

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



Somerset TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 64 • No. 10

October 2019



2019 Back To School Classic — October 6th

By Race Director Jeff Nussbaum, Essex Avenue

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 6th at 9:00 a.m. for the 32nd annual Somerset Elementary Back to School Classic 8k and 2k race. Once again, the race will be raising money for the Somerset Elementary School PTA.

For those who have not participated before, it's a wonderful community event on a great course that takes runners from Somerset Elementary School, through the neighborhoods of Somerset and Kenwood, and back to

the school for a community brunch. From fun runners to serious competitors to those who just want to join in the brunch, there's something for everyone. There's still time to sign up to run or volunteer, and you can do both at www.Somersettrace.com.

There will, as always, be some parking and driving restrictions on race morning, but we think that's a minor inconvenience for a worthy community cause.

See you at the race!

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ON MY MIND

Deadlines Add Stress

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

As often happens at this time of year, many people get into a post-Labor Day frenzy to accomplish all those New Year's resolutions they made in January, some of which they haven't even begun to attack. This is why health clubs and gyms are packed, fad dieting increases, traffic is up and voicemails and email inboxes are flooded.

Let me call this phenomenon the "sprint to the holidays," which unfortunately comes with added stress, loss of sleep, frayed nerves and other unnecessary outcomes.

Coincidentally, this is also the season when people of my Jewish faith are celebrating a New Year that is preceded by a month of introspection, when we perform a process called cheshbon hanefesh, moments of reflection through which we take stock of who we are and who we would like to be. Rabbi Susan Shankman and Cantor Susan Bortnick of Washington Hebrew Congregation wrote about this recently, and I would like to offer this process to everyone so that they can deal with these yearly "deadlines" I am talking about.

So rather than upset ourselves, let's take it easy, reflect and try to be better versions of ourselves. Let's appreciate our waking up every day and savor our sleep time (and get enough of it). Let's be grateful for who we are and what many blessings we have.

And one suggestion these religious leaders have which I am going to follow: "Take a moment each day to reflect on three things for which you are grateful — perhaps a person in your life, an uplifting moment, or an instance when you witnessed the beauty of God's creation."

So, take advantage of the fall season. Don't compete with yourself. Enjoy every day to the fullest.

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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TTY users call Maryland Relay

SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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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.
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www.townofsomerset.com

Tennis, Anyone?

By **Carrie Wofford, Chair, Tennis Committee, Essex Avenue**

The Tennis Committee is willing to offer some matchmaking to help you find a regular game or hitting partner(s).

Email me at **carrie.wofford@gmail.com** and let me know your approximate level; if you're looking for singles or doubles or just to hit; how often you're looking to play; and at what time. For example, you might email me something like: "I'm an intermediate player, looking for a weekly Saturday afternoon doubles match." Or "I'm a 3.5 player looking for someone to hit with several weekday mornings before work." The Tennis Committee and I will help you find a regular partner(s).

Remember, the courts are a great Somerset asset. Family fee is \$20 annually. You can pay online or drop by Town Hall.

SAVE THE DATE: Tennis Round Robin



Saturday, October 5, 9 – 11:30 a.m.
All Somerset residents welcome!

Upcoming B-CC High School Used Book Sale

The B-CC Book Sale is the PTSA's largest fundraiser and benefits every student. The Book Sale takes place on March 7 and 8, 2020, but you can start clearing your shelves now. Drop off your gently used books from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- October 12
- November 9
- January 11

Drop-offs are at the main entrance of B-CC HS. Students will help you unload and give you a tax-deduction form.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Tennis Round Robin

9 – 11:30 a.m.
Somerset Town Courts

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

2019 Back-to-School Classic Race

9:00 a.m.
Somerset Elementary School

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Town Council Meeting

Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Bulk Trash Pick-up

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

B-CC Used Book Sale Drop-Off

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
B-CC High School main entrance

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

Nonagenarians' Ice Cream Social

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

MVA Mobile Office

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Halloween

Cumberland closed to traffic from
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Somerset Tradition Is a Big Success

A great Somerset tradition - the annual **Newcomers' Party** - was a big hit once again! Residents new and old got to know each other at this wonderful event on September 8th. A hearty welcome to our newest residents, listed below:



Cumberland Avenue

- Ken and Shannon Rovak
- Peter Bannister and Leanne Bonter
- Peter Bryce and Jacquelyn Quan
- Alan Kaplan and Erica Cohen
- Dario Fuentes and Kirsten Darling

Dorset Avenue

- Joseph and Kara Wheatley

Essex Avenue

- German and Cynthia Rojas Duarte
- Michael and Melissa Tye
- Matthew and Ayasha Sharron
- Peter and Susan Tynan

Falstone Avenue

- Brent Peacock and Catherine Martin
- Karen Thomson
- Jose and Michele Torrecilla

Greystone Street

- James and Julia Joyce

River Road

- Stephen Jaeger and Emma Price

Surrey Street

- Roger Hunwicks and Tracey Lane
- Taos Turner and Delores Biocca

Trent Street

- Brendan and Erlinda Doherty
- David Kornbluth and Soching Tsai

Uppingham Street

- Francesco Fontemaggi and Pauline Simonet
- Sam and Gemma Medile
- Yves Lunzaila and Salima Belhadj

Warwick Place

- Michael and Heidi Fisher





Somerset Residents Recommend...

In this new monthly feature, residents will 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.

Ilene Heller gets the ball rolling this month with her recommendation of a trip to the soon-to-close Newseum. We hope you enjoy this new Journal feature!

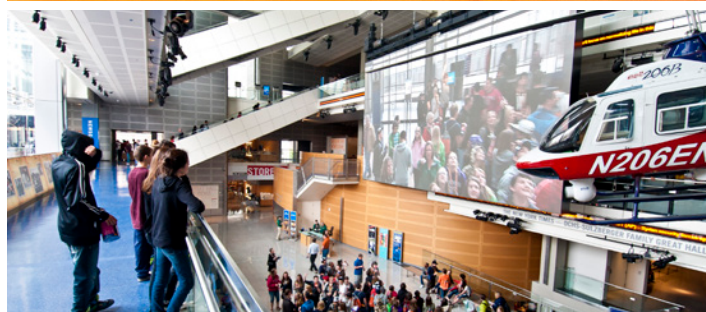
See the Newseum Before it Closes

By Ilene Heller, Uppingham Street

Time Magazine recently named the Newseum as one of the "World's Greatest Places 2019" and urged visitors to see it before it closes on December 31. I have been a volunteer at the Newseum for six years and could not agree more.

Here's some of what you can see:

- America's largest collection of segments of the Berlin Wall, including the only guard tower in the U.S.
- The Unabomber's Cabin, the Shoebomber's Shoe and other artifacts related to America's most famous crime stories
- Artifacts from 9/11
- The infamous Watergate Door (the stairwell door that had been taped open, causing a guard to call police who discovered the break-in at Democratic National Headquarters)
- The first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence
- Historic newsreels and videos of famous broadcasts, including those of Edward R. Murrow
- The original F.W. Woolworth lunch counter from the famous sit-in by four black students in Greensboro, N.C.
- Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement
- An exhibit on Jon Stewart's Daily Show
- A Pulitzer Prize photo gallery featuring award-winning photographs from 1942 to present
- 24 films, including: "Press Box: The History of Sports Reporting" and "Holocaust: The Untold Story"
- A stunning view of the Capitol from the terrace



The Newseum opened in Rosslyn, VA, in 1997 and moved to its current location at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue in 2008. Unfortunately, the Newseum has struggled financially. It is challenging to operate a museum that charges an admission fee in a city full of free museums. The Newseum building was sold to Johns Hopkins University in January, and the Newseum continues to look for a suitable new location.

The Newseum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets may be used for two consecutive days. Admission is \$24.95, with discounts for seniors and youth. A 15% discount is available for on-line purchases, and Goldstar and others may offer discounts. The Newseum is within walking distance of the Judiciary Square Metro and offers underground parking.



Sustainability Corner

By Robin Barr, Chair, Environment Committee, Essex Avenue

\$2,000 to Change a Light Bulb

As many of you know, the Environment Committee is working with the Town Council to convert our current mix of mercury vapor and high pressure sodium street lights to LED bulbs, like the bulbs that are currently on a few lightpoles on lower Dorset near Little Falls. These newer bulbs use less electricity than the older technology bulbs. They last a lot longer before they burn out. They also shine directed light on to the sidewalk and street rather than generating scattershot light. The older-technology lights cause glare inside homes and shoot light up to the sky - all too familiar hazards of our current lighting.

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) published a guide in 2019 for municipal governments to help with converting to LED street lights. The EmPOWER Maryland program provides discounts to convert the lights. These are strong signals that we should be converting. And the Town Council has allocated \$70,000 for the conversion from this year's highly constrained budget (think Town Hall renovation). We have run a pilot program and collected resident input. We have engaged a lighting consultant.

And then we asked Pepco what they would charge to remove the current bulbs and replace them with LED bulbs. In the pilot program earlier this year Pepco charged us \$900 both to install and then to replace each test light. We expected a lower cost per light for the much larger project of replacing all the Town lights.

Pepco recently informed us to expect a charge of \$2,000 for each bulb that they replace!

That signal from Pepco runs counter to the conversion messages from the MEA and from EmPOWER Maryland. The price prevents us from converting. Why might they be doing that? A look at the recently published (September 6, 2019) tariff for utilities in Maryland provides a likely answer. At the moment Pepco may charge the Town between \$2.13 and \$11.71 per light per month (depending on the wattage) for high pressure sodium bulbs with a \$5.06 operation and maintenance fee. Mercury-vapor bulbs have largely similar fees. In contrast, each LED bulb costs \$0.56 per month with an \$0.89 operation and maintenance fee. The profit possible from LED bulbs is a fraction of the profit possible from the older technologies.

In reality, Pepco is an ostrich hiding its head in the sand. LED lights are the coming technology. The utility needs to find ways to profit from them. For example, snow and dust proof lights are available. Dimmable lights are available. Controllers can be installed to allow a Town to dim the lights during certain hours. These extra services and pricier lights could replace the profits lost from abandoning older technologies.

In the mean time, as a first step, the Town is arranging a meeting with Pepco and our elected officials.

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**.

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.



To Your Health

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

I love when fall arrives. The colors seem to change on a daily basis as does the quality of light in the morning and afternoon. When I walk my dog Gabbie at around 6 p.m., I can often catch the aroma of what's cooking for dinner at my neighbor's house.



The farmer's market is selling the last of the summer corn now, and tomatoes and crisp apples take center stage. Of course pumpkins and squash are everywhere.

It's also time to start searching for the knitting projects I put down over the summer and vowed to

have finished for gifts last year. Maybe I'll even get them done this year.

3 Easy Ways to Spice Up Your Fall

The first place to add spice is to your cooking. One of my secret go-to's is **pumpkin pie spice**. On a cautionary note, each year more and more processed food products come in pumpkin flavors, from cereal to pasta. A healthier choice is to add your own spice mix to your home cooking — you'll know what you are eating.

There are many pre-mixed pumpkin-pie spice blends available but make sure there is no sugar added. Trader Joe's brand is a combination of cinnamon, ginger, lemon peel, nutmeg, cloves and cardamom. **It contains no sugar yet has a slightly sweet taste.** You can sprinkle it on a baked sweet potato, roasted butternut squash, or even baked pumpkin. I always add a little salt to bring out the flavor, and if I'm roasting I use olive oil. I also add it to squash soups, coffee and tea. A little goes a long way and it smells so delicious.

Also try heating some of the spice on foil in the oven. What an aroma!



Did you know cardamom is the third most expensive spice...just behind saffron and vanilla?

It is grown in southern India and is one of the many intoxicating flavors of Indian food. You can buy it ground or in pods but if you really want to enjoy the distinctive sweet spicy flavor as well as its many health benefits you want to buy green pods.

Don't be afraid to use cardamom...a little goes a long way. The seeds need to be ground and heated to release their full flavor. Use a mortar and pestle to grind them and heat in a saucepan with a little oil. If you like the flavor of Indian Chai you can slightly crack open one or two pods and let them steep in a pot of tea. Add a little almond milk and you've made your own chai.

Here's a Recipe For Grain-Free Pumpkin Bread (gluten free)



INGREDIENTS:

- 5 farm-fresh eggs
- 1/2 C. coconut milk (full fat)
- 1 1/2 C. 100% pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp pure vanilla
- 1/2 C. coconut flour, sifted with baking soda
- 1-2 tbsp raw or locally grown honey (optional)
- 1 tbsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp ginger powder
- Your choice of chopped nuts (walnuts are best)
- Coconut oil or butter for greasing your loaf pan

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375°.
2. Mix all wet ingredients together in a large bowl.
3. Sift in coconut flour, baking soda and spices.
4. Blend together until completely combined and lump-free.
5. Bake in a greased loaf pan for 40-45 minutes or until the bread is firm to touch.
6. This recipe can be made into muffins, too.

Courtesy of Carol Beliveau

I'd love to hear what you like about fall and what some of your favorite recipes are. Please feel free to share with me at diane.b.horn@gmail.com.

Don't forget to let your inner child come out and play! Dress up for Halloween, carve a pumpkin, jump into a pile of leaves...whatever makes you laugh!



All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*

Following up on last month's introductions, here are additional profiles of six families who recently arrived in Somerset.

At the beginning of July, **Pauline Simonet** and **Francesco Fontemaggi** moved into a house on Uppingham with their three children, **Matilde** (13), **Maia** (6), and **Giulio** (2 ½). The family arrived in the U.S. from Paris two years ago and initially took up residence in Tenleytown. They were familiar with the Town through French friends who used to live here and immediately fell in love with it. Proximity to the Metro was a big plus. Pauline is a freelance television and radio journalist who is currently covering the American political scene. While living in Paris, she worked in French public television. Francesco is likewise a journalist (print) and works for Agence France-Presse covering the State Department. The family is taking advantage of their time here to explore the area with regular outings to Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. They are struck with the beauty of the countryside.

Also at the start of July, **Heidi and Michael ("Caleb") Fisher** arrived on Greystone with **Eden** (13) and **Iris** (10). It was a short hop from Chevy Chase West where they lived for the past four years. Prior to that, they were residents of Massachusetts. The draw to Somerset included the pool since both children are big swimmers. Now at Westland Middle School, Eden attended Somerset Elementary where Iris has just begun the fifth grade. Keeping the children in their current schools was another big plus. Heidi is an evolutionary geneticist and an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at the University of Maryland. Caleb is a Vice President and General Manager at AST Raytheon running a division focused on applied signal technology. The family likes to travel and do just about anything in the water including surfing, kayaking, and paddle boarding.

In mid-July, **Sam and Gemma Medile** moved into a house on Uppingham with their son **Dominic** (11) after living in Annapolis for many years. The couple also has two adult children, **Samantha**, a schoolteacher in Atlanta, and **Andrew**, a junior at Texas Christian University. This is a return to the area for Gemma who grew up in nearby Wood Acres. The Mediles own a parking management company called Off Campus Parking. Gemma handles the accounting side of the business, and Sam, a/k/a "The

Parking Guy," handles sales and operations. Gemma plans to take Sam and Dominic to every museum in D.C. to show her boys all of her favorite childhood spots. The Mediles are avid Big Ten fans: Gemma is a Wisconsin Badger and Sam is a diehard Terp.

Around the same time, **Alan Kaplan** and **Erica Cohen** took up residence on Cumberland with their two children, **Saul** (5) and **Sylvie** (2). They arrived here after living in Los Angeles for 10 years. They knew the local area since Erica grew up in Potomac, and they have close family friends in Somerset. A visit in March sealed the deal. They particularly liked the neighborhood feel so close to a large city. Alan is a urologist with Chesapeake Urology, working at St. Agnes Medical Center in Baltimore three days a week. He spends the other two days consulting with a health technology start-up company. Erica is a gastroenterologist with a subspecialty in inflammatory bowel disease. She was recruited by Capital Digestive Care in Friendship Heights, given the high demand for her skill set. The family enjoys outdoor activities (running, water sports) and visits to Bethany where Erica's parents have a beach house.

Rounding out the mid-July moves, **Taos Turner** and **Delores ("Lola") Biocca** arrived on Surrey with their eight-year-old twins, **Joy** and **Maddox**. Taos spent most of the last 20 years in Latin America as a foreign correspondent. He met his wife Lola in Argentina, and the twins were born in Buenos Aires. They wanted to give their children a chance to experience life in the U.S., and a new position for Taos at the Inter-American Development Bank brought them to this area. They were looking for a safe, family-friendly community and Somerset fit the bill. Taos is a Communications Specialist with the Bank and enjoys navigating the different cultures of the countries that comprise the organization. Lola owns a communications firm in Argentina where she spends one week out of every five. She works with companies of all sizes as well as NGOs handling government relations, public affairs, media relations, and the like. She's looking to expand her business into the U.S. The family is taking advantage of the local bike trails and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

At the beginning of August, **Ayasha Williams-Sharron** and **Matt Sharron** moved into their house on Essex along with

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A MAGICAL NIGHT

This year's Adult Pool Party had a Brazilian theme, in the food, the music and atmosphere. It was a great success! Many thanks to **Sarah Morse** (Dorset), **Cathy Pickar** (Dorset) and **Haya Berman-Hakim** (Greystone), who were the main organizers of the event, and to the many, many volunteers who worked so hard to create a beautiful evening! Somerset Brazilian resident **Eloisa Marques** (Greystone) made sure the food represented the best of Brazil and made the delicious flans. It was an exemplary event as well – only one half-bag of trash was generated from 140 guests. Everything else was composted or recycled!



Continued from page 8

All About People

Kai (4 ½) and **Miles** (2 ½). After seven years on Capitol Hill, the family decided to move to Maryland but wanted to stay close to the city. Somerset Elementary addressed their desire for a quality public school, and they also liked the “kid-friendly” amenities offered by the Town. Ayasha is a pain management physician who will be joining Medstar Health System’s pain management department in the fall. Matt is a pediatric intensive care physician who

works in the Division of Critical Care Medicine at Children’s National Health System. The family loves being out of doors – hiking, biking, being at the pool, and exploring the neighborhood.

Please keep a lookout for our new neighbors and give them a warm welcome!



Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

Happy fall! The dog days of summer are behind us, and we are starting to feel cool air blowing in and the days shortening. And after the summer lull, the Town has some important events coming up in October and beyond.

The Town hosted several events in September, most notably the Adult Pool Party, the Newcomers' Party, and Movie Night at the pool. All three events were a great success, and I want to thank our volunteers for helping to put them together and ensuring these events went off so smoothly. Town-wide events are a great way to bring Somerset together and help foster that sense of community that makes Somerset so special. We hope you were able to join the Town for at least one. But if not, there are still lots of opportunities to come!

On October 6 Somerset Elementary will be hosting the 32nd annual Back to School Classic 8k and 2k race. Racers and volunteers can still sign up at somerseTRACE.com. (See article on page 1 of this Journal.)



Halloween

Of course, Somerset is always a great Halloween destination. Halloween on "Big Cumberland" will follow the same protocol as last year. As a reminder, last year the Town Council adopted the following plans on a two-year trial basis:

- Cumberland Avenue from Warwick Place to Devon Lane will be closed to traffic from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Police officers will be stationed at three intersections with Cumberland at Warwick Place, Surrey Street, and Devon Lane
- Local traffic and emergency vehicles will be able to enter and leave during this time period.

We hope and expect to see many terrific costumes this year!

Flu Clinic

While not as "fun," another service the Town provides for its residents is the Flu Clinic, which is tentatively scheduled for October 25th. As of this writing, we haven't completely locked that in, so please be on the lookout for confirmation of the date and further details.

Bulk Trash Pickup

The Town has also arranged a bulk trash pickup with Goode for Monday, October 7. Goode has provided a list of items that can be placed out for bulk pickup. The list has been posted on the Town's website in the Document Center page at: <https://townofsomerset.com/DocumentCenter/View/891/List-of-Bulk-Items>

In one of my weekly announcements, I had said residents needed to send a picture of their items to Goode ahead of time. **Please disregard that message as it is incorrect.** I apologize for any confusion that may have caused. If you have items that you wish to put out for bulk pickup, simply bring items to the curb before the pickup on Monday morning. Goode has also asked residents to please be mindful and not block any bulk items with your cars.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you all, and I look forward to continuing to meet new faces. Have a wonderful October!

GENERAL PERMITS

BUILDING PERMIT

Approval of a building permit at 5526 Uppingham Street to enlarge and redesign the front porch, and install a new walkway to the porch from the parking area.

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



While renovation work on the Town Hall is continuing past the original deadline, I am pleased with the progress so far, and with the outstanding oversight provided by **Council Members Barbara Zeughauser** (Trent) and **Franny Peale** (Uppingham) and the Town staff. I also appreciate the keen eye of our consultant architect Lou Balademos and the craftsmanship of the construction company we selected. While we have unfortunately gone over budget, it's actually for good reason. After plans were finalized, we discovered that the building had no sprinkler system! (Can you imagine what a serious problem that could have created?) Also, the 30-year-old addition in the back was improperly done and the ceiling was about to collapse. I am grateful that the Council approved additional monies to correct these errors. They have wisely invested in an important Town asset that had been neglected for decades.

"School's Open, Vote Carefully." As I mention every fall, that catchy phrase was used by a school board candidate I knew decades ago. I think about it every year on the first day of classes. Good luck to all of our students in the upcoming year, and I hope all young people will learn about the importance and power of voting. The day after Labor Day also marked the unofficial start of the Presidential primary campaign leading up to the election in 2020. Somerset residents will have many decisions to

make and now is the time to really start paying attention. The future of our great country is at stake.

The Newcomers' Party on September 8th was a huge success again this year. I want to thank my co-host **Gail Schwartz** (Dorset) for doing such a great job interviewing the new residents with me and also sharing some of her own fascinating Somerset story. This event is always a great opportunity to make new friends and reunite with neighbors.

We are fortunate that this Journal is one of the best monthly municipal publications in Maryland, especially because of our outstanding co-editors **Barbara Marenus** (Surrey) and **Mary Wisniewski** (Greystone) along with monthly columnist **Eugene Tillman** (Warwick). As publisher, I am very proud of these folks and want to encourage other residents to participate. We can always use a letter to the editor, news article or family household tidbit, etc. Get in touch with me regarding any ideas you might have, or you may contact the editors at bmarenus@gmail.com or mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com.

Each month I continue to enjoy reading the Agenda News online, which always has lots of information you cannot get elsewhere. The publication is published by Friendship Heights resident Bob Joiner and is available free at www.theagendanews.com.

Council Meeting Actions

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

1. Approved minutes from Council meeting held on August 5, 2019.
2. Approved Resolution designating Town Manager as Town's Retirement Plan Coordinator with ICMA Retirement Corporation.
3. Approved donation by Kelly Swain of dog waste receptacle at corner of Trent and Uppingham St. ; and Town installation of covered trash can to replace uncovered trash can at corner.
4. Approved \$12,000 for Town Hall renovation survey costs.
5. Approved Town Hall renovation contractor payment of \$57,191.93.
6. Approved building permit at 5526 Uppingham Street to enlarge and redesign the front porch, and install a new walkway to the porch from the parking area.
7. Introduced comprehensive Town Code amendments, as prepared by General Code. (Public hearing will be held at October Council meeting, and the Council may take action to approve the amendments).

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

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

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on October 7, 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 Zeughhauser, Stephen Surko

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To approve minutes from Council meeting held on September 3, 2019 – 7:40 p.m.

NON-CONSENT

2. **Discussion:** Town Manager August Administrative and Fiscal Reports – 7:41 p.m.
3. **Discussion:** Building Permit Administrator Report – 7:55 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To Discuss Town Hall construction project, and consider approval of payment to Deneau for installation of water service line connection in the amount of \$24,000; and bond payment to WSSC in the amount of \$56,600. – 8:05 p.m.

5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of building permit at 4917 Essex Avenue for new home construction, new driveway construction, and rear porch. – 8:20 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider removal of 34" diameter Pin Oak located in Town Right-of-way at 4910 Essex Avenue. – 8:50 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of comprehensive Code of Ordinance amendments, as prepared by General Code and introduced at September 2019 Council meeting – 9:00 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider Resolution re-adopting Town's current fee schedule, as listed on the Town website. – 9:20 p.m.
9. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 9:25 p.m.
10. **Adjourn** – 9:30 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.