

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



Somerset TOWN JOURNAL



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September 2020

What's Next at Westwood I and II?

By Marnie Shaul, Council President, Uppingham Street

As fall approaches, it appears that development on Westbard Avenue at Westwood I and II is coming closer to starting.

You may recall that last year after a hearing, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved a Preliminary Plan submitted by Regency Centers (previously Equity One) for most of the commercial area on both sides of Westbard Avenue, and then approved a Site Plan for construction to start on the large parcel where the Giant grocery store is located, known as Westwood I. As part of the project, Ridgefield Road is scheduled to be realigned, so that Westbard Avenue will curve directly past the Giant to River Road, and Ridgefield will terminate into the current extension of Westbard Avenue. The new road will go through Westwood II, the two-story curved brick building that currently houses Westwood Cleaners. Across the street is where the current Giant grocery store is located and where the new Giant and multifamily apartment building are proposed to be constructed (Westwood I). Here is an update on the project:

Westwood I

The site plan called for demolition of the bank and drug store in the Westwood Shopping Center, followed first by

a commercial building with a new Giant and restaurants, to be constructed along Westbard Avenue while the old Giant remains open. According to county staff who review construction permitting,

"Regency is actively going through the permitting process for the new Giant, retail shops and multifamily building on Westwood I, albeit at a slightly slower pace than originally expected, given the impacts of COVID-19. ... they are also actively pursuing the plans and permits for the realignment (of Ridgefield Road), while Kensington is securing its site plan. All of that said, Regency won't be able to provide a detailed timeframe for construction starts until they see how reemergence efforts {from the pandemic} pan out going forward. "

In addition to the new commercial building, Regency and its partners eventually plan to build a multi-family apartment building—also along Westbard—with an open plaza between the new Giant and the multifamily building, as well as a park with a playground on the Springfield end of the site near the current Anglo-Dutch toy store. There will also be about 70 townhouses along the back of the parking lot.

Continued on page 3

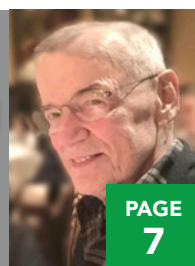
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ON MY MIND

Sustaining Black Lives Matter

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Warwick Place

While the rise of the Black Lives Matters (BLM) movement is no longer on the front pages of newspapers, it remains incumbent upon all elected officials and citizens to continue to address the desperate need for changes in our public policies. If not, we will never achieve racial equity in the United States. In my experience, movements such as BLM are most likely to achieve their goals when they start at the grassroots level with a focus on "the one on one" and the "one by one." Before our community can make any decisions on how to respond, we need to have the right tools and more information.

Like other municipalities in the area and across the USA, we could set up a working group to listen, share stories, strategize and even make formal recommendations to the Town Council. We could also consider symbolic efforts like putting up signs or monuments, painting streets or creating naming opportunities, holding discussions on important books and writings, attending rallies, encouraging the patronage of black-owned banks and businesses, creating conversation opportunities with folks from a wide range of economic backgrounds and political and religious beliefs . . . and much more.

Former Council Member **Cathy Pickar** (Dorset) recently brought to my attention a book she read which had a great impact on her thinking, Ibram X. Kendi's *How to be an Antiracist*. This author has been all over the airwaves recently and I plan to read this book to continue my education in this area. There are dozens of ways to better understand the problem and figure out our individual game plans. I hope everyone will challenge themselves.

Having a Black Lives Matter sign at Town Hall is just a start. I look forward to hearing from others in Town on this important challenge.

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SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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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 Zeughhauser** 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**.

What's Next at Westwood I and II?

