



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

SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



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Montgomery County Planning Board Rejects Parks' Proposed Road Diet on Little Falls Parkway

By David Kathan, Dorset Avenue

On June 13, 2019, the Montgomery County Planning Board rejected a permanent "road diet," i.e., a lane reduction, in this case, from two to one in each direction, proposed by the Montgomery Parks Department for the Capital Crescent Trail crossing at Little Falls Parkway by a vote of 4-1. Instead, the Planning Board adopted an alternative design that will return Little Falls Parkway to four lanes and divert the Capital Crescent Trail to the traffic light at the Arlington Road intersection.

After many months of deliberation and public comment, the Montgomery Parks Department presented its preferred long-term solution, which would (a) reduce Little Falls Parkway from four lanes to two lanes between Hillandale Road and Arlington Road, (b) maintain the current, uncontrolled mid-block crossing of the Capital Crescent Trail; and (c) create a link between the Little Falls Trail and the Capital Crescent Trail.

The surrounding neighborhoods, many concerned citizens (including **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin** and **Council President Marnie Shaul**), and the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail objected to Parks' proposed road diet. Surrounding streets, such as Hillandale Road, have seen increases in traffic volume and cut-through traffic

due to the current temporary road diet. Moreover, this group was very concerned about future traffic and safety on residential streets if the road diet were to become permanent, particularly given the upcoming developments at Westbard and downtown Bethesda. Instead, they advocated for a return of Little Falls Parkway to four lanes and a diversion of the Capital Crescent Trail to the traffic light at Arlington Road intersection. The majority of the Planning Board agreed with this alternative.

Updates to the 2019-2020 Town Resident Directory Due August 9

It is that time of year when we ask residents if they wish to update their Town Directory contact information. Please review your entry and let the Town Hall know by **COB Friday, August 9, 2019** if you would like any changes to your listing, including emails, phone numbers, etc. If you are not sure of your current listing, please contact the Town Hall to obtain it.

A Guide to Somerset:
Handbook and Directory



2018 - 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Update on Small Cell Towers

PAGE
3

To Your Health: Some Cooking Ideas

PAGE
4

Tennis Clinic on the Fourth of July

PAGE
5



ON MY MIND

Work-Life Balance: Advice to U.S. Mayors ... and You

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

This month, I will travel to Honolulu for the annual summer meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It will be especially significant because I went to college with Kirk Caldwell, the mayor of that great city, and to law school with his wife!

This year, for the first time, each registered mayor will have the opportunity to address one of the sessions on a topic of his or her choosing. Since I represent the smallest municipality holding membership in the Conference, obviously Somerset's basic issues are vastly different from those of New York, Chicago, or L.A. Accordingly, I chose a subject that will have universal meaning: how to achieve a work-life balance. It is my strong feeling that in order to be a good "caregiver" to constituents, a leader must also learn to take care of himself or herself.

As part of a self-assessment on that topic, I will ask each attendee at my session three questions. The first will be: What does it mean to have a work-life balance for an elected official? Then I will give my three answers: 1. Having control over my time and schedule. While this is more difficult in larger cities, it is nonetheless important. We only have so many hours in a day, regardless of the size of the city or the difficulty of the task. It's up to us to utilize those hours efficiently. 2. Staying attentive to things, a/k/a "mindfulness." Try to be proactive in sensing potential problems before they become actual problems. It's easier to solve a problem before it has materialized, at which point it may become urgent, and positions may have hardened. Staying ahead of the game makes for more efficient use of your time. 3. Making happiness the ultimate goal. This includes both happiness for myself and for my constituents. For me, doing a good job serving my community is a great source of happiness, and if I do a good job my constituents are happy, too.

