



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

SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



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September 2019

Upcoming September Events at the Pool

By Matt Zaft, Chair, Pool Committee, Dorset Avenue

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and the pool will soon be closed. However, there is a lot still happening before then! Here is what you need to know:

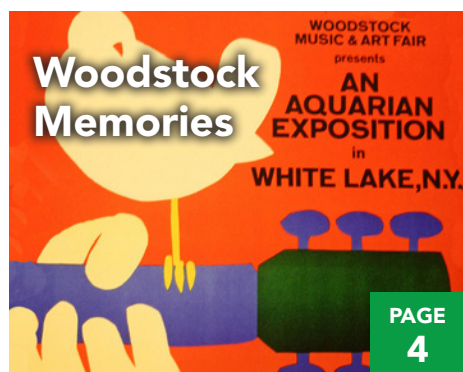
- We will be having our **second late night swim** on **Sunday, September 1**. The pool will stay open until 10 p.m. and we will have Rockland's BBQ Food Truck on site. Come swim under the stars!
- Our next **Pool Committee** meeting will be on **Sunday, September 1** at the pool. Time is TBD. All are welcome to attend, and an agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.
- **Last day of morning swim** is Labor Day, **September 2**.
- We will again be having **movie night** at the pool on **Saturday, September 7**. We are hoping to have a food truck on site starting at 6:30 p.m. with the movie starting at 7. Movie is still TBD.
- The **adult only party** will be on **Saturday, September 14**. You can purchase tickets here: <https://somerseTparty.eventbrite.com> — use the password "SomerseT."
- The pool **closing date** and **dog swim** will be **Sunday, September 29**. The ever popular dog swim is scheduled from 1p.m. to 2 p.m.



Finally, a huge thank you to **Barron Williams** (Warwick) who personally inspected the broken tetherball "court" and purchased replacement parts including a new ball! As a result of Barron's generosity and initiative, tetherball is back in the grassy area by the deep end soon!

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

IN THIS ISSUE





ON MY MIND

Fighting LGBTQ Discrimination

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

I believe that all Somerseters have as a core value that no one should be discriminated against for any reason on the basis of their individual demographic. In Montgomery County we are fortunate that there are legal protections for residents in almost every imaginable category. It is sad, though, that in many parts of the United States, if you are a member of the LGBTQ community, you can still be fired from your job just because you identify with that group.

As most know, the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sex. But it is unclear whether this extends to sexual orientation. Recently a number of lower courts and federal agencies have affirmed that it does. There is now a case before the Supreme Court involving three individuals, two gay and one transgender, who lost their jobs after employers discovered their identities and are now challenging their dismissals.

No one should experience discrimination because of who they are or who they love. Our LGBTQ neighbors and family members make important contributions and they just want the same things as everyone else: raise a family, make a decent wage and feel accepted.

Accordingly, I have joined with over 100 mayors to sign on a friend-of-the-court brief for these cases. I want to thank our Town Attorney Ron Bolt who assisted with this on a pro bono basis. The cases are scheduled to be heard before the Supreme Court on October 8. A final decision will probably not be announced until next year.

Let's all follow the news and hope for a positive outcome. I hope that everyone in Town agrees that LGBTQ people should be able to work free from discrimination.

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TTY users call Maryland Relay

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SAVE THE DATE

Bethesda Fire Department Open House on September 28

By Barbara Condos,
Member, Bethesda Fire
Board, Falstone Avenue

The Bethesda Fire Department's Open House will be held September 28, 2019, from noon to 3 p.m., at Station No. 6 located at Bradley Boulevard and Wisconsin Avenue. Once again the engine bay will be open. The fire engines and ambulance will be on display. There will be educational materials, balloons, a bounce house, pizza, beverages and balloons. Come ring the bell on the antique fire engine!



SAVE THE DATE

Brown Bag Lunch on Thursday, September 12

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin

Let's celebrate fall at this year's third quarterly Brown Bag lunch on **Thursday September 12, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. at the Town Hall.** As always, members of the Council and I will host anyone from Town interested and available to talk about issues or tell a story or two.

Remember to bring a sandwich or dish to share---and a friend. Beverages, plates and utensils are provided. Email me at **mayor@townofsomerset.com** if you have any questions.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Late Night Swim at the Pool
Saturday, September 7

Movie Night at the Pool
7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Brown Bag Luncheon
12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Adult Pool Party (see page 6)
6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Pool Closes for the Season
1:00 p.m.