Westwood II

For the Westwood II project, Regency is working with Kensington Senior Development LLC to construct a 155-bed residential care facility on the parcel of land remaining after the road realignment. Kensington submitted a Site Plan and revised a Preliminary Plan for this project in the beginning of the summer and recently submitted revised plans in response to comments from staff at the Planning Board (the permitting body for the new development). Although not easy to read, the August 5 submitted documents can be found at:

- Preliminary Plan Amendment 12017017A – <https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/daiclinks/pdoxlinks.aspx?apno=12017017A&projname=Westwood%20Shopping%20Center>
- Site Plan 8202000200 – <https://eplans.montgomeryplanning.org/daiclinks/pdoxlinks.aspx?apno=820200200&projname=Kensington%20of%20Bethesda>

The Westwood II site is the primary gateway from River Road into Westbard and is at the beginning of the proposed Willett Branch Greenway. This area is planned as a park with trails along what is envisioned to become a naturalized stream. Many residents in the area, the Little Falls Watershed Alliance, and the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (CCCFH) have strongly supported the creation of the park and naturalizing the stream. The Parks Department is in the process of assembling parcels for the park, but creation of the park is likely to be far in the future. Meanwhile, Regency/Kensington will be dedicating land for the park on the Westwood II site. Many members of the community would like to see Regency provide further financial support for the park as well.

Currently, the key dates for the Kensington project include: a final submission by Kensington by the end of August and a Planning Board hearing on October 29th. A planning Board Staff Report will be prepared before the hearing. A public hearing must also be held in order to realign Ridgefield Road. No date has been set yet.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Labor Day holiday
Town Hall closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Town Council Zoom Meeting
7:00 p.m. (note date and time change)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

(virtual) Newcomers' Party
2:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Parks and Natural Resources
Committee Zoom Meeting
8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Council Work Session via Zoom
5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Flu Clinic Outdoors at Town
Hall
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

(virtual) Dog Swim

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Pool Closing

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Communications Committee
Zoom Meeting
3:00 p.m.

Upcoming Flu Clinic on September 25

By **Matt Trollinger**, *Town Manager*

Somerset will once again host a flu clinic, presented by Life Work Strategies. **The clinic will be held outdoors from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 25. In order to participate, residents must call ahead to reserve a spot. Please call the Town Hall at 301-657-3211 to schedule.**

Arrangements will be the same as in previous years: residents will pay between \$30 and \$70 per shot, depending on the type of shot you prefer (see chart below), and this is typically reimbursed by your healthcare provider. Medicare Part B recipients should bring their cards with them.

This year, perhaps more than any in recent memory, it is important to get a flu shot, whether through this offering, at your local drugstore, or with your healthcare provider. The last thing our hospital systems need is to be flooded with largely preventable cases of the flu during a worldwide pandemic and potential surges of COVID-19. The CDC suggests everyone six months and older (with some health exceptions) should get a flu shot.

| SERVICE | COST |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV) | \$30 |
| Preservative-Free Influenza Vaccine | \$32 |
| High-dose Influenza Vaccine | \$70 |
| Egg Free Influenza Vaccine | \$70 |

Online STEM Program for Girls Grades 3 to 5

Juniors at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Fiona Letsinger, Norah Swatland, and **Robin Mills** (Uppingham) will be hosting fun, engaging virtual workshops for girls in grades 3-5 who are interested in exploring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The field of math and science has traditionally been dominated by men, with only 13% of all engineers being women. It is imperative that girls this age have the opportunity to pursue and spark their interest in STEM, which is why Fiona, Norah, and Robin are motivated and excited to help them do so!



Girls signed up will learn STEM-related concepts through fun activities such as exploring propulsion through rockets, creating balloon-powered cars, designing marble roller coasters, launching catapults, exploring safe chemical reactions through balloons, and constructing towers and structures. Kits with all necessary materials for each activity will be premade and delivered to each participant's home prior to the start of each session.

