties do not have storage areas that are out of street view. Also, residents who are traveling might want to put out trash before they leave on a Saturday or Sunday.

As always, before the Council even considers changes to the law, they seek input from citizens. As such, I hope that these proposals will stir a strong response. At the same time, please weigh in on more controversial ideas such as a restriction on basketball hoops, holiday lights and commercial signs.

IN MEMORIAM

Beloved, long-time Somerset residents

Faye Cohen (Trent Street)
passed away on April 10, 2018

Alice Grochal (Falstone Avenue)
passed away on March 25, 2018

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.

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

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www.townofsomerset.com



Little Free Library Thrives

By **Cinzia Furlanetto**, *Dorset Avenue*

Now that the cherry trees have blossomed and Spring has finally arrived, we in Somerset are so happy to go back to our habit of taking a walk around our beautiful neighborhood. It may surprise some of us, but the Little Free Library still looks brand new! It successfully survived the winter and never went through hibernation: books have been actively exchanged under all weather conditions.

So many volunteers signed up during the past year, and now it is time to sign up again.

Volunteers are only required to check the books inside the library and make sure they are in good condition and appropriate. Volunteers should also check that there are no obvious issues with the structure of the library itself. To sign up just go online to: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44abab22ab9-little>

For any questions, please contact me at cinziafurlanetto@mac.com or **301 642-6678**. Enjoy the upcoming summer ... the best season for reading!

MAY CALENDAR

MONDAY, MAY 7

Bulk Refuse Pickup

TUESDAY, MAY 8

Town Election

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Mayor's Brown Bag Lunch

Noon to 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Opening Celebration – Fifth Graders' Art Show

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall

National Bike-to-Work Day

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Pool Opening

10:00 am

SUNDAY, MAY 20

Official Opening of Conservation Garden

1:00 p.m. near the tennis courts at Town Hall

Kids' Pop-Up Marketplace

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 27

Somerset Spring Round Robin Tournament

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

TUESDAY, MAY 29

MVA Mobile Office

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

Shredding and Recycling Event

Starting at 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall parking lot



SOMERSET ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, MAY 8

Candidates' Statements



Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*, CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

For the past ten years I have been proud to serve as Somerset's Mayor. I want to thank the other elected officials, especially our **Council President Mar-nie Shaul** (Uppingham), the outstanding staff and our many engaged residents

for the multitude of advancements we have made together in Town to enhance our residents' high quality of life. In my view, the most impactful public service is at the local level.

It has been especially rewarding to work with our young people as I have performed my mayoral duties. Educating them and instilling good values is really what it's all about.

To that end, in my upcoming term I would like to work to lower the voting age to 16 and hope this is part of a national trend. In this way we will train the next generation on the importance of voting.

I will also look forward to assisting and mentoring our new Councilmembers so that they can hit the ground running and make a positive impact. I will miss retiring **Council Members Barbara Condos** (Falstone) and **Dudley Fowlkes** (Falstone), but we will continue to benefit from their hard work.

I humbly ask for your support on Tuesday, May 8.

Continued on page 5

Somerset Celebrates Earth Day

The second annual neighborhood pot luck Earth Day party brought dozens of Somerset residents out on the beautiful Spring evening of Sunday, April 22.





Continued from page 4

Candidates' Statements



Morris Panner, *Essex Avenue*, CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

I am a father of four and have lived in the Town for six years. All of my children attended Somerset Elementary and participate on the summer swim team.

My wife, Nancy Jardini, and I have both been active in Town and community activities. We have run the Town Newcomers' Welcome Party and also co-chaired the Somerset Elementary School PTA Fundraising Race. My wife is the parent representative and team coordinator for the Somerset Dolphins swim team.

My family and I believe Somerset is a special place and that it is important to ensure we maintain the high-quality facilities and environment. My experience in community service and as an entrepreneur will enable me to ensure we maintain our wonderful Town while upholding fiscal

discipline. We are very fortunate to have a beautiful swim club, tennis courts and local Town Hall, which are all important assets. These facilities enable us to build community around common interests and events. It is critical that we maintain them and ensure our budget plans are conservative and set the appropriate priorities.

Our Town is also nestled within one of the most dynamic and growing areas in the nation. We will have to be mindful of how development and investment in the area will impact traffic and the general quiet and peaceful quality of our Town. I am excited to work with other community leaders to make sure that our voice is heard and that we protect what makes our Town special.

I would welcome the opportunity to serve the Town by serving on the Council.



