



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

# SomerseT TOWN JOURNAL



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## More on "Public Good Stormwater Intervention Projects"

By Ellen Globokar, Chair, Stormwater Study Committee,  
Dorset Avenue

In a report recently submitted to the Town Council (<https://bit.ly/3OtbTuQ>), the Somerset Stormwater Study Committee recommended that the Town provide the backbone of financial and operational commitment to support cooperation among households to reduce shared runoff problems. We called these "Public Good Stormwater Intervention Projects," abbreviated here as "SIPs."

Additional information complemented this report. First, the *Green Stormwater Infrastructure Master Plan* was submitted to the Town Council by the Low Impact Development Center (LIDC). This document included preliminary plans for four SIPs (<https://bit.ly/39HXagY>). Second, in the final days of report preparation, a set of preliminary estimates from the Committee of the cost of installation of green infrastructure for three of the four SIPs was provided to Town Council members.

The Committee has now provided a comprehensive picture of the Committee's recommendations on SIPs (<https://bit.ly/3bnqFp0>). We provide a synopsis here:

### Has the Town approved any SIP?

The Town's Fiscal Year 2023 budget includes \$300,000 for any SIPs for which *detailed plans are submitted to the Town Council for approval*. No such plan for a SIP has yet been submitted.

### Why do we need to develop SIPs?

The runoff from an uphill lot can impact many neighboring lots downhill. Runoff either passes through or collects in these neighboring lots. For the "generator" lot, the runoff is usually not a problem and the household on that lot has less incentive to reduce runoff. SIPs can fund the installation of infrastructure on generator lots that would otherwise not be installed; one SIP can thereby benefit multiple households. *Note that no household will receive Town funds directly in a SIP, and the priority for public funding of infrastructure is installations on generator lots.*

### Can't we use public funds to reduce runoff from public property and not get into the issue of funding projects on private land?

The Committee considered the issue of reducing runoff from public land thoroughly, including building on a study conducted for the Town by the Center for Watershed

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## IN THIS ISSUE





## ON MY MIND

### Little Falls Parkway Update

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, *Warwick Place*

In recent weeks, there has been increased discussion on social media and in personal conversations about the status of nearby Little Falls Parkway (LFP), which has unfortunately resulted in the dissemination of a great deal of misinformation and unnecessary conflicts. I want to set the facts straight here.

First, let me remind everyone that the Parkway is under the jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Parks Department, and the Town of Somerset has absolutely no decision-making authority. Our role is purely advisory.

During the height of the pandemic, LFP was appropriately closed so that residents of the southern part of Montgomery County would have increased recreational opportunities close to home. Another intent of the closure was to relieve some of the traffic on the Capital Crescent Trail. I believe there was much public support for this decision.

Once people started to commute to work downtown again, the Parks Department decided to reopen the Parkway during the week. On the weekends, it remained closed. This decision was supported by a County Council resolution that passed unanimously. However, this closure became challenging for many area residents and resulted in greater traffic on some of the side streets, particularly in the Kenwood community, where there are no sidewalks.

To address this issue, the Parks Department came up with a proposal to permanently close two lanes of LFP and convert that roadway to a recreation area. The preliminary plans were presented to a small group of leaders, including me. We asked a lot of questions about cost, traffic impact, and public input. We were also surprised that this plan did not include a bridge over LFP at the intersection with the Capital Crescent Trail, as this has been a priority of the surrounding communities for years. We implored the officials to circulate a more detailed plan and hold public hearings before any final decisions were made.

In the meantime, there have been major road closures in Westbard as the huge redevelopment there has finally begun.

Fortunately, the Parks Department, working with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, has listened to our request to collect important data before crafting a final proposal for public presentation. In order to accomplish this, it has been announced that although some lanes will be closed, LFP will be reopened until the end of the year. It is my hope and expectation that this final plan will be revealed early next year (see <https://bit.ly/3OjTBwz> for more information).

During this study period, I suggest all interested residents write to our District One **Councilmember Andrew Friedson** with your views. Your voices are important!

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Monday thru Friday  
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### SOMERSET TOWN JOURNAL

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## More on “Public Good Stormwater Intervention Projects”

Protection in 2009. With one exception, there are no such options to recommend because the generator lots are all private property.

We note that Montgomery County’s RainScapes program (<https://bit.ly/3bqCtH2>) is a non-controversial example of public funding of green infrastructure on private lots to benefit the public.

### Why not compensate households who have already spent money dealing with runoff?

According to our survey, only 19% of homeowners who spent money actually solved their problems. Our aim is to solve problems and to do so in a way that benefits multiple households.

### Are additional possible SIP locations going to be identified?

We anticipate approximately 8-14 locations in Town for which SIPs would be productive. To finalize analysis, the Town has applied for a grant.

### How much will SIPs cost and how will Town funding be apportioned among households in the SIP?

“Back-of-the envelope” calculations done under time pressure produced preliminary estimates for total installation costs for three of the four projects, minus County rebates, ranging from \$49,000-\$280,000.

The Committee anticipates that after a team-building process for each SIP for which the Town Council will consider funding some technical and professional services, a final budget for each SIP can be presented to the Town Council for approval, with the allocation of public and private funds and anticipated benefits clearly delineated.

Please refer to the complete discussion of SIPs for more information. (<https://bit.ly/3bnqFp0>)

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The link to the recording of the **May 10 Stormwater Study Committee Town Forum** is provided in Links to Committee-Provided Resources on page 15.]

## JULY 2022 TOWN CALENDAR

### JULY 4

Town Hall Closed  
Celebration at Town Hall

### JULY 5

Town Council Meeting, via Zoom\*  
7:00 p.m.