Virtual meetings will be held twice a week for two weeks starting September 1 for a total of four meetings per session. For more information and registration, please visit this document: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m2RlopocrMjkOS9lwqLK_S6h8XdmoLkSb5yfo5W2F_g/edit?usp=sharing

If there are any questions concerning details or registration, please email fiona.letsinger@gmail.com

Town Council Member Committee Assignments and Other Responsibilities: July 2020-May 2021

By Council President Marnie Shaul, *Uppingham Street*

Each year the Council agrees on council member liaison assignments to the Town's Committees. The Mayor establishes committees and appoints members and the chair, subject to Council approval. The Code requires a Council liaison and alternate for each committee. Several of the committees (History and Archives, Newcomers, and Public Safety) are not currently operational but all will have a liaison and alternate when the Mayor has finished putting them together. The special committee on Stormwater was approved by the Council at its August meeting and liaisons will be assigned soon. Council members also may agree to take on other Town assignments and responsibilities.

Assignments for Town Committees

- **Budget Committee:** Marnie Shaul, Robin Barr, Alternate
- **Communications Committee:** Barbara Zeughauser, Robin Barr, Alternate
- **Environment Committee:** Steve Surko, Marnie Shaul, Alternate
- **History and Archives:** Robin Barr, Steve Surko, Alternate
- **Newcomers:** To be determined
- **Parks and Natural Resources Committee:** Barbara Zeughauser, Franny Peale, Alternate
- **Pool Committee:** Marnie Shaul, Barbara Zeughauser, Alternate
- **Public Safety:** Steve Surko
- **Swim Team Committee:** Franny Peale, Barbara Zeughauser, Alternate
- **Tennis Committee:** Franny Peale, Barbara Zeughauser, Alternate
- **Traffic Committee:** Robin Barr, Marnie Shaul, Alternate

Other Liaison Assignments and Council Responsibilities

- **Artist Shows in Town Hall:** lead, Barbara Zeughauser
- **Check signing:** leads Marnie Shaul and Barbara Zeughauser

- **Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights:** lead Steve Surko, Marnie Shaul, Alternate
- **Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League Executive Board Member:** Marnie Shaul
- **Pool Management Team:** Marnie Shaul
- **Snow Removal:** leads Barbara Zeughauser and Steve Surko

Committees in the Charter

- **Audit Committee:** Council appoints the audit committee: Robin Barr, Marnie Shaul, Alternate
- **Board of Supervisors of Elections—5 members**

Other Town Representation

- **Bethesda Fire Board:** Barbara Condos
- **Montgomery Municipal County Cable, Channel 16:** Matt Trollinger, Board President
- **Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (TMD):** Barbara Condos

Make Room for MUSHROOMS

After our many recent rainstorms, nature seems to have taken over Somerset's lawns.





SOMERSET LEADERS

Marnie Shaul

The Journal is launching a new monthly series with profiles of our Town's leaders. We hope that you will enjoy getting to know them better. This month we focus on Marnie Shaul who is the longest serving member of the Town Council and its president.

By **Ilene Ringel Heller**, *Uppingham Street*

What does a person do after she earns a degree in chemistry, conducts anesthesiology research at a hospital center, earns a PhD in economics, works on block grant programs and international trade for the Governor's office in the State of Ohio and addresses homelessness, aviation and early childhood education for the Government Accountability Office? The answer: become a member of the Somerset Town Council, and, ultimately, its president.

Marnie Shaul has made a real difference in Somerset since she moved here in 1990. Marnie was elected to the Town Council in 2007 and became what is now called council president in 2008. Marnie's training as an economist came to the rescue when she obtained financing for the pool house renovation during the recession of 2008-10, when our Town was experiencing a budget deficit. Marnie is most proud of founding the Town's Environment Committee, which ultimately established recycling, composting and other programs to enhance our surroundings.

Marnie was born in Stevens Point, WI, and was raised in Wauwatosa, WI, a suburb of Milwaukee. She attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison and received a degree in chemistry. She then did graduate work in economics at Akron University and obtained a PhD in economics from The Ohio State University in Columbus. She said that she wanted to "understand economics to make good political decisions."

