

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



# SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 64 • No. 6

June 2019



By Matthew Zaft, Chair, Pool Committee, Dorset Avenue

By the time you read this the pool will be open! Here is what you need to know:

- **Morning Swim is back!** As was the case last year, this year it will be ongoing 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. You can have it charged to your pool account or write a check. Checks should be made payable to Town of Somerset with "Morning Swim" written on the memo line and dropped off at Town Hall. To have your pool account charged, just email the Town at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com) with copies to Debbie Heller (Falstone) ([debbielheller@gmail.com](mailto:debbielheller@gmail.com)) and to me ([matthew.zaft@morganstanley.com](mailto:matthew.zaft@morganstanley.com)). Same as last year, there is also the option to drop in for \$5 per swim if you

do not sign up for the entire summer, and 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.

- **Water Aerobics** will be back again this year from June 17th through August 23rd (no class on July 5). Please see Lucy Freeman's (Dorset) article on water aerobics in this edition of the Journal for more information.
- We will be updating and expanding our **Safety Event** (still with ice cream) to include drowning awareness education for residents of all ages. More details to follow, but mark **June 15th** on your calendars now!
- Two **late night swims** are already scheduled for **Saturday, June 15th** and **Sunday, September 1st** (Labor Day weekend). The pool will stay open an extra hour (until 10 p.m.) those nights!

*Continued on page 3*

## IN THIS ISSUE



**Water Aerobics  
Starting Soon!**

PAGE  
**3**



**Update on LED  
Town Lighting**

PAGE  
**4**



**Electric Car Test  
Drive Event**

PAGE  
**9**



## ON MY MIND

### Racism, Diversity, Inclusion & Equity on the Table

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

As I have discussed, stated and proclaimed, practically on a daily basis, our wonderful Town of Somerset is populated by well-intentioned residents who are almost universally blessed with great educations, bountiful resources and numerous privileges. Additionally, we are constantly attempting through our policies and programs to be welcoming to All, regardless of place of birth, race, religion, orientations, etc.

As mayor, I am deeply committed to ensuring that Somerset remains respectful, sensitive, and welcoming to multicultural residents, guests, and workers. I view it as my responsibility to continuously support a civic culture and behaviors to address and meet this challenge.

And since we are an integral part of a County of over a million residents (larger than seven states), we must also educate ourselves and be aware of the major inequities that exist just "outside our door." Our public schools have an achievement gap. Many County residents face serious transportation challenges that impair their ability to find work and raise a family. Affordable housing is woefully inadequate. And yes, some County residents go hungry every night. And it is truly unfortunate that, as in so many parts of this country, these overwhelming challenges disproportionately affect our nonwhite neighbors.

I want to applaud County Executive Marc Elrich and Council President Nancy Navarro for being out front and center on this topic right now. They have made the decision and are taking appropriate steps to ensure that throughout the County government decisions will always be made while applying a racial equity lens. They are both keenly aware of the role that racism has played in creating these terrible disparities.

In the coming weeks, months and years I also want to see the Somerset government and its residents steer themselves in the same direction. I am glad that so many residents have indicated to me already that they are committed to helping.

## 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 President  
5509 Uppingham Street  
301-913-5973  
mshaul@townofsomerset.com

**Morris Panner**, 4815 Essex Avenue  
301-656-6184  
mpanner@townofsomerset.com

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

**Stephen Surko**, 5500 Uppingham Street  
301-656-5004  
ssurko@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  
Editor for this month's Journal

**Mary Wisniewski**  
mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

## Pool News

- After the great success of the last two years, we will again be having the **Adults Only Party** at the pool. More details to follow. Thank you to Sarah Morse (Dorset) for taking the lead on this!
- We will also again be having **Movie Night** at the pool. Date and movie TBD.
- The additional bike rack has been installed! Please consider biking (or walking) to the pool and leaving the car at home.
- A new water fountain with a water bottle fill station will be installed at the pool under the covered area by the kitchen so please bring your reusable water bottles!
- All residents and guests need to ensure they are informed of and agree to abide by all aspects of the pool rules. They are available on the Town's website.
- All cell phones, cameras, and other recording devices are banned from use in the locker rooms and bathrooms.
- No glass, no glass, no glass!!!

