



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

# SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



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February 2020

## Budget Cycle Begins Soon for Fiscal Year 2021

By Council President Marnie Shaul, *Uppingham Street*

Our Town is beginning its annual budget process. For those of you who want to participate in the process, here are some of the upcoming budget activities.

**January-February:** Our Town Manager will be asking Town Committees about their requests for projects in Fiscal Year 2021, which starts July 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2021.

**February:** The Town Budget Committee will meet to assist the Town Manager in preparing the budget. The Committee generates estimates from major revenue sources and discusses an appropriate level of financial reserves. The Council will hold two work sessions to discuss a preliminary budget prepared by the Mayor, Manager and Budget Committee. At these work sessions, the Council examines every revenue source and every spending recommendation and asks questions and may suggest changes. Although these are work sessions for Council Members, if residents have concerns or questions, they are generally given some time to present them. Our Town has a collaborative budget process between the executive and legislative branches and these work sessions usually result in a budget that all support. All of these meetings are held in the Town Hall and are open to all. The Town Manager will provide notice of each meeting in advance.

**March:** The budget may be adjusted to reflect additional revenue information, especially any new information about

income tax projections from Montgomery County that are usually available in mid-March. The Town may also get updated expenditure information from contractors because some contracts are renewed in the spring.

**April:** The Mayor presents his budget at the April 6th Council meeting. There is usually no discussion of the budget at this meeting but the budget is available for residents to examine and comment on.

**May:** The May Town Journal, which is usually available about the last week in April, will present the FY2021 budget in broad categories. This budget is also posted on the Town website. If residents want more detail, they can examine the full proposed FY21 budget during business hours. The May Town Journal will also include the Mayor's 5-year plan, which highlights major capital expenses the Town anticipates it may need to undertake in the upcoming 5 years. It also shows the future path of our Town's financial reserves which are intended to ensure that the Town has adequate reserves to deal with expected spending plans as well as unexpected contingencies. This is a planning document and not binding on the Town.

On **May 4th** the Council meets to adopt an FY2021 budget. Prior to adoption, there is a public hearing for residents to make comments, ask questions, and suggest changes.

### IN THIS ISSUE





## ON MY MIND

### Thoughts on the Town's Official Listserv

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

It has been gratifying to observe the increased use of the Town's official listserv over the past year. Originally endorsed by our Communications Committee, the listserv provides a forum for real-time discussion among Town residents. It allows residents to ask questions and offer comments on Town policies and other Town-related concerns, to make service requests, and to receive prompt replies from Town officials. Town Manager Matt Trollinger and I serve as the moderators of this listserv; we do our best to get answers to questions as quickly as possible.

Participating in the listserv also helps the Town learn about residents' views, hear divergent opinions, and respond to all interested parties in an open and efficient manner. It also allows Somerseters to have a voice in Council decisionmaking. For example, residents can submit testimony to be placed in the record on building applications and code amendments. As Matt has recently noted, Council Members will receive copies of all relevant listserv exchanges in the material they review prior to monthly Council meetings. Thus the listserv helps me, the Town staff, and the Council Members do the best job possible for the Town, and helps residents participate in the business of our community.

The private community listserv associated with Somerset, started and owned by a resident, provides a vital opportunity for commercial and political discussions, which are no-nos for official government communications. If a resident chooses not to sign up for the Town listserv, that is a personal decision. However, Town officials will not necessarily respond to Town business matters that are posted on the private listserv. To sign up for the Town listserv, please go to [townofsomersetmdlistserv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:townofsomersetmdlistserv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## Somerset's Helping Hand Is Just an Email or Phone Call Away



If you need a ride, someone to pick up some groceries or a prescription, a ride to the Metro, or even if you just want to get to a friend's house, please contact **Somerset Helping Hand**. We have a list of 30 Somerset volunteers who can help.

Send an email to [HHSomerset@gmail.com](mailto:HHSomerset@gmail.com) or call **Barbara Zeughauser** at 301-951-8560, **Kathleen Kenyon** at 301-656-8581 or **Jim Berry** at 301-656-6089.

If you would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please send an email to [HHSomerset@gmail.com](mailto:HHSomerset@gmail.com).