Marnie decided to move to this area when then Ohio Governor Dick Celeste left office, and she was offered and accepted a position at the Government Accountability

Office. Her sister and brother-in-law **Barbara and Bruce Tully** (Warwick) were already Somerset residents and Marnie had friends nearby, so she was very excited when a house became available on Uppingham Street. Marnie purchased the home of former Somerset Mayor Gene Miller, continuing the tradition that occupants of that house be active in Town government. (Uppingham is also the home of Council members **Steve Surko** and **Franny Peale**!)

When she is not busy attending Town and County meetings and reviewing contracts, construction plans and other documents, Marnie enjoys attending the theatre. Before Covid 19 (BC), Marnie volunteered at the Signature, Ford, Roundhouse and Shakespeare theatres. She is also an avid reader and belongs to two book groups.

Marnie also loves to travel and spend time in Hilton Head. In recent years, she has been on a Danube River cruise and visited Croatia and Morocco. On March 15, she found herself stranded in Morocco after her tour was cancelled because of Covid 19. Fortunately, the U.S. government arranged for her to be evacuated from Marrakesh via British Airways, and she was flown to London. From there she transferred to a plane bound for Washington, D.C. There was no social distancing, and the planes were packed. When Marnie arrived home, she needed to self-quarantine for 14 days, but fortunately, she did not contract the virus.

Marnie is spending August in Hilton Head with her sister and brother-in-law and her beloved dog, Lady, a rescue Lab mix. We look forward to welcoming Marnie and Lady back later this summer.

IN MEMORIAM • 1939–2020
Thomas Dimond



By Cathy Pickar, Dorset Avenue

Tom Dimond, 81, a wonderful husband, father and neighbor for over 30 years passed away July 31st with his family by his side at his home on Dorset Avenue. The cause was esophageal cancer.

A native Washingtonian, Tom had a passion for newspapers beginning as a young boy when he and one of his brothers founded competing newspapers, covering opposite ends of the road, in their D.C. neighborhood of Trinidad. Tom cut his journalist teeth at the *Washington Star*, first as a delivery and copyboy and, after college, its business editor and assistant managing editor for news. The day the *Washington Star* closed, as the era of afternoon newspapers ended, Tom received a call from the *Washington Post* asking him if he would join their team of journalists. After editing award-winning stories for the *Post* and a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation, Tom quickly became a revered figure and editor of the *Post's* business coverage. He retired in 2002.

On the home front, Tom was also revered and loved. From the time Tom and Joan's moving van pulled up across the street we have adored them as neighbors and friends. Tom's quiet kindness, humor and keen intellect brightened many a gathering as he and my

husband David sipped scotch, nibbled on chocolate and watched (more aptly, didn't watch) our kids play. Tom was kind; Tom was patient; Tom was sweet – just like his wife Joan and his daughter, Grace.

I could say so much more, but nothing I could say would compare to the eloquent tribute that Grace wrote to her father on her Facebook page, excerpted below:

"On Friday, July 31st 2020, I lost my best friend and the world lost a bright light, a talented man, a loving father. Tom Dimond was the strongest, kindest, funniest man I have ever known ...

"Thank you for always picking up the phone and letting me vent about people you never met, reading comics from the Sunday paper over the phone, or just sitting in comfortable silence as I walked to class ...

"Thank you for some of my favorite memories: letting me sit on your lap and drive up our long driveway; hugging me tightly and energetically playing with me in the evenings after your 12+ hour workdays; watching episode after episode of the Simpsons...

