

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



# Somerset TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 65 • No. 3

March 2020

## SAVE THE DATES

**MAY**

**12**

**TOWN  
ELECTION**

**APRIL**

**6**

**NOMINATION  
OF CANDIDATES**

Town Council Meeting

**By Phyllis Wiesenfelder, Chair, Board of Supervisors of Elections**

Mark your Calendars! On Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Town will hold an election for Mayor and two Council seats. Nominations for these positions will be accepted at the Town Council meeting scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>. Additional nominations may be made if 20 registered voters sign a petition and it is filed with the Town Manager by April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Town Charter requires its elected officials to be:

- Citizens of the United States
- Residents of the Town of Somerset for at least 18 months preceding the election
- Qualified voters in the Town of Somerset and the State of Maryland

If you are registered to vote in Montgomery County, you are automatically registered in Somerset and can vote in the Town election. If you are not a United States citizen, you may vote in the Town election by filling out a voter registration form, which is available at the Town Hall. The deadline for registering to vote is April 28<sup>th</sup>.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Proposed Building  
Regulations  
Revision**



**PAGE  
3**

**Making  
Our Lawns  
Sustainable**



**PAGE  
4**



## ON MY MIND

### R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

The other day when I was pondering why there is so much conflict and unpleasantness created on social media, I had an “aha” moment as the voice and word of legendary songstress Aretha Franklin came to my ear: “re-re-re-re-re-re-re-respect,” from her 1966 hit song.

So I immediately went to today’s version of an encyclopedia — the Internet! — to confirm the definition of this important word. Respect: the due regard for the feelings, wishes, right and traditions of others.

Then it came together. It seems to me that the conversations that I have on Facebook, listservs, online and even in public which are the most challenging or hurtful to me take place when the other person reacts without being courteous enough to be considerate of my rights and feelings. On top of this, often the other person does not have a command of the facts.

It doesn’t help that our national leader is setting a terrible example by tweeting out comments daily that are completely disrespectful. Maybe somehow this gives us license to do the same?

Many commentators talk about how this country is so politically divided. However, at the same time, the same folks say that our citizens have way more in common than what might divide them.

I think this will only get better if we start at the neighborhood or person-to-person level. I am going to try to be more respectful of what I write or say to others, to not rush to an opinion without getting all the facts that I can, and to find ways to educate others in this regard. I hope all of you will join me.

## 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

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# Proposal to Revise the Town's Building Regulations

**By Council Member Steve Surko, Uppingham Street**

My wife, Elizabeth, and I moved to Somerset with our family (three children, an au pair, and a dog) in 2005. We were attracted by the metro D.C. location, public school system, and bucolic setting. Outside the historic district, there were very few large houses when we purchased the 1950s rambler we still live in. Since then, however, I've noticed a significant change in the landscape of Somerset. Although we are a Tree City, our canopy has decreased. Quite a few larger homes have been constructed. And, at least anecdotally, there has been an increase in storm water flooding basements and eroding yards. This is why I volunteered to serve on a working group for the Mayor to study the adequacy of the Town's current building regulations.

Property lots in Somerset are zoned R-60, and are subject to County infill development standards ([http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/info/documents/R60\\_000.pdf](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/info/documents/R60_000.pdf)). The maximum area that may be covered by any building is defined by a table:

LOT AREA	MAXIMUM COVERAGE
Lot area less than 6,000 SF	30% of lot area
Lot area equal to or greater than 6,000 SF but less than 16,000 SF	30%, less .001% per square foot of lot area exceeding 6,000 SF
Lot area equal to or greater than 16,000 SF	20% of the lot area

So, assuming there is no accessory building, a 10,000 square-foot lot could have a house occupying 2,600 square feet (26% of lot area). The County also establishes that infill coverage does not include: any bay window measuring 10 feet in width or less and three feet in depth or less, chimney, porch . . . and this house must have a side yard with a minimum of eight feet (and a minimum of 18 feet summed of both side yards) and a rear yard of 20 feet.