Dog Swim
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Woodstock Memories



MY WOODSTOCK

By Dennis M. Horn,
Surrey Street

On Friday, August 15, 1969, my sister Linda, her friend Sue Ann and I jumped in our parents' car, threw in some camping gear and without much

advance thought left our home in Elmira, NY and drove 132 miles to Woodstock. Elmira is a small market town and county seat on the border between New York and Pennsylvania. Elmira is surrounded by farms and was linked to the "big cities" first by the Erie Canal and then by the railroad. The interstate bypassed Elmira. I was 19 years old, a rising sophomore in an upstate NY university. My sister and her friend were in high school.

We arrived at Woodstock in mid-afternoon on Friday, abandoned our car and camped in a sunken field about 5 miles from the event stage. I hiked to the music and was greeted by Ravi Shankar playing his sitar. Shankar plays Indian classical music which is discordant, haunting and so different from the rock and roll that we heard the next day. My memories of Woodstock are less about the music than they are about the vibes. I was a sheltered kid from a small town. Woodstock was my first introduction to "sophisticated" flower children from New York City. There was plenty of dope, tie dyed clothing and hugging and kissing. I saw a group of laughing kids sliding in the mud, covered with brown goo. I saw another group of boys and girls skinny dipping in the lake. (Did I mention that there

were girls and they were NAKED!). I pretended not to look as I took it all in. My most profound memory is the message on the PA system that broadcast over and over: "There is BAD ACID out there, Man. People are DYING!" (In fact, I am told that only two people died, one run over by a tractor and the other with a bad reaction to insulin. No one died of dope.)

It rained for much of the weekend, so physically, we had a wet weekend in a leaky tent. My sister's friend Sue Ann was the worst part of the trip. She complained non-stop. My sister and I let her sleep in the station wagon and took the leaky pup tent. Since our campground was below the grade in the road, the tent took in a lot of water. Our air mattresses floated. While Sue Ann was a pain, she also saved our bacon (so to speak). Sue Ann kept kosher and she insisted that we bring a big box of kosher hamburger patties. We traded those patties for all of the necessities of life-water, toilet paper, food.

My Woodstock was thousands of kids who were spending a weekend without rules. There were no protests. Black power, the fight for racial equality and Vietnam were causes that waited for another day. Woodstock was one of the most memorable weekends in my young life and, I suspect, a notable weekend in the lives of those "sophisticated" flower children from New York City. To quote the New York Times quoting Shakespeare in an article explaining Woodstock, "With Henry the Fifth they could say at Bethel (i.e. Woodstock): "He that outlives this day, and comes home safe, will stand a tiptoe when this day is nam'd."



THEN



NOW

MY WOODSTOCK

By **Walter Wisniewski**,
Greystone Street

A spur-of-the-moment decision led me and my friend Gordon Joseloff to set out for the Woodstock Music and Art Fair (its actual, formal title) 50 years

ago. We never heard any music – heck, I only could see the stage as a distant blur on the horizon – but we were part of history, and have been dining out on our story ever since.

Gordon and I were young reporters at UPI in New York at the time, and we were envious of our colleagues who got assigned to cover Woodstock. We were stuck working in Manhattan on the Friday night when Woodstock began, writing boring police stories, and we wanted to be up in Bethel at Max Yasgur's farm with several hundred thousand others. We didn't have Woodstock tickets but I had a car, so sometime very early on Saturday we set out for the festival, which already was being sensationalized as a maelstrom of crazy young people, some only partially clothed, rolling around in mud and zoning out on rock music. Obviously we had to be there.

We drove upstate, but state troopers were barring traffic miles away from the scene. With the help of our NYPD-issued press cards we got through the barricades. At first the road was empty (the organizers had already given up any pretense of collecting tickets). No vehicles, that is, but certainly many people on foot, trudging along the rutted dirt road. We had to drive at a crawl, which made it relatively easy for folks to clamber onto my little Renault A-10. Eventually we had 16 people draped over the trunk and hood and piled in layers on the roof. Amazingly the Renault kept moving, albeit at a pace slower than walking. Maybe the extra weight gave us some traction on the increasingly muddy road.

We were still miles away when the crowds made the road impassable. Fortunately we found a spur road heading around the back of the farm. Our passengers peeled

themselves off and we kept moving, eventually winding up at the press tent, far from the entertainment. I never heard any music at Woodstock, just a dim electronic buzz in the background, and trees and hilly ground blocked our view of the distant stage. But heck, we were at Woodstock! Part of history!

