

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



SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



Volume 67 • No. 12

December 2022

UPDATES FROM THE SOMERSET TRAFFIC COMMITTEE River Road, Little Falls Parkway, and Pedestrian Safety

By Elizabeth Hurwit, Chair, Traffic Committee, Dorset Avenue

October was a busy month for traffic-related news. Topics included changes regarding River Road development, the Little Falls Parkway (LFP) Linear Park Pilot, and safety concerns for the intersection of Little Falls Parkway and Massachusetts Avenue.

Planned development along River Road

On October 4, the Montgomery County Council voted 5-4 to keep the designation of River Road as a growth corridor in the *Thrive Montgomery 2050* plan (which the County Council passed unanimously on October 25). Planners have thus identified River Road between Washington, D.C., and the Beltway as a stretch for potential future development. More background may be found in *Bethesda Beat*: <https://bit.ly/3EJVFeV>.

Little Falls Parkway Linear Park Pilot

On October 10, Montgomery Parks ("Parks") announced commencement of Phase 2 of the Little Falls Parkway Linear Park Pilot. According to the update on the Parks website (<https://bit.ly/3AskXvy>; see also <https://bit.ly/3VaR5f9>),

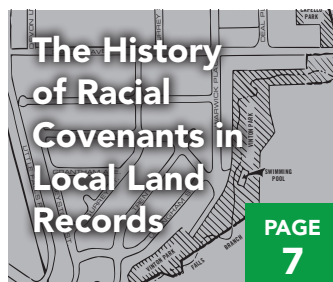
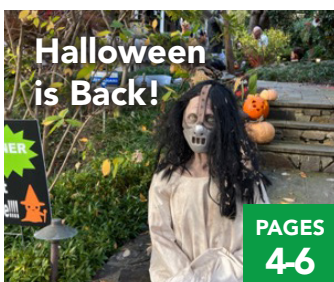
Phase 2 involves lane reconfiguration between Dorset Avenue and Arlington Road. The east (SomerseT) side of LFP now has one lane in each direction for cars, and the west side will be made available for bike and pedestrian use. In the spring of 2023, "activation" of the linear park will begin, with the installation of seating, games such as corn hole and ping pong, and events with food trucks and entertainment.

Phase 1 traffic counts on LFP and neighboring streets can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3VuLBw7>. Counts are expected to continue while Phase 2 is implemented. In the summer of 2023, Parks will evaluate the success of the pilot park and provide an online Town Hall website for public input.

Also in mid-October, Traffic Committee members attended a meeting with representatives of County and State authorities, including Montgomery Parks and Planning, Montgomery Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, Bethesda Police, and District 16 State delegates to encourage open communication and collaboration as we see how the various projects and developments around us affect SomerseT over time. We

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ON MY MIND

New Land Use Committee

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

After much hullabaloo, the outgoing County Council recently passed *Thrive Montgomery 2050*, defined as “the long-awaited update to our County’s General Plan — the policy document that envisions what the future of Montgomery County could look like when we come together to realize an equitable vision that works for all of us.”

Our enlightened County Executive Marc Elrich and many elected officials and community leaders, including me, had urged the County Council to defer consideration of this measure to the next County Council, which will be seated in December with a vastly different composition, but this was not meant to be.

While this new plan might better meet the needs for our citizens in the areas of transit, the environment and the business arena, there is much concern in Somerset and in the surrounding municipalities and communities that it could lead to drastic changes in land use in our part of the County, impacting traffic, our schools, pollution and much more.

Fortunately, *Thrive* is merely a plan and any specific changes must go through a zoning process which will certainly not happen overnight. But now is the time for us to better organize our troops and arm them with the tools and information needed so that we can weigh in when specific proposals are considered.

For many years, the Town Council and I have tried to work through our membership in the “umbrella” civic association in our area — the Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights — but that has not proven to be effective. Accordingly, I feel now is the time to establish our own Land Use Committee so that unified recommendations can be made from Somerset to the County Council, and we can find ways to improve dissemination of information on this complicated topic.

Early next year, I will be asking the Town Council to approve such a Committee and confirm the initial members. If you are interested in being appointed, please get in touch with me.

Thanks to the many individuals who suggested this idea.

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Monday thru Friday
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TTY users call Maryland Relay

SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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The Town Journal is the official publication of The Town of Somerset, Montgomery County, MD.

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

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

POST OFFICE ADDRESS:
4510 Cumberland Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
www.townofsomerset.com

Updates From the Somerset Traffic Committee

shared that Somerset residents are evenly divided on the LFP linear park, and therefore the Traffic Committee supports the continued pilot. We also learned more about Phase 2 of the Linear Park Pilot:

- To minimize access issues for the Washington Episcopal School and complications at the intersection of River Road and LFP, the road diet (in pilot and any permanent phase) will start just north of Dorset and not at River Road, making the linear park roughly 0.5 miles long, not 1.3 miles as originally described.
- The lanes for cars must be on the east side of LFP so that cars can turn into the Bethesda Pool without crossing the new linear park
- Although government officials envision people coming to the park on foot or bike, mostly on the Capital Crescent Trail, they plan to use the Bethesda Pool parking lot(s) for parking during the months the pool is closed.

Once the new configuration is completed and people have had a chance to explore it, the Traffic Committee would like to conduct a second Town survey to see what residents

think of Phase 2. However, it should be noted that the updated description on the Parks website does imply the linear park is here to stay, as people will be able to “share their feedback . . . on what they like and what changes they want to see so that [Parks] can make the park the best it can be.”

Safety issues at the intersection of Little Falls Parkway and Massachusetts Avenue

Finally, on October 24, State Delegate Marc Korman hosted State and County leaders in a virtual public meeting on the traffic and pedestrian safety situation at Massachusetts Avenue and Little Falls Parkway while Westbark construction continues. Many residents expressed frustrations over left-turn restrictions (from Massachusetts Avenue onto Little Falls Parkway) and neighborhood cut-through traffic. (See brief writeup here: <https://bit.ly/3VaB6Of>.)

The Traffic Committee will continue monitoring these issues and updating Somerset residents. If you would like to contact local officials, please contact the Mayor for suggestions.

