

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



SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



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Small Cell Towers Update

By Marnie Shaul, Council President, Uppingham Street

Many people are interested in the more robust connections that 5-G technology represents but have concerns about the proliferation of the small cell towers that are needed to build the 5-G network. The industry is looking for ways to install the network quickly.

Recently, two entities in the wireless industry submitted a petition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to amend federal regulations in regard to small wireless infrastructure. The proposed changes would further erode local authority over the siting of small cells by limiting local authority to regulate wireless facility aesthetics on poles owned by utilities in public rights-of-way. Also, despite any size restrictions, structures on poles could be expanded horizontally and vertically to the specification the provider seeks. The Maryland Municipal League (MML), of which Somerset is a member, will be filing comments on behalf of municipalities. They are due by October 29, 2019.

At the local level, **County Council Member Hans Riemer** has introduced a bill to make it easier for the industry to

install small cell towers and more difficult for citizens to participate in the decision-making process. Citizen activist **Susannah Goodman** (Cumberland), who is following this issue closely, is working with the Mayor and the Town Council on a letter that voices our concerns. The Riemer bill states that cell towers can be placed 30 feet from homes pending a conditional use review. However, later in the bill the "conditional use" review is rendered ineffective, so the new distance is really 30 feet, which is very close to a home. The bill also takes away the current appeals process and states that, if citizens don't like the placement, they can hire their own attorney and take the matter to court.

MML, at its October conference, adopted as one of its two priorities "preservation of local authority in the siting and aesthetics of small wireless infrastructure." The MML staff will be following events in the State Legislature. I have been appointed to the MML Legislative Committee for this year so I am in a good position to stay in touch with what is happening. I will report developments as they occur.

IN THIS ISSUE





ON MY MIND

Cokie Roberts: Loss of a Friend and Mentor

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

In life we all experience the loss of cherished ones, but some passings have greater impact than others. The recent untimely transitioning of journalist/author/media star Cokie Roberts ---to sainthood in my mind---was of great significance to me because she had been a friend and mentor since I was a little boy.

You see, Cokie and I grew up on the same block in Bethesda and in recent years she had been referred to attendees at public events as my "babysitter's babysitter." Indeed, Cokie used to babysit for the neighbor who later babysat for me. Like so many others, I relied on Cokie often, as she was truly a Goddess of Wisdom. She was so smart, so mindful, so aware, so grounded and always had the right answer.

I wanted to write about her because her loss was not only a personal one for me and for the nation (as a teller of the truth) but equally as important, for the local community. It was not widely publicized in the announcements of her death but she and husband Steve were very active in Montgomery County, following the mundane issues of traffic, crime, local politics, etc. The two of them were also quite generous to causes like Montgomery History, Montgomery College and Montgomery Community Media.

Cokie was a role model for all as she made family and faith her real priorities. She was legendary for the ground she broke for women in her profession. She wrote six incredible books that will be part of her legacy for the next generation.

My wish for everyone in Somerset is that you have someone in your life who is as meaningful as Cokie was to me, and that you will hold them dear while alive and keep them in your constant thoughts when they are gone.

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.

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A Capitol Match

By Nancy Zuckerbrod, Dorset Avenue

Somerset resident (and my son) **Elias Roark**, 10, (Dorset) had the opportunity to play chess with U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin on October 2nd (after school, of course). The game came about after Elias noticed a magnificent chess set in the congressman's office during a Capitol Hill tour last year. While Rep. Raskin wasn't in the office that day, his staffer told Elias that the congressman loves to play with his constituents from Maryland's 8th District.

Several months later, I received an email from Rep. Raskin's office inquiring about constituent services. I responded with a note saying that Elias would love to come play chess with the lawmaker one day. To my surprise, Rep. Raskin's staff followed up soon afterward with a time and date for the meeting.

The day in question was supposed to be a quiet afternoon during a Congressional recess, but the State Department Inspector General made plans to come up to the Capitol to deliver documents related to Ukraine to the House Oversight Committee, on which Rep. Raskin sits. Elias ended up going with Rep. Raskin to several television new interviews in Statuary Hall before the two of them could sit down to play.