The next question will be: What do you find most challenging in balancing all the demands? My own answers: 1. Effective prioritization. With so many competing demands (and the number and scale grow with the size of the city), I have to decide which I must deal with first and which can be delayed. Staying attentive to things facilitates prioritization by making fewer problems urgent. 2. Learning to say no when necessary. Political leaders hate to do this, but a simple "no" accompanied by an explanation will save a great deal of time and effort, and in addition will avoid the need to work on and justify a program or policy that you feel you really can't support. 3. Limiting micromanagement. We can't do everything ourselves, and we'll become frazzled and burned out if we try. The key? Hire good people so that when we delegate we will have confidence that they will do a good job.

Continued on page 2

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SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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

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Update on Small Cell Tower Siting Legislation

By Council President Marnie Shaul, Uppingham Street

(Based on an article by William Jorch, Manager Government Relations and Research for MML, in *Municipal Maryland*, May-June Issue)

Two vastly different bills about small cell tower siting were introduced during the January-April Maryland legislative session. No compromise was reached so no legislation passed this year. The community coalition bill which was supported by Somerset, other local governments and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) would preserve the authority of governments and transparency of the installation process. The wireless industry bill focused on preempting government zoning regulations by mandating uniform processes and fees.



According to the MML, the committee hearings in the Maryland House and Senate were contentious and lasted over four hours each. In the end, both committees voted to send the bills to summer study. It is not clear exactly what shape the summer study will take. Because this issue will likely be back during the 2020 legislative session, the MML is encouraging local governments to create local design standards and ordinances in anticipation of eventual deployment.

The MML is holding a workshop on this topic at its annual meeting and several Town council members plan to attend to learn more about this important issue.

Continued from page 2

On My Mind

And finally I will ask: What are the best strategies to achieve this balance? My three top responses 1. Limit time on social media and texts. All of us are deluged by the siren call of social media, emails, texts, and the like. Surely we can dismiss most of them, and we can dedicate blocks of time to deal with those we can't dismiss so they do not constantly interrupt our work and our lives. 2. Get sufficient food, exercise, and sleep. If we are not healthy, well fed, and well rested, we can't possibly be at the top of our game, and we cannot do our best work. And if we can't do our best, we will be less happy—and so will the people we serve. 3. Schedule relaxation and family time. In order to keep our sanity and to be there for the people closest to us, we need to include relaxation and family time in our schedules as mandatory activities. It's too easy to let work gobble up our time, but we can't sacrifice ourselves and our loved ones in order to put in a little extra work time.

Most of our Town residents have demanding, stressful lives, especially including those whose full-time job is running a household. I hope that this lesson will be helpful and that everyone will take time to do a self-assessment.

JULY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Annual Town July 4th
Celebration

12:00 noon at the Town Hall

Tennis Clinic

9 a.m. at the Tennis Courts



Notice from Montgomery County for Parents of Rising Kindergarteners

If you have a child ready to enter kindergarten, please call Somerset Elementary School at (240) 740-1100 to make arrangements to pick up a registration packet. Fill it out and return it to the school as soon as possible so that your child will be registered for Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year!





To Your Health

By Diane Horn, Certified Wellness Coach
Chair, Ad Hoc Wellness Committee, Surrey Street

If you are anything like me, you may not like giving a lot of thought to meal planning and preparation over the summer. Whether you have guests visiting, a house filled with your kids' friends or are not in the mood to cook, you may need to come up with a few easy last-minute meals.

I have a few recipe ideas I'd like to share. They are healthy and can be modified to suit all tastes or dietary concerns. Plus they should work for all ages and dietary needs.

The first is a *Buddha Bowl*. This is something your guests can assemble themselves. The name may come from the tale of the Buddha accepting donations of food into the bowl he carried throughout his travels. I've also read that the shape of the bowl resembled his belly. At any rate, we are talking about a meal in a bowl. Wide shallow bowls work best.

If you do a Google search, you will find many beautiful pictures of finished Buddha bowls to inspire you. Most start with a grain choice like rice or a seed like quinoa. You may add whatever other components you like including a protein source (for vegetarians, use a plant based protein such as edamame, beans or tofu). You can also offer pieces of fish, chicken or beef.