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Open: 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday  
301-657-3211 | Fax: 301-657-2773  
TTY users call Maryland Relay

### SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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

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

POST OFFICE ADDRESS:  
4510 Cumberland Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
[www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)

# Completion of Town Hall Renovation

By Barbara Zeughauser, Council Member, Trent Street

After nearly a year of construction, the Town Hall renovation project will be complete by March 2020. As some residents may recall, the original concept plan, developed by Balodemas Architects in 2017, and approved by the Council in the spring of 2018, was created to renovate the second floor of the Town Hall.

This plan included:

- an entirely finished second floor,
- the addition of an archives room,
- a meeting room for Council, Committee and resident meetings,
- a second floor HVAC system, carpeting, a renovated bathroom, and renovated staircase,
- new windows for the entire building, electrical power upgrades,
- lighting upgrades for the first floor Meeting Room with a glass partition, and a fire alarm system.

The project accomplished all of these goals. During the construction, previously unknown and additional challenging structural requirements were discovered and addressed. For example, our contractor, de Marne & Day, pointed out that the Meeting Room walls were parting and at risk of collapsing; to resolve this, tie-rods were installed and are visible in the Meeting Room. In addition, a sprinkler system was placed in the Meeting Room and is also visible in the ceiling. The structural integrity of the Town Hall, which has been ignored for so very many years, now meets all County Code requirements.

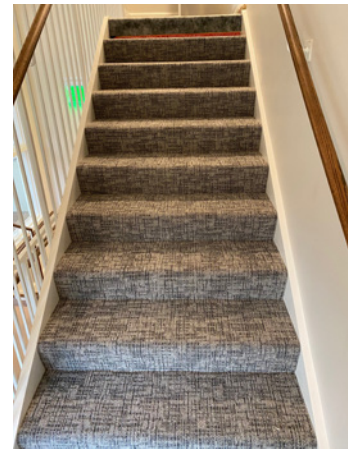
This spring, once again, we will open up our newly renovated Town Hall to artists within our broader



New office/meeting room



New glass partitions



Reconstructed staircase to second floor

community to host art shows in our Gallery/Meeting Room. With the vision, time and energy that Balodemas Architects and de Marne & Day poured into this project, I hope the Town residents will visit and enjoy the newly renovated Town Hall.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Ad Hoc Wellness Committee Meeting  
Time: 7:30 p.m. Place: TBD  
Contact Diane Horn at [diane.b.horn@gmail.com](mailto:diane.b.horn@gmail.com)

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Brown Bag Lunch  
12 noon at the Town Hall

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

MVA Mobile Office, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Friendship Heights (Please note that the MVA Mobile visiting day in Friendship Heights has been changed from Mondays to Tuesdays)





## 2019 Was BIG – 2020 Will Be BIGGER!

First of all, a big thanks to everyone's huge focus on being more sustainable. We are thrilled to see and participate in many new sustainable activities in our neighborhood, our nearby communities and cities, as well as in the U.S. and abroad. Below is a synopsis of a few of our collective accomplishments this past year.

### Town of Somerset



**Pesticide-Free Lawns:** More neighbors have committed to having pesticide-free lawns, indicated by a sign posted at their curbs. If you would like a sign for your home, please email us at [TOS.environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:TOS.environmentcommittee@gmail.com).

Seventy scientists recently reported (Guardian.com, "Urgent new 'roadmap to recovery' could reverse insect apocalypse") that the removal of ALL pesticides is critical to the health of our planet.

**Compost Crew:** We now have 191 households composting, an uptick from the 128 when we started a few years ago. Composting hugely reduces our landfill trash and creates mulch. From Somerset's foundational commitment to them, Compost Crew has now doubled in size in one year, expanding to other neighborhoods in MD. To sign up, please call (301) 202-4450.



**Electric Cars:** We had a successful July 4th electric car show-and-drive event, and we can now see more electric cars in the neighborhood, including one owned by our very own Mayor Slavin! (who says he was greatly influenced by this event!)

**Leaf Blowers:** Our community is purchasing an electric battery-operated leaf blower, as an example for others to follow.

**Leaf to Mulch:** Many neighbors are now electing to mow their leaves instead of placing them at the curb. Doing this returns precious nutrients back to your yard and creates free mulch! I personally did it for the first time and it looks great. You are welcome to come by and take a look!