DECEMBER 2022 TOWN CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Town Council Meeting

7:00 p.m., Town Hall (in person) and via Zoom^{o*}

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Communications Committee Meeting

12:00 p.m., Town Hall (in person)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Collection for Town Hall Toy Drive Ends

(See page 9 for Town donation opportunities)

Pool Committee Meeting

7:30 p.m., via Zoom^{*}

^oThe Town Council has instituted “hybrid” meetings starting in September, to allow residents to attend both in-person at the Town Hall, or to continue to participate via Zoom.

^{*}Login information for Zoom meetings will be sent via email the week prior to the meeting. Residents may also email town@townofsomerset for login and dial-in information.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Collections for Food and Coat Drives End

(See page 9 for Town donation opportunities)

Town Council Work Session

5:30 p.m., Town Hall (in person) and via Zoom^{o*}

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 - MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Town Hall Closed for staff travel and observance of Christmas and New Year holidays.

Halloween in Somerset: Third Annual House Decorating Competition

By Maya Weil, *Dorset Avenue*

The 3rd annual Town of Somerset Halloween House Decorating Competition was hugely successful! Many in the Somerset community stepped up to help make this year's Halloween special and spooky.

The categories for awards this year were: *Judges' Choice*; *Spookiest*; *Most Creative*; and *Honorable Mentions* (because there were so many great entries!)

THE WINNERS

Judges' Choice:

The Hurst House (4922 Dorset Avenue)



The undefeated champion three years running! The Hursts change their theme each year with amazing creativity, and this year's Fun House was terrific.

Spookiest:

The Xander House (4807 Cumberland Avenue)



The Xanders knocked it out of the park with their horror-filled spectacle that included monstrous creatures, severed heads, and other ghoulish delights.

Most Creative:

The Darling/Fuentes House (4719 Cumberland Avenue)



The Darling/Fuentes family brought out a fun and creepy delight this year! Costumes on their batting boy, lawn sculptures, tombstones, and wonderful use of found objects like a chandelier and palm trees provided a fun and unique experience.

Our judges, especially our young judges, wanted to recognize some additional Halloween houses:

Honorable Mentions:

- The Day House (5801 Deal Place)
- The Rosenthal House (5813 Surrey Street)
- The Beckman House Avenue (4816 Dorset Avenue)
- The Jameson/Rabinowitz House (5610 Warwick Place)
- The Keehn/Cooper House (4915 Cumberland Avenue)
- The Reilly/Horn House (5710 Surrey Street)

Continued on page 5

Halloween in Somerset: Third Annual House Decorating Competition

THE JUDGES

It wouldn't be much of a contest without judges, and we were lucky to have a great team this year, filled with children of all ages! There was so much community interest in judging this year that we had to turn some away. Our judges (see photo) were:

- Lucas Locraft, age 9 (Essex Avenue)
- Eleanor Wheatley, age 4 (Dorset Avenue)
- Maddie Foster, age 9 (Cumberland Avenue)
- Stella Rosenthal, age 11 (Surrey Street)
- August Urban, age 6 (Surrey Street)
- Birdie Pieczenik, 20+ year resident (Essex Avenue) — represented by Kathy Wenger, also a 20+ year resident (Cumberland Avenue)
- Maya Weil, organizer (Dorset Avenue) — with foster pup, Mr. Boogedy

Judge Stella said, "People in Somerset take Halloween seriously, and it was fun being one of the judges," while



Judge Lucas added "I loved going around Somerset and seeing all the different houses decorated for Halloween." Thank you to everyone who decorated — and thank you to the diligent judges who did a great job!

[Editor's Note: For more on Halloween in Somerset, see Sarah Morse's article on the Cotton Candy House, on page 6.]

Somerset Represented at USTA Nationals!

By Carrie Wofford, Chair, Tennis Committee, Essex Avenue

I'm back from U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) Nationals to say everyone should try USTA! It's so fun and truly thrilling.

With enormous thanks to Somerset neighbors **Dana Macher** (Cumberland), **Steve Shapiro** (Surrey), and **Alex Acosta** (Essex) for their encouragement and guidance, I slowly entered the USTA tennis team world (at the lower intermediate level), and one of my teams made it to Nationals this year! Last year, Dana Macher was on a (much higher level) USTA team that made it to Nationals and she told me all about it, and, this year, following her advice, one of my teams made it!

USTA does a fantastic job organizing teams of all levels across the country, for which they hold local, regional, and national championships. My team won our local league and then won the Mid-Atlantic "Sectionals" regional championship in September, qualifying us to represent the Mid-Atlantic at Nationals in the category of 55 and older Women's doubles at the lower intermediate level. We flew to the USTA National Training Center in Orlando, Florida

for the championship over the final weekend of October. It was a thrilling experience. They had colorful flags for every region, a fantastic facility (with a "racquet bar" that could — on the spot — fix anything wrong with your racquet, including instant restringing), lots of friendly and encouraging staff, and 30 clay (Har-Tru) tennis courts — all with livestream video cameras so our families could watch from home. I played three rounds and got less nervous with each round. We won enough matches to make it to the Final 4 "Championship Day," which was a very exciting day that started with a deejay at 6:30 a.m. to pump us up for the final rounds. We came in 4th overall! Out of 483 teams nationwide with 5,790 women, that's pretty good! I can't wait to get back to Nationals with another team!

I highly recommend USTA teams. There are teams for all levels! Truly, it starts out at a very low level!

Who will represent Somerset at Nationals next year? It could be you!



Somerset's Cotton Candy House

By Sarah Morse, Dorset Avenue

[This piece is based on a post that appeared on the listserv, November 1, 2022]

A little history of how our home became the Cotton Candy House, which happened in 2011. It's all our adult child's Maurie's fault! When our kids were little (the youngest of the four is 29 now!), Michael and Karen Kuehl ran the original Cotton Candy House at the corner of Warwick and Dorset. When they moved away, the new owners tried to continue the tradition, but it was just too much! So that was the end of Halloween cotton candy in Somerset—at least for a while. When Maurie moved back to the area after college, it was too sad: the Cotton Candy House had been such an important part of their childhood that Maurie decided that we should host the Cotton Candy House. I immediately demurred! And demurred again and again. But Maurie promised that they would do all the work, order the machine and set-up, and clean up in perpetuity no matter where they might live in the entire world, so I agreed. And that's that. Maurie has kept their promise — traveling from their own home and neighborhood in Hyattsville every year so that Somerset kids will have a Cotton Candy House!