There was no action at the press tent but there was a lively crowd in an adjacent pasture. There were hippies, Yippies, members of the Hog Farm Collective and some of the Merry Pranksters from the West Coast (it wasn't clear whether Ken Kesey, their leader, was there). Our khakis and sports shirts clashed with the Yippies' far more colorful clothing, but we were having a good old time talking about the music that we couldn't hear – I seem to remember a lively discussion about how great was Country Joe and the Fish – and the war and Richard Nixon and stuff, when Abbie Hoffman appeared with a powerful bullhorn. I think Jerry Rubin was around, too, but that memory is uncertain.

Abbie yelled that everyone there was supposed to be helping out at the medical tent, just behind him, and there was a desperate need for people to go out and bring in festival-goers who were unable to cope with all the drugs, alcohol and heat, or who had other problems. (Announcers at the performance area were sounding the alarm about "bad acid"; we all had heard about it, but no one had any firsthand knowledge whether it existed.) Makeshift stretchers somehow materialized and we went out into the crowd to ferry back the music fans who needed assistance. That was about the only thing I did for hours and hours. I don't remember how many patients we brought in, or what was ailing them, but it kept us busy.

Either Gordon or I had to be at work on Sunday, and neither of us wanted to remain in the muddy cow pasture, so sometime after midnight we headed south to Manhattan. An abiding memory of the whole Woodstock experience is how friendly it all was – no anger, no violence that we saw. It really was, as we used to say, a festival of peace and love.

SAVE THE DATE

Somerset Adult Pool Party on September 14

By Sarah Morse, Dorset Avenue

Join us on Saturday, September 14 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Somerset Pool House for...

- Dinner and Dancing Brazilian Style with Somerset's own David Sacks and his Brazilian Quartet
- Delicious Brazilian food
- Yummy cocktails
- Enjoy the best of Brazilian bossa nova, samba, choro, forró, frevo, and baião music. Bring your dancing shoes!
- Great company - Somerset Adults! (Sorry, No kids at this party)



Tickets are \$50 per person with a \$20 discount for 20 year plus residents!

Order your tickets on Eventbrite at <https://somerseparty.eventbrite.com>. Use the password «Somerset»

Please contact **Sarah Morse** (Dorset) at morsekathan@gmail.com with questions.

(Checks will be accepted to save the Eventbrite fee!)

Tennis Reminder...



By Carrie Wofford, Chair,
Tennis Committee

I want to remind Town residents that tennis cards are available at Town Hall and cost only \$20 for the family.



To Your Health

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

The Importance of Self-Care



The term *self-care* is used a lot these days. Why is that? Our lives and those of our kids have gotten so complicated and busy that trying to stay balanced has become harder and harder. Getting a good night's sleep has become a challenge to many as is having enough unscheduled time to act spontaneously.

Self-care isn't just about big-ticket items like vacations, massages and fine dining. These things are all wonderful but I think it also includes small doable activities or pursuits that can easily be incorporated into one's day. The trick is to figure out what replenishes you and give yourself the gift of at least 20 minutes daily to include one of these practices.

Learning to say "no" to something you don't want to do is a form of self-care. So is lingering over a cup of tea or going for a walk. When you start adding in activities that are personally meaningful you are upgrading your life and that is good for your health!

Please consider joining the Somerset Ad-Hoc Wellness Committee to share your thoughts on *self-care* or any other wellness topic.

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.

Proposed Revisions to the Town Code

By Franny Peale, Council Member, Uppingham Street

After many public review sessions among the Council members, our Town management, and our Town attorney, we now have a document to present to our fellow residents. At the September meeting, we will introduce a new Town Code, and we will hold a special meeting to discuss the proposed changes before the matter is brought to a vote. If this amended Town Code is adopted, it will replace the Town Code currently in use. While this is a comprehensive revision, it is not the last time that we will need to amend our Code. I expect that we will continue to review the Code in practice and according to feedback from the Town residents. Once we have a new Code in place, we will be able to work with General Code, our outside consultant, to maintain and publish the Code electronically.