"Thank you for setting a pristine example of what it means to be a good person. I will miss you... but I will carry your examples and your memory with me in my heart throughout my life ... I love you, Dad ... "



Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

As we all know, gas-powered leaf blowers are loud, emit dangerous VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and create a lot of dust. The Environment Committee (EC) has been considering this issue for several years. Recently, in order to find a workable way forward, the EC met with **Town Manager Matt Trollinger** and **Maintenance Crew Foreman Enrique Cabrera** to learn about the Town's use of gas-powered leaf blowers and identify the desired specification for a battery-operated backpack leaf blower. First, let's review some simple but important definitions and laws:

Cubic Feet Per Minute (CFM): This is how much air the machine blows. The larger the number the more powerful. The Town's leaf blowers are rated at approximately 700 CFM.

Decibels, db (70db is maximum allowed in MoCo): This is the unit for loudness. It works on a logarithmic scale, so on average a rise in 10db is approximately twice as loud. The Town's three gas-powered leaf blowers are rated at 73db. The maximum noise allowed in Montgomery County is 70db, so our present leaf blowers are unfortunately illegal to use. Remember, that an increase in 3db is about 30% louder. In comparison, battery-operated leaf blowers are up to eight times quieter.

Hours of Usage: The Town's maintenance crew uses the leaf blowers infrequently during the warm months, mostly to clean the tennis court, which can take about an hour. During the autumn, they use them all day, nearly every day. So, in order to accommodate this usage, each battery-powered leaf blower must have extra batteries and chargers, so they can be swapped out during the day.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers on Their Way Out

Many Cities Already Ban This Machine: Washington, D.C. recently passed a gas-powered leaf blower ban, which has a two-year phase-out timeline, with the ban beginning on January 1, 2022. After that, only battery-powered electric leaf blowers will be allowed. California now has 20 cities that ban this machine as do numerous other towns across the nation.

Chevy Chase Village: This past month, our neighboring Chevy Chase Village decided to piggyback on this new

legislation. My hope is for our town to upgrade the quality of our life by joining this movement. A member of the Environment Committee of that town has

actually walked his neighborhood and spoken to more than 100 landscapers, from which he has discovered that 85% of all leaf blowers used have a rating above 70db, thus illegal. We can only imagine that most of the leaf blowers used in our neighborhood are similar. My landscaper, who now only uses a battery-operated leaf blower for my property, uses a 72db gas-powered machine for other lawns.

Montgomery County: The real hope is to have this ban extend across our county. Toward this goal, there is now a petition being circulated to do just that. Here is the link and we encourage everyone to consider signing this petition: <https://forms.gle/TYku2T4UEeMDJppF8>

Environment Committee Considering a Pilot Program for the Town

With all of the above information, the EC is developing a recommendation for the Town Council to purchase one or more battery-operated leaf blowers for the maintenance crew as a pilot to assess their utility. Autumn is just around the corner and it would be great to have our crew work in a safer and healthier environment. And we look forward to getting feedback from our crew to make sure these machines are equally effective.

Info Zoom Meeting This Fall

This fall, we are planning to have an EC zoom meeting to learn more about leaf blowers and the legislation that has passed in the District of Columbia and Chevy Chase Village. We will invite Washington, D.C. Advisory Neighborhood Commission Commissioner Chuck Elkins, who spearheaded the gas-powered leaf blower ban, as well as an official from Chevy Chase Village, who will share info about their piggyback legislation. More details to follow.



From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



While all of our Town Committee chairs do an outstanding job, I need to single out Pool Committee Chair **Matt Zaft** (Dorset) in particular for his service this unique summer. With all the new rules, protocols and assorted challenges related to the pandemic, Matt has handled his exhaustive responsibilities with vigor and respect. He truly understands how vital the Town swimming pool is to our residents and how important it is to be adaptable and patient.

One of the reasons our Town celebrations are so successful is because (in addition to our excellent staff) we involve residents in each event. In this way, citizens can participate in the work of the Town government. I want to mention that we are starting to plan a virtual Newcomers Party and our annual (virtual, this year) Dog Swim which will each take place in September. If you are interested in helping or sharing ideas please email me at or call me on 202-549-2299.