Maurie Kathan (left) and Sarah Morse (right) serve up cotton candy in 2014, as an unknown ghoul (center) looks on

The event has evolved through the years. After remembering that my kids were always really thirsty when they trick-or-treated and that Lucy Freeman (Falstone Avenue, then Dorset Avenue) always had water for them, we started offering the very popular "water for candy" swap (with free refills) — kids give us a piece of candy and we give them water. Actually, the water is free - it's the cups that they are bartering for. We're trying to encourage reusable drink containers! And in the past several years, we've started a list of the costumes we see. Regretfully, we don't keep the data from year to year, so we can't do

any analysis. Maybe now that Maurie is a big mucky-mucky data scientist, we'll see some charts and tables in the future.

For those who are interested in how many trick-or-treaters we get in Somerset, here are our notes on how many cotton candy cones we have distributed over the last 11 years:

- 2011: "More than 300"
- 2013: 412 plus 300 this afternoon at Toby's school (my arm must have been so sore!)
- 2014: 500
- 2016: 600
- 2017: Almost 700
- 2018: over 600
- 2019: No record
- 2020: No cotton candy due to restrictions from the pandemic
- 2021: 510. The notes include this comment: "Missing PG county Zebra FOUND! Joey Kathan rocks his zebra suit making cotton candy for Halloween on Dorset Avenue! 510 kids, 20 pounds of sugar! btw, that's 510 cones of cotton candy in 120 minutes — 14 seconds per cone, including stopping to let the machine cool down every 25 cones. And if you don't know what Joey's costume is all about, look up "escape zebras PG County." It's a super fun story."
- 2022: 375 cones and bags: rain made waiting in line a little less attractive!



A crowd lines up for cotton candy in 2019

Thank you to everyone who makes it possible for us to host this event. We really like the police officer — we used to need to station someone in the street to keep people safe from cars running the stop sign near our house. And our next-door neighbors, Nate and Sloane Hurst (Dorset Avenue), saved Halloween this year by lending a tent. (Two tents and a canopy were needed to protect us all from the rain.) Family and friends and, of course, my husband Dave Kathan and Maurie worked tirelessly for 3 hours making cones and managing the crowds. Not to mention set-up and clean-up.

Is it worth it? Yes!

The History of Racial Covenants in Local Land Records

By Patricia M. Barry, Member, History and Archives Committee, Cumberland Avenue

They sound like a throwback to uglier times, and they are, and yet racial covenants — a way to keep people of color out of white neighborhoods — still exist in the deeds and land records of many properties across the United States, including some in Somerset.

Some of “new” Somerset, mainly south of Essex Avenue, was developed in the late 1940s and early 1950s, from land owned by the Bergdoll estate. Those original sales contained clear racial covenant language. For example, a contract dated August 16, 1948 between the Bergdoll estate and the builders O.F. Smith & Bros. stipulated that houses built on the conveyed property “should not be used or in anywise occupied by any person other than those of the Caucasian race; provided, however, that this covenant shall not prohibit a partial occupancy of the premises by domestic servants.”

When the builders later sold lots to individual homeowners, this language was either expressed in more oblique wording that nonetheless passed on the same restriction through subsequent sales, or omitted. For example, as late as 1988 the deeds of one house in Somerset said: “This conveyance is made subject to all easements, restrictive covenants, rights of way and building restriction lines of record.”

Perhaps as many as 100 properties in Somerset may have racial covenants still embedded in their deeds, according to a preliminary estimate by the Historic Preservation Office of Montgomery County’s Planning Department. This year, the Office began its Mapping Segregation Project, aiming to document racial covenants and other forms of housing discrimination in the County — which, it says, have contributed to the “persistently low rates of home ownership and housing wealth among Black Americans.” The project will be searchable online in December.

Such covenants were not the only means of barring non-white residents from neighborhoods across the country. Historians like Richard Rothstein (“The Color of Law”) have documented how Black applicants were denied mortgage help from the federal Home Owners’ Loan Corporation and later the Federal Housing Administration, and were rejected by banks for housing loans — even those promised to returning WWII veterans under the GI Bill.

In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that racial covenants could not be enforced, but they were not outlawed until the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Even so, the covenants not only survived in land records and deeds but often contained language stipulating that they applied to all future owners or tenants of the property. Owners in many states have reported great difficulties in trying to have these offensive clauses expunged from their deeds. However, in 2020 Maryland became one of the few states to pass a law that allows residents to go to court to remove racial covenants from their own deeds at no expense. (To read how one Montgomery County homeowner used the new law to do so, see <https://bit.ly/3gk6j2J>.)

If Somerset residents find such covenants in their own deeds, the Mapping Segregation project would like to hear from you. Contact the Historic Preservation Office, Montgomery County Planning Department, 2425 Reedie Drive, Floor 13, Wheaton, MD 20902. (Phone: 301-563-3400. Email: mcp-historic@mncppc-mc.org)

SOMERSET SUNDAYS: A Movie Series for the Whole Community

Join your Somerset neighbors and friends for the inaugural *Somerset Sundays Movie Series* for the entire family!

When: 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Sunday,
January 8, 2023

Where: Town Hall

What: Family-friendly short film,
pizza, and drinks

Why: To foster community
and belonging

Attire: Pajamas (or your
most comfortable,
cozy outfit)

**STAY TUNED FOR
MORE DETAILS.**

*Sponsored by the Somerset
Equity and Inclusion Committee*



Letter to the Editor

Crime Reporting and Unintended Consequences: A Letter to Neighbors from the Equity and Inclusion Committee

Dear Neighbors,

As we head into the holiday season here in Somerset, we wanted to share some thoughts on an issue that has been discussed by the Equity and Inclusion Committee since we were launched in February 2021.