If you are interested in seeing the detailed changes that are proposed, please ask to read the marked version of the proposed Code at the Town Hall. You can also find a PDF of the marked version on our Town website at this link: <https://townofsomerset.com/DocumentCenter/View/647/Town-of-Somerset-Code---10-11-16?bidId>. If you do review the proposed Code, you will see that there are many sections of text that are marked as deletions. In most cases these sections of the Code were improperly included as legislation, when they should have been adopted as administrative regulations. For example, the old Code included formatting instructions for the Town Journal, and specifications for lawn and garden waste receptacles. The Code also included the full text of an Investment Policy, which we propose to review and adopt by a separate regulation. There were long sections in the Code describing Town Committee composition and procedures, which can be better covered in regulations,

if needed. In a few cases, the Code included language that was also included in the Town Charter, so we have deleted it from the Town Code. You can find our updated Town Charter at this link: <https://townofsomerset.com/DocumentCenter/View/852/Town-Charter-updated-as-of-November-2017>

Most of you will be interested in the proposed changes to the permitting legislation. At the risk of over-simplifying, I will highlight some of our proposed changes, and encourage those interested to get in touch with questions and to attend the Council meeting discussions.

- Added a definition of 'Established Building Line'
- Clarified exception for 'Ordinary Repairs'
- Sorted the 'Required Information for Permits' into 'Legal' and 'Project Description' categories
- Removed specified fees from Code; Fees will be adopted in separate regulation
- Re-worded 'Setback Requirements' and 'Exceptions for Projections' for clarity
- Added defined terms for 'Building Wall,' 'Decorative Wall,' and 'Retaining Wall'
- Defined 'Replacement Fence or Wall' as complete replacement in one/more yards
- Re-worded 'Fences on Corner Lots' for clarity
- Revised 'Permit Application Form' language across types of permits for conformity

I hope to hear from Town residents about this project. Your Council members have been working for several years to bring our Town Code up to date and to make it easier to use, and we all hope that this revision brings us closer to that goal.

Council Liaison Assignments and Other Town Representation for July 2019–June 2020

By Council President Marnie Shaul, *Uppingham Street*

Each year the Town Council agrees on Council member liaison assignments to the Town's committees. It also agrees on assignments to the Town's ad hoc committees, other Town activities, and representation on external organizations. If you have questions about various Town and external organizations, you can contact the Council members and other residents listed below.

Assignments for Town Committees:

- Audit Committee: Morris Panner, Marnie Shaul, Alternate
- Communications Committee: Barbara Zeughauser, Marnie Shaul
- Environmental Committee: Steve Surko, Marnie Shaul, Alternate
- Parks and Natural Resources Committee: Barbara Zeughauser, Franny Peale, Alternate
- Pool Committee: Marnie Shaul, Morris Panner, Alternate
- Swim Team Committee: Franny Peale, Morris Panner, Alternate
- Tennis Committee: Franny Peale, Barbara Zeughauser, Alternate

Other Liaison Assignments and Council Responsibilities

- Ad Hoc Budget Committee: Marnie Shaul, Steve Surko, and Morris Panner
- Ad Hoc Personnel Committee: Marnie Shaul, Barbara Zeughauser
- Ad Hoc Town Hall Committee: Barbara Zeughauser, Franny Peale
- Ad Hoc Traffic Committee: Marnie Shaul
- Artist Shows in Town Hall: Barbara Zeughauser
- Bethesda Fire Board: Barbara Condos
- Bus Rapid Transit: County Committee: Barbara Condos
- Check signing: Marnie Shaul, Barbara Zeughauser
- Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights: Steve Surko, Marnie Shaul, Alternate
- Code Review: Franny Peale, Barbara Condos
- Montgomery County Cable, Channel 16: Marnie Shaul
- Snow Removal: Barbara Zeughauser
- Transportation Management District (TMD): Barbara Condos
- Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board: Carrie Wofford



World's Rush to be Sustainable – There is No Planet B

As many newspapers are now reporting, the world's focus on becoming more sustainable is now moving at a furious pace. The big question is will it be fast enough to stop some catastrophic tipping points on our planet. Glacier melting, deforestation, plastic in oceans, flooding, droughts and food security, and rising global temperatures are just a few of our concerns. The Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawaii, which measures the average



CO2 worldwide, has recently measured the air at 415 parts of CO2 per million molecules. A major environmental non-profit, 350.org at www.350.org, claims that anything

above 350 ppm is not healthy. So, whether you are living in Hawaii or NYC, we are now officially breathing polluted air 24 hours a day.

In the Town of Somerset, we are extremely fortunate to have many neighbors who have spent their entire careers working on both domestic and world environmental policy, as well as raising awareness about our dying planet.



LED Street Lights Update

But back in the Town of Somerset, there are still many things we need to do to remain leaders of sustainability in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. We currently recycle and compost (PLEASE remember to separate plastic from cardboard boxes), and now we are poised to reduce our electricity carbon footprint by swapping out the existing street light fixtures for LED.