Now let your creativity inspire you as you add your other ingredients. Kids will like adding spiralized veggies or anything that is cut in appealing shapes. Top with a sauce or dressing. Popular ones include carrot ginger and lemon tahini. You can place bowls containing different sauces and toppings so people can choose their own.

Food prep can be done ahead of time and kept in storage containers in the refrigerator. Don't forget that items like cooked sweet potato pieces and avocado slices can also be stored ahead of time. People serve themselves buffet style. Uneaten leftovers can be used in a salad or put into a pot to make soup.

For dessert you can pre-make frozen fruit smoothie pops and/or healthy rice krispie bars (made without sugar or corn syrup). Today's rice krispies also come gluten free.

If you would like a specific recipe, please let me know and consider sharing some of your own recipes and meal ideas. You can send them to me at Diane.b.horn@gmail.com and I will compile them. Maybe we'll even try a pot luck.

Recent Town Get-Togethers



Brown Bag Lunch in May when Mayor Slavin swore in Marnie Shaul as Council President.



Matt Trollinger, new Town Manager, at Pool Kick-Off Party



Annual Pool Kick-Off Party

Tennis Fun on the Fourth of July

By Carrie Wofford, Chair, Tennis Committee, Essex Avenue

Looking for some tennis fun on the morning of the Fourth of July? Looking to kill time before the start of the Town's annual celebration and picnic lunch? Tennis pro Dara Mirala (who teaches many of our kids) has offered to run a clinic at 9:00 a.m. that day.

If you aren't a tennis card holder, drop by Town Hall before the 4th to buy your tennis card pass.



SOMERSET'S FREE LITTLE LIBRARY An Opportunity to Do Some "Beach Reading"

By Cinzia Furlanetto, Dorset Avenue

Summer is here and many of us will be have an opportunity to relax at the pool or on a beach with a good book. An entertaining novel is generally the favored genre for this time of the year between a dip into the water and a chat with a friend. The Town's *Free Little Library*, already a popular place to discover a new book, continues to be a great place to find a "cool" new book for summer reading. Let's try to share lots of "beach reading" books over the next few months and save other titles for the fall.

Also, there will be lots of children in the neighborhood, many attending Camp Summerset, so let's be sure that there are plenty of childrens' books available.

Remember that the *Little Free Library* is all about taking a book and sharing a book. Let's all do our part. Happy summer reading to everyone!

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.



Leaf Blowers

As our Town discusses the possibility of piggy backing the recent DC five-year phase out of internal combustion leaf blowers, aka extremely loud and huge polluters, I recently discussed this DC

law with my landscaper. To incentivize his move to electric blowers, I told him that I would help him pay for his first battery operated machine. He indicated that his internal combustion leaf blowers typically last only two years, so he was happy to try the newly available electric ones, which are comparably priced at around \$300. It is much quieter, lighter and although slightly less powerful in air flow, my landscaper is completely happy with its performance and plans to convert to electric over the next two years. Please consider doing the same with your landscaper, IT'S A NO BRAINER!



Pesticide-Free Yards

In our planet's push to be more sustainable, pesticides have now been determined to have a much larger impact on humans than previously thought. Pesticides are now found in the food we eat and they kill bees, butterflies, and

other insects that birds feed on. They are a danger to pets and to small children. Thankfully, many neighbors have now opted not to use pesticide and we are hoping more neighbors will join us. For those neighbors interested in a Pesticide-Free sign, please contact us at **TOS.**

EnvironmentCommittee@gmail.com and we will be happy to drop off a sign for you to place on your property along the curb. Displaying this sign helps to show others, including cut-through neighbors, that our community is not only a Tree City but also determined to be a Pesticide-Free Town as well.

Battery Recycling and Shredding Day a Big Success

On June 1st, the Town had a shredding truck come to the Town Hall and with the help of donuts and volunteers (including Environment Committee Members **Donna Harman** (Dorset), **Ralph Wooden** (River), **Jack Frink** (Cumberland), **Robin Barr** (Essex), and myself), we had a lot of neighbors arrive with their old batteries, Itune players, old computer disks, and lots of private papers to shred. It was a big success and a big thanks to **Phyllis Wiesenfelder** (Cumberland) for organizing this!