### Nearby Communities

**DC Green New Deal:** DC passed the boldest green legislation in the US, committing to 100% renewable energy by 2032. They have also banned the use of straws. Their new slogan is: "DC Doesn't Suck!"

**DC Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers:** DC has also passed legislation to phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers by 2022. As a result, landscapers must use electric blowers, which are quieter, now have long-lasting batteries, and emit no cancer-causing VOC fumes.

**Chevy Chase Village:** CC Village has recently followed DC's lead on its DC Leaf Blower legislation, and many in Somerset hope our town will do the same.



**LED Street Lights:** Many communities in Montgomery County have LED street lights, including Martin's Additions and Chevy Chase Village. This obviously saves a lot of money, energy and has similar light quality. Somerset continues to work on bringing LEDs to our neighborhood.

### USA and Abroad



Across the United States, hundreds of cities, states and corporations are moving to sustainable practices and green energy use. Further afield, Europe is leading the world by implementing aggressive green laws and practices. I have been gratified that our own Parachutes for the Planet

initiative, [www.motherearthproject.org/parachutes](http://www.motherearthproject.org/parachutes), has distributed thousands of parachutes in 71 countries and 43 states. That is a commitment to sustainable action with echoes across the globe. Inspired by the AIDS/HIV Quilts of the 1990s, Parachutes are a metaphor for bringing the planet back to a safe place, a sustainable world that is vital to our health, safety and future. Play parachutes (non-functional) are 12' diameter 100% recyclable circular pieces of cloth decorated with artwork and collective commitments to sustainable actions. Decorating parachutes is a powerful activity of sharing and learning and it strengthens a community's focus on taking action and demanding better environmental laws.

### What You Can Do (in addition to the above)

**Trees for Air Travel:** Buy trees to offset your airplane travel (in Europe, all airlines ask for an extra \$5-\$10 for each flight, donated to a sustainable cause). To plant \$1 trees in a specific region of interest on the planet, go to: [www.onetreeplanted.org/collections/where-we-plant](http://www.onetreeplanted.org/collections/where-we-plant)

**Trees for Birthdays:** Buy 25 \$1 trees for your loved ones/ friend's birthday instead of consumables. And then, encourage them to do the same.

**Carbon Offset Your Life Style:** You can now calculate your natural gas bill, airline travel, etc., and determine how much carbon needs to be offset. One neighbor used [www.terrapass.com](http://www.terrapass.com) and calculated that paying \$200/year to sustainable charities would offset his family's carbon footprint. (You can also just donate this amount each year to a sustainable cause but obviously removing carbon emissions where possible from your lifestyle is best!)

**"No Plastic Please":** Choose meals or grocery items that use less or no plastic. At restaurants, tell the waiter immediately "no plastic please."

**Eat Less Red Meat:** Perhaps 2 times a week instead of 5. Chicken is one sixth the carbon footprint of red meat and turkey is one eighth.

**Join or Start a Climate Strike:** at your school on Fridays with Greta Thunberg's movement, <https://fridaysforfuture.org>

### Donate to Environmental Causes

**Wash Your Plastic:** before placing it in the blue bucket and take all plastic bags/bubble wrap to the grocery store recycling bins.

**Choose 100% Renewable Electric Energy:** Nearly half of Somerset households now use renewable electric energy. It is less expensive than your present rate and you still will retain your Pepco bill. To change to 100% renewable energy, please go to: [www.motherearthproject.org/renewables](http://www.motherearthproject.org/renewables).

### And the list goes on...

It is all about AWARENESS.

Please continue to talk with friends, family, neighbors and associates about the Climate Emergency. We have noticed that this is no longer a taboo subject and that people are now freely sharing environmental information, e.g. Australian bushfires, Arctic permafrost melting, and new climate legislation. Let's Keep Up Our Efforts in 2020!



Town Election for Mayor and Two Council seats will be held on Wednesday, May 12th.

Nominations will be made at the April 6th Council meeting.