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

## JUNE CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Annual Summer Kick-Off Party 12:30 at the pool

### SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Late night swim Saturday, June 15 Pool Safety Event (details to follow)

### MONDAY, JUNE 17

MVA Mobile Office 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Updates to the 2019–2020 Town Resident Directory Due August 9

It is that time of year when the Town asks 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. You can email the Town at [town@townofsomerset.com](mailto:town@townofsomerset.com).

## Get Ready... Water Aerobics Starts on June 17th!

By Lucy Freeman, Dorset Avenue

The Town's popular water aerobics classes will begin on Monday, June 17 and will meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Friday, July 5) through Friday, August 23. The instructor will arrive at 10:45 a.m. but we have the lanes in the pool reserved starting at 10:30 a.m. One can arrive at 10:30 and warm up. The class will end at 11:35.

This is a drop-in program, come when you can, and the fee will be drawn from your pool account. This year, the fee is \$6.00 per session. Please make sure you have money in your pool account. Let's hope for sunny weather and our usual good fun.

Any questions? Please contact **Lucy Freeman** at [dorset4708@yahoo.com](mailto:dorset4708@yahoo.com) or 301-654-8115.

# Update on Somerset's LED Streetlight Project

*By Robin Barr, Chair, Environment Committee*

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on the Town's LED streetlight project that ended on May 15. It was a genuine pleasure to meet and chat with so many people during our hosted tours. And I offer thanks to the others who visited by themselves and provided feedback. All in all, it truly was a community event.

We do have a clear winner among the five options. That is the Hubbell Beacon "Viper." It is the light that was directly in front of the Town Hall — number 3. People liked it for the pattern of light it distributed without generating the glare that was more noticeable from one or two of the other fixtures. It has a color temperature of 3000k. That is towards the soft end of the light spectrum. (It removes some of the short-wave blue light that, when present in a full spectrum light, makes the light harsh.) It uses just 22 watts. (Remember our old 100w incandescent bulbs!)

We also had votes for the Hubbell Beacon "Metropolis" (the light furthest from Wisconsin) and for the Phillips Lumec "Road Focus" (the light nearest Wisconsin).

Overall most people agreed that the LED bulbs provided much more effective lighting than our current mix of mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium. A few people did comment on collective glare from the five lights and one or two suggested that the lights were too bright. Even with these comments people still preferred the LED lights.

So what's next? The Town Council did approve \$70,000 for street lighting at the May meeting (and some additional funds for a consultant) for the upcoming year. The costs of the Viper bulb installed are around \$62,000 for the whole



Town. As I write this article, PEPCO has not provided a quote on how much it will cost to install the bulbs. So some financial details do need to be worked out. With installation costs, the total bill is likely to be above \$70,000 for the Viper bulbs.

To keep the momentum going, one suggestion has been to gather a petition to show the breadth of support for LED street lights in Town. So don't be surprised if you see stalwart Environmental Committee members at events with clipboards in hand seeking your signatures!

# It's Time for Tennis...

The Town's tennis courts are open and ready for fun.

Drop by Town Hall to pick up your 2019 tennis pass and the new gate code!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:HHSomerset@gmail.com)**.

# IN MEMORIAM

---



## Dr. John Krynitsky

**By Alex Krynitsky, Cumberland Avenue**

Dr. John A. Krynitsky (age 100) passed away on April 18, 2019. A Somerset resident since 1950, Dr. Krynitsky was born on June 15, 1918 at Far Rockaway Beach, Long Island, New York. He was the son

of Col. Alexander I. Krynitsky of the imperial Russian Army who was on a military mission in the United States during WWI. John spent a major portion of his childhood and youth living in a shuttered mansion on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington, D.C. which housed the former embassy of the Czarist government and later of the Kerensky regime, and which is now the home of the Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Following the Russian revolution and the rise of the communists, the embassy was closed. John's father, Col. Krynitsky, was asked to remain as caretaker. In time, the shuttered embassy came to act as a "magnet" and focal point for several Russian émigrés and escapees from communism. The Krynitsky family lived there until 1933 when the communist government was recognized by the U.S. and the building turned over to the Soviets. With that occurrence, John's parents, his grandmother, his sister Zora, and he promptly vacated and moved to Somerset.