Stephen Surko, *Uppingham Street*, CANDIDATE FOR TOWN COUNCIL

My family and I moved to the Town of Somerset in 2005. Over the years, we've come to appreciate the special, engaged and caring community that is Somerset. Our children all attended Somerset Elementary School. I am

an Eagle Scout, and have enjoyed being an adult Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader in the area. In between Scouting activities with my two sons, I served on the Parks and Natural Resources Committee for several years and enjoyed making some friends and addressing issues and pursuing opportunities to improve Somerset. I have a strong interest in helping Somerset be a "green" community. And as a Professional Engineer, I look forward to digging into the details of various Town projects such as the swimming pool bridge.

After graduating from the US Naval Academy in 1982, I served as a Surface Line and Engineering Duty Officer for 22 years. I enjoyed numismatics as a kid and discovered a passion for research & development in the Navy, so my current position at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is a great fit. You may see me walking our dog, Lucy, around Town — I'm happy to share some "sea stories." I'm an avid commuter cyclist, so you may also see me biking to and from work. I'd like to see Somerset recognized as a "Bicycle Friendly Community."

I would be honored to serve as one of your representatives and would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, May 8. If elected, I hope to hear from you to better understand your positions on Town issues (several neighbors have already brought the issue of small cell towers to my attention) and address any concerns you may have. My goal is to help keep Somerset a special place to live.

Somerset Pool Set to Open

- The family bathroom will be kept locked at all times and the desk attendant or lifeguards will provide residents with access as needed.
- Morning Swim will be back again from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. The session includes space for both a Masters-style workout and independent lap swimmers. Cost is again \$100 for the entire session, if you sign up prior to Memorial Day. You can charge the cost to your pool account or write a check made payable to Town of Somerset with "Morning Swim" written on the memo line. Checks should be dropped off at Town Hall. As we did last year, we are offering the option to drop in for \$5 per visit, if you do not sign up for the entire summer. Guests are again welcome if accompanied by a Somerset resident (the pool guest fee will be added to the \$5 drop-in rate). Drop-in fees will be charged directly to your pool account, i.e., no cash exchanged.
- We will expand our Safety Event to include drowning awareness education and possibly CPR certification for residents. Check back for date and time.
- After last year's great success, we will again hold an Adults Only Party at the pool. More details to follow, but mark July on your calendars now!
- We will also again hold Movie Night at the pool. Date and movie are to be determined.
- The pool rules have been updated, and all residents and guests must make sure they are well-informed as to all rules. Some of the most notable changes include:
 - > To avoid confusion, "parties" have been renamed as "group events" and updated to be defined as "more than 10 non-residents on a single day." As with last year, all group events must be pre-registered with the Pool Manager.
 - > All registered sex offenders are banned from the pool.
 - > All cell phones, cameras, and other recording devices are banned from use in the locker rooms and bathrooms.
 - > All objectionable/improper behavior and harassment of any kind of both attendees and guards is expressly prohibited.

- > There are new, specific penalties for violating the rules/circumventing the policies.

Additionally, at the first Pool Committee meeting of 2018, held on April 17 at Town Hall, among the topics discussed were the following:

- The April 13th arrest of Town resident Jonathan Oldale by federal authorities on 30 counts of production of child pornography. Mr. Oldale is currently in jail awaiting trial, but there is the slight possibility that he will be released prior to trial. As such, Mayor Slavin has notified him that his pool privileges are suspended and he is barred from being at the pool until the matter is fully resolved. Additionally, our contracted police officer will be conducting periodic sweeps of the pool throughout the entire season.
- Raising the guest fees by \$1 to \$5 — this was voted on and passed. As such, we are recommending that the Town Council consider increasing the guest fee to \$5 at their next meeting.
- Increasing the minimum age to attend the pool without adult supervision from 8 years old — this was thoroughly discussed/debated. Many compelling arguments were made both in favor and against doing so. As such, the committee unanimously voted to recommend that the Town Council explore this matter more extensively and solicit input from all residents.
- Updating Section I. GENERAL 1. (b) of the Pool Rules to read:
The following persons shall not be permitted on pool grounds: (1) any person required to register as a sex offender according to Maryland law; (2) any person who has been prohibited from entering certain or any property owned by the State of Maryland, Montgomery County, or one of their agencies or instrumentalities; or (3) any person who has been permanently suspended or banned from use of the pool.

This was voted on and passed; however, the Town Attorney felt that Section (2) is too broad. Thus, he will be drafting a more defined version. As such, we are recommending that, subject to review of said draft, the Town Council approve the rule change.