In the past, some of us have used the private listserv moderated by Sarah Morse to report on nearby incidents of crime. This can be helpful for the safety and security of our community to know what is happening and to be on the alert as needed. At the same time, we need to be mindful about how criminal suspects are described, whether by Somerset community members or by others, to prevent *unintended* deepening of racial discrimination.

As human beings, we all have our blind spots and implicit associations of which we may or may not be aware. Does having a bias mean someone is racist? No. All of us, no matter what our backgrounds, have implicit associations and biases. Our hope is to raise awareness in our community to minimize the potential for *unintentionally* casting suspicion on a large class of individuals.

We have looked at best practices near and far.

Further to the guidelines shared by our Committee Chair on the listserv in September, we now have a modified version of *Nextdoor's** guidelines, where "sex" has been changed to "gender presentation," and "race" to skin color. Please take a moment to read the guidelines below.

It is our hope that we may be more mindful in how we communicate on the listserv (and elsewhere) so that we can promote safety *and* equity.

Wishing everybody a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Equity and Inclusion Committee

Fayez Choudhury (Dorset)

Kirsten Darling (Cumberland)

Carrie Goux (Warwick)

Atsuko Horiguchi (Chair, Essex)

Amalia Levitin (Trent)

David Sacks (Trent)

**Nextdoor* is a hyperlocal social networking service for neighborhoods; see [nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com)

How to post your message to help everyone in Somerset stay safe: REVISED GUIDELINES FOR SOMERSET

- 1. WHAT:** Focus on the behavior that raised your suspicion. Describe the potentially criminal or dangerous activity you observed or experienced — what the person was doing, what they said (if they spoke to you).
- 2. WHO:** Give as full a description as possible of the person, people, or vehicles involved. Include as many details as possible — approximate age, height, weight, hair, clothing, and identifiable marks, not just gender presentation and skin color. For vehicles, the following information is helpful: make, model, plate, and direction of travel.
- 3. WHERE:** Provide specific streets or intersections whenever possible. If the location is in a large area such as a park, provide a landmark within that location where the incident occurred (e.g., "at Norwood Park, next to the parking lot"). Include the direction they were last headed.

Holiday Donation Opportunities at Somerset Town Hall

By Matt Trollinger, Town Manager

This month, the Town Hall will serve as a collection spot for donations during the holiday season. The Town has arranged with **Toys 4 Tots** (<https://www.toysfortots.org>), **Manna Food Center** (<https://www.mannafood.org>), and **Interfaith Works** (<https://www.iworksmc.org>), to do a toy drive, a food drive, and a coat drive, respectively.



We have set up boxes at the Town Hall for toys, clothing, and food. If you are in the giving mood this season, please consider donating these items to these great causes. Below are some suggestions and guidelines for the three charities.

Toys 4 Tots Gift Guidelines (Deadline: Monday, December 12)

The Kinds of Toys You Can Donate:

- New
- Un-Wrapped
- Books are also needed (children typically receive two toys each, and three books count as ONE gift!)

What Kinds of Toys are NOT Allowed?

- Used toys
- Toys that look like realistic weapons
- Toys with candy or food
- Toys with chemicals (e.g., experimental labs, etc.)

What Ages of Children are Eligible to Receive Toys?

- 0-12 years
- Gift for ages 0-2 are greatly needed

Manna Food Center (Deadline: Monday, December 19)

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

GRAINS

- Instant Oatmeal packets, especially original flavor
- Brown rice
- Whole grain pasta

PROTEIN

- Canned tuna, salmon, or chicken (preferably in water)
- Dry or canned beans (low sodium)
- Natural nut butters

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Canned vegetables (low sodium)
- Canned fruit (in juice)
- Fruit cubs

OTHER HEALTHY ITEMS

- Shelf-stable individual milk boxes
- Cooking oil and spices
- Infant formula and baby foods

Interfaith Works (Deadline: Monday, December 19)

WISH LIST:

- New apparel for adults and children
- Winter coats
- Winter gear (hats, gloves, and scarves)
- Towels and sheets
- Rain jackets
- Men & Women's underwear
- Socks



Local Fire and Rescue Departments: Funding and Operations

Montgomery County's fire and rescue service is provided through a partnership of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS)—a County agency—and 19 local fire and rescue departments (LFRDs). In 2021, the fire and rescue service responded to 62 incidents in Somerset, including illnesses, falls, heart attacks, respiratory distress, and fires. LFRDs have a unique dual structure: they are components of MCFRS, as well as nonprofit corporations in their own right.

Using revenue from property taxes and ambulance fees, MCFRS employs 1200 emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters to staff apparatus at the LFRDs. MCFRS also provides overall operational supervision, as well as fire and rescue vehicles, training for volunteers, vehicle maintenance, fuel, station maintenance, and financial support for LFRDs.

The LFRDs, in turn, recruit and manage volunteers, schedule volunteer staffing, and select their operational leadership. County-wide, LFRDs have 775 volunteers certified to staff apparatus. LFRDs may also purchase apparatus, equipment, and training in addition to what

the County provides. **All operational staff — whether paid or volunteer — meet the same minimum training standards, have the same certifications, and follow the same procedures on fire and EMS incidents.**

As a result of their dual nature, many LFRDs seek contributions from local residents to support their services. The table below provides an overview of Somerset's three closest stations. (When necessary, more distant stations also serve Somerset.) Note that Bethesda Fire Department Station 6 is the closest to Somerset; the others are within 2.6 miles of Somerset. For more information on each LFRD, visit the website listed. In addition:

- LFRDs use donated funds for many purposes, including general expenses. You can review LFRDs' financial filings with the IRS here: <https://bit.ly/3UR4mtJ>.
- Some LFRDs participate in the federal government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC; <https://www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign>). Check the CFC or LFRD website for the CFC number. None of our three closest LFRDs solicits by telephone or door-to-door.