Welcome to the "dog days" of summer, everyone, which is usually a more relaxed time in Somerset for most, plus many vacations take place. However this is also historically the season when we need to be most vigilant because of potential spikes in minor crime. 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.

Our official public Town Listserv recently celebrated its second anniversary. Thanks to everyone who has helped

make this communications tool a success. If you haven't yet signed up, please get in touch with the Town Hall staff.

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. This is particularly the case in the areas surrounding our ongoing construction projects. I hope that the owners of these properties will inform their contractors and sub-contractors that our Town does not tolerate litter. We need to do everything possible to enhance our streetscape. In addition, I get complaints weekly about obstruction of our sidewalks — which is a violation of Town Code. This is not only plantings and greenery that overhang the walkways, but branches, toys, car overhang, tools, etc. This is a particular problem during the pandemic when so many people are out walking. Your consideration would be greatly appreciated. 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. Don't be afraid to be a "nosey neighbor!"

Let's not forget the true purpose of Labor Day on Monday, September 7 by paying a special tribute to all the working people in the USA and the strong unions that protect their rights — especially our Letter Carriers and Other USPS Employees.

GENERAL PERMITS

- 5510 Greystone – Porta-Potty on site (interior renovation work)
- 5519 Trent – Dumpster on site (interior renovation work)
- 4710 Falstone - Fence
- 4823 Dorset – 8" Dogwood Tree Removal (dead)
- 5516 Trent - Construction (Front and rear additions and tree removal)



Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

Stormwater

After months of discussion and deliberations, this past month the Council approved the formation of the Stormwater Management Study Committee, which will be tasked with defining any problems associated with stormwater runoff in the Town, analyzing the efficacy, costs, and benefits of possible solutions, and ultimately submitting a report to the Council. Ideally, the Study Committee will include a real estate professional, an attorney with expertise in land-use law, a person with expertise regarding trees, a person with expertise in stormwater management, a person with expertise in conservation landscape design, and other residents with the time and interest to work on this intensive and time-limited study. Anyone interested in serving on the Study Committee (including those who have expressed an interest in the past) should contact the Mayor directly. Please provide a short biography and let him know why you want to volunteer and confirm that you have the time available to dedicate to the effort. From the Mayor: "I am looking for people who will have an open mind to interpreting the research so it doesn't matter what their current views are!"

Dog Swim

The Council also approved a virtual dog swim on Saturday, September 26. In order to make this work, we are asking for residents to send in footage of your dog going for a swim – whether it be at a previous Dog Swim at the Town Pool, or your dog jumping into a river, lake, ocean, pool, or even stomping around in a puddle! We will put it all together to create an enjoyable video to celebrate the end of summer.

Staffing

This upcoming month I will be asking the Council to consider allocating money to temporarily bring on an additional person to work in the Town Hall to help us complete some projects and focus on some areas that

have otherwise been neglected. For instance, once construction of the Town Hall was completed, we began to move old files out of off-site storage and back into the office space. The downside of this is that we have a lot of old files that are taking up space; one of the tasks of this special assistant would be to help us in the creation of an official document retention policy, working with Maryland State Archives so that our office is more organized and documents are more easily accessible. There are several other opportunities that will help with the way information is shared. For example, there are opportunities to help update the website, upload Council recordings more quickly, and transfer old pool data to our new Member Splash system so residents can more easily add to and check the money they have on their accounts.

Flu Clinic

I would encourage everyone to read the article on page 4 in this edition of the Journal about the flu clinic, which will be held outdoors on September 25 outside the Town Hall. It is critically important that everyone who is able get inoculated against the seasonal flu virus this year – remember, you are not just doing it for yourself, but for your friends and neighbors too!

Census

Finally, I want to take an opportunity to remind people that the deadline to complete the 2020 Census has been moved up to September 30. It is critically important that everyone fill out the census for their household. The State of Maryland loses almost \$2,000 per person per year who is not counted! The census funds critical programs from healthcare to highways to meals to Medicare. Please make sure you are counted by completing the Census today.