In the end, Rep. Raskin pulled off a win, but Elias didn't mind, telling his parents it was a fantastic day and that the congressman "is really good." Elias also has been spotted wearing a "Raskin for Congress" button given to him by Somerset resident **Lucy Freeman** (Dorset).

Elias says if there are any chess players in the neighborhood who would like to play, he'd be up for a game closer to home.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Town Council Meeting
Somerset Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Brown Bag Lunch
Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Somerset Town Hall

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

B-CC Used Book Sale Drop-Off
10:00 am. to 2:00 p.m.
B-CC High School main entrance

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Veterans' Day
Somerset Town Hall closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Community Service Day
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Somerset Town Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

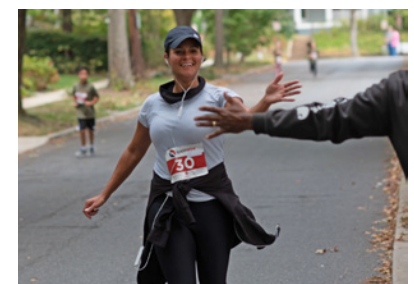
Thanksgiving Holiday
Somerset Town Hall closed

2019 Back-to-School Classic Is a Winner

More than 700 runners took to our Town streets on October 6, a beautiful morning! Many thanks to the scores of volunteers and especially to Race Director **Jeff Nussbaum** (Essex) for making this year's race a huge success.



B-CC cross-country teammates Kieran Fitzgerald, left, (second place) and Andrew Inman (first place) were the winners!



Photos by Talah Wafa, Little Palm Photography

LED Street Light Conversion: Further Update

By Marnie Shaul, Council President, Uppingham Street

Somerset continues to work with Pepco to arrive at a reasonable price for the installation of LED street fixtures. Pepco representatives acknowledge that the utility is only slowly getting up to speed on working with municipalities to install LED street lights. In the old Pepco model, Pepco picked the fixtures and installed them on its poles. According to Pepco representatives, it wasn't imagined 10 years ago that municipalities would offer to buy their own fixtures. But we are in a different world now, and Pepco representatives told me that almost all the municipalities it works with are interested in converting.

Pepco recently quoted \$2,000 per pole to install fixtures in Somerset but notes that that is likely the most it would cost. Actual costs could be lower and depend on the condition of the existing connections. It cost Pepco much less than \$2,000 per pole to install the five pilot lights in front of the Town Hall, but Pepco explains that all the connections were the same and did not present problems. However, Pepco says the quality of the remaining 170

street light connections is unknown and the only way to find out is for Somerset to enter an engineering and design contract. Only Pepco can install lights on its poles. If the installation cost is high, our current budget will cover only a portion of Somerset's lights.

Recently, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) won a grant award to offer no-cost technical assistance to local governments in both Maryland and Virginia that seek LED conversions. Clean Energy Solutions (CESI) has been engaged as the technical consultant. Somerset immediately indicated its interest, and at its October Council Meeting approved entering an agreement with MEA to obtain help from CESI at no cost to Somerset. Somerset has asked CESI to help us identify energy cost savings from the conversion, so that all of us understand how long it will take for the cost savings to cover the cost of conversion. We are looking forward to working in partnership with CESI and hope the firm can also assist us in getting good cost estimates for installation and the best deal possible for conversion.

Beautiful Day for Tennis

The Somerset Tennis Committee, chaired by **Carrie Wofford** (Essex), hosted an early fall Round Robin Tournament on October 5. Carrie is pictured below presenting etched wine-glass awards to winners **Andrew Weiss** (Trent) and **Jossine Josz** (Falstone).



IN MEMORIAM

Mary Elizabeth “Beth” Palmer



Beth Palmer, 67, a world-champion bridge player, Administrative Judge in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and long-time Somerset resident, died of breast cancer on October 2 at her home on Greystone Street. She is survived by her husband of 27 years, William Covill Pettis; her

daughter, Julie Elizabeth Pettis of Manhattan; and three siblings, Julie Palmer of Brookline, MA; Jeff Palmer of Bloomington, IN; and Win Palmer of Sewickley, PA. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, in-laws, cousins, and friends.