Our Town Attorney notes that the "County lot coverage rules for infill development (new construction) exclude 'porches' without describing whether this means open or enclosed (or both). Thus, the County DPS (Department of

*Continued on page 4*

## MARCH CALENDAR

### MONDAY, MARCH 2

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

### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

B-CC High School Used Book Sale  
4301 East-West Highway  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

B-CC High School Used Book Sale  
4301 East-West Highway  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

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



## Proposal to Revise the Town's Building Regulations

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Permitting Services) excludes both as a matter of practice. This is an odd approach because an enclosed porch is treated as massing for setback purposes but not for lot coverage purposes."

Chapter 112 of the Town Code (<https://www.ecode360.com/SO3592>) covers Building Regulations. The Town imposes an established building line front-yard restriction which is greater than the 25-foot minimum required County setback. Other than this, the Town Council shall consider, in approving or disapproving an application for a building permit, such factors as: "E. Whether the proposed work unduly and adversely affects the health and safety of adjoining or confronting property owners and residents, or the enjoyment of their property," and "F. Whether the proposed work otherwise unduly and adversely affects the public health, safety and general welfare of the Town or its property." While this sounds good, in practice the Town Council has found this language too broad to apply when an infill development project has already been approved by the County.

Accordingly, I believe that we should revise our Building Regulations to better preserve the existing Town character and more clearly protect enjoyment of our property.

This is not a radical idea. State law -- which was amended in 2006 in response to "mansionization" concerns and the lobbying efforts of the Town of Chevy Chase among others -- allows much greater regulation. Regulations could be adopted that, for example, regulate "the dimensions of structures, including height, bulk, massing, and design" and "lot coverage, including impervious surfaces" (Md. Code, Land Use Art., Sec. 20-509). In response, some municipalities regulated height, wall plane length, wall plate height, front-yard non-vegetative surface coverage, and other aspects of construction, in addition to setbacks, in order to preserve community character and open space, and to help address the growing storm water drainage concerns. I have communicated with several realtors and the consistent message is that municipalities like the Town of Chevy Chase which have adopted greater regulations have not experienced an adverse impact on property values.

While I intend to explore the merits of various approaches adopted by local municipalities, this will probably take quite some time for the Council to consider. In the near

term, I propose a simple, common-sense step to address what I perceive to be a loophole in the current Building Regulations: box or bay windows (which can be 10 feet wide by three feet deep and extend from the ground to upper stories) and covered porches do not count for calculations of lot coverage or setback. Somerset defines a building as "any permanent structure, whether a primary or accessory structure, having one or more stories and a roof, designed primarily for the shelter, support or enclosure of persons or property of any kind, and including any additions, such as decks or balconies, and modifications thereto." Contrary to the definition, in my opinion, the Building Regulations improperly exclude box or bay windows and covered porches. Recognizing that such projections break up the visual mass of a house and to promote compatible design elements, I propose the following compromise whereby the surface area encompassing lot coverage includes:

- 50% of the area of any box or bay window measuring 10 feet or less in width, and three feet or less in depth; and
- 50% of the area of any covered or roofed steps, stoop, deck, terrace, porch, patio, or similar projection, located in whole or in part within a side or rear yard, regardless of the dimensions of the covering or roof.

But as these projections are actually part of the building, I propose that they be considered fully for setback considerations.

In summary, I propose that we revise our Building Regulations to more accurately recognize that box or bay windows and covered porches are part of the physical structure of a house. And this proposal would protect the open space between houses.

I welcome your thoughts on the subject and feedback on my proposal. You can contact me at [ssurko@townofsomerset.com](mailto:ssurko@townofsomerset.com). If you wish your comments to be considered by the Council as a whole, please copy the Town Manager at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com) on your correspondence.