100% Renewable Electric Energy

We now have about one quarter of our town using 100% renewable electric energy. THAT'S FANTASTIC! It's now time for those who haven't made the easy switch to do so. It's better for the planet and ALSO it is better for your wallet. As you might know, this year is a tipping point for our planet when renewable energy is now cheaper than the fossil fuels in ALL countries worldwide. Amazingly, the country of Chile now produces renewable energy that is ½ the cost of coal! So, for those ready to keep their Pepco bill, but spend less money, please go to **www.MotherEarthProject.org/renewables** for the simple switch to Clearview Energy. All you need is the 10-digit account number at the top of the second page of your Pepco bill.

Please Send Us Your Comments

We want your input and ideas as our town and local neighborhoods push hard for a reduced carbon footprint and a more sustainable lifestyle. Please send your comments to **TOS.EnvironmentCommittee@gmail.com**.



All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*



Susan Lee serves Somerset and the rest of District 16 in the Maryland Senate where she is the Majority Whip and has a host of other duties. Senator Lee was elected to the Senate in 2014 (filling the seat previously held by **Attorney General Brian Frosh** (Grantham) and was reelected

to a second term last year. She is the moving force behind significant legislation in the areas of cybersecurity, domestic violence, labor trafficking, gun safety, and much more. Among other milestones, she is the first Asian American elected to the Maryland Senate and the first Asian American and Chinese woman elected to the Maryland legislature. You can find more details about Susan in her Senate bio at <http://www.mdsenate.com/senator-susan-lee>. I recently caught up with her, and we took the opportunity to speak about her career in public office.

Susan initially was appointed to the House of Delegates in 2002 to fill the seat Nancy Kopp vacated to become State Treasurer. Through successive elections, Susan remained a Delegate until 2015 when she moved to the Senate. Prior to joining the legislature, Susan, 64, had a career primarily working as a lawyer in private practice and for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. She also had a stint as the Legislative Assistant to the Montgomery County Council President. She has had leading roles in forming and running various legal, community, and political organizations over the course of her adult life which have included efforts to promote the participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the political process. Along with former congressman and cabinet secretary Norman Mineta and others, Susan was a co-founder of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Institute (now the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies).

Recognizing her longstanding focus on civic and political affairs, I asked her to describe her jump into the world of elective office: "I was initially reluctant to make the move. I was a practicing attorney and, among other things, had to consider the financial impact of making the change. I spoke with my husband, recognizing that serving in the legislature would require tremendous

personal commitment. I knew I would need to put all of my heart and energy into my new position. Frankly, not having children did make the decision a little easier. Most importantly, I knew that my past experience forming and running groups and working at the national level would serve me well as a legislator, not to mention my comfort with public speaking. I asked myself, 'what's next for me' and concluded that my knowledge and experience, gained over many years, would give me a strong foundation to hold elective office and help the community."

Susan also described how her family and early life set the stage for her commitment to public service:

"My parents, who were always involved in the community, had a strong influence on me. Both sets of my grandparents emigrated from southern China and ultimately settled in Texas. During World War II, my father enlisted in the Navy at age 17 which opened his eyes to the world. After the war, he obtained a masters in social work and later became a union president. When our family moved to Washington, DC, my mother worked as an artist for the Washington Post. Both tried to instill in me an understanding of the need for public service which I hope I've reflected in my career and volunteer choices as an adult."

Susan expressed gratitude for the support and encouragement she's received from a long line of mentors including her parents, former Delegate Marilyn Goldwater, former Democratic party chair Terry Lierman ("a giant in Maryland politics"), Karen Britto, former Delegate and former chair of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, retired patent judge Chung K. Pak, Joe Gebhardt, the senior partner in her law firm, **Brian Frosh**, and **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin** ("who makes exceptional efforts on behalf of women of color"). As Susan describes it, "I've been blessed to have the best minds backing me and helping me every step of the way."