Beth lived on Greystone Street from age nine in 1961, when her parents bought the house, until she graduated from Bryn Mawr at age 22. She returned to Greystone



Beth sledding in Somerset, 1965.

Street for the last 10 years of her life, as her parents were aging. Beth attended Somerset Elementary for fourth through sixth grades and played baseball, basketball and other sports as competitively as she did bridge later in life. Beth is believed to be the first girl to play in the sixth-grade boys' baseball game at the annual Somerset school picnic!

Beth's career with the EEOC spanned more than 30 years. As an Administrative Judge, she adjudicated hundreds of employment discrimination cases, finding monetary as well as equitable relief for federal employees who were subjected to unlawful discrimination in the workplace. She

was an expert in class action adjudications and was deeply respected by the Administrative Judges she supervised for her temperament, wisdom, and intellectual and legal acumen.

Beth was a World Bridge Federation Grand Master and an American Contract Bridge League Grand Life Master. She won five women's team world championships, two women's pair world events, and 29 major U.S. women's team events. In addition, she won the 2018 World Mixed Team championship. She was active as a bridge volunteer locally, nationally, and internationally. She served on the Washington Bridge League Board of Directors for 10 years and played a leadership role in developing and implementing standards governing appropriate and ethical conduct at the bridge table. Beth's legions of friends, teammates, and competitors in the bridge world revered her as "a great friend, a great player, a great teammate, and a wonderful person," and as "a tough opponent, but always a gracious one," and as "one of the all-time class acts in bridge."

Beth was devoted to her daughter, Julie. In the early years, she served as Girl Scout leader and basketball coach, and in recent years, she and Julie traveled widely, including a spectacular trip in July to Denali National Park in Alaska.

For those wishing to honor Beth, donations may be sent to the Komen Foundation at Susan G. Komen, 5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 526, Dallas TX 75244 or **komen.org**. Please specify that the gift is for breast cancer research. A memorial service will be held on November 2, 2019, at 2 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville.



Somerset Residents Recommend...

In this new monthly feature, residents highlight their favorite places to go and things to do in our area. If you'd like to submit an article or an idea, please get in touch with the editors at bmarenius@gmail.com or mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com. In this second installment, Somerset resident Robin Orseck recommends some places the whole family will enjoy.

(When commercial resources are mentioned, they are not meant to be Town endorsements but local offerings readers might find of interest.)

Family Favorites for Casual Dining

By Robin Orseck, Dorset Avenue

I suspect that on the weekend many Somerset families search for a family-friendly place to go out for dinner. I am happy to suggest two places that our family enjoys.



The **DC Boathouse**, at 5441 MacArthur Boulevard, N.W., is a favorite of ours for a casual Sunday night dinner. It has

been a popular spot in the Palisades neighborhood since its 2004 opening, but our family didn't discover it until we moved to Somerset from Cleveland Park in 2014.

The large menu serves American and Greek cuisine.

The prices are reasonable and the food is comfort-food delicious. My husband and I love the baby back ribs, crab cakes and kabobs, but our go-to choice veers to a Greek or Caesar salad topped with chicken and accompanied by a glass of wine. The kids' menu offers many choices to please our tweens. Generous helpings of pasta and sliders are favorites. In addition, the regular menu offers soups and sandwiches.

The Boathouse's interior has many booths with a large bar running parallel to the dining room and cozy couches in the back. From the college crew T-shirts on the walls to the boat hanging from the rafters, there is a lot to catch your eye. The kids love the crayons on the tables for doodling or games of hangman while we wait for our food to be served. The service is great, however, and we're never kept waiting long.

Several TVs in the bar area are kept at a volume that make it easy to satisfy the D.C. sports fan without disrupting the meal. We have toasted the Nationals all season long with beer and wine, but the "Boathouse Martini" may be our beverage of choice for the World Series.

Plenty of free parking lends itself to the ease of the experience.



As a family, we've also enjoyed **Olazzo** at 7921 Norfolk

Avenue in Bethesda. It has the same neighborhood restaurant feeling we enjoyed at the now-defunct **Sorriso** in Cleveland Park.

Olazzo is our favorite Italian in the area. With soft lighting, the atmosphere in the restaurant is warm and welcoming. Affordable pricing, generous portions, and good-looking food make the restaurant a popular destination.