Continued on page 11

STATION	Bethesda Fire Dept. Station No. 6	Glen Echo Fire Dept.	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad
ADDRESS	6600 Wisconsin Avenue Chevy Chase 20815	5920 Massachusetts Avenue Bethesda 20816	5020 Battery Lane Bethesda 20814
WEBSITE	www.bethesdafire.org	www.gefd.org	www.bccrs.org
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE CERTIFIED SERVICE PROVIDERS	11	39	146
PRIMARY APPARATUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ambulance • 1 engine • 1 aerial unit ("ladder truck") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ambulances (1 full-time; 1 part-time) • 1 engine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 ambulances • 1 medic unit (part time) • 1 rescue squad
ARE EMS TRANSPORT UNITS EQUIPPED WITH POWER STRETCHER AND POWER LOADER?	No	No	Yes

Public Safety Roundup

- Each of the three stations has an advanced life support (ALS) provider on duty 24 hours a day to respond to critical medical calls such as heart attacks, respiratory distress, or diabetic emergencies.
- All three LFRDs rely upon a combination of paid and volunteer staffing. The table lists apparatus at each station that MCFRS or volunteers have committed to staffing. Some LFRDs staff additional apparatus, depending on volunteer availability. For more information on MCFRS and types of apparatus, see the County's Fire and Rescue Master Plan: <https://bit.ly/3i2Amws>, as well as the Town's January 2022 forum on fire and rescue issues (<https://bit.ly/3ivAZve>).
- MCFRS is gradually equipping EMS transport units with power stretchers and power loaders — mechanized equipment that makes it easier for personnel to transfer a stretcher (bearing a patient) into and out of an ambulance. This equipment might improve the safety of the transfer. LFRDs can also purchase this equipment on their own.

Note: The author is a volunteer member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. This article does not reflect the views of the B-CC Rescue Squad.

GENERAL PERMITS

TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

5804 Surrey Street

Norway Maple (12") — Tree is in decline with large dead branches and will not revive

4807 Falstone Street

Southern Red Oak (56") — Tree has a twin trunk and one of the trunks is growing into the house eaves. Tree has many dead branches and is in decline. Tree is hazardous.

4725 Cumberland Avenue

White Oak (42") — Tree is leaning, naturally over the street and some dead wood in tree. The roots have rotted away on at least 1/3 to 1/2 of the tree's base on the house side. Tree is hazardous.

BUILDING PERMITS

4900 Cumberland Avenue

Six-month extension to already existing permit.

5522 Uppingham Street

Amendment to an already existing permit





Communications Committee News

By Leslie Caplan, Member, Communications Committee, Essex Avenue

The Communications Committee has been busy with two projects: the survey about the Town Journal, and this year's revision of the Somerset Handbook. The Handbook comprises the first part of *A Guide to Somerset: Handbook and Directory*, which the Town delivers to each Somerset home annually.

Town Journal Survey

The Committee thanks all the Somerset residents who have participated in the survey. Just to make sure that everyone had a chance to respond, we extended the response deadline to November 18. We look forward to reviewing and sharing the results, so that we can better serve residents. Stay tuned for what we learn!



Town Handbook

The Committee is preparing the upcoming version of the Handbook. Changes include expanding the section that provides snapshots of the Town's history (did you know that Somerset residents gave the first principal of Somerset Elementary School a trip around the world when she retired?), updating Committee information, and correcting contact information for officials and service providers. We would also like to update the photos of the Town that appear on the cover of the Handbook — if you have any photos to share, please send them to us (send to lesliecaplan.townjournal@gmail.com and bmarenius@gmail.com).

IN MEMORY OF Lenka Homonnay-Preyer

By Caroline Preyer, Dorset Avenue

Lenka Homonnay-Preyer, a resident of the Town of Somerset since 1968, passed away on Saturday, November 5, 2022, at the age of 94. She loved swimming daily at the Somerset Pool until the age of 90. Lenka was a pharmacist at Rodman's Pharmacy for 30 years. Beloved wife of the late Charles Homonnay-Preyer, she is survived by her three children Anna, Caroline, and Charles; a grandson Charlie; and two great-granddaughters. Donations may be made to *Homes Not Borders* (<https://bit.ly/3Vlwu8h>) in her memory.



Good News — Bad News

These are turbulent times, with many positive developments related to creating a sustainable future, as well as some glaringly bad news that we would like to simply ignore. Nevertheless, I believe it is imperative that we all have some understanding of the growing scientific evidence regarding the climate emergency. That emergency might not appear to have direct impact on our lives, but the following articles demonstrate that our lives are indeed impacted by airborne plastic, extreme weather, pollution causing cancers, and many international disasters that are disrupting the supply chain, energy prices, and the stability of democracies worldwide:

California bans sales of new gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035

This ban is significant because there are up to 17 U.S. states that follow California's emissions standards and environmental-related laws, including Maryland. This ban therefore applies to over half of the U.S. population. When California creates these laws, manufacturers must adjust accordingly — if they want to maintain their market share. <https://bit.ly/3EpV00K>

Horn of Africa drought places 22 million people at risk of starvation, says UN

This title speaks for itself. Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia are among the many countries in Africa that are now facing famine caused by unprecedented multi-year droughts, something never seen before. And when continual droughts occur, people must migrate to find new food sources, forcing neighboring countries to absorb millions or refugees. Closer to home, climate emergency-induced droughts in South America are creating a similar "climate migration" along the Mexican border. <https://bit.ly/3TYTmJe>

The World is Awash in Plastic. Nations Plan a Treaty to Fix That

Earlier this year in Kenya, over 175 nations agreed to a plan to improve recycling, clean up the world's plastic waste, and curb the production of plastic. This treaty is an important step to reducing our planet's dependence on plastic, now shown to be airborne everywhere in the world. A study indicates that each of us now inhales



approximately 16 bits of plastic every hour. <https://nyti.ms/3Xbhw6a>

Plummeting sperm counts, shrinking penises: toxic chemicals threaten humanity

This article is the most concerning, threatening our ability as humans to procreate.