### JULY 11

Pool Committee Meeting, via Zoom\*  
7:30 p.m.

### JULY 12

Equity & Inclusion Committee Meeting, via Zoom\*  
8:00 p.m.

### JULY 12

Public Safety Committee Meeting, via Zoom\*  
7:00 pm

### JULY 18

Town Council Work Session, via Zoom\*  
5:30 p.m.

\*Login information for Zoom meetings will be sent via email the week prior to the meeting. Residents may also email [town@townofsomerset.com](mailto:town@townofsomerset.com) for log in and dial-in information.



# Fourth of July in Somerset!



## By Matt Trollinger, Town Manager

July marks a special time in Somerset because of the Town's traditional Fourth of July celebration. The Town always relies on volunteers for the Fourth, and this year will be no different! The Town seeks volunteers for the following:

- **Decorations:** We will especially need one lead volunteer to coordinate and be "in charge" of decorations, 10:00-11:30 that morning.
- **Cupcake Contest:** The Town holds a cupcake decorating contest for "Most Patriotic Cupcake." We will need judges and participants for this event. We will also need at least one volunteer to register cupcake submissions. Cupcakes should be dropped off at the Town Hall 11:00 – 11:45 am on the morning of the Fourth.
- **Declaration of Independence Readers:** Every year, children from Somerset read through the Declaration of Independence.
- **Color Guard:** We will need three volunteers to carry the United States, Maryland, and Somerset flags, respectively, and a parent volunteer to help lead/direct the flag bearers.

If you or anyone in your household would like to volunteer for any of these activities, please contact Linda Williams at the Town Hall at [Town@townofsomerset.com](mailto:Town@townofsomerset.com) or via phone at 301-657-3211

The Town also annually celebrates Somerset graduates at all levels of schooling. If you have a child who is graduating in 2022, please send an email to Linda at the above address with the following information:

- Graduate's full name
- Street
- School graduating/graduated from
- Next steps post-graduation (school, job, traveling, etc.)

The Fourth of July activities will begin at 12:00 noon with the following schedule of events, hosted by the Mayor and Council:

- Antique Fire Truck "Truck Touch"
- National Anthem and Somerset Anthem, with Color Guard
- Remarks from elected officials
- Reading of the Declaration of Independence
- Celebration of 2022 graduates
- Announcement of Somerset Dolphin record-breakers
- Announcement of Cupcake Contest winners

The Town will arrange for coverage from the sun (or rain... never mind, I'm not even going to say it!) with a tent, and residents are encouraged to come out, bring a picnic, and mingle with friends and neighbors.

After festivities at the Town Hall, residents are invited to move down to the Town Pool to enjoy some more fun in the sun. Bicycle decorating is also very much encouraged!

# Pool Update



## Lap Lane Schedule: Corrections

Unfortunately, the lap lane schedule published in last month's Town Journal contained some errors. Here is the corrected schedule of the lap lanes available for the rest of the summer. Thanks to Pool Committee **Chair Matt Zaft** (Dorset) for pointing this out:

### June 18 to July 23

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday
  - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 2 lap lanes on a first come first serve basis (Water Aerobics has the other 4 lanes)
  - 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.: 3 lap lanes
  - 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: 1 lap lane on a first come first serve basis (swim team practice)
  - 6:30 p.m. – close: 3 lap lanes
- Tuesday/Thursday
  - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 6 lap lanes
  - 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.: 3 lap lanes
  - 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: 1 lap lane on a first come first serve basis (swim team practice)
  - 6:30 p.m. – close: 3 lap lanes
- Weekends
  - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 6 lap lanes
  - 11:30 a.m. – close: 3 lap lanes

### From July 24 on

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday
  - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 2 lap lanes on a first come first serve basis (Water Aerobics has the other 4 lanes)
  - 11:30 a.m. – close: 3 lap lanes
- Tuesday/Thursday
  - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 6 lap lanes
  - 11:30 a.m. – close: 3 lap lanes
- Weekends
  - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: 6 lap lanes
  - 11:30 a.m. – close: 3 lap lanes

## GENERAL PERMITS AND VARIANCES

### HVAC PERMIT (EMERGENCY)

- 4511 Cumberland Ave

### TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

#### 4709 Trent Court

- Norway Spruce (16") — Tree is unstable and hazardous
- Norway Spruce (13") — Tree is unstable and hazardous

#### 5524 Uppingham Street

- Pine (18") — Standing dead tree

#### 4807 Dorset Avenue

- European Beech (14") — Tree is dead

#### 4821 Cumberland Avenue

- Hickory (15") — Tree has extensive decay at the base and is hazardous

#### Town Trees (all trees dead per Town Arborist)

- 4516 Dorset Avenue — Swamp White Oak (3")

- 4701 Falstone Avenue — Ash (26")
- 4721 Essex Avenue — Red Oak (19")
- 4823 Dorset Avenue — White Oak (30")
- 5615 Warwick Place — Pin Oak (33")
- 4809 Grantham Avenue — Pin Oak (18")



# History Mystery Update

Last month, the History and Archives Committee asked Town residents to pool their knowledge and answer two questions about music. Specifically we asked: "Who wrote the song 'Ode to Somerset' and when?" " And who wrote the Somerset Elementary School song 'Somerset, O Somerset' and when?"

Thanks go to **Joan Rabinor** (Trent) and Richard Stein, son of **Lois Levitan** (Falstone), for contacting us with information.

Joan writes that she wrote "Ode to Somerset" in 1996 and with **Sarah Morse** (Dorset) sang it at the Town's 90th