The link to complete the census online is:

https://2020census.gov/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Council Meeting Actions

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

1. Approved addendum to Town Pool rules to allow for Swim Lessons for the remainder of the pool season.
2. Approved Council liaison assignments to Town Committees.
3. Approved minutes from regular Town Council meeting held on June 1, 2020.
4. Approved minutes from regular Town Council meeting held on July 6, 2020.
5. Approved permit application submitted by Property Alchemist LLC, on behalf of Erlinda and Brendan Doherty, to construct addition to front of house and remove two Evergreen trees at the property located at 5516 Trent St.
6. Approved removal of the following Town trees, as recommended by the Town Arborist:
 - Zelkova 2" dbh at 4701 Falstone on Warwick Pl.
 - Ash 15" dbh at 5545 Warwick Pl. in park near 5601 Warwick Pl.
 - Flowering Cherry 27" dbh at 4723 Falstone Ave.
7. Approved Mayor's nomination of Barton Rubenstein to serve as Chair of Town Environment Committee.
8. Approved a Ceremonial Resolution to recognize and honor Morris Panner for his service on the Somerset Town Council.
9. Approved final payment to de Marne & Day, Inc. for the Town Hall renovation project, in the amount of \$79,077.67.
10. Approved Flu Clinic, hosted by Adventist Health Care Life Works Strategies, to be held outdoors at Town Hall parking lot on September 25.
11. Approved the establishment of the Stormwater Management Study Committee, and accompanying Committee Charter.

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.

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.

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.

SEA COLONY - BETHANY BEACH - EDGEWATER BUILDING OCEAN FRONT: 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Sunday to Sunday rentals - \$2,900 per week (Somerset special price) Call: 301-233-2727 **Luba Marx**

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

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Somerset Town Council will meet via Zoom on September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda updates are posted on the Town website: www.townofsomerset.com.

- **Council Meeting Convenes**–7:00 p.m.
- **Comments: Public Comment Period**–7:00 p.m.*

Somerset Town Council

- Marnie Shaul,
Council President
- Robin Barr
- Franny Peale
- Steve Surko
- Barbara Zeughauser

CONSENT

1. **Motion:** To approve minutes from regular Town Council meeting held on August 3, 2020.
2. **Motion:** To approve minutes from Town Council Work Session held on July 15, 2020. – 7:10 p.m.

NON-CONSENT

3. **Discussion:** To present the Ceremonial Resolution recognizing and honoring Morris Panner for his service on the Somerset Town Council, passed by the Council on August 3, 2020. – 7:11 p.m.
4. **Discussion:** Building Administrator Report. – 7:15 p.m.
5. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To approve a Parachute Parade Event on Friday, September 25 at 4:30 p.m. to commemorate Global Day of Climate Action, as recommended by the Town Environment Committee. – 7:25 p.m.

6. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of Bulk Trash pickup scheduled on Monday, October 5, 2020; and accompanying donation pickup with A Wider Circle on Saturday, October 3, 2020. – 7:45 p.m.
7. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of reprogramming \$5,000 of Operating Budget Contingency Funds for the hiring of a temporary part-time Special Projects Assistant to Town staff. – 7:55 p.m.
8. **Discussion:** Town Manager Administrative and Fiscal Reports. – 8:15 p.m.
9. **Motion:** Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.

KEY

Public Hearing Item: Agenda item where public comment is permitted.

Discussion Item: Agenda item limited to discussion among the Council, Mayor and Town Staff.

Motion Item: Agenda item requesting action, limited to Council discussion.

Comments: Opinions and Questions from Town residents.

* Times listed are estimated, and may run longer or shorter than allocated.

** Questions should be submitted via email ahead of the meeting to manager@townofsomerset.com or town@townofsomerset.com.

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) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.