# Sustainable Lawns

A few years ago Montgomery County Council passed an anti-pesticide law that applies to lawns, child-care facilities, playgrounds and similar mulched play areas (but not to golf courses). At the time, pesticide manufacturers challenged the law, arguing that the county was taking on a responsibility that was reserved for state or federal rules. As Elmo sings it: "It's not easy being green!" Montgomery County was the first major metropolitan area to pass such a regulation. The law and its challenges wound its way through the courts until, in June, 2019, the County won its case finally. It is major new ground, and, very likely, other large cities and municipalities will now follow.

Interestingly, at the moment, the regulation has no effect on Somerset. Landscapers and residents remain free to apply pesticides and chemical fertilizers in abundance on our lawns and yards even though our neighbors in West Chevy Chase and Bethesda must use organic treatments only. Why is that?

Large sections of the County's authority apply only to unincorporated areas in the county. If we are to follow County regulations we need to adopt them explicitly in our Town code, as do all the other towns and cities in Montgomery County. We have adopted many sections of the County code in our regulations already. We have not yet adopted this one, even though some of our neighboring towns already have done, such as North Chevy Chase and Martin's Additions.

After a visit from **Mary Travalgini**, Program Manager in the Organic Lawn and Landscape Program in the County's Department of Environmental Protection, the Environment Committee recommended that the Town adopt the pesticide regulation beginning after the growing season is over for this year. The County describes the regulation well on its own website ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns)), including what's banned, what the exemptions are (state noxious weeds, invasive species, and a number of other categories), and the site provides advice on maintaining healthy lawns and on organic lawn care.



Waiting to implement the regulation until after the growing season is over will allow current landscaping contracts to be executed unchanged. The Town Council will now consider whether to act on that recommendation.

One concern might be that a new regulation brings an enforcement requirement that places a burden on already over-burdened Town staff. In fact, Montgomery County polices its own regulations once municipalities have adopted them. A call from a concerned resident to their 311 number is sufficient to bring out an inspector. For the most part, enforcement is through education at the moment. No one is marched away in handcuffs, or even fined, as yet!

A number of us already have pesticide-free or bee-friendly signs in our yards. About seven years ago the Town moved to adopt sustainable practices on its own grounds. In short, our values are solidly with the intent of this law. It makes sense, both as an affirmation of these values, and to bring consistency in how the law applies across the County, to adopt this County regulation in our own Town code.

Mary Travalgini is giving a talk locally on **Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at the **Chevy Chase Village Hall**. Somerset Environment Committee members will be there. The title is: Healthy Lawns Without Synthetic Fertilizers or Pesticides. Come join us!



# Somerset Residents Recommend...

In this monthly feature, residents highlight their favorite places to go and things to do in our area. If you'd like to submit an article or an idea, please get in touch with the editors at [bmarenus@gmail.com](mailto:bmarenus@gmail.com) or [mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com).

In this installment, Town Council Member Steve Surko, Chief, Office of Technology Development at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, recommends the BEP tour to fellow Somerset residents. It's a tour the whole family is sure to enjoy.