Look for more information in the weeks to come and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Take the Somerset Tennis Challenge

DATE: Sunday, May 27

TIME: 1-4 p.m.

PLACE: Somerset tennis courts



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

How's your tennis game lately? Ready for a challenge? Then mark your calendar for an afternoon of friendly competition with friends and neighbors. It's the annual Somerset Spring Round Robin Tournament.

There'll be free refreshments and prizes for all. All Somerset adult and teen tennis players and guests are welcome.

Kathy Wenger (Cumberland) will be in charge. Kathy used to help run the Virginia Slims tournament, so she knows

what she's doing. Bring racquets and balls and wear tennis-appropriate shoes. And don't worry if this is your first Round Robin. Kathy will explain everything.

You must be a registered Somerset tennis player, of course. What? You haven't gotten your 2018 tennis card yet? No worries, mate. Cards are available from the Town Hall or online. The cost? Still only \$25 for your entire household. If you buy on line, the Town will deliver the card to your home. Online address to purchase 2018 tennis card:

<https://md-somerset.civicplus.com/FormCenter/EPayments-Form-5/Paying-Tennis-Court-Fees-Online-39>



Second Brown Bag Lunch of 2018 Set for Wednesday, May 9

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

Let's celebrate Spring and upcoming graduations at the second quarterly Brown Bag lunch of the year on Wednesday, May 9, from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. As always, members of the Council and I will host anyone from Town interested and available to talk about issues or tell a story or two. Remember to bring a sandwich or dish to share -- and a friend. Beverages, plates and utensils are provided. Email me at **mayor@townofsomerset.com** if you have any questions.

Environmental Committee Announces Events

By Robin Barr, Chair, Environmental Committee, Essex Avenue

SUNDAY, MAY 20 AT 1:00 P.M.

Official Opening, Conservation Landscape by the Tennis Courts

I wrote about this landscape in a previous Journal issue, when the garden was first installed. Its terracing helps control water flowing from a storm. Its rain garden captures run off originally from the Town's garage roof. Its native plants attract bees, butterflies, and birds. But, above all, it is a garden. Flowers bloom, and leaves turn pretty colors.

Designer Edamarie Mattei of Backyard Bounty arranged it to maintain visual interest in three seasons of the year. We hope that Spring will finally be upon us by the May 20 opening and that many of you can join us as we celebrate this important Town achievement. It should be fun.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, STARTING AT 9:30 A.M.

Shredding and Recycling Event

The Environmental Committee is again taking advantage of the wonderful opportunity for shredding papers that **Phyllis Wiesenfelder** (Cumberland) arranges annually. The event will take place in the parking lot behind the tennis courts. Members of our committee will be on hand to collect spent rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs that have cast their last light, and long fluorescent tubes that shine no more. All of these can only be recycled

at the Shady Grove Transfer Station and we have arranged for our collection to be taken there. Last year a number of people brought alkaline batteries. These are the batteries we know by letter names ("AA", "C", "D", etc.). Unfortunately these batteries cannot be recycled. They must be put in your regular trash. (That's another reason to use rechargeable batteries wherever you can!)



Art Shows by Somerset Elementary School Fifth Graders



By Council Member Barbara Zeughauser, Trent Street

We are delighted to exhibit the work of the Somerset Elementary School's fifth graders again this year. Lynne Lewis, the art teacher at Somerset Elementary School, has been working with the students on an exciting art project that is on display at the Town Hall, now through June 7.

The plaster artwork is a reflection of the students' commitment to environmental issues and is painted in the style of Kehinde Wiley or Amy Sherald, the two artists who painted the portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama, currently on display at the National Portrait Gallery.

To accompany the artwork, each student has written a poem in response to anthropologist Margaret Mead's statement: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

In their poems, the students have written about what they think a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can do to help our environment, and what they can do in their own day-to-day lives to change the world for the better.

To accommodate all the fifth graders, the Town Hall will exhibit two separate shows and host two Opening Celebrations. The first show runs from April 25 through May 16, with an Opening Celebration on April 26 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The second show runs from May 18 through June 7, and the Opening Celebration takes place on May 18, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

We hope you will take the time to stop by and see these truly extraordinary exhibits. And we further hope that many residents will join in the Opening Celebrations!

SAVE-THE-DATE

**Kids' Pop-Up
Marketplace**

SUNDAY, MAY 20

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Town Hall



Shop the Marketplace!