Dr. Krynitsky graduated from the former Central High School, Washington, D.C. in 1935; entered the University of Maryland and finished in 1939 with a B.S.

in chemistry. From there he continued at the University of North Carolina and in 1943 earned a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry. Upon completion of his doctoral degree in Organic Chemistry, Dr. Krynitsky served 21 years at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Anacostia both as a naval officer and as a civilian chemist. While at NRL, he carried out numerous research projects on fuel and was effective in solving several Naval and Air Force operational problems. He was the "father" of what is known as the "Water Separometer Test" which measures the water shedding quality of jet fuels, and which was incorporated into virtually all military and commercial jet fuel specifications.

Throughout his career, Dr. Krynitsky received numerous honors and awards.

In March 1949, John met his future wife to be, Katherine Petrovna Kushnareff, who had recently immigrated to the U.S. from Tsingtao, China. In 1950, John and Katherine built and moved into their house on Cumberland Avenue, located next door to his parents' residence!

Survivors include his son, Alexander Krynitsky, daughter in law Melanie Krynitsky (residents of 4902 Cumberland), and two grandchildren, Jonathan (wife Lara Magill) of Rockville, and Stephanie Krynitsky. Katherine Krynitsky, his wife of 57 years, pre-deceased Dr. Krynitsky in 2006.

# IN MEMORIAM

---

## Irving Schneider

By Peter Schneider

Irving Schneider, a 56-year resident of Warwick Place, died at home on April 14. He was 93.

Irv was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1925, the descendent of generations of Hasidic rabbis. His initial schooling was at Yeshiva Etz Chaim and New Utrecht High School. Drafted into the Army at the conclusion of his freshman year at Brooklyn College, he served in combat in New Guinea and the Philippines, earning the Purple Heart, and then in Japan as part of the Allied occupation forces. His own experiences, coupled with the loss of his beloved older brother Norman, formed the basis of his strong opposition to war, later manifested by his participation in demonstrations against the Vietnam War.

After his discharge from the service, Irv returned to school at the University of Chicago, where he completed the course requirements for a master's degree in sociology. However, instead of finishing his thesis and obtaining his degree, he enrolled in NYU Medical School. While a medical student, he met Zola Emily Dincin, a member of the editorial staff at the Saturday Review. Irv and Zola married in 1954; Irv died just short of their 65th wedding anniversary.

Irv did his internship in Los Angeles and his residency in New Haven, Connecticut, where his first two sons were born, and then headed to the Washington area for analytic training at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute and a job at the old D.C. General Hospital. With the addition of a third son, the family moved to Somerset in 1962.

Irv was a pioneer in community psychiatry. He served for 15 years as the director of the Arlington Community Mental Health Center, leading its expansion, and referred the first patient to Woodley House, one of the nation's earliest residential halfway houses. He consulted on community mental health services in St. Kitts, West Indies, and St.

Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, and taught at Georgetown University, American University, and the Washington School of Psychiatry. He also maintained a private practice, first in the office building at Chevy Chase Center (where he walked to work most days), later at Highland House, and finally in his home. In all, he practiced psychiatry for over 60 years before giving up his medical license at age 92. Despite his focus on the mind, he maintained the diagnostic skills he learned in medical school and neighbors knew to bring their sick children over for a quick checkup. (His response was usually that things were fine and would improve on their own without treatment.)

A lifelong film buff and scholar, Irv wrote influential studies on the role of psychiatry in the movies, and served as the chair of the American Psychiatric Association's Film Committee. Friends remember film nights at the house, with a screen pulled down from the living room ceiling, often featuring "B" movies, some classic and some a little raunchy. Irv was also an amateur movie maker who made short films of local subjects including a kids' romp through the Somerset woods (now Vinton Park) before the swimming pool was built and the demolition of the original Somerset School. His paean to early-1970s New York City has over 115,000 views on YouTube.