# Somerset Residents Recommend...

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Over the past few months, the Journal has contained a new monthly feature, *Somerset Residents Recommend*. Residents have written about the Newseum, local restaurants, and Glenstone museum. **We are eager to continue this monthly column but we need our readers to contribute articles.**

Please consider sharing information on your favorite places or things to do. Articles should be approximately 300 words long, and photos are always welcome. Contact Journal editors **Barbara Marenus** ([bmarenus@gmail.com](mailto:bmarenus@gmail.com)) or **Mary Wisniewski** ([mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com))

## The Monticello AVA: Thomas Jefferson's Wine Dream Realized

By **Erlinda A. Doherty**, *Trent Street*

Having moved back to the DC area this past summer after 12 years afforded me the chance to revisit Virginia wine country with new perspective and a more experienced palate. While I fondly recall my earlier visits to the region, tasting the wine with a background in professional wine education and context from visits to the world's other wine areas afforded me a greater ability to assess the evolution of the area. But most importantly, it made revisiting these local wineries more enjoyable! As a wine educator and a wine writer, I have a passion for exploring wine through travel and taste, and for encouraging others to do the same through my wine classes, events, articles, or through casual engagement.

Virginia ranks 5th in the U.S. for producing grapes with about 260 wineries scattered across its seven American Viticultural Areas (AVAs). The first AVA to be established was fittingly named after Thomas Jefferson's historic home, Monticello. He is considered the "Father of Virginia Wine," even though his seven attempts at producing wine sadly failed. While the Revolutionary War and a grapevine infestation thwarted his experiments, the Monticello AVA eventually came to fruition in 1984.

Today, almost 250 years after Jefferson's first efforts to cultivate his passion, the Monticello AVA is an exciting wine region with quality increasingly significantly over the last 15 years. But it's also one of the most challenging



climates in which to grow grapes, and vintages can vary widely. Spanning a 25-mile radius around Charlottesville, approximately 30 varieties are grown in the AVA, with Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, and Viognier as the most notable.

The opening of Barboursville Vineyards in 1976 marked the beginning of the modern Virginia wine era with production of wine from *vitis vinifera* grapes. Previously, wine had been made from grapes predominantly native to Virginia. Run by the Zonin family, which has been making wine in Italy since 1821, the winery is considered one of Virginia's best. Head winemaker Luca Paschina, who hails from Italy, is also the state's most decorated.

Barboursville's flagship "Octagon" wine is named after the octagonal drawing room design of the former Governor's Mansion whose ruins are located nearby. They offer a Bordeaux blend and a Cabernet Franc, both of which are palate-pleasing. They are available at <https://www.bbvwine.com/>

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## The Monticello AVA: Thomas Jefferson's Wine Dream Realized

A more recent addition to the AVA, Blenheim Vineyards produces a variety of wines from its three vineyard sites. The winery is certified Virginia sustainable and produces Viognier and Albarino wines, which are delicious and express the uniqueness of VA terroir. Both are available online at <https://blenheimvineyards.com/>

Producing its first vintage in 2011, Pippin Hill Estates has garnered recent attention due to their highly-regarded wines by winemaker Michael Shapps, who also owns and operates a winery in Burgundy, France. Their popular Zero

White and Easton Blue wines, are available at <https://www.pippinhillfarm.com/>

Winemaking may well have been the only one of Jefferson's endeavors that he couldn't master, but clearly his dream of producing wine that could rival the best of the Old World has become a reality. Interested in learning more about the wines and wineries I mentioned, or about Virginia wines in general? Visit [www.thevinicola.com](http://www.thevinicola.com) or reach out to me at [erlinda@thevinicola.com](mailto:erlinda@thevinicola.com).

## Update on Development Plans for "The Collection" on Wisconsin Avenue

By **Barbara Condos**, *Chair, Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee, Falstone Avenue*

Stephanie Smarr of the Chevy Chase Land Company recently updated the Friendship Heights Transportation Management Advisory Committee on developments at The Collection at Wisconsin Place and Wisconsin Avenue. The Giant has now closed and will be replaced by a new grocer. Although the lease was not up, Giant agreed to leave as long as a new food store could be found to take over the space. The name of the new grocer cannot be released but the space is being renovated and they plan to open by the end of 2020. The 52 parking spaces currently used by grocery shoppers will remain; the new grocer will validate garage parking. There will be access to the new store from Wisconsin Place as well as the current route through the center.

As for the new restaurants, **Little Beets** has now opened. They will be joined by **Urban Place** in the Bulgari space. The Ralph Lauren space will be divided; **Junction Bistro** and **Hunter's Hound** will open in this space. New signage will make parking and exiting the 1,000 space



underground parking garage easier. More programming will begin later in the year with movie nights, fairs, festivals and other community events with information on The Collection website. A lot to look forward to!