Each entree on the menu comes with a good house salad tossed in a homemade vinaigrette. Even my kids want seconds. Accompanying the salad is warm crusty bread that is difficult to resist. The restaurant boasts a number of satisfying pastas and meat and vegetarian dishes. On a recent night, my family enjoyed the chicken parmesan, linguini with clams, mushroom gnocchi, and lasagna. Every dish was a winner. Our family's favorite appetizer is fried calamari, and I enjoy a caprese salad.

What keeps my daughter coming back is dessert. The tiramisu is fantastic. The light and fluffy Italian dessert is her favorite, and Olazzo's does not disappoint. Olazzo features a long bar offering drinks and an assortment of wines and beers. It seems to attract a very nice crowd and is often busy.

Like the Boathouse, Olazzo does not take reservations. It's best to arrive on the early side.



Managing Leaves Is the New Landscaping Goal

I am fresh from a seminar on gas-powered leaf-blowers, and I'm energized now to think of leaves in a different way.

Jamie Banks of Quiet Communities (quietcommunities.org) explained the disadvantages of these devices that are familiar to our fall scene to an attentive crowd on September 28 at the Chevy Chase Village Hall.

We see cars as a problem because combustion engines generate too much carbon dioxide, but cars are clean and quiet compared to leaf-blowers. Federal rules limit what comes out of a car exhaust and mufflers silence the noise from their exhaust. We are not so blessed when it comes to leaf-blowers. A whole set of toxic compounds come from their exhaust: carcinogenic compounds like benzene and formaldehyde. Their noise levels are bad enough - no mufflers there - but even worse, the low-frequency sound they emit penetrates walls and windows no matter how good our insulation. They are bad for the health of landscape gardeners who work with them all day as well. Yes, high noise does damage hearing but it also contributes to cardiovascular risk by raising stress levels.

Jamie also indicated that battery-powered blowers (and lawn mowers and edge trimmers) are now fully capable of routine yard-management tasks on a commercial scale. In fact, the second speaker of the day, **Chuck Elkins**, was a member of the D.C. coalition that succeeded in having the Council there implement a ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers, beginning in 2022. Battery-powered equipment can do the job. They have no emissions at the point of use and the noise they make is much less penetrating.

A funny thing happened in the question-and-answer period. **David Wray**, co-owner of Wray Brothers Landscapers with his brother **Walter**, spoke at length on the evolving philosophy of his company. He pointed out that leaves are a resource. They are the original mulch.



They provide shelter to bees and other bugs who lay their eggs in leaf piles. The grubs that emerge in the spring are food for birds as they build nests and lay eggs. He wondered whether blowers are necessary at all. Leaves do need to be cleared from driveways, patios, gutters, and drains. But they can be removed to garden beds, under shrubs and anywhere that mulch would go. And leaves do a lot of good when left there.

I will manage my leaves this fall. Maybe you can ask landscapers whether they can manage your leaves too. The birds and bees would definitely appreciate it and those of us who are in Town when the symphony of leaf-blowers reaches its crescendo would appreciate it too.

Our Environment Committee is encouraging the Town Council to switch to a leaf-management strategy that uses battery-powered leaf-blowers for the necessary leaf-removal tasks. Our next step is to generate a list of landscapers who are willing to use quiet equipment and discuss leaf-management strategies. We are hoping for a quieter and cleaner Town.

A Somerset Tradition Continues: Annual Nonagenarians' Ice Cream Social

Our Town's senior residents gathered on October 17 for the annual Nonagenarians' Ice Cream Social. The conversations were fascinating, as each honored guest recounted stories of how they first came to Somerset, raised their families here, and continue to thrive in our warm and neighborly municipality. Many thanks to **Phyllis Wiesenfelder** (Cumberland), **Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent), and **Lucy Freeman** (Dorset) for organizing the event and special thanks to Lucy for opening her home for this lovely occasion. Thanks as well to **James Berry** and **Hallie Edison** (Essex), **Barbara Marblestone** (Trent), **Sylvia Young** (Greystone), and to **Barbara** and **Bruce Tully** (Warwick) for their helping hands.





The New Food Etiquette . . . What to Serve?