## See How Our Money Is Made

**By Council Member Steve Surko, Uppingham Street**

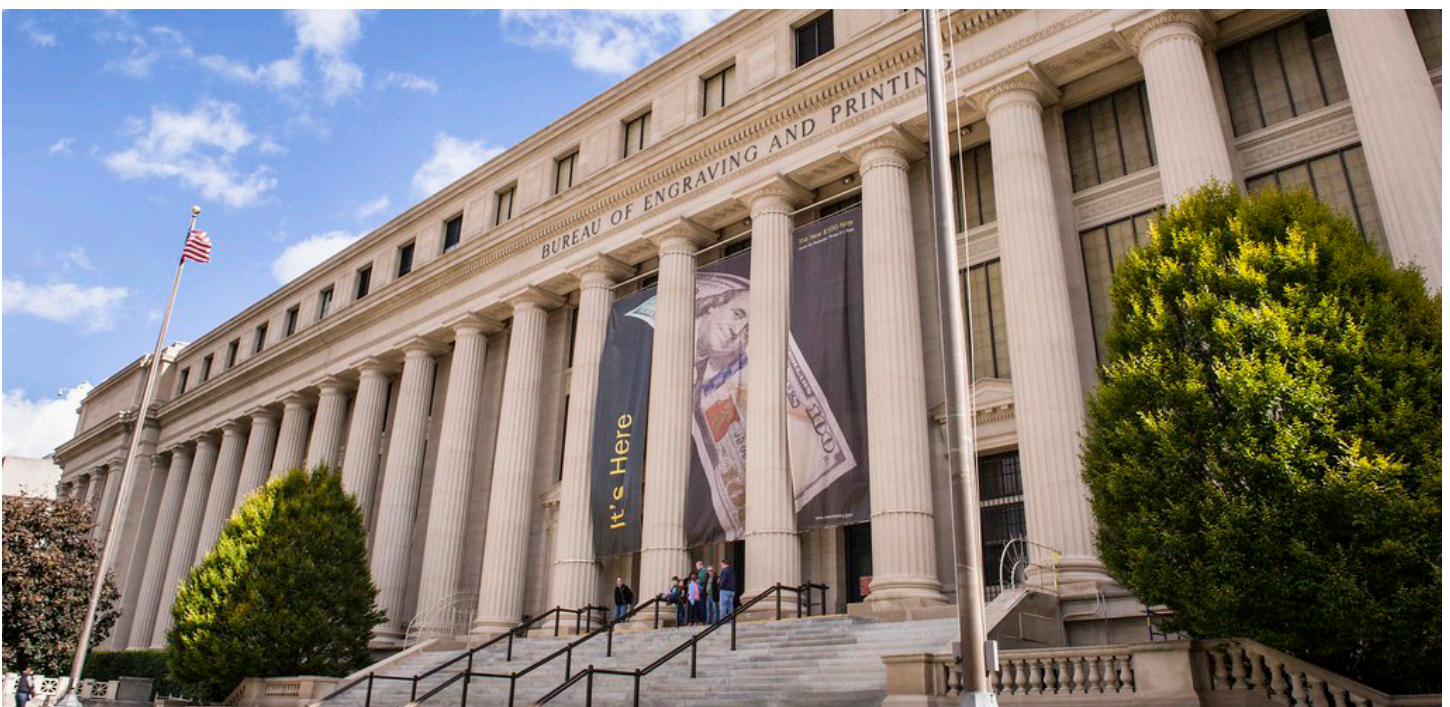
The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, located in the heart of the nation's capital, is a great place to learn about United States currency and see how it's made. BEP has been the nation's exclusive paper currency printer since 1862. That is more than 150 years of making money and we are excited about sharing our unique history with you.

At the BEP Tour and Visitor Center, you will see millions of dollars being printed as you walk along the gallery overlooking the production floor! This approximately 40-minute experience includes an introductory film, followed by a gallery tour that allows you to follow the entire production process from a blank sheet of currency paper to the printed, cut, and shrink-wrapped bricks

that are packaged and sent to the Federal Reserve, our nation's Central Bank. At the end of the gallery tour, you can explore educational exhibits and variety of currency products for sale in the Visitor Center's gift shop.

In the early years, during which time the Bureau operated primarily out of the attic of the Treasury Building, tours for the general public were not available. However, as early as 1865, passes could be obtained from the Treasury Secretary for entry to the rooms where money and securities were made, although passes were supposedly limited to the likes of prominent financiers or high-ranking foreign officials. Soon after the Bureau moved out of the Treasury Building into its own facility on 14th and B Streets (the latter is now Independence Avenue) in 1880, the

*Continued on page 7*





## See How Our Money Is Made

general public was allowed to tour parts of the building. There have been times when increased production requirements, heightened security, or organizational necessities have impacted the public's ability to visit the Bureau. The number of people that have actually toured the Bureau can only be estimated, as exact figures have not been recorded for most of the 125 years in which there has been an established public tour. Still, using conservative estimates, it is probable that over 40 million people have toured the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C. from 1880 to 2019.