# All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*



I suspect most of you have had a chance to interact with Linda Williams, the Town's highly capable, conscientious, and always cheerful Administrative Assistant. I recently caught up with her so I could learn more about her personal story and her work for the Town.

Linda was born and grew up in Philadelphia, PA and also spent the summers of her youth with her

maternal grandparents in Nashville, NC. Grandma was the head baker for a local elementary school, and watching and helping her make pastries led to Linda's own love of baking. In the early 1990s, Linda moved to Maryland and, as she described it, "started fending for herself" which included her first limited forays into commercial baking. After the arrival of her son in 2000, she took a hiatus from this area to spend time in North Carolina, along with her mother, helping to care for her aging grandparents. Following her return in 2005, Linda spent around eight years handling office management and marketing for a company that operated a small chain of auto repair shops.

Over the past few years, Linda has started to devote more time to commercial baking and has started two businesses: *Linda's Edibles* and *A Basket Case* (gift baskets with lots of treats). She doesn't have an online presence yet, but that's definitely in the works. She's also looking for ways to connect her love of baking with supporting social needs in the community. That could include donations of baked goods, teaching disadvantaged youth to bake, or other similar efforts. With her son, a freshman at the New School in New York, she now has additional time to devote to her budding businesses.

Linda started working for the Town in May 2018. Initially hired on a temporary basis, she quickly gained the confidence of the Town's leadership and became a

permanent employee. When I asked about a typical day, she said, "There's a tremendous amount of variety, and no two days are alike." That said, she's in the office early to review the overnight emails, voice messages, and listserv discussions so she can get ahead of the issues and brief the Town Manager. Some recurring matters include permitting and code enforcement (in connection with construction projects), parking problems, and pool-related questions. As she explained, "It's not unusual for me to get pulled off a task because something of higher priority pops up." She finds the uncertainty about what's coming next to be exciting and energizing. She has also started to attend the Town Council meetings which has given her greater insight into key issues and how the Town works and how people think.

Linda developed a strong working relationship with Rich Charnovich, the prior Town Manager, but was then faced with a transition in that role only one year into her tenure. She had some apprehensions about the change, but "Matt [Trollinger] and I melded quickly once he came aboard. He has an inclusive style, and the two of us spend time brainstorming about the things that can be done to help the Town run more smoothly." She also enjoys working with the Mayor and all of the Council Members.

Linda doesn't experience much stress on the job. She gets the occasional odd call (she didn't give me any names!) and is generally able to shrug and laugh it off. Her personal mantra is, "Don't let anyone steal your joy!" Looking ahead to the balance of 2020, Linda plans to explore some new hobbies (pottery, painting, and piano) as well as devoting part of her time to community service. Somerset is truly fortunate to have someone of Linda's caliber and temperament doing such a superb job supporting the Town. Please join me in thanking her for her exceptional service to our community!



# From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Much gratitude goes to the large number of residents who participated in our seventh annual Holiday Fund for Town employees during the recent holidays. Because of the extreme generosity of so many residents, we were able to once again give very generous checks to our well deserving staff. The Council and I want to express our appreciation for these gifts and every worker has been grateful, too. We must always remember that our employees work very hard, are deserving, and are all subject to the high cost of living in the DC metropolitan area. I am always thankful for the wonderful response!

Our State Legislature convened its yearly three month session earlier this month and it was an historic moment with the installation of a new Speaker and a new Senate President for the two legislative bodies. In addition, now we have our very own "representative" in Annapolis. Council President **Marnie Shaul** (Uppingham) is currently serving on the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee, where she will have a front seat to the goings-on. I recommend that all residents follow the news from the State House this year and one of the best ways to

do it is by signing up for the daily news service from Montgomery Community Media (MCM), [mymcmedia.org](http://mymcmedia.org). As I am still the MCM board president, please contact me with your comments or questions.

The Town could not function as well as it does without the active participation of our residents on the numerous Town committees. It is my hope that every resident will serve on at least one committee while living here. Information about all of our committees and the essential and interesting work they perform can be found on our website. If you have a question about a particular committee, contact the Committee Chair or the Town Council liaisons. This type of community service is beneficial for both the volunteers and the Town. If you are interested in joining a committee, please let me know at [mayor@townofsomerset.com](mailto:mayor@townofsomerset.com).