Irv is survived by his wife of 54 years Zola Dincin Schneider, a brother and a sister, sons (and their spouses) Peter (Susan DeJarnatt) of Philadelphia, Norman (Linda Kanefield) of Greystone Street, and, Daniel (Leslie Reagan) of Champaign, Illinois, seven grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery in June.

# IN MEMORIAM

---

## George Harmon

**By Donna Harman, Dorset Avenue**

George G. Harman, 94, died March 24, 2019 after a short illness. He moved to Somerset in 1986 and lived on Dorset Avenue with his wife, Donna. George was born in Norfolk, Virginia and spent his early childhood moving around in Virginia and Maryland (his father was a U.S. Treasury revenue agent looking for illegal stills).

He served in the Army Signal Corp. during World War II, working as a radio teletype installer for the huge rhombic antennas built in the South Pacific to allow communication back to Washington. After discharge, he went to Virginia Polytechnic Institute, where he graduated with a B.S. in Industrial Physics. He immediately applied to NIST (then NBS) for a job and worked there for over 53 years,

becoming the expert on methods for testing of wire bonding for semiconductors.

George loved travel, classical music and good wine. Starting in the 1990s he and Donna enjoyed traveling to each other's overseas conferences, and then after retirement even more travel. This included trips in a small camper van to the western national parks in the summer and to Maine for the Tanglewood music festivals. And then there were trips to Peru, Vietnam, New Zealand, and the French wine country, just to mention a few! Shortly before George's illness there was a trip planned to Napa "for one last time!"

In recent years George could be seen walking the Dorset block (either north or south) and loved to say hello to people and dogs!!



## Bonnie Thomson

**By Eugene Tillman, Warwick Place**

On April 8, 2019, Bonnie Eloise Thomson (Warwick), my wife of 40 years, passed away at age 69 after a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Bonnie's friends and family will long remember her as a deeply

thoughtful, kind, and steadfast companion who was quick with a smile and a joke. In addition to me, she was adored by her two sons, Seth and Drew, and her siblings, Heather, Don and Bob. Despite her illness, she was able to meet each of her four grandchildren, Willa, Ellis, Leo and Felix, the youngest of whom was born just four months before she died.

Bonnie had a career focused on helping the needy, initially as a lawyer at Maryland Legal Aid and then at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Later,

she worked in the nonprofit sector seeking to advance affordable housing opportunities through the Harrison Institute and Victory Housing. Outside of work and family, she derived tremendous enjoyment from her oil painting, piano playing, and singing in numerous choral groups. Bonnie demonstrated her commitment to the Somerset community through her service as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections and her co-authorship of a booklet on the history of Somerset Elementary School at its 50-year anniversary.

Bonnie leaves behind a large group of devoted friends who will miss her generous and loving spirit. Throughout her life, she demonstrated grace and resilience when faced with difficult circumstances as well as a rigorous empathy towards others. We will do our best to carry that spirit forward in the world she has left behind.



# Electric Car Test Drive Event at the Pool Next Month

Neighbors, as you can see, there are now many electric car owners in our neighborhood! A number of Town residents have offered to bring their electric cars to a meeting point during a weekend this summer, for people to come to look more closely at these amazing cars and go for a test drive! Please stay tuned for the exact date and come check it out!

Driving an electric car is like stepping into the future, there is no wave of pollution behind you! No stopping at gas stations and oh-so-few visits to the service station for "check-ups." Try life without an internal combustion engine! You'll never look back.

### General Information

Presently, new electric cars can have a range of 50-350 miles and can cost \$20k and higher. There are now many options to choose from. As an example, I bought a Chevy Bolt in March for \$34,000 and then received a \$7,500 Federal tax credit, thus totaling \$26,500. This car has a range of 238 miles and a smooth powerful acceleration I have never experienced before in a car. This is the ultimate commuter car! This car also has excellent visibility, a windshield wiper in the back, very nice features inside with a large touch screen. Charging an electric car can be done with three different level chargers. Level 1 is a plug-in kit (included with the car) to your house outlet that takes two days for a full charge. Level 2 is a 30Amp circuit (like your dryer) that costs \$800 installed and charges your car overnight. This is what I have. Level 3 is found on I95, such as, Chesapeake House Rest Stop, and car dealerships (charge for free!) and takes about ½ hour to add 90 miles of range and 3 hours for a full charge. A full charge at home costs about \$5 – \$10, about a quarter of the cost of gasoline.