I asked Susan if there are particular challenges she faces as a legislator that she'd like her constituents to understand: "It's not easy passing good legislation particularly since we only have a 90 day session and are typically dealing with around 2,000 bills. For all of my key bills, I organize a coalition of advocates and partners to provide support. That's what we did to set the stage for the 2016 passage of

the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act for which I was the lead sponsor in the Senate. It's one of the strongest pay equity statutes in the country, and passing it took getting all of the stakeholders together including employers. I'm already lining up the coalitions I'll need to support the legislation I'll introduce in the 2020 session which starts next January."

Susan told me she takes great pride in having Somerset in her district and cited the Town as "a model community with strong leadership." She's a regular at our 4th of July event and said this year will be no exception. Please take a moment during the festivities to say hello.

Turning to the local scene, Journal co-editor **Mary Wisniewski** and husband **Walter** (Greystone) are proud new grandparents of Baby Charlie Walter, born June 14

at Shady Grove Hospital. Charlie's dad, **Ben** (Somerset ES, Westland, B-CC), is a special education teacher at Rockville High School and mom Stephanie teaches special education at Strawberry Knolls Elementary.

Maura Finkelstein, daughter of **Nat** and **Esther** (Surrey), recently had her first academic book published. The book is *The Archive of Loss* from the Duke University Press. Maura is an assistant professor of anthropology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown Pennsylvania.

My son, **Seth Tillman**, is a writer/producer of local documentaries at public television station WETA. His most recent show, *Washington in the 2000s*, premiered on May 14 and will continue to air periodically.

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.

WINTERGREEN, VIRGINIA RESORT: TripAdvisor #FKN9242609. 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. Contact **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**.

SOMERSET RENTAL: Updated 3 bedroom, 3 bath rambler. Living room and rec room fireplaces. Walk out basement. Screen porch. Hardwood floors main level. 1 car garage. Fenced yard. Walk to Friendship Heights Metro, Somerset Elementary School, pool and tennis courts. \$3950. Available May 1st, 2019. Please call 703-970-3943, **Roman and Mitzi Halla**.

CLEVELAND PARK D.C. RENTAL: Charming historic home, Cleveland Park D.C., for rent from July, 2019. \$4,800, 3/4 Br 2.5 BA. Many windows, built-ins. Two sun porches. Basement au-pair suite, study. Large garden, 2-car garage. Walk to Wisconsin / Connecticut. 15 minutes to downtown. Phone: 202-403- 9702 or email anjalikumar16@gmail.com for weblink to pictures. **Anjali Kumar**.

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.



Manager's Corner

By Rich Charnovich, Town Manager

Passing the Baton

The time has come to pass the *Manager's Corner* baton to my successor and colleague, **Matt Trollinger**. I hope that all Somerset residents have found the topics I have written about in this column over the years to be informative and helpful.

July Council Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 2 (NOT on first Monday)

Please note the July Town Council will take place on **Tuesday, July 2**, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Town's Annual July Fourth Celebration

Please mark your calendar for Somerset's annual celebration on the grounds surrounding the Town Hall. Please refer to the insert in this month's Journal for details.

July Fourth Volunteers Needed!

Each year, the Town Hall seeks volunteers to help with decorating the Town Hall in advance of the July 4 celebration. If you are able to assist, please contact the Town Hall. The decorating usually takes place between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on the morning of the Fourth.

Annual July Fourth Cupcake Contest Volunteer Needed!

Don't miss out on the annual cupcake decorating contest. This year, we are seeking a volunteer to help with "registering the bakers and their cupcakes" when the cupcakes are dropped off at the Town Hall. The cupcakes must be dropped off at the Town Hall between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on July 4th. Please contact the Town Hall if you can help.

Calling All Somerset Graduates!