I would be happy to reserve public tour tickets for residents of Somerset, friends and family. Please just contact me at **Stephen.surko@1982.usna.com** at least a week in advance with your contact info, group size, and desired day/time of tour. Admission is free.

The BEP is open to the public weekdays, Monday through Friday, and closed on weekends and federal holidays. The tour and visitor entrance is located at 14th Street, SW. Visitors must line up at the tour entrance and wait for tour guide direction to enter the building and are required to pass through a security screening. Hours of operation:

- 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. through March 20
- 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. March 23 - September 4

Tickets required to tour: March 2 through September 4, and November 23 - 27. The BEP requires visitors to obtain free same-day tickets to access the tour during the spring and summer months and the week of Thanksgiving. The ticket booth, located at 15th Street, SW, Raoul Wallenberg Place opens at 8:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, and closes when all tickets have been distributed for the day. Visitor lines form early at the ticket booth and are often distributed by 8:30 a.m., especially during the Cherry Blossom Festival (March 20 - April 12), Passover/Easter holidays (April 8-16), and days surrounding federal holidays. Tickets are not required for the Visitor Center.

## Tennis Season Is Coming

Residents may purchase new tennis cards at Town Hall now. Cost is \$25 per household.

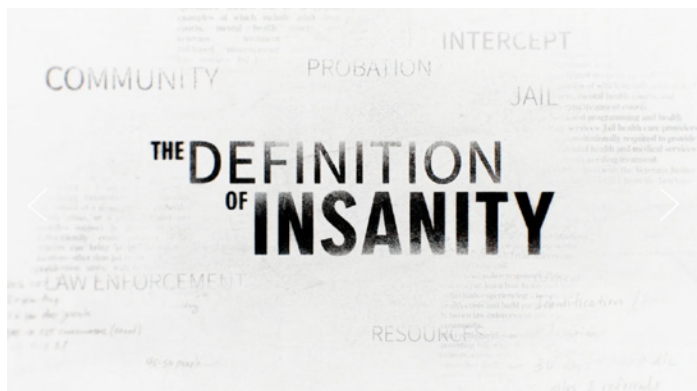
SEE YOU ON THE TOWN COURTS!

WALTER J. BEHR  
TENNIS COURTS  
IN HONOR OF HIS MANY YEARS  
OF SERVICE TO THE TOWN



# All About People

By Eugene Tillman, *Warwick Place*



Former longtime Surrey Street residents, **Norm Ornstein** and **Judy Harris**, have just finished work on a documentary entitled, "The Definition of Insanity." The film is about **Steve Leifman**, a judge in Miami Dade County, Florida, who has spearheaded a highly successful effort to decriminalize treatment of those suffering from serious mental illnesses. The film is a project of The Matthew Harris Ornstein Memorial Foundation, [www.mornstein.org](http://www.mornstein.org), which the family created in 2015 in memory of their 34-year-old son who died following a ten-year struggle with serious mental illness.

The documentarians are Gabe London and Charlie Sadoff of Found Object. Rob Reiner provides the narration. The documentary will debut at the Miami Film Festival on March 9 and is scheduled to air on PBS (locally and elsewhere) on April 14 at 10:00p.m. Here is a link to the film festival website, which includes a short trailer on the documentary: <https://miamifilmfestival.com/events/definition-of-insanity-the/>.