This process has already been accomplished in another sustainable-focus town, Takoma Park.

For comparison, Pepco supplied and installed Takoma Park with 1,505 LED street lights for \$112,000 after Empower Maryland rebates. This averages to \$75 per fixture. This reduced Takoma Park's monthly electricity bills by 43%

resulting in a 2.3 year payback on investment. Wow! Our town has 175 fixtures, which potentially could mean only \$14,000 to replace our fixtures. The problem is that it is still uncertain whether Pepco will honor the same prices for us. Meanwhile, our town has allotted \$70,000 in the budget for street lighting in the coming year. As you may know, there was a LED pilot program ten years ago that placed LED lights on Dorset Ave, between Surrey Street and Little Falls Parkway. These lights are still on our poles, have needed no maintenance and have served our town well! We also had a LED Street Light Pilot Program in front of the Town Hall in March, which has resulted in a LOT of positive feedback, and a leaning toward a particular LED light that costs more than those used in Takoma Park. Presently, negotiations with Pepco are ongoing.

Town Meeting to Discuss LED Street Lights this Fall

It is time to move forward after over 10 years of discussion! This fall, there will be a Town meeting for everyone to come, ask questions and add their support. We urge everyone to come as the Town Council will soon need to vote on the LED Street Light Project to move it forward. The date of the Town meeting will be announced soon.

Swap out your Light Bulbs with LEDs and Switch to 100% Renewable Electric Energy

In the meantime, while we wait to install LED street lights, please swap out all of your lights at home with LED bulbs. The payback to replace these bulbs takes about one year. It is a complete no brainer if you want to save money. Also, we now have about one quarter of our town using 100% renewable electric energy through Pepco. It's now time for those who haven't made the easy switch to do so. Using renewable energy actually now costs less than energy from coal, so your Pepco bill will be reduced. Please go to www.MotherEarthProject.org/renewables for the simple switch to Clearview Energy. All you need is the 10-digit account number at the top of the second page of your Pepco bill.

Please Send Us Your Comments Today

Send your support and comments about the LED Street Light Program to TOS.EnvironmentCommittee@gmail.com.



All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*

Over the past several months, we've had around 20 new arrivals in the Town. It's time to start introducing them, and this month, I'm providing brief profiles on eight families. There will be more to come in future columns.

In December 2018, **Germán Hugo Rojas Irigoyen**, his wife, **Cynthia Raquel Durate**, and their three children moved into a house on **Essex**. The children are two adult daughters (**Fabriana** and **Ximena**) and a son, **Germán** (17). Starting in January 2016, the senior Germán commenced a three-year tour of duty as the Paraguayan ambassador to the U.S. He currently serves on the Board of Executive Directors of the Inter-American Development Bank, a position that will continue through 2021 or 2022. Cynthia is engaged in volunteer work including fundraising for a rural school in Paraguay. Fabriana and Ximena are studying at Marymount University in Arlington, VA – in psychology and business entrepreneurship, respectively. The younger Germán is attending Woodrow Wilson High School in DC where he was permitted to continue following the family's move from the embassy to Somerset. The family enjoys the quiet and cleanliness of Somerset combined with its proximity to lots of activities.

At the end of May, **Melissa** and **Mike Tye** took up residence on **Essex** with their two children, **Thacher** (9) and **Annabel** (6). It was a short move from Chevy Chase West where they had lived for the last six years. While the house on Essex provided the initial attraction, they love Somerset and have quickly made many new friends. Melissa is a telecommunications regulatory lawyer serving as Associate General Counsel for Emerging Technologies at Verizon. Mike is a commercial litigation attorney practicing with the law firm of Arnold & Porter. The family loves to travel and had plans for a visit to Scotland this summer. Thacher likes sports (especially basketball), and Annabel has enjoyed the minis swim team.

In early June, **Stephen Jaeger** and **Emma Price** relocated to a house on **River Road**. Recently engaged, Stephen and Emma met at the University of Pennsylvania while she was in veterinary school and he was in dental school. Before moving here, Stephen worked on an Indian reservation in Montana for one-year while Emma finished her veterinary studies. Emma currently has a one-year internship at Friendship Hospital for Animals in Tenleytown. Stephen is

looking for positions in dentistry and may take on a couple of part-time jobs in an effort to find the right fit. Emma and Stephen enjoy skiing, hiking, and biking, and they are also happy to pet sit!