As part of the annual July Fourth celebration, the Town recognizes all 2019 Somerset graduates at all levels of schooling. Please send an email to **manager@townofsomerset.com** and provide the following:

- Graduate's full name
- Street
- School graduated from
- Next step postgraduation

Summertime Safety Reminder

With school finishing up for the summer, there are always more children walking and playing outside. Please watch out for children walking and biking to and from the Town pool. Please take a look at this Montgomery County website with summer safety information: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/summersafety/>

Town Directory Updates for the 2019-2020 Edition

It is that time of year again when we begin to ask for updates to our Town Directory. Please review your entry in the Directory and let the Town Hall know if you would like any changes to your listing. If you are not sure of your current listing, please contact the Town Hall to obtain it.

Directory updates will be received until the close of business on August 9, 2019.

Blue Recycling Bins

If your blue recycling bin is damaged beyond repair and you would like a replacement, please inform the Town Hall. New bins have been received for distribution .

Maintenance of Shrubbery over Sidewalks and Common Areas

This is a friendly reminder concerning vegetation that grows over sidewalks in the community. It is the responsibility of property owners to ensure your vegetation is not hindering the public sidewalks. The Town does its best to work with private property owners to allow them to trim their shrubbery back as they wish. Please note that the Town does have the right to protect the public right of way. Should a dangerous condition exist, the Town has the authority to trim back vegetation.

Vegetation should be cut back to the following specification: 12 inches from the sidewalk and up to 8 feet off the ground.

We thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that the public sidewalks are as safe as possible for pedestrians. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Hall.

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



It was my great honor at the last Council meeting to swear-in newly re-elected Council Members **Franny Peale** (Uppingham) and **Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent). I also had the privilege of swearing-in newly re-elected Council Member **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) for her seventh term at the recent Brown Bag Lunch at the pool. At the June Council meeting, Marnie was re-elected by the Council to serve as Council President. I look forward to working with these outstanding and extremely capable elected officials throughout the coming year.

Monday, June 3 was the day our new Town Manager, **Matt Trollinger**, arrived for work at Town Hall. Matt has already begun to make his mark. **Rich Charnovich**, our outgoing Town Manager, has been overseeing Matt's orientation and training this month. Matt will officially assume his new position on July 1. Stop in to meet him if you haven't already!

I want to congratulate **David Kathan** (Dorset) and the other Town activists who opposed the Montgomery Planning Board's latest plan for the nearby "troublesome" intersection at Little Falls Parkway and the Capital Crescent Trail where there have been many safety concerns. The revised plan that the Board approved would not have been possible without the engagement of these dedicated citizens. I was proud to accompany them to the public hearing earlier this month.

While our Town Code allows us to work in our yards and use equipment—that could bother neighbors—on Sundays as long as it's after 9 a.m., I would like to encourage all residents, whenever possible, to avoid scheduling

landscapers or doing the work themselves on Sunday mornings. I recently have received a number of complaints about the use of lawn mowers and tree trimmers on Sundays when many persons enjoy some quiet time. Thanks for your consideration in advance.

In my continuing effort to increase Town spirit, I encourage all residents to attend the meets of our highly successful municipal swim team—the Somerset Dolphins. Please go to their website at www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?tabid=0&team=recmcslsd to obtain information on their summer schedule. You can also purchase some beautiful "swag" to wear around the DMV.

This month, Council President **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) along with Council Member **Stephen Surko** (Uppingham), and I will travel to Ocean City to represent our hamlet at the annual Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference. The opportunities to learn best practices, network and get information on the latest goods and services in the municipal world is immeasurable and one of the highlights of my year. I am proud to say that this will be my 17th convention since being elected mayor. I am pleased that our new Town Manager, **Matt Trollinger**, is attending, too, and will be carrying our flag in the parade of flags at the opening session, where the announcer will call out our fantastic town motto authored by **David Sacks** (Trent): *"Where people and trees have deep roots and grow strong."* It is so rewarding to have a motto that pays honor to our beloved trees and wonderful friendships. Let's all try to use this motto where appropriate throughout the year. Hope all of our Town Dads had a wonderful Father's Day!