Holiday parties and gatherings abound at this time of year. We love them or we hate them but we all go to them.

Most of the articles I've read about these events deal with how not to overeat or drink too much and embarrass yourself. However, I want to bring up a topic you may not have considered before: what's the poor host/hostess supposed to serve? It used to be pretty easy to plan a holiday get-together. Just serve the traditional food that everyone expects and have great drinks.

Well, your nephew is now a vegan, your neighbors are kosher, your aunt will only eat organic and your daughter is on a raw food diet. Your boss' wife is lactose intolerant and your best friend is eating gluten free. And these are just the people you know about!

What is the proper etiquette to deal with all of this? Should there be a line included with the RSVP that asks about food preferences and allergies? Is it up to the host to accommodate each diet or should guests bring their own food?

Now, what about the social flow at the party? Will talking about dietary choices now be as volatile a topic as religion and politics?

Does any of this sound familiar to you? Have you ever brought your own food to someone else's house when invited? Has your son or daughter come home from college for Thanksgiving saying "I won't eat turkey"?



Will the vegetarians be at one end of the room and the carnivores at the other? Instead of light conversation, will people be asking each other about whether or not a food has wheat or dairy in it?

Let's share ideas about how today's host can accommodate all guests. Please email and share your thoughts either to me at diane.b.horn@gmail.com or on our Somerset community listserve. Let's get a good discussion going!



All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*

This will be my third consecutive column devoted entirely to brief profiles of newly-arrived Somerset neighbors. The volume of these profiles will decrease significantly as we come to the close of the “high season” for residential moves. Here are six more covering late July through early September.

At the end of July, **Erlinda and Brendan Doherty** moved into a house on Trent along with their three children, **Ronan (14), Cillian (12), and Scarlett (8)**. The family moved from South Carolina where Brendan, a radiologist, was on active duty with the Army and then in private practice. Prior to that, he had tours of duty in Germany and Kansas. Originally from this area, Brendan and Erlinda were familiar with Somerset and thought living here would be a dream come true. Brendan continues to work for a radiology practice in South Carolina, reading and interpreting images remotely. Erlinda works at the National Conference of State Legislatures serving as the Director of the Budget and Review Committee. Her real passion, however, is wine. She is a certified wine educator, columnist, and sommelier, and you can read more about her on her website (www.thevinicola.com). The family loves museums and walking the neighborhood and local trails.

In early August, **Tracey Lane and Roger Hunwicks** arrived on Surrey with their three children, **Leila (15), Sabine (13), and Luke (10)**. Tracey is an economist at the World Bank, and starting in 2007, she had back-to-back postings in Bangladesh and Kenya, concluding with three years in Egypt. The family came back to this area for Luke’s birth and, anticipating their eventual return, started to look at neighborhoods. Somerset was at the top of their list, and while in Nairobi in 2009, they purchased the house on Surrey sight unseen! It was then rented for the last ten years. Tracey currently serves as a Lead Economist in the Governance Section of the Bank focusing on Latin America. A software developer with Kimetrica, Roger is working on a USAID-financed project to provide early warning for famine in the African Sahara and Yemen. The family enjoys cooking along with shows, plays, and movies. You may also see them around Town with a three-legged Egyptian street dog they rescued.

Also in early August, **Salima Belhadj and Yves Lunzaila** took up residence on Uppingham along with their daughter, **Zoya (20 months)**. The family is delighted to be living in the basement apartment of a house occupied by their closest friends, **Pauline Simonet and Francesco Fontemaggi** who arrived in June and were covered in the October Journal. Salima and Yves moved here from Paris and are expecting their second child in early November. Seeking an opportunity to live and work in the U.S., Salima (a journalist) started applying for new positions. She succeeded in securing one with Agence France-Press as a Deputy Editor and Chief of the Video Department. Yves is a former teacher and professional basketball player and is currently focusing on the family in the role of “super dad.” The family enjoys walks, time at the playground, and museums. They’re also looking forward to having a full season at the pool next year.