Looking ahead, Judy and Norm intend to take the film around the country in the hope it can serve as a template for transforming treatment of the large number of people suffering from serious mental illnesses who are currently languishing in our jails and prisons. As explained by Judy, "Judge Leifman has dramatically transformed the way the criminal justice system in the county treats those with serious mental illness, finding ways to save lives and save money at the same time." And Norm added, "Nevertheless, Judge Leifman's programs are not widely known and shared, so we thought a documentary on them, on what is called 'the Miami Model,' could be a great way to showcase what can be done." Judy and Norm have asked that you get in touch with them through the foundation if you have any ideas for future screenings.

"The Art Scene" with **Lila Snow** (Essex) has appeared on Montgomery Municipal Cable for more than 20 years. Lila is the host and producer, and her husband, the late George A. Snow, started as the cameraman and editor. George and Lila moved to Somerset in 1963. George served on the Town Council and also held down a day job as Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland and Director of the Particle Physics Group. The Physical Sciences Complex includes a plaque recognizing George and Lila for co-teaching the first Women's Studies course at the University of Maryland as well as a "Particle Painting" by Lila. Lila's work can be found here and abroad and is in many permanent collections, including one in Buenos Aires honoring the victims of the attack on the Jewish Community Center in 1994 that killed 85 people.

"The Art Scene" covers visual art, books, film, and television. It airs on Mondays at 9:00 p.m. and Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on Cable Channel 16, and you can also stream earlier episodes on the [www.mmctv.org](http://www.mmctv.org) website. The next episode will feature a show by **Carol Barsha** (Essex) at the American University Museum, which runs through March 15.



# From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



As publisher of the Town Journal, I — along with Journal co-editors **Barbara Marenus** (Surrey) and **Mary Wisniewski** (Greystone) — want to remind everyone that we are always seeking news from and about anyone in your households, especially concerning careers, hobbies and/or lifecycle events. Since our submission deadline is the 15th of every month, please write us sooner rather than later at [mayor@townofsomerset.com](mailto:mayor@townofsomerset.com), or [bmarenus@gmail.com](mailto:bmarenus@gmail.com) or [mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com](mailto:mary.p.wisniewski@gmail.com), so that we can all share in the happiness in our monthly publication. We have so many interesting residents doing so many interesting things and we want to hear about the successes of our residents. Let's not be shy about it — sharing such information truly helps create community!

As of this writing, I have been unable to get to the movies, but I am excited to report that Director **Michael Pack** and his wife and Executive Producer **Gina Cappel Pack** (both Surrey) have debuted their latest movie: "Created Equal: Clarence Thomas in His Own Words." Well reviewed in the *The Washington Post* this month, this groundbreaking film makes us all proud and should be especially of interest to our many history buffs. I can't wait to see it and I am sure many of you will be interested, too. Check your local listings.

I pray daily that snow season is over! As most know, the Town has a contract with Mulheron Tree Experts for snow-removal services. As Mayor I take the lead on giving instructions to Ed Mulheron and his staff on the complexities of this task. This year I have once again "deputized" **Council Members Barbara Zeughauser**

(Trent) and **Steve Surko** (Uppingham) to assist me on a 24/7 basis. We always need information from the field about particular problem areas during a storm. I want all residents to know that they should feel free to call me — whatever the time of day — on my cell at 202-549-2299 (text, too) or home (*yes, I still have a landline*) at 301-654-6767. This includes requests to have driveway aprons cleared.

Another annual reminder: when a loved one passes, the Council, staff and I are ready to be of assistance to those who lose family or household members throughout the year. Among other things, we can help publicize memorial services, contact neighbors and provide space in the Town Journal for obituaries. We are sorry when you have a loss and will assist in lessening burdens wherever possible.

Related to that, I was moved recently when attending the funeral for the father of **Maura Vanderzon** (Falstone) as daughter and B-CC High School senior **Delia** gave a magnificent eulogy in remembrance of her grandfather. It reminded of me of what amazing young people we have in Somerset and how important it is that we nurture them for great success in the years ahead.