By the end of next month, it is anticipated that the beautiful renovation of the second floor of our Town Hall will be completed and we will be soon announcing a celebration. In the meantime, feel free to stop by to see the work in progress... it's pretty amazing!

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## To Your Health

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

# Make 2020 a Year of Healthy Habits

The subject of New Year resolutions as well as endless articles entitled "New Year...New You" are always abundant at this time of year. Many examples suggest new ways to get more sleep, lose more weight, and look 10 years younger.

Instead I'm proposing "New Year...Healthier You." What's the difference? "New You" implies totally changing the way you eat, exercise and do just about anything else all at once. Throwing out everything without first examining "what's working for me and what isn't?"

"Healthier You" means making small changes over a period of time. Instead of working just by eliminating certain foods and habits all at once, it is the case that substituting healthier choices, adding in more movement,

and going to bed 20 minutes earlier can make a big difference.

For many of us adding more plant-based meals is a challenge. "Meatless Monday" is a good way to start. Build upon your success. But the foundation for long term success is to know yourself ...when and how you feel your best.

We will be taking this up at the February **meeting of the Ad Hoc Somerset Wellness Committee**. I hope you will consider joining us on **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** I will post more specific information on the listserv and on Town announcements. You can contact me at [diane.b.horn@gmail.com](mailto:diane.b.horn@gmail.com) with questions.



# Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

## Town Business

As required by Maryland law, Somerset's fiscal years run from July – June. The Town has historically adopted its budget in May, and in order to “reverse-engineer” that process, the Council must introduce the budget in April, and we kick-start our budget preparation in February. In the latter part of February, our Council and Budget Committee will meet a couple of times to go over our budget line by line, make projections, for the following year, and budget for expenditures. This also gives us an opportunity to adjust as Town revenues from taxes come in in February and March.

While a lot of the budgeting projections are done by looking at the past year, residents have an important role to play as well. Now is the time to plan for projects that the Town might undertake this upcoming fiscal year. If you have an item that you would like the Town to consider for funding, you can always reach out to the Town Hall, but I also encourage you to reach out to your Council Members and Mayor, who welcome resident input in decision-making on how to best move the Town forward. This year, for example, the Town is hiring a gardening and landscaping consultant to help provide best practices to our maintenance staff, plan and offer recommendations on how to beautify and greenify the entrances to the Town and several other Town properties, such as the rain garden near the Town Pool, benches on Dorset, etc. This arrangement and the funds for it are in the budget because of strong resident support for sustainable and aesthetically-pleasing greenery throughout the Town. The bottom line: the budget is your taxpayer dollars at work, and you have a stake in how they are used and spent.

Speaking of taxes... Not to beat a dead horse, and I apologize for the repeat notice, but I wanted to once again remind residents that revenues received through our

residents' paid income taxes are a main source of Town revenues. The Town needs your help to ensure that all **income tax revenue** due to the Town arrives here. **In order for the state of Maryland to return this revenue, your political subdivision needs to be entered on Maryland Form 502.**

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED:** Maryland Physical address as of December 31, 2018 or last day of the taxable year for fiscal year taxpayers. See **Instruction 6. Part-year residents see Instruction 26.**

**1610** 4-Digit Political Subdivision Code (See Instruction 6)

**TOWN OF SOMERSET** Maryland Political Subdivision (See Instruction 6)

Your Address Here

Maryland Physical Address Line 1 (Street No. and Street Name) (No PO Box)

Maryland Physical Address Line 2 (Apt. No., Suite No., Floor No.) (No PO Box)

Cherry Chase MD 20814-5469 Montgomery Maryland County

City State ZIP Code +4

1. ☐ Single (If you can be claimed on another person's tax return) 4. ☐ Head of household

Maryland Form 502 now requests a **4-digit Political Subdivision Code** as well as the Maryland Political Subdivision. **The 4-digit Code for the Town of Somerset is 1610.** If filing electronically, there is a character limit, therefore, you may have to enter simply “Somerset” for Maryland Political Subdivision.