*Meet Somerset's Kid
Entrepreneurs!*



Somerset children enjoy learning the game at the April 22 Tennis Celebration.

GENERAL PERMITS

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

5812 SURREY STREET

- 1 Leyland Cypress

4815 GRANTHAM AVENUE

- 1 Silver Maple

4802 FALSTONE AVENUE

- 1 Red Bud
- 1 Mulberry

4913 FALSTONE AVENUE

- 1 Black Cherry

STORAGE POD PERMIT

4816 DORSET AVENUE



Manager's Corner

By Rich Charnovich, *Town Manager*

FY19 Budget and 5-year Fiscal Plan

Summary copies of the Mayor's FY19 introduced budget and 5-year fiscal plan are included in this month's Journal. The FY19 operating and capital budgets are scheduled to be acted on at the May 7, 2018 Council Meeting. The summaries are also posted on the Town website. A full copy of the budget can be reviewed by contacting the Town Hall.

Proposed Ordinance to Amend Town Code Related to Pool Rules Enforcement

Ordinance No. 1-18 was introduced at the Council meeting on April 2, 2018. A public hearing on the Ordinance will be held on May 7, 2018. The Ordinance would amend Section 5-301 of the Town Code to allow the enforcement provisions and sanctions for violations of the pool rules to be set forth and expanded upon in the rules and regulations. Such enforcement could include the temporary or permanent suspension of privileges. Any suspension of privileges for more than 2 days would be appealable to the Town Council. A copy of the Ordinance is available for review on the Town website or at the Town Office.

2018 Tennis Passes

2018 Tennis passes can now be obtained in the Town Hall. Cost is \$25.00 per household for the year. You can obtain your pass in the Town Hall during business hours. Alternatively, if you pay for your tennis pass online at our Town website, the Town Hall will have it delivered to your home in a timely manner.

Bulk Refuse Pick-Up and Donations to Non-Profits

The next bulk refuse pick up will be on May 7, 2018. We always encourage residents to consider donating your items instead of discarding them. The Montgomery

County Volunteer Center provides a multitude of resources for items you may want to donate. Here is the URL: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/donations.html>

Traffic Pattern on Dorset near Wisconsin

In 2017, the Town adopted a temporary Ordinance moving the No Parking regulation further 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, it will be considered to make this temporary parking restriction a permanent one via a permanent Town Ordinance.

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.

Street Parking: Right side wheels to the curb when parking on the street

This is a friendly reminder that it is a Montgomery County police code violation (31-20 b10) to park your vehicle on the street opposite the flow of traffic (left wheels to the curb).

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



As my annual reminder, and related to my On My Mind column this month, now that Spring is here and beautiful flowers are blooming, I hope we will all make a special effort to use the Town trashcans when disposing of waste -- especially cigarette butts, small pieces of paper and chewing gum -- and, most importantly, that we dispose of dog poop properly. The value of our streetscape can never be overestimated so anything that we can do to enhance it is vital. And this would include making little stops on your walks (or even your drives) to bend down to pick up unsightly items--even the dog waste. The Council, Town staff and I will be greatly appreciative. It is also important to store toys and garden supplies when we are not using them and put away basketball hoops when game time is over. I have also noticed garden hoses lying around and holiday decorations that need to be stored. Finally, as a courtesy to those residents whose houses are for sale, it is particularly important that the nearby neighbors be especially vigilant in always keeping yards tidy and grass cut.

All residents are encouraged to participate in the important national **Bike to Work Day 2018** event. I hope to see everyone at the Friendship Heights pit stop on the morning of **Friday, May 18**. There will be coffee, breakfast food, exhibits and great prizes. Go to **waba.org** to register. In addition, there will be gathering sites all over the DMV.

Every day one of the highlights of my walks with my basset hound Molly is a stop at our wonderful "bookstore" at 5803 Warwick Place, our Little Free Library. I have been

contributing dozens of books over the past six months and am delighted that so many are now in new homes. And I have occasionally found something to take myself! I want to thank all those who are using this valuable asset and have made it a success. Hope the use continues.

Earlier this month, for the third time, I participated with a group, sponsored by the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights and expertly led by Director James Stowe, on a bus tour in the Deep South to visit many of the most important historical sites from the Civil Rights era. Leaving from Rockville, we traveled about 2,300 miles to North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi on what I would call a "chance of a lifetime experience." Along the way we met many veterans of "The Movement" who shared their remarkable stories, including the legendary Rev. C.T. Vivian, who worked very closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during those years. The tour will be repeated in 2019. I encourage all Somerset residents to participate. Get in touch with me at **202-549-2299** or **jzslavin@aol.com** and I can provide details.