In the past year I have again stepped up use of my Twitter account and many of the issues I write about are relevant to Somerset. I encourage all "tweeters" in Town to follow me at @jzslavin. I will be happy to follow you back. I also make use of my Facebook page. Look for improvements and new services throughout 2020.

## GENERAL PERMITS

- Construct new single-family home, remove 13" Holly, and repair existing driveway and apron at the property located at 5508 Uppingham St. (Granted on January 24, 2020).
- Reforestation of one canopy tree and removal of the following trees at 4824 Dorset Ave.:
  - a. Black Cherry 24" dbh – dead;
  - b. Black Cherry 7" dbh – poor condition leaning over house;
  - c. Ash 6" dbh – poor condition leaning over house;
  - d. Snag 6" dbh – dead;
  - e. Black Locust 11" dbh – 75% dead; dbh – diameter measured at 4.5' above ground level.



# Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

## Budget

As of publication date, the Council will have had several preliminary meetings regarding the budget: one to review numbers as of early February with the Budget Committee; and a second set of work sessions held for the Council as a whole to review a draft of the FY2021 budget line-by-line, discussing each proposal, and giving an opportunity to Council members or residents to pitch new items. In April, the Mayor will introduce the budget, and once again residents will have the opportunity to make their voices heard. We will post the draft budget on the Town website, and resident comments can be submitted to the Town Hall leading up to the vote on adoption of the budget at the May meeting (residents can also reach out to your elected officials: the Mayor and Council Members). At the May meeting, the Mayor will also present his five-year fiscal plan, which gives a rough estimation on what the Town finances should look like over the next five years, including any major infrastructure projects that might take place.

## Taxes

I know that those of you who read this column have heard this before, but I am going to continue to hammer this home throughout tax season. I want 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.

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.

City or Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code +4 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Cherry Chase** City **MD** State **20814** ZIP Code +4 **5465** **Montgomery** Maryland County

1. ☐ Single (If you can be claimed on another person's tax) 2. ☐ Head of household

## Town Communications

I am putting an emphasis on increasing Town communications and making Town documents available and accessible on the Town's website. I hope you will have noticed that we have begun regularly posting the Council meeting agenda on the Town website. If you have an item of particular interest, I encourage you to check back on the Thursday before the meeting, when I also upload the Council "packet," which includes all of the discussion items and material that the Council will consider.

In addition, I am reviving the calendar on the Town website. The first items perhaps go without saying: the dates of the Town Council meetings through June have been uploaded. In addition, The Pool and Swim Team Committees have passed along the Somerset Dolphins swim meet schedule. I am hopeful that we will continue this upward trend, and the Town's website calendar can be a reliable source for Town goings-on.

## Gardening/Landscaping

I am very excited about the Gardening and Conservation Landscaping Consultant that the Town has hired. The Council approved a contract with Groundsmith Collective, led by Kelley Okleson, to help develop an environmentally-conscious gardening and landscaping plan throughout Somerset, focusing on some of our most prominent public spaces, including the entrances to Town, the rain gardens abutting the Town Pool, the butterfly garden near the Town Pool walkway, and the Dorset Avenue bench areas, among others.

Kelley is a Maryland Certified Professional Horticulturist, a MAC-ISA Certified Arborist, and a Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional, and the rest of her team is also quite qualified and experienced. They will make great additions to Somerset, and will help improve the town while aligning with conservation landscaping best practices.

## Personal

Off to Ecuador I go! I will be out of the office from March 4 – 12, flying to Quito, Ecuador, and from there to San Cristobal in the Galapagos Islands! I will take lots of pictures and share for those who are interested.

*Continued on page 11*



# Council Meeting Actions

The Town Council met in regular session on February 3, 2020, and took the following actions:

1. Approval of minutes from Council meeting held on January 6, 2020.
2. Approval of tree removal permit and reforestation plan submitted by Stephen & Caroline Springer at 4824 Dorset Ave.
3. Approval of FY2019 Audit by Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC.
4. Approval of Gardening/Landscaping Consultant contract with Groundsmith Collective in the amount of \$14,000.
5. Approval of payment to Bishop Tennis, Inc. in the amount of \$980 for Tennis Court repairs.
6. Approval of payment to Criterion, Inc. Outdoor Furniture Repair in the amount of \$3,825 for table and chair repairs at the Town Pool.