In mid-June, **Peter Bannister** and **Leanne Bonter** moved into their house on **Cumberland** along with their three daughters and one son, **Seren** (5), **Carter** (4), and twins **Carys** and **Nia** (2). Prior to their arrival, they lived in the Wyngate section of Bethesda. They spent the last six years looking for the right neighborhood and always viewed Somerset as a dream location with its trees, the school, and its proximity to the Metro, the bike trail, and Norwood Park. Peter is a senior vice president with MetricStream, a company that offers software solutions for risk management and compliance issues. Having gone from zero to four children in a period of three years and two weeks, Leanne's current full-time efforts are geared towards the household. The family enjoys outdoor activities and adventure where they can find it!

Also in mid-June, **Julie** and **James Joyce** arrived on **Greystone** with children **Ella** (13), **Oliver** (11), **Liam** (10), and **Anna** (7). Prior to that, the family lived in Bethesda for three years. Julie and James knew a lot of people in Somerset, and their children were already attending elementary school here. Additional attractions included the pool and the Town's community feel. Julie is currently going through her clinical rotations as she completes her graduate degree to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner. She has practiced as a registered nurse for the last 15 years. James, a native of Ireland, is a software developer with Applied Information Sciences where he holds the position of Vice-president of Commercial Accounts. The family loves travelling, and all of the children are busy with sports.

The third mid-June arrival was the **Wheatley** family on Dorset – **Kara** and **Joe** and their daughter **Eleanor** (15 months). They moved from Tenleytown / AU Park where they had resided for five years. They were looking for more space (including a yard) and a place with a strong community close to the city. Both Kara and Joe are lawyers. She started last October with the Groom Law Group, a boutique firm specializing in employee benefits. Joe is a federal prosecutor with the Department of Justice

Continued on page 12

All About People

focusing on organized crime and enforcement of the RICO statute. The parents love taking Eleanor to the pool, and they also enjoy spending time on the Mall exploring the monuments and other attractions.

Rounding out the mid-June quartet, **Ken** and **Shannon Rovak** took up residence on Cumberland along with their daughter **Claire** (4). The family recently moved to this area following time in Chicago, Denver, and most recently Madison WI. They fell in love with Somerset at first sight: Shannon is a tennis player, the four-year old and the pool were a match made in heaven, and proximity to DC was a big plus (a recurring theme). Ken has worked in sports and advertising sales since the start of his career. He is currently a Market Manager for ESPN Digital, and he moved here to help launch their new office in DC. Shannon also works in advertising for Entercomm Communications, a large radio company. She holds the position of Director of Revenue Management and manages sales teams around the country. The family likes travel and sports (playing and watching), and Claire can usually be spotted on her scooter while out with her parents.

Towards the end of June, **Michele** and **Jose Torrecilla** moved into their house on **Falstone** along with their two children, **Carmen** (13) and **Samuel** (11). The family relocated here after nine years in Atlanta with some time in New York before that. Jose was born in Madrid, and Michele grew up in Potomac where her parents still live. Somerset reminded them of some Atlanta neighborhoods which have a suburban feel and are nonetheless close to commercial areas. Life here over the past two months has brought welcome confirmation that one can meet neighbors and make new friends at any stage of life. Michele has been a certified yoga instructor for the past eight years. Jose is the Managing Partner of Samcar Global Capital which structures and raises capital for companies and projects in the US and Latin America. The family is relishing all that metro DC has to offer, and the parents are enjoying the chance to see the new experiences through the eyes of their children.

A warm welcome to all!

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**.

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

Ads are printed as a courtesy to Town residents. The Town makes no representations as to quality, safety or otherwise regarding the goods and services advertised. Readers should make their own inquiries. To place an ad, submit typed or neatly printed copy to the Clerk-Treasurer. Ads must include a Somerset phone number. Price: \$5 per advertisement per issue. Check or exact change. Fifty word limit per advertisement.



Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, Town Manager

Town Business: End of Summer Reminders

Summer is (nearly) over, and with the changing season comes other changes: residents are returning home after vacations, school is back in session, the weather – and our outdoor activities – shift, and football season begins. I wanted to take the opportunity this month to touch on a few of those topics, as I think they are important for our beautiful Town of Somerset.

Mail, Pool, and Back to School

I hope everyone had a great summer. For those who were able to get away for vacation — and even those who enjoyed a “staycation” — welcome back! If you put a hold on your **mail** while you were away, don't forget to contact USPS to let them know you are back; and don't forget that there is still plenty to enjoy near home. While many think of Labor Day as the end of **pool season**, the **Somerset pool will remain open through most of September: the pool closes for humans at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 29; and the pool will be “open” for the Town's annual dog swim from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** The early afternoon closing allows residents to get in one last dip in the pool before Rosh Hashanah at sundown. Two other pool-related events to mark on your calendars are the **Movie Night on September 7**, and the **Adult Pool Party on September 14**.

September also means **back to school**. As of this publication, teachers will already have been in, and students will be starting on **Tuesday, September 3**, right after Labor Day. Please be extra cautious when driving near the school, as our roads will certainly be more crowded with parents doing pick-ups and drop-offs in the mornings and afternoons. Remember that it often takes people some time to orient themselves, especially if they are new or unfamiliar with the process. Our office will be meeting with the principal at Somerset Elementary to see what we can do to help make sure that goes smoothly. To any Somerset residents who have children entering school for the first time: congratulations, this is a big family milestone! Reminder to everyone to be especially kind to one another during this time of transition – change can be hard!

Leaf Blowers

As we transition from **summer to autumn**, the leaves will start to fall. For those of you who use **leaf blowers**, **please be mindful of the Town's noise ordinances (see below) as they relate to power equipment:**

1. Lawn maintenance activities that involve the use of power equipment are permitted on non-holiday weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., with the sole exception that lawn maintenance work that involves the use of power equipment is also permitted on non-holiday weekdays between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. if only one (1) piece of power equipment is used; and
2. Lawn maintenance activities that involve the use of power equipment are permitted on weekends and holidays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Off-Duty: Thoughts on Hiking and Football

On a **personal note**, for me, fall is also **hiking season**! If anyone has any good recommendations, I am all ears. Some of my favorites include Harper's Ferry, Great Falls, White Oak Canyon, and, if you're looking to go a little farther away, McAfee Knob. Here is a picture of me at the top from May, white-knuckled, but trying hard to overcome my fear of heights.

Fall is also the start of **real football**. Far be it from me to pretend I am an expert, but I will give you my unsolicited opinion anyway! I have hope for the future of Maryland football, but worry that we may live through some short-term growing pains:

The Terps are going back to their old 'Terps' lettering helmet, and although I will miss the flag helmets, these new (old) helmets harken back to more successful times of Bobby Ross and Ralph Friedgen. I believe the new coach will be able to turn the page to reestablish a healthier and winning environment in College Park, though it may take



Town manager takes a break

Continued on page 14

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



One reason our Town celebrations are so successful is that, in addition to our excellent staff, we try to have planning committees for each event. In this way, citizens can really participate in the work of the Town government. Accordingly, I am putting together a committee for the Newcomers Party set for Sunday, September 8, which is also Grandparents' Day. If you are interested in signing up or becoming the chair or co-chair, please email me at mayor@townofsomerset.com. We would likely only have one meeting, perhaps two. The newish Ad Hoc Halloween Safety Committee will also be having a meeting soon and anyone who would like to help is welcome.

Welcome to the "dog days" of summer. This is a relaxed time, both for those in Somerset and those on vacation. But please keep in mind that this is also the season when we need to be especially vigilant because there is typically a spike in minor crime in Town. Please be sure to lock all your house doors, garages, and cars and leave an extra light or two on at night if you are away. Make sure someone brings in your newspapers and mail, and by all means do not advertise your absences on the listserv or anywhere else. If we all watch out and help each other there will likely be fewer incidents of theft or burglary this month — and in the future. And as usual, our Town police officers are on high alert at this time.

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Manager's Corner

some time. Competing in the Big Ten (it is still strange that we are no longer members of the ACC...) is no small task, and a strong foundation will need to be laid before the Terrapins will regularly compete with the Penn States, Michigan States, and Wisconsin of the world, much less Michigan and Ohio State.

The Ravens have solid coaching that should keep them from bottoming out, but I worry if the run-run-run strategy they've employed with Lamar Jackson at quarterback is truly sustainable over the course of the entire season. I think they will be at times very exciting, but also have games where they frustratingly struggle to move the ball. I expect a lot of close low- to medium-scoring games, and how they perform in those high-pressure situations

While I don't like belaboring this, as I stroll around Town daily I continue to see too many beer cans, candy wrappers and even cigarette butts carelessly strewn on our streets and sidewalks, especially near construction projects. I hope that the owners of these properties will alert their contractors and sub-contractors that our Town does not tolerate litter. We need to do everything possible to enhance our streetscape. Don't be afraid to bend down and pick up a piece of trash... it's actually healthy! The same goes for dog poop.

Town Staff spends a great deal of time working with builders on a daily basis to ensure that project sites are as clean as possible, trees protected, worker vehicles are parked properly, etc. However, we also rely on inquiries/complaints from residents. So if you see something about a project that is worrisome please don't hesitate to call me or Town Manager Matt Trollinger. Construction oversight is one of the most important functions of our government.

Finally, Happy 1st Birthday to the official Town Listserv. Thanks to everyone who has made this vital Town communications device a success.

could be the difference between the playoffs or being on the outside looking in. I'll split the difference and say they finish 8-8.

As for the Redskins, nearest and dearest to my heart, I fear a lot will have to break their way for them to compete for the playoffs. I see a middling start to a tough first few games of their schedule, which avoids disaster, but puts them far enough behind that they look for a spark and switch to rookie (and Bullis School alum) Dwayne Haskins. Haskins and the team will struggle as he gets his feet wet, but will take some positive steps forward towards the end of the season as he gets acclimated. I predict a 6-10 season, which may precipitate some major changes at the top of the organization.

Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on August 5, 2019 and took the following actions:

1. Approval of Town Council Committee Liaison Appointments.
2. Approval July 2 Town Council Meeting Minutes.
3. Approval of Town Manager July Administrative and Fiscal Reports.
4. Approval of Building Administrator Report.
5. Approval of Town Hall renovation bills (contractor payment; project manager invoice; roof repair estimate adjustment) totaling \$62, 314.
6. Approval of modification to the retaining wall on the left (north) side of the driveway to match the previously existing retaining wall; construction of a new retaining wall at the right (south) side of the driveway; modification to the as-built driveway to 16 ft.; installation of 36" tall fixed planters on the side patio facing Surrey Street at 5813 Surrey.
7. Approval of a building permit at 4715 Cumberland Avenue to rebuild the foundation of the existing screen porch, and enclose said screened porch.
8. Retroactive approval of emergency HVAC permit to replace the failed unit at 5527 Surrey Street.
9. Retroactive approval of emergency HVAC permit to replace the failed unit at 5510 Uppingham Street.
10. Approval of removal of the following Town trees as recommended by the Town Arborist:
 - 2 Kousa Dogwoods at Upper Parking Lot of Town Pool, both multi-stem 5" at base.
 - Dogwood at 4607 Dorset Avenue 2" diameter at base.
 - Flowering Cherry at 5510 Trent Street 3" diameter at base.
 - Japanese Maple Tree at 5820 Surrey 6" diameter at base.
11. Approval of extension of Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC contract to perform FY 2019 audit at a cost of \$13,390, and FY 2020 audit at a cost of \$13,700.
12. Approval of Professional Accounting Services contract with Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra for up to \$7,000 to assist in audit preparation, and to review and establish appropriate internal control policies and procedures.
13. Approval of payroll service software at a cost of \$3,200.

GENERAL PERMITS

BUILDING PERMITS

- Approval to modify the retaining wall on the left (north side of the driveway) to match the previously existing retaining wall; construction of a new retaining wall at the right (south) side of the driveway; modification to the as-built driveway to 16 ft.; and install 36" tall fixed planters on the side patio facing Surrey Street at 5813 Surrey.
- Approval of a building permit at 4715 Cumberland Avenue to rebuild the foundation of existing screen porch and enclose said screened porch.

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

Approval to remove the following trees as recommended by the Town Arborist:

- 2 Kousa Dogwoods at the upper parking lot of Town Pool: both multi-stem 5" diameter at base.
- Dogwood at 4607 Dorset: 2" diameter at base.
- Flowering Cherry at 5510 Trent: 3" diameter at base.
- Japanese Maple at 5920 Surrey: 6" diameter at base.

MISCELLANEOUS PERMITS

- Retroactive approval of emergency HVAC permit to replace failed unit at 5527 Surrey.
- Retroactive approval of emergency HVAC permit to replace failed unit at 5510 Uppingham.

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

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

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on September 3, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall (NOTE: Meeting will be held on a Tuesday). 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 August 5, 2019 – 7:40 p.m.

NON-CONSENT

2. **Discussion:** Town Manager August Administrative and Fiscal Report – 7:41 p.m.
3. **Discussion:** Building Permit Administrator Report – 8:00 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Town Hall construction project– 8:05 p.m.

5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of building permit at 5526 Uppingham Street to enlarge and redesign front porch, and install new walkway to porch from parking area – 8:10 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To introduce comprehensive Town Code amendments, as prepared by General Code– 8:20 p.m.
7. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 8:50 p.m.
8. **Adjourn** – 8:55 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.