Finally, I am deeply saddened by the passing of one of our most engaged residents, "activist extraordinaire" **Faye Cohen**, who lived with her husband Sheldon, former IRS Commissioner, on Trent Street. Her memorial service, which I attended, was very moving and special and featured remarks by her four children, all of whom grew up in Town and are graduates of B-CC High School. Faye was incredibly supportive of me in my elected positions in Somerset and I will continue to rely on her expert advice daily.

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 Somerset is also represented in another Channel 16 program, *The*

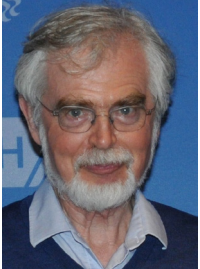
Art Scene with host and Somerset resident **Lila Snow** (Essex). Lila covers art, film, books and TV. Her show airs on Mondays at 9:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 9:30p.m., and Saturdays at 12:15 p.m. and also streams to the website **www.mmctv.org**. Click on video and then scroll to the *Art Scene* and choose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



All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*

From time to time, I want to spotlight the important work of those who support the Town in various capacities – often in ways that are not highly visible. This column includes two widely divergent examples.



The first is **Robin Barr** (Essex) who chairs the Town's Environmental Committee. Robin has lived in Somerset (along with his wife, **Leslie Caplan**) since 1995. Robin has had a keen interest in environmental issues his entire life. He joined the committee when the Council created it around 10 years ago and became its chair in 2013.

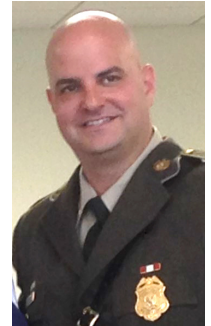
Needless to say, the issues under the committee's jurisdiction affect all of us in our daily lives. The "big constants" are the sanitation contracts addressing landfill, recycling, compost, garden waste, and bulk refuse. The goal of Somerset (and all local jurisdictions) is to reduce landfill and increase everything else. We're currently at 60% for "everything else," and Robin is hoping to get us to 70% ahead of Montgomery County's target date of 2020. While another 10% shift may not sound daunting, Robin cautions that the climb gets progressively harder as the percentage goes up.

Other significant topics on the Committee's agenda include street lights, cell towers, storm water drainage, and leaf removal. Robin happens to be a proponent of letting leaves stay on the ground over the winter where they catch storm water and slow runoff. Bugs also lay eggs in the leaves. When they hatch, the bugs provide a critical source of protein for hungry, nest-building, egg-laying birds. As Robin put it, "If you rake your leaves, you're starving the birds!" In the spring, the leaves can be mulched by mowing – providing a great source of nutrients for a healthy lawn. Robin recognizes he's advocating a big change from current practice and is therefore "pushing the idea gently."

We're fortunate to have the stewardship of Robin and the rest of his committee on a wide range of complex and critical issues for the Town. On a personal note, Leslie and Robin raised their son **Matthew** in Somerset. Now 30, he lives in Hyattsville and, to everyone's delight, is

getting married in May at the Audubon Society's Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase.

The second example is **Corporal Dave Cohen**. Dave is a Montgomery County police officer – one of several who moonlight in Somerset. He and the others provide additional police presence primarily to calm traffic and deter criminal activity. All of the officers are chosen because they are outgoing and able to interact with our neighbors – following a community policing model. Dave has covered the Somerset beat for four years.



Dave majored in business in college and started his professional life in data analysis. Sitting in his office in Rosslyn when United flight 77 hit the Pentagon on 9/11, he quickly decided he "didn't want to continue working behind a desk." In 2003, he went through the police academy and, for the first seven years, worked "on the road" in Bethesda. Combining an interest in science and earlier rescue experience as a teenage volunteer firefighter, he started working on crash scene investigations. Since 2013, he has served as the assistant supervisor in the office that handles investigation and reconstruction of fatal and life-threatening accidents on all county roads, except interstates. It's tough yet rewarding work. As Dave explains, he's in a unique position to "pick up the pieces, put the puzzle together, and tell the story of what actually happened."

Dave lives in Damascus with his wife (a nurse) and their three energetic and busy daughters. His neighborhood has strong community ties, and he finds echoes of a similar way of life in Somerset – albeit with less of a country feel.

When you see our police guardians on their rounds, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself and say hello.