## Personal

One of my “bucket list” items is to at least touch down on every continent. From March 4 – 12, I will be going on a trip to Ecuador. This will be my first adventure to South America, and I am extremely excited. I do not have much of an itinerary at this point, other than that I am flying into and out of Quito. I have heard Quito is very neat, especially the Old Town section, but I am very open to recommendations and suggestions from folks that have visited before. I know the Galapagos are under the jurisdiction of Ecuador – that would be incredible; but I am not entirely clear how/if it works cost- or logistics-wise. As I said, if anyone has any recommendations I am all ears!

I wish everyone a happy February. The days are starting to get a little longer, and soon enough it will be springtime.

# Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on January 6, 2020, and took the following actions:

1. Approval of minutes from Council meeting held on December 2, 2019.
2. Approval of amendment to Town investment policy, as recommended by State Treasurer.
3. Approval of Town Hall construction change order #24 in the amount of \$20,949.17 for installation of meeting room lighting design; change order #25 in the amount of \$408.65 to relocate the meeting room alarm, and change order #26 in the amount of \$2,008.50 to add shelving units to the Mayor's office.
4. Approval of furniture order in the amount of \$19,086.69 from Bialek Environments & Intellistruct for new Town Hall furniture.
5. Approval of one-year pool management contract with American Pool for 2020 pool season.
6. Approval of reformatting of pool rules and amendment to pool rules raising the age required to bring a guest unaccompanied to the pool from 8 years old to 11, as recommended by the Town Pool Committee.
7. Approval of Demolition and Dumpster permit at 5508 Uppingham Street.

## GENERAL PERMITS

- Tree Removal (two dead spruce trees) at 5015 River Road
- Tree Removal (one dead spruce tree) at 5019 River Road

Continued from page 9

## From the Mayor's Desk

It is my pleasure to announce the formation of a new ad hoc committee in Town that will assist Town Manager Matt Trollinger and me to improve the building and tree application processes. I established this committee after receiving a letter, authored by **Julie Greenberg** (Falstone) and signed by dozens of residents which contained a multitude of excellent ideas which we will attempt to implement. Stay tuned for upcoming information about the important work of this new ad hoc group.

## 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.

REHOBOTH, DELAWARE: Your dream house in Rehoboth Beach (Delaware) is available for the summer. The ideal setting for gathering with family and friends, The Cardinal Home has 6 bedrooms and 6 bathrooms, an oversized 40' x 15' heated swimming pool, hot tub and many more amenities. A private beach with life guards, chairs and umbrellas is just a few minutes from the house. The Cardinal Home is located in an oceanfront private community (with tennis and swimming pool) and is walking distance from Cape Henlopen Park and the Rehoboth boardwalk. The house will be rented on a weekly basis from June 6th until the end of September, and on a daily basis during the rest of the year. An elevator is available only for people with disabilities. Contact **Cinzia Furlanetto** at TheCardinalHome@gmail.com or 301-642-6678.

*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, February 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on February 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Town Hall. Agenda updates are posted on the Town website: [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com).

- **Council Work Session**—7:00 p.m.
- **Council Meeting Convenes**—7:30 p.m.
- **Comments: Public Comment Period**—7:30 p.m.\*



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

## CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To approve minutes from Council meeting held on January 6, 2020.

## NON-CONSENT

2. **Discussion:** Update on Town Hall construction project. – 7:37 p.m.
3. **Discussion:** Building Administrator Report – 7:45 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** Presentation of FY 2019 Audit by Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC; and consideration of approval – 7:55 p.m.

5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of gardening and landscaping consultant (firm selection to be determined – staff is reviewing bids at time of publication) – 8:30 p.m.
6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To approve 2020 Committee appointments. – 8:50 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider dates for 2020 Town calendar of events. – 9:10 p.m.
8. **Discussion:** Town Manager Administrative and Fiscal Reports – 9:20 p.m.
9. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 9:30 p.m.
10. **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 Matt Trollinger at Town Hall if you are interested in what has been added, or consult the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch or the Town website/email blast for the most up-to-date Agenda.

The Mayor and Town Council may entertain a motion during the open meeting to close a portion of the meeting, in accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1)(7) of the Open Meetings Act (Maryland Code, General Provisions Article), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

The Preliminary Agenda for each month's Town Council meeting is posted on the Town website ([www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.