There are now thousands of fast charging stations around the country, which can be easily found on your smartphone apps, with EvGo and ChargePoint being two examples.

### Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground

I absolutely love our new car and considering my house uses renewable electric energy, I feel like I am finally reducing our carbon footprint. This renewable energy can be provided by Clearview Energy for less than you are



now paying for Pepco. Go to: **[www.motherearthproject.org/renewables](http://www.motherearthproject.org/renewables)** to adjust your Pepco bill so that you too can use renewable energy. Presently, we have about 80 homes in our neighborhood that use this renewable electric energy third party provider. It takes five minutes to make the switch and you will still receive your same Pepco bill. Contact me, Barton Rubenstein, at **[themotherearthproject@gmail.com](mailto:themotherearthproject@gmail.com)** if you have questions. Having said this, placing solar panels on your roof is obviously the best option!

We look forward to seeing you at this upcoming Electric Car Test Drive Event and be on the lookout for these amazing electric vehicles around town, which include the Tesla, Chevy Bolt, VW, Nissan Leaf, and the BMW i3 to name a few.

Again, if you have any comments that you want to share about sustainability ideas in our neighborhood, please feel free to email us at **[TOS.environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:TOS.environmentcommittee@gmail.com)**



# All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*

This month's column spotlights the work of **Birdie Pieczenik** (Essex) with the Heifetz International Music Institute ([www.heifetzinstitute.org](http://www.heifetzinstitute.org)). The Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to the growth and development of talented young musicians. Its flagship program, based at Mary Baldwin University, brings 80 students of string instruments to Staunton, Virginia each summer. This intensive program for young adults lasts six weeks and includes lessons, coaching, and master classes. Faculty are drawn from the top music conservatories from around the country including Curtis, Peabody, Julliard, and New England. The program also offers ample opportunities for public performances on the Mary Baldwin campus and other venues around Staunton. These performances are a big attraction, and as Birdie explained, "The six-week passes for the season are snapped up quickly."

Birdie's connection with Daniel Heifetz, the founder of the Institute, is story of serendipity. Birdie used to run a bed and breakfast business, and at its peak, she operated 12 B&Bs. In the mid-1980s, she arranged to visit the Queen Anne in Cape May with plans to meet with the owners. They were out when she arrived, and wanting to put her time to good use, Birdie decided to interview some guests about their experience at the B&B. The young couple she met on the porch was Daniel and his wife Janne. That encounter produced a long-term friendship, and when Daniel was putting together the initial board for the Institute in 1996, he asked Birdie to join.

Birdie serves on the executive board of the Institute and is the head of the Marketing Committee. The Institute takes steps to heighten public awareness of its work in a number of ways. For example, "Heifetz On Tour" is a series of concerts throughout the year in small settings including assisted living facilities, schools, and private homes. The performers are alumni of the Heifetz summer program and generally live and study in reasonably close proximity to the performance venues.

One regular setting for these performances by Heifetz alumni is Birdie's home on Essex Avenue. She currently schedules two (and sometimes three) concerts each year. Initially, she invited close friends and, over time, expanded to others in Somerset. She provides a recommended donation for the event, and all money collected goes to



the Institute. Guests are treated to drinks, hors d'oeuvres, a chance to talk with the student musicians, and a high class musical performance. Birdie describes the house as having "an intimacy that lends itself to these performances, and I get lots of return business."

I asked Birdie how the Institute's summer program came to be based in Staunton and at Mary Baldwin University. For its first seven years, the Institute operated out of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. When it outgrew that space, it formed a search committee to find a new home. Proximity to Washington, DC was a criterion since most of the board members reside in this area. It also helped that the president of Mary Baldwin, Pamela Fox, is a pianist, musicologist, and professor of music. Mary Baldwin provides generous incentives for the summer program including access to dorms, classroom space, studios, and the cafeteria.