Scientists have determined that sperm count in humans could approach zero by 2045. This frightening prediction is based on our continual exposure to chemicals in our soap, shampoos, electronics, and carpeting, to name a few. PFAS, the forever chemicals that never break down and are used in a lot of consumer products, are of particular concern to our health. <https://bit.ly/3Omh7K5>

Tropical forests can partially regenerate in just 20 years without human interference

Many countries now focus on setting aside 30% of their land and marine resources as protected areas, which scientists claim will significantly help to stabilize the planet, protect biodiversity, and allow the fish stock of the oceans to recover and thrive. This article indicates that forests would recover quickly without any human intervention, if we just protect these spaces. <https://bit.ly/3TXAdYe>

For a more complete list, visit <https://bit.ly/3GwOBnf>

Please let us know if you have any comments or ways that our Town can become more sustainable by emailing us at: tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com.

[Editor's Note: Last month's issue of the Journal erroneously listed Cumberland Avenue as Barton Rubenstein's address. My apologies!]



Somerset Employee Holiday Fund

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents,

Our annual holiday fund for thanking Somerset employees has been extremely successful in recent years, and I am asking that the Town recognize our hard working staff again this year. It is hard to believe that ten years have gone by, but I began this project in 2012 in response to the many resident calls and emails I had received from residents asking how to properly thank our dedicated staff. I hope that everyone will show their gratitude this year by contributing generously. The pooled monies will be distributed to participating employees on the basis of length of service and responsibility. Other municipalities in the area make the distributions in this manner, which seems fair and equitable. The employees who will share in the funds are:

- two maintenance employees (Tomas Villanueva and Jose Castillo),
- police personnel (Officers Olcott and Cheoung), the Town arborist (Dr. Tolbert Feather),
- Code Enforcement Officer (Wayne C. Fowler), and Administrative Assistant (Linda Williams).

Contributions can be made by check or via Venmo:

- Residents can **Venmo** @townofsomerset-md to contribute electronically.
- **Checks** should be made payable to the Town of Somerset or cash, with "Holiday Fund" written on the note line. Checks can be mailed or delivered to the Town Hall, 4510 Cumberland Avenue, Chevy Chase 20815 or left at my residence at 5706 Warwick Place.

Enclosed in this month's Journal is an envelope for your use. Due to travel over the holidays, we are extending the deadline this year a little later than usual. Please send your contributions before 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Your gifts will be greatly appreciated by those who do so much for us.

Best wishes for you and your families this holiday season,

Jeffrey Slavin
Mayor

From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Halloween report: despite the on-and-off heavy rain on Halloween night, I received over 100 trick-or-treaters. Two years ago (pre-COVID), I had 318 young people at the door and last year, about a third of that. It is my understanding that many residents of Cumberland Avenue had loads of kids but I am still hopeful for way more young people in 2023. I am glad that residents of Falstone Street did some advertising!

Thanks to Public Safety Chair **Kumar Vaswani** (Trent) for his article (see page 10) clarifying the County Fire Department's primary role in providing fire and rescue service to our residents, along with urging contributions

to the three semi-public non-profit agencies — Glen Echo Fire Department, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad and Bethesda Fire Department — that provide excellent supplemental service. As the Town no longer has a governing relationship with the Bethesda Fire Department, I suggest spreading your gifts to all three.

Wonderful Thanksgiving wishes to all, and safe travels throughout the holiday season. The Town Council, staff, and I want to express our gratitude for all who help us run an efficient government, especially those residents who serve on Committees.



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

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

Send an email to HHSomerset@gmail.com or call **Barbara Zeughauser** at 202-368-9986 **Kathleen Kenyon** at 202-368-9986 or **Jim Berry** at 240-994-3939.

If you would like to add your name to the volunteer list, please send an email to HHSomerset@gmail.com.

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 301-717-8083 (2/23)

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 301-717-8083 (2/23)

SEA COLONY - BETHANY BEACH - OCEAN FRONT APARTMENT - EDGEWATER BUILDING: 2 bedrooms plus 1 tiny one with bunk bed and 2 full baths. Immaculate and all updated. Has a few summer weeks available. Contact **Luba Marx** at 301-233-2727 (7/22)

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



Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, Town Manager

The weather turned on a dime in November and we were very quickly met by the beginning of winter cold. November was a time for leaf pickup, which will continue into December, through the week of December 12, finishing on Friday, December 16. At that point, we may very well be looking at snow!

Snow Removal and Brine

This past month, the Town Council approved a contract with Mulheron Tree Services to provide snow removal in the Town, as Mulheron has done for more than a decade. This year, however, Mulheron has partnered with Rolling Acres Landscaping to provide a brine pre-treatment alternative to road salt, in recognition of the Town's emphasis on environmentalism. While the brine will not be suitable for all circumstances — for instance, it is not a good solution when rain is forecast, or if the weather gets too cold — there will hopefully be some opportunities this winter to cut down on our usage of salt, which can be harmful to pets and ultimately makes its way to the Bay. The brine solution uses approximately 40% of the amount of salt in road salt. So the Town may significantly reduce the negative environmental of its road treatments. However, safety is still of the upmost concern, and our office and the Council will work with Mulheron to ensure that we find the sweet spot of environmentally-friendly and safe practices.

[Editor's Note: For more on the environmental effects of road salt, see the Sustainability Corner article in the February 2022 issue of the Town Journal here: <https://bit.ly/3EPt6gm>]

Committees

The end of one year marks the beginning of a new year, and the terms for our Committees begin in January. Mayor Slavin and the various Committee chairs have been working to try and fill some empty seats, and we anticipate nominations and approval taking place in December. You may not have known about these opportunities, so I provide them here. If you would like to join a Committee, please reach out to myself (manager@townofsomerset.com) or Mayor Slavin (mayor@townofsomerset.com; 301-657-2229). Some vacancies may be filled in January, so even if you think it's too late, chances are, it's not! As of this writing, there are availabilities on virtually every Town Committee if they intrigue you:

- **Board of Supervisors of Elections** — responsible for the supervision of the Town's annual election
- **Communications Committee** — makes recommendations on ways communication can be improved between the Town Hall and town residents
- **Environment Committee** — makes recommendations on ways that the Town can combat climate change and reduce its environmental footprint
- **Equity & Inclusion Committee** — makes recommendations and develops strategies to make Somerset a more inclusive community and reflect a commitment to equity and inclusion
- **Newcomers/Welcoming Committee** — assists in the annual Newcomers Party, and develops ideas to make Somerset a more welcoming community for incoming residents
- **Parks and Natural Resources Committee (PNRC)** — makes recommendations for the maintenance and development of the Town's parklands, green spaces, and tree canopy
- **Pool Committee** — makes recommendations on pool rules and the Town Pool activities
- **Public Safety Committee** — makes recommendations related to policing, fire & rescue, and all other aspects of public safety
- **Revenue Committee** — assists in gift-giving policy and makes recommendations for other revenue-generating processes the Town might undertake
- **Tennis Committee** — makes recommendations on the maintenance and administration of the Town's tennis courts, and tennis-related events
- **Traffic Committee** — makes recommendations to improve pedestrian and vehicular traffic in Somerset and the surrounding area.

Please feel free to reach out if you are interested, or if you would like to learn more about the responsibilities and roles of the Committees and their members. The time required to serve on the Committee is compatible with most schedules, and your expertise or way of thinking could be helpful.

Continued on page 18

Council Meeting Actions

The following actions were taken by the Somerset Town Council at its monthly meeting, held November 7, 2022.

- **Approved** Mayor Slavin's nomination of **Meredith Wade** (Essex) to serve on the Budget Committee
- **Approved** Mayor Slavin's nomination of **Dario Fuentes** (Cumberland) as chair of Swim Team Committee
- **Approved** Mayor Slavin's nomination of **Kirsten Darling** (Cumberland) to serve on the Equity & Inclusion Committee
- **Approved** a three-year contract with Mulheron Tree Experts, for snow removal services in the Town of Somerset, as recommended by the Town Manager
- **Approved** a tree removal permit, submitted by **Dina Levine**, for the removal of a 56" Southern Red Oak at the property located at 4807 Falstone Avenue, as recommended for removal by the Town Arborist
- **Approved** a tree removal permit, submitted by **Dana Macher**, for the removal of a 42" White Oak at the property located at 4725 Cumberland Avenue, and recommended for removal by the Town Arborist
- **Approved** a six-month permit extension, requested by **Monica Gomez** and **Guillermo Israilevich** for the existing permit for the construction of a side addition at the property located at 4900 Cumberland Avenue.
- **Approved** a permit revision, submitted by **Amy** and **Geoff Buteau**, to construct a front stoop lattice and roof, for the property located at 5522 Uppingham Street.
- **Denied** four variance applications, submitted by James Alpi, representing Rockledge Capital, LLC, for the property located at 4806 Grantham Avenue. The applicant is seeking variances from Section 112-14.C(1) (c) of the Town Code. The following variances are being requested:
 1. The eave of the garage enclosure would be located 24.3 feet from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 6.5 feet is required ($(33.3 - 2.5) - 24.3 = 6.5$)
 2. The front wall of the garage enclosure would be located 25.6 feet from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 7.7 feet is required ($(33.3 - 25.6 = 7.7)$)
 3. The eave of the front porch addition would be located 30.8' from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 3.5 feet is required ($(33.3 - 2.5) - 27.3 = 3.5$)
 4. The front porch addition would be located 28.3 feet from the front property line. Thus, a variance of 6 feet is required ($(33.3 - 27.3 = 6)$)
- **Adopted** the following five Town Charter amendments, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections:
 1. An amendment to Section 83-21 of the Charter to add a definition of "resided," as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
 2. An amendment to Section 83-26 of the Charter to provide that if a resident is registered to vote with the Montgomery County Board of Election, they shall be deemed registered for elections in the Town so long as the resident remains qualified to vote; to provide that voters may be removed from the list if not qualified to vote; and to provide that the removal of voters from the registration list shall comply with the applicable procedures set forth in State law, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
 3. An amendment to Section 83-28 of the Charter to advance the nomination meeting from 4 weeks to 8 weeks prior to the election, and the nomination petition deadline from 21 days before the election to 10 days after the nomination meeting, to allow more time to prepare ballots and administer the election, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
 4. An amendment to Section 83-35 of the Charter to allow uncontested elections to be canceled, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
 5. An amendment to Section 83-30 of the Charter to allow elections by mail and other means, and to remove the requirement for incapacitation or absence for absentee voting, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- **Adopted** Resolution No. 9-22-1, to amend the Town's Election Rules and Regulations, as recommended by the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections
- **Adopted** Ordinance 9-22-1, an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify existing provisions; to require a wall check survey; to require a maintenance agreement for stormwater drainage systems; and to specify what must accompany a variance application

Continued on page 18

Manager's Corner

Roads

This past November, we were able to repair a small portion of Dorset Avenue, which was developing a big pothole, and to improve some concrete areas throughout Town. This was by no means the be-all, end-all! The Town has put out a request for proposals to contract with a firm or individual to create a roadway master plan. Proposals will be due in early January, and the Town will review submissions before a recommendation is made to the Council at the February Council meeting.

This master plan will set a blueprint for the Town to resurface and improve the roads, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks all throughout Town. This will be a major undertaking, and will take several years to complete, but will allow us to systematically improve the roadways street by street and year by year. Although the primary purpose will ultimately be to improve the streets and sidewalks, it is anticipated that this work will probably benefit stormwater management.

Somerset has not undertaken comprehensive roadwork in many years, so this project will be an important one that will have long-lasting impacts. Developing a master plan

will ensure that it is done in a considered and professional way.

December Holidays

December is, of course, a big holiday month. Town Hall will be closed Friday, December 23, as well as the week between Christmas and New Year's. We will monitor to ensure that there are no storms or other developments that need immediate attention, and will check email, though infrequently. Thank you for understanding and allowing our small staff to take a break and spend quality time with our families, who live all around the country — and the world!

Additionally, I would like to draw extra attention to Mayor Slavin's holiday fund message (see page 14). I do not personally participate in the holiday fund, but I encourage all residents to consider contributing. It is the Town's way of giving a "bonus" to Administrative Assistant Linda Williams, the maintenance staff, and some of our dedicated contractor staff. Every year they are very grateful for your generosity.