In mid-August, **Soching Tsai and David Kornbluth** arrived on Trent. Having moved from Chevy Chase Section 3, they have an adult son (37), and a first grandchild is on the way. After looking for a couple of years, they found a ranch style house they liked. The pool was another big draw since Soching is a longtime lap swimmer. Both Soching and David are retired foreign service officers but work a couple of days a week as “reemployed annuitants.” They had their first tour in Kingston, Jamaica and their final one in Vienna. In addition to Geneva, their postings brought them to four Chinese-speaking countries. Part of a family that hailed from Shanghai, Soching grew up in Hong Kong. The couple enjoys the arts, including opera, and they are both copious readers and followers of international affairs. David has converted their garage into a library.

In early September, **Kirsten Darling and Dario Fuentes** took up residence on Cumberland along with their three children, **Lola (11), Luna (8), and Beck (5)**. The couple is returning to this area following time in New York, Michigan, and an “adult gap year” in Madrid (where Dario grew up). Dario swam for the Spanish national team, and some of you may recall his coaching the Dolphins in the middle of the last decade. He currently works for Vyaire Medical, an equipment company in the pulmonary and cardiology space. A promotion brought the family to the D.C. area, and they feel blessed to be living in a beautiful neighborhood they remember fondly from an earlier time.

Continued on page 12

All About People

While currently taking a break from full-time work, Kirsten is a Spanish teacher and also has a penchant to design and art. She previously taught at the Bullis School for three years and is currently doing freelance translation. The family loves the outdoors – swimming, rollerblading, and biking – and enjoys spending time at the Little Falls Library.

And finally, **Peter and Susan Tynan** moved into a house on Essex in early September along with their two daughters, **Lila (10) and Clara (7)**. Having spent the last 15 years in Georgetown and the Palisades, the couple was attracted to Somerset's strong community, its proximity to D.C., the amazing pool, and the elementary school. They also

needed more space for the Barbie Dream House! Peter is the Chief Growth Officer for RS21, a data science company. He is responsible new product introductions and developing new markets. Susan is the founder and CEO of Framebridge, a venture-backed company offering online custom picture framing. Framebridge also operates two stores (Bethesda and D.C.) with many more planned. The family enjoys the pool, sports, eating at fun restaurants, and visiting family in Sydney, Australia.

Once again, please keep a lookout for our new neighbors and offer them a warm welcome.

GENERAL PERMITS

BUILDING PERMIT

- 4917 Essex Avenue – building permit for demolition, new home construction, new driveway construction, and rear porch with the following conditions:
 - Air conditioners must be located 15 feet farther to rear;
 - Storm water retention tanks must be moved out of tree protection areas;
 - Traffic guard or flagger must be used to direct traffic during high congestion;
 - Old curb cut must be abandoned;
 - Applicant should consider using pervious materials for the driveway;
 - Applicant should consider reconfiguring downspouts;

- Applicant must obtain an inspection report for lead-based paint and asbestos-containing materials, and removed in accordance with MDE and EPA requirements.
- NOTE: Permission was not granted, but will be sought at November meeting, for swimming pool, pool deck, wall, and fence; and removal of trees in area of pool.

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

- 4810 Falstone Avenue – removal of holly multi-stem 18" at base.
- 4902 Falstone Avenue – removal of white pine 18" diameter at 4.5' above ground level.



Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

We are truly into the fall season, and things keep chugging along in Somerset! As the leaves come down, we will soon begin leaf pickups throughout Town (stay tuned for an email with directions and schedules), and the maintenance crew has begun blowing leaves from the tennis court every afternoon to keep it as clear as possible.

We have a number of events coming up, including Halloween on October 31. As was the case last year, the Town will close traffic for parts of "Big Cumberland" on the evening of Halloween to help keep it as safe as possible. Here are the details:

- Cumberland Ave. from Warwick to Devon will be closed to traffic from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- Police officers will be stationed at three intersections:
 - Cumberland/Warwick
 - Cumberland/Surrey
 - Cumberland/Devon
- Local traffic and emergency vehicles will be able to enter and leave during that time.

After that, don't forget to turn your clocks back, and take advantage of that extra hour's sleep on Sunday, November 3 (just in time for our Council meeting the next night!).

The Town of Somerset will also be hosting its annual Community Service Day on Saturday, November 16. Details will follow via email.

Finally, the Town Hall has some closures in November in observance of holidays:

- On Monday, November 11 the Town Hall is closed in observance of Veterans Day. We are especially grateful for Councilmember **Steve Surko** (Uppingham), our Building Administrator, **Doug Lohmeyer**, and to all Somerset resident veterans.
- On Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 the Town Hall will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

On the personal side, for me, Thanksgiving is the best holiday. What's not to love? Good food, friends and family, football, and without any pressure or expectation of gift-

giving other than the gift of each other's presence. As Thanksgiving is so late this year, I think I'll have the chance to do another write-up about it in the December Journal, but for now suffice it to say that I am very grateful to have become a part of the Somerset community this year, and I look forward to getting to know you all better in the days, weeks, months, years to come.

Finally, as of this writing, the Washington Nationals have made it to their first World Series, off some incredible pitching from their "Big Four." Baseball was my sport as a kid growing up and is a big part of my family. My grandfather was actually a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates organization as a young man before settling down to start a family; and my dad and his brothers all played in college. We have mixed allegiances in the Trollinger family – some of us are Pirates fans, some root for the Orioles, but I rooted for the Nationals since they moved to D.C. in 2005 (I had a soft spot for them even before that when they were the Expos, since Montreal was actually the closest team to me in Vermont, but up until that point I more or less considered myself a "free agent"). This particular team has been fun to watch. They genuinely seem to like each other with all the dancing, the baby sharks, etc., and they have a nice mix of young up-and-comers and wily veterans. Win or lose, it has been a fun ride, and I hope you all get a chance to tune in!

New Face in Town



Greetings! I'm Police Officer **John Olcott**, and I am the newest part-time officer hired by the Town of Somerset. I have been a Montgomery County Police Officer for 26 years and am a life-long resident of the area. I grew up in Chevy Chase and attended Bethesda-

Chevy Chase High School. I believe the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area is a strong, vibrant community and a great place to raise a family. I look forward to meeting Somerset residents as I patrol the Town.

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Flu season is underway, and Somerset held our annual Flu Shot Clinic on October 25. Lots of Somerset folks take this opportunity to get their flu shots, and we hope this means they all avoid serious illness during the upcoming winter. If you missed the Town clinic, be sure to seriously consider getting your flu shot elsewhere. And whether you get the shot or not, we must all remember to thoroughly wash hands and get our rest and exercise so that we can avoid coughs and colds throughout the year.

Halloween is here again! It's always a fun and festive day in Somerset, as we host loads of trick-or-treaters. For those at home during the day on Thursday, October 31, the Somerset Elementary School parade around the blocks close to the school begins at 1:45 p.m. Be sure to get a spot on the route. I am very pleased that the Council voted last year to close most of Cumberland Avenue that evening and that there will be a police presence. This will ensure everyone's safety and make the experience better for our children and their guests.

As a reminder to all, and especially to our newcomers, everyone is eligible to purchase a special Town of Somerset license plate from the State of Maryland. In this way you can show your pride at living in one of our state's most active, welcoming and engaged municipalities. I

have had one of these plates for years and can't tell you the number of positive comments I have received about our Town and its inhabitants. And you get an easy-to-remember low number! Contact Linda at Town Hall for further information.

Practically every decision made in Town is based on citizen input. The best way such information is organized and communicated is through our active system of Town committees. I want to encourage everyone to formally participate as a committee member at least once during your residency. There are a number of vacancies on committees at this time. I urge everyone to go to the website, townofsomerset.com, to obtain more information on the range of committees and contact me with questions or a request for appointment.

Late last month, on the final day of the Town Pool season, the annual dog swim took place and was a resounding success. It was a joyous occasion as always because our Town celebrates and cherishes our domestic animals. A number of residents made suggestions on how to enhance this age-old tradition next year, and I will ask the Pool Committee to make some recommendations. All residents are encouraged to write to us with their creative ideas

2019 Fourth and Final Brown Bag Lunch Set for November 7

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Let's celebrate the upcoming holiday season at the fourth and final quarterly Brown Bag Lunch of the year on Thursday, November 7, at noon at the Town Hall. This will also be a great opportunity to view the progress of the impressive and exciting renovation that is going on. As always, members of the Council and I welcome all who are interested and available. 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.

Council Meeting Actions

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

1. Approved: minutes from Council meeting held on September 3, 2019.
2. Approved: payment of \$24,720 to water utility contractor, Deneau Construction, Inc. for installation of water line to Town Hall; payment of \$2,424 to WSSC for service connection fee; payment not to exceed \$2,750 to WSSC for on-site connection fee; and bond payment of \$56,000 to WSSC.
3. Approved: building permit at 4917 Essex Avenue for demolition, new home construction, new driveway construction, and rear porch with the following conditions:
 - Air conditioners must be located 15 feet farther to rear;
 - Storm water retention tanks must be moved out of tree protection areas;
 - Traffic guard or flagger must be used to direct traffic during high congestion;
 - Old curb cut must be abandoned;
 - Applicant should consider using pervious materials for the driveway;
 - Applicant should consider reconfiguring downspouts;
 - Applicant must obtain an inspection report for lead-based paint and asbestos-containing materials, and removed in accordance with MDE and EPA requirements.
 - (NOTE: Permission was not granted, but will be sought at November meeting, for swimming pool, pool deck, wall, and fence; and removal of trees in area of pool.)
4. Approved: removal of 34" diameter Pin Oak located in Town right-of-way at 4910 Essex Avenue, removal of the following trees at 4823 Dorset Avenue:
 - Ash 6" dbh – dead;
 - Ash 12" dbh – dead;
 - Ash 28" dbh – 90% dead;
 - White Pine 8" dbh – in decline and will not revive;

And following reforestation plan:

- One evergreen (pine or holly);
 - One canopy tree (red oak, white oak, willow oak, sugar maple, red maple, or black gum);
 - Two ornamental trees (redbud, dogwood, or serviceberry).
5. Approved: adoption of comprehensive Code of Ordinance amendments, as prepared by General Code and introduced at September 2019 Council meeting.
 6. Approved: resolution re-adopting the Town's current fee schedule, as listed on the Town website.
 7. Approved: engaging the Maryland Energy Administration for free assistance on LED streetlight conversion.
 8. Deferred to November: equipment upgrades to pool filtration system and chlorinators.

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.

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.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, November 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on November 4, 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 Zeughouser, Stephen Surko

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To approve minutes from Council meeting held on October 7, 2019.
2. **Motion:** To approve Town donation of piano to Bethesda-Chevy Chase Elementary School. – 7:40 p.m.

NON-CONSENT

3. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider award of Town Snow Removal Contract to Mulheron Tree Experts. – 7:41 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Town Manager August Administrative and Fiscal Reports – 7:51 p.m.
5. **Discussion:** Building Permit Administrator Report – 8:00 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To Discuss Town Hall construction project, and consider approval of payment to Balodemas Architects for Town Hall Renovation Project Management in the amount of \$16,523.86. – 8:10 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider amendment to permit at 4917 Essex Avenue including pool, pool deck, fence, retaining wall, and removal of two tulip poplar trees. – 8:20 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider extension of building permit at 5800 Deal Place. – 8:50 p.m.
9. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider resident's appeal of tree removal permit denial at 4608 Dorset. – 9:00 p.m.
10. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider Town Fall Tree Planting Schedule:
 - a. 2 Forest Pansy Redbuds at 4900 Cumberland Ave.
 - b. 2 Forest Pansy Redbuds at 4607 Dorset Ave.
 - c. 1 Serviceberry at 4909 Falstone Ave.
 - d. 2 Yellowwoods at 5501 Surrey St.
 - e. 1 Forest Pansy Redbud at 5820 Surrey St.
 - f. 1 American Beech at 4715 Trent Ct.
 - g. 2 Yoshino Cherry at 5415 Trent St.
 - h. 1 Yoshino Cherry at 5510 Trent St.
 - i. 2 Serviceberry at 5522 Warwick Pl.
 - j. 1 Swamp White Oak at 5545 Warwick Pl.
 - k. 1 October Glory Red Maple at 5603 Warwick Pl.
 - l. 1 Black Gum (provided by WSSC) at 5611 Warwick Pl.– 9:10 p.m.
11. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 9:30 p.m.
12. **Adjourn** – 9:35 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.