And finally, a brief roundup of some neighborhood milestones. **Janet Baldinger** (Surrey) reports her granddaughter, **Sarah Baldinger**, had to make the difficult choice between acceptances from Yale and Harvard Law Schools. She's heading to Yale in September.... **Frank Joseph** (Warwick) has won three awards for his novel-

Continued on page 14

All About People

in-progress, *To Do Justice*, including the Chicago Writers Association's First Chapter Award.... From **Barbara Levine** (Uppingham): Her daughter **Shoshana** is graduating from Barnard College in May with a degree in physics. Her son **Caleb** will be starting law school at George Washington University in August.... **Vicki Malone** (Essex) is one of 41 artists from the United States whose work is to be included in *Botanical Art Worldwide - America's Flora* at the United States Botanic Garden from May 4 through October 15. The show will travel to other venues nationwide until 2020.

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 April 2, 2018. The Council took the following actions:

1. Approval of the February 5, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes. (Summary of Ordinance in Manager's Corner of this Journal; full version can be reviewed in the Town Hall and on Town website)
2. 1 nomination was accepted for Mayor: Jeffrey Slavin.
3. 2 nominations were accepted for Town Council: Morris Panner and Steve Surko.
4. The FY19 operating and capital budgets were introduced. (Summary is published in this Journal)
5. The 5-year fiscal plan was discussed. (Summary is published in this Journal)
6. Approval of a building permit at 4801 Falstone Avenue to install a screened porch at the rear of the property.
7. Introduction of an Ordinance to amend Section 5-301 of the Town Code related to Pool Rules Enforcement.
8. Adoption of the 2018 Pool Rules. (New rules can be found on Town website)
9. Approval of a contract with AquaFree Facilities Services Inc. for pool cleaning services for the 2018 season.
10. Mayor Slavin provided his report. Town Manager Charnovich provided administrative and financial reports. An update was discussed on telecommunications tower legislation (small cell towers).

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, May 7, 2018

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on Monday, May 7, 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 Zeughauser, Franny Peale, Dudley Fowlkes, Marnie Shaul, Barbara Condos

CONSENT

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

NON-CONSENT

3. **Discussion:** Town Manager April Administrative and Financial Reports-7:35 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of the FY19 Budget and set the real and personal property tax rates-7:45 p.m.
5. **Discussion:** Final update on WSSC Town parkland infrastructure upgrade project (adjacent to Wisconsin Avenue)-7:55 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following Spring tree plantings as recommended by the Town Arborist:-8:05 p.m.
 - 2 Rutgers Dogwood Celestial at 4801 Falstone Avenue on Surrey Street
 - 1 Red Oak at 4816 Grantham Avenue
 - 1 Black Gum at 5504 Uppingham Street
 - 1 Black Gum at 5519 Uppingham Street

- 1 Willow Oak at 5529 Uppingham Street
- 1 Sugar Maple at Capello Park
- 1 Swamp White Oak at Vinton Park
- 1 Sycamore at Dorset and Wisconsin Avenue, Vinton Park
- 1 Rutgers Dogwood Celestial at Dorset and Wisconsin Avenue, Capello Park

7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of an Ordinance to amend Section 5-301 of the Town Code related to Pool Rules Enforcement-8:10 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a proposal submitted by Skyline Technology Solutions for off-site security monitoring services at the Town Pool for the 2018 season-8:15 p.m.
9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Traffic report by Sabra Wang and Associates, Inc. related to the intersection of Warwick Lane and Cumberland Avenue-8:20 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider proposal(s) received for annual audit services-8:35 p.m.
11. **Discussion:** General Code Update-8:40 p.m.
12. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report-8:45 p.m.
13. **Adjourn**-8:50 p.m.

KEY

Public Hearing Item: Agenda item where public comment is permitted.

Discussion Item: Agenda item limited to discussion among the Council, Mayor and Town Staff.

Motion Item: Agenda item requesting action, limited to Council discussion.

Comments: Opinions and Questions from Town residents.

*Residents who wish to be present for a particular Agenda item are advised to arrive 20 minutes ahead of the item's scheduled discussion time since discussions sometimes run ahead of schedule.

This is a preliminary Agenda prepared to meet the Journal press deadline, which typically is two to three weeks prior to the next Town Council meeting. During this period, there will likely be changes to the timing of items, and some items may be added or deleted. Please contact Rich Charnovich at Town Hall if you are interested in what has been added, or consult the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch or the Town website/email 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.