Happy holidays to any and all who celebrate!

Council Meeting Actions

- **Adopted** Ordinance 9-22-2, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify stormwater drainage requirements; to revise the definitions of one-year storm event; to require on-site infiltration rather than storage; and to exempt driveways having a slope of 5% or more from the permeable material requirement
- **Adopted** Ordinance 9-22-3, an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to amend and clarify stormwater drainage requirements; add definitions; require environmental site design be used before structural practices; and require a drainage plan for construction creating 150 square feet or more of impervious coverage
- **Introduced** Ordinance 11-22-1, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to require the installation of house numbers on existing and future houses and to require certification of compliance in connection with a building permit, as recommended by the Public Safety Committee



For Your Reference

TOWN OF SOMERSET COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	COMMITTEE	CHAIR
Audit Committee	Chuck Edson (Surrey)	Parks and Natural Resources Committee	Kristen Khanna (Uppingham)
Budget Committee	Ann Kelly Bolten (Cumberland)	Pool Committee	Matt Zaft (Dorset)
Communications Committee	Barbara Marenus (Surrey)	Public Safety Committee	Kumar Vaswani (Trent)
Environment Committee	Barton Rubenstein (Dorset)	Revenue Committee	Nick Fox (Cumberland)
Equity & Inclusion Committee	Atsuko Horiguchi (Essex)	Stormwater Study Committee	Ellen Globokar (Dorset)
History & Archives Committee	Paige Whitley (Cumberland)	Swim Team Committee	Dario Fuentes (Cumberland)
Newcomers Committee	Phyllis Wiesenfelder (Cumberland)	Tennis Committee	Carrie Wofford (Essex)
		Traffic Committee	Elizabeth Hurwit (Dorset)

TOWN COUNCIL CALENDAR 2022

COUNCIL MEETINGS

(All times at 7:00 p.m. on a Monday, unless otherwise noted)

- Monday, December 5, 2022

WORK SESSIONS

(All times at 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted)

- Monday, December 19, 2022

LINKS TO COMMITTEE-PROVIDED RESOURCES

STORMWATER STUDY COMMITTEE

- Stormwater Study Committee Report: <https://bit.ly/3M7R9b4>
- FAQs for Somerset Residents: <https://bit.ly/3uVIX96>
- Resource Guide to Green Infrastructure: <https://bit.ly/3MhYnsW>
- LIDC Final Report — Stormwater Master Plan 1/20/2022: <https://bit.ly/3uUADp8>
- Recording of May 10, 2022 Stormwater Study Committee Town Forum: <https://bit.ly/39FMAr3>

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- Ban on Certain Pesticides: <https://bit.ly/3MKQpt5>
- Resolution Declaring Climate Emergency: <https://bit.ly/38DGIDz>

- Sierra Club Maryland Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Pledge: <https://bit.ly/3NuCeZ5>
- Fossil Fuel No-Proliferation Treaty: <https://fossilfuel treaty.org>
- Ban on Gas-Powered Blowers: see Chapter 140, section 3 (§140-3) of the Town Code (<https://bit.ly/3LDF1xR>)
- Recording of June 7, 2022 Bee Forum: <https://bit.ly/3be19SN>

EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

- Resolution Condemning Anti-AAPI Hate: <https://bit.ly/38I0t7r>
- Recording of January 18, 2022 Slavery & Segregation History Forum Recording: <https://bit.ly/3MHSV3o>

VIDEO RECORDINGS OF 2022 TOWN MEETINGS

All Town Council and Work Session meetings are available for viewing on the Town of Somerset YouTube channel:

<https://bit.ly/3Uq7Tz4>

Preliminary Agenda

(The final agenda is available and emailed to Town residents on the Friday before the monthly Council Meeting.)

Regular Somerset Town Council Meeting December 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The Somerset Town Council will hold a "hybrid meeting," both in-person at the Town Hall and simultaneously cast via Zoom on Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3tLgLDI> Meeting ID: 812 5400 1931 Passcode: 916876

Dial by your location: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Somerset Town Council

- Steve Surko,
Council President
- Robin Barr
- Debbie Heller
- Kabir Kumar
- Shannon Rovak

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

7:00 p.m. Opportunity for residents to make public comments*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7:10 p.m. **Motion:** To consider approval of agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

7:11 p.m. **Motion:** To consider approval of the following Town Council meeting dates: (NOTE: The following dates are proposed and have not yet been approved as of this publication.)

- January Council Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2023 (January 2 is the observed New Year's holiday)
- January Work Session: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (January 16 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday)
- February Council Meeting: Monday, February 6, 2023
- February Work Session: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 (February 20 is Presidents' Day holiday)
- March Council Meeting: Monday, March 6, 2023
- March. Work Session: Monday, March 20, 2023
- April Council Meeting: Monday, April 3, 2023
- April Work Session: Monday, April 17, 2023
- May Council Meeting: Monday, May 1, 2023
- May Work Session: Monday, May 15, 2023

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

7:12 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the FY22 audit, as presented by Lindsay and Associates

7:30 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of Mayor Slavin's nominations to fill Town Committee seats

7:35 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider a curb cut permit application, submitted by Lina and Maurice Asseo, to increase the size of the existing curb cut to 20' at the property located at 5524 Greystone Street

Building Administrator's Report

8:00 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider adoption of Ordinance 11-22-1, an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances to require the installation of house numbers on existing and future houses and to require certification of compliance in connection with a building permit, as recommended by the Public Safety Committee

8:10 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of the reprogramming of \$10,000 from the Town's Capital Budget Contingency fund to line 62907 — Town Code Consultant, for the appropriation of funds to contract a Town building and character consultant.

8:25 p.m. **Discussion:** Manager Report

8:35 p.m. **Motion:** Adjourn

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.

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

*Residents who wish to present for a particular Agenda item are advised to arrive 20 minutes ahead of the item's scheduled discussion time, as discussions can run ahead of schedule.

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.