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on June 3, 2019 and took the following actions:

1. Approval of the April 8, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the May 6, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Approval of the May 7, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
4. Approval of the FY18 Audit as presented by the Town Auditors, Zelenkofske Axelrod, (??) and as recommended by the Town Audit Committee.
5. Approval of the removal of the following Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist: 1 Dogwood at 5501 Surrey Street and 1 Red Maple at 5513 Greystone Street.
6. Approval of a 1-year extension on the contract with Lee Tree Service for Town of Somerset tree removal and maintenance services.
7. Approval of the following plan amendments for the building project occurring at 5800 Deal Place: window well installation along Deal Place, fence installation along Deal Place, wall installation on the left side of the property (if looking at the house from Dorset Avenue). All items as approved meet the Town Code of Ordinances.
8. Approval of a 6-month building permit extension for the project occurring at 5800 Deal Place.
9. Approval of a replacement HVAC unit installation at 4811 Grantham Avenue contingent upon it meeting the required noise levels.
10. Approval of an Exception at 5603 Warwick Place for a fence installation in the rear yard to replace the existing fence. The new fence will not exceed the height of the existing fence.
11. Approval of a spring parts list proposal submitted by American Pool to complete items needed to open the Town Pool for the season.
12. Deferral to a later date of the Introduction of an Ordinance adopting Town Code amendments in relation to the project with General Code.

In addition to the actions taken by the Council, Council Members Franny Peale and Barbara Zeughauser were sworn into office. Council Member Marnie Shaul was approved as Council President. Mayor Slavin provided his monthly report and had it available at the meeting. Town Manager Charnovich discussed the May administrative and monthly financial reports. Doug Lohmeyer was in attendance to present the Building Permit Administrator Report concerning ongoing projects with building permits. Lou Balodemas was in attendance to provide an update on the Town Hall interior and exterior construction project. David Kathan, Town resident, attended the meeting and addressed the Council with comments related to plans for the intersection of Capital Crescent Trail and Little Falls Parkway. Kristen Khanna, PNRC Chairwoman, informed the Council and Mayor that the PNRC would like to work with the Town Arborist over the summer on updating the Town tree planting policy.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on July 2, 2019 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 (l to r): Morris Panner, Marnie Shaul, Franny Peale, Barbara Zeughauser, Stephen Surko

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider approval of the June 3, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of Bank Signature Card Resolutions for Suntrust Bank and Capital One Bank replacing Richard Charnovich with Matthew Trollinger.

NON-CONSENT

3. **Discussion:** Town Manager June Administrative and FY19 Fiscal Reports– 7:35 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Building Permit Administrator Report– 7:45 p.m.
5. **Discussion:** Town Hall construction project update – 7:50 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a building permit at 4602 Dorset Avenue to construct a rear yard addition and install 2 HVAC units– 8:00 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider confirmation approval of an emergency HVAC unit installation at 5510 Surrey Street–8:05 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider removal of the following Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist– 8:10 p.m.

- Spruce 12" at 4810 Essex Avenue – 90% dead
- Serviceberry 2" at 4909 Falstone Avenue – dead
- Dogwood 3" at 5501 Surrey Street – dead
- Pin Oak 30" at 5522 Warwick Place – 50% dead
- Tulip Poplar 34" at 5522 Warwick Place (in woods to the south) – Hazardous to house
- Tulip Poplar 24" at 5522 Warwick Place (in woods to the south) – Hazardous to house
- Tulip Poplar 15" at 5522 Warwick Place (in woods to the south) – Hazardous to house
- Tulip Poplar 21" at 5522 Warwick Place (in woods to the south) – Hazardous to house
- Zelkova 8" at 5603 Warwick Place – 50% dead

All sizes in inches diameter at 4.5' above ground level.

9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of a Resolution approving the County 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan– 8:15 p.m.
10. **Discussion:** General Code Update– 8:25 p.m.
11. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report– 8:30 p.m.
12. **Adjourn**– 8:35 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.