Birdie described the high level of energy and activity generated by the Institute in Staunton each summer. "In addition to the students, faculty, and administrative personnel, 20 pianos arrive for the season along with professional pianists who serve as accompanists to support the teaching and the performances. Every Saturday night, there's a hootenanny in a large tent with many types of music including Irish jigs and rock and roll. The mayor of Stanton plays electric guitar and joins with the students for the Saturday night music making. And of course, there are the ongoing solo and chamber music performances which number 43 during the summer season."

*Continued on page 13*



# Manager's Corner

By Rich Charnovich, *Town Manager*

## Town Manager Farewell

As my time in Somerset draws to a close, I have been reflecting on all of the wonderful people I have met over the years. While my day to day accomplishments have been numerous, it gives me the greatest pleasure to look back on all of those I have helped. In my view, public service should be about giving one's time to persons who need our assistance. Sometimes it can be tough, but many times, there is no progress without struggle. I want to wish you and your families all the best as you continue down the road of the journey of life. I will always look back and cherish the time spent in service to the Somerset community.

## Adoption of FY20 Budget

At the May 7 Council meeting, the FY20 budget was adopted. A summary of the final budget will be posted on the Town website in advance of the new fiscal year which starts on July 1, 2019. A full line item copy of the Town budget can be reviewed by contacting the Town Hall and requesting a copy.

## 2019 Pool Season

With the 2019 pool season having begun in May (opening date was May 18), please look out for Town announcements and Pool Committee news. The Town website will also be updated to include information on the 2019 pool season.

## Annual Summer Kick Off Party Set for June 8

Please join us for the Town's annual summer kick-off on **Saturday, June 8, starting at 12:30 pm.** Picnic food and beverages will be provided. We hope to see you there!

## Summertime Safety Reminder

With the school year almost finished, there will be more children walking and playing outside. Please watch out for children walking and biking to and from the Town Pool. You might want to take a look at Montgomery County's comprehensive website with a variety of tips and reminders for summer safety: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/summersafety/>

## Calling All Somerset Graduates!

As part of the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, the Town always recognizes Somerset graduates at all levels of schooling. Please email me at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com) and provide us with the following information:

- Graduate's full name
- Street address
- School graduated from
- Next step post graduation

## 2019 Household Tennis Court Passes

Tennis passes for 2019 are now available in the Town Hall. The cost per household is \$25.00 for the calendar year.

## Blue Recycling Bins

If your blue recycling bin is damaged beyond repair, please inform the Town Hall that you would like a new one. We anticipate receiving the new bins in mid-June. We are currently maintaining a list of those residents who have already reached out to us.

## Maintenance of Shrubbery over Sidewalks and Common Areas

This is a friendly reminder concerning vegetation that grows over sidewalks in the community per the Town Code. 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 ability to protect the public right of way. Should a dangerous condition exist, the Town has the authority to trim back vegetation from the public right of way.

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 to make sure 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



Congratulations to newly re-elected Council Members **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham), **Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent) and **Franny Peale** (Uppingham). It is my privilege and pleasure to work with these hardworking officials on a daily basis. They are always well prepared and make decisions in the best interests of our residents. I look forward to many accomplishments from them in the next two years.

I have been receiving complaints lately regarding trash cans and recycle bins that are visible from the street (on non-pick-up days) and weeds and plants that are overhanging our heavily used sidewalks. Both of these are code violations and I hope residents will make appropriate corrections.

With the Council's vote on the FY20 budget this month, the Town's annual fiscal planning season is now over. I want to again particularly thank the members of the Ad Hoc Budget Committee for their guidance — which includes **Robin Barr** (Essex), **Phil Young** (Greystone) and **Jonathan Medalia** (Surrey) — because it's always challenging to balance all the competing interests especially when there is great need — and the Council did not wish to impose a tax increase! Once again, I was totally impressed with the manner in which the Council Members addressed the budget topics at the meetings — always being in attendance, well prepared and asking great questions — and of course with the expert assistance of our budget wizard, **Town Manager Rich Charnovich**.

Now that the streetlight pilot program has been completed, I am excited that so many residents viewed the various possibilities and liked some of the options. I know that there is solid support for putting in new streetlights in Somerset to replace the dim and energy inefficient lights in place, and now is the time for the Council to hear from everyone. So please call, write, email or text the Council so that they will take some action in the near future.

It's that time of the year again when many households have school graduates at all levels, from elementary school to professional school, and even beyond. I want to encourage both the students and or their parents to let us know so that we can mention these accomplishments in the Town Journal. Please provide this information to columnist **Eugene Tillman** (Warwick) who writes the popular "All About People" column. Send Eugene an email at [allaboutsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:allaboutsomerset@gmail.com). In addition, we will encourage all graduates to attend the Town's annual July 4 celebration when we announce their accomplishments and present them with a gift.

I am still "processing" all the information and wisdom I acquired during the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights civil rights bus tour "down south" last month. For those who have inquired, next year's trip, officially called the Maryland Civil Rights Educational Freedom Experience, will take place April 18–26, 2020. A number of residents have asked about it and I hope that many of you will go. It's the chance of a lifetime tour.

As many know, most of my favorite mayoral duties involve our children, and the annual Career Day at Somerset Elementary School late last month was no exception. I had the opportunity to host four different sessions to include all the kindergartners and to talk about the job of a mayor. It's amazing how much the students know. The best part of the time was spent answering questions and having discussions. Can you believe that one of them even asked me about term limits? Many adults aren't even that knowledgeable!

Hope to see many of you at the summer kick-off party at the pool on Saturday, June 8.

## GENERAL PERMITS

### TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

4911 CUMBERLAND  
AVENUE  
• 1 ash

4823 DORSET AVENUE  
• 1 ash

4716 ESSEX AVENUE  
• 1 red oak  
• 1 white pine

5601 WARWICK AVENUE  
• 1 ash

## All About People

---

When I inquired about financial support, Birdie explained that “we don’t have any bigtime underwriters. We’re not like Aspen Music or other older programs which offer full scholarships to all students. Through our donors and the money raised from the Heifetz On Tour performances, we do as much as we can to offer a mix of full and partial scholarships.”

Wrapping up the Institute story, Birdie shared the Heifetz teaching philosophy with me. “While technical mastery of the instrument is a critical element, the summer program offers much more. The curriculum includes voice and public speaking, wellness, freedom of expression, and movement (including yoga). The goal is to bring out a rounded performer who is able to express emotions through music.”

On a personal note, Birdie has lived in Somerset for 41 years and raised two daughters here. Both attended Somerset Elementary. After brief stints in private school, “each returned to public school after concluding it offered a better experience for them.” Please let Birdie know if you’re interested in receiving email notices of the Heifetz On Tour concerts on Essex.

## 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.*

# Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on May 6 and May 7, 2019 and took the following actions:

## May 6, 2019 Council Meeting Actions

1. Adoption of an Ordinance to set the Town of Somerset FY20 budget and set the real property tax rate at .10 and personal property tax at 1.00 (no change from the prior fiscal year).
2. Denial of a 3.6 feet waiver application for a 2.5 story privacy screen feature at the southwest corner of the project occurring at 5800 Deal Place.
3. Withdrawal of a 2.1 feet waiver for an I-Beam request along 5800 Deal Place that projects into the required side yard setback.
4. Approval of 13.7 feet exception request for a wall that was constructed in the right of way within the Uppingham Street front yard at 5415 Trent Street.
5. Approval of a 24.5 feet exception for a proposed wall within the Uppingham Street front yard at 5415 Trent Street. The wall will be contained on private property.
6. Approval to reduce the width of the driveway for the project occurring at 5415 Trent Street, issuance of a driveway apron permit in the same location, and removal of 1 dogwood tree in the front yard along Trent Street. The applicant would be planting a new Town canopy tree at the corner of Uppingham and Trent Street in the right of way as recommended by the Town Arborist.
7. Approval of a 2-month extension for the building permit project currently occurring at 5415 Trent Street.
7. Approval of a 1 year Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Proposal with Goode/Unity Disposal.
8. Approval of a 3-year proposal for composting collection services with the Compost Crew.
9. Approval of a proposal from Wet Yet Water Fitness for 2019 water aerobics services at the Town Pool.
10. Approval of a proposal from Aquafree Facilities Inc. for 2019 pool cleaning services at the Town Pool.
11. Approval of a proposal from Skyline Technology Solutions for 2019 pool security monitoring services.
12. Approval of agreements with Camp Summerset to use the Town Pool and Town Tennis Courts for the 2019 camp.
13. Approval of a proposal to install a new water fountain at the Town Pool at a cost not to exceed \$6,660.00.
14. Approval of the purchase of 100 blue toter-recycling bins at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.
15. Approval of the removal of two Town dogwood trees located at 4900 Cumberland Avenue, as recommended by the Town Arborist.
16. Approval to set the water aerobics rate at \$6.00 per class (plus the guest fee for non-residents) as recommended by the Pool Committee.

## May 7, 2019 Council Meeting Actions

1. Approval of the March 4, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the April 1, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Deferred the April 8, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
4. Approval of the Mayor's nomination of Cathy Pickar, Dorset, to serve on the Town Pool Committee.
5. Approval of the Mayor's nomination of Barron Williams, Warwick, to serve on the Town Pool Committee.
6. Approval of change orders 4-13 for the Town Hall Renovation Project (change orders copies can be reviewed by contacting the Town Hall).

Beyond the actions taken by the Town Council, Mayor Slavin had his report available for anyone in the room who wanted to review it. Mayor Slavin's 5-year fiscal plan was discussed following adoption of the FY20 budget. The Town Manager noted that the FY18 audit had been completed and submitted to the state of Maryland, but the Audit Committee would meet on it in advance of the June 3, 2019 Council Meeting. Lou Balodemas was in attendance to provide a progress report on the Town Hall interior and exterior renovation project. Discussion continued on pedestrian improvements in the pool parking lot area and would continue to be explored. The incoming Town Manager, Matt Trollinger, who will start as Town Manager on July 1, 2019, was in attendance.

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, June 3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on June 3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall. Agenda updates are posted on the Town website: [www.townofsomerset.com](http://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.\***
- **Swearing In: Council Member Franny Peale and Council Member Barbara Zeughauser.**
- **Nomination and approval of the Council President.**



*Council Members (l to r): Morris Panner, Marnie Shaul, Franny Peale, Barbara Zeughauser, Stephen Surko*

## CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To consider approval of the April 8, 2019 Special Council Meeting Minutes.
2. **Motion:** To consider approval of the May 6, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.
3. **Motion:** To consider approval of the May 7, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes.

## NON-CONSENT

4. **Discussion:** Town Manager's May Administrative and FY19 Fiscal Reports – 7:35 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Presentation and approval of FY18 Audit –7:45 p.m.
6. **Discussion:** Building Permit Administrator Report – 7:55 p.m.
7. **Discussion:** Town Hall construction project update – 8:00 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider removal of the following 2 Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist – 8:10 p.m.
  - 5501 Surrey Street 3" diameter Dogwood (already removed because tree was dead, Town Arborist decision based on homeowner request)
  - 5513 Greystone Street 25" diameter Red Maple
9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the following plan amendments at 5800 Deal Place– 8:15 p.m.
  - 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)

10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a 6-month building permit extension for the project currently occurring at 5800 Deal Place– 8:30 p.m.
11. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a landscape plan at 5415 Trent Street that includes plantings in the Town Right of Way and to include a right of way agreement between the Town of Somerset and property owners of 5415 Trent Street– 8:35 p.m.
12. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a replacement HVAC unit at 4811 Grantham Avenue contingent upon it meeting the required noise levels– 8:50 p.m.
13. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Confirmation approval of Spring parts list for the Town Pool as submitted by American Pool– 8:55 p.m.
14. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a 1-year proposal from Lee Tree Service to continue tree maintenance services on Town of Somerset owned trees– 9:00 p.m.
15. **Introduction:** An Ordinance adopting Town Code amendments in relation to the project with General Code – 9:10 p.m.
16. **Discussion:** General Code Update– 9:15 p.m.
17. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report– 9:20 p.m.
18. **Adjourn:** 9:25 p.m.

*Continued on page 16*

# Preliminary Agenda

---

## 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](http://www.townofsomerset.com)) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.