*Continued from page 10*

## Manager's Corner

Later in March I will be looking forward to the start of baseball season. The Nationals open their title defense on the road against the NY Mets on March 26. With the loss of Anthony Rendon, there are big shoes to fill at third base. I am hoping that Carter Kieboom, the Nationals' top prospect, shows himself to be the top option in spring training. No matter what happens, it will be hard to top last year's magical run, but I am nonetheless excited to start root-root-rooting for the home team once again.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

BOZEMAN, MONTANA: Awesome Every Season! Ski Big Sky & the Bridgers! Fly fishing. Trail rides. White-water rafting. Hiking/biking everywhere. Enjoy our 4-bedroom home on 20 acres with spectacular 360-degree vistas. Four-night minimum stay. Just four miles to downtown Bozeman. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at SRPVacationHomes@gmail.com or 301-652-1207.

PARIS, FRANCE: Picturesque Day and Nite! And more affordable than ever! Enjoy our one-bedroom apartment in the 2nd arrondissement — the heart of historic Paris. Walk to the Louvre, the Pompidou Center, the Seine and two Metro stops. Four-night minimum stay. Contact **Birdie Pieczenik** at SRPVacationHomes@gmail.com or 301-652-1207.

LIFESTYLE AND WELLNESS COACHING: Would you like to get unstuck and upgrade your lifestyle and wellness habits? Small changes can make a lasting difference. If you are curious to see if coaching is right for you contact Certified Wellness Coach **Diane Horn** RDH CHHC at 301-654-0310 or diane.b.horn@gmail.com.

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

# Preliminary Agenda

## Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting

Somerset Town Hall, March 2, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will meet in regular session on March 2, 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 Special Council meeting to consider construction permit at 5508 Uppingham, held on January 21, 2020.
2. **Motion:** To approve minutes from regular Town Council meeting held on February 3, 2020. – 7:35 p.m.

## NON-CONSENT

3. **Discussion:** Update on Town Hall construction project. – 7:37 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider building permit application submitted by Kevin Lavin for the property located at 4809 Grantham Ave. The applicant is seeking the following permit:
  1. Two-story rear building addition;
  2. Front porch. – 7:45 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider building permit application submitted by Paramount Construction, Inc. on behalf of Brett and Heidi Schroeder for the property located at 4712 Essex Ave. The applicants are seeking the following permits:
  1. Demolition permit;
  2. New home construction;
  3. New curb cut & driveway apron;
  4. Dumpster on site;
  5. Fence installation;
  6. Tree removal. – 8:05 p.m.
6. **Discussion:** Building Administrator Report – 8:35 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of Traffic/Pool Parking Lot Safety Consultant (firm selection to be determined – staff is reviewing bids at time of publication). – 8:40 p.m.
8. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of 2020 agreements with Camp Summerset for use of the Town Pool and Town Tennis Courts. – 8:55 p.m.
9. **Motion:** To approve the following members to the Board of Supervisors of Elections:
  1. Phyllis Wiesenfelder (Chair), Cumberland Ave.
  2. Lucy Freeman, Falstone Ave.
  3. Jim Berry, Essex Ave. – 9:05 p.m.
10. **Motion:** To approve of appointments to fill vacancies on the Town Pool Committee. – 9:10 p.m.
11. **Motion:** To approve of appointments to fill vacancies on the Town Communications Committee. – 9:15 p.m.
12. **Discussion:** Town Manager Administrative and Fiscal Reports – 9:20 p.m.
13. **Discussion:** Mayor's Report – 9:30 p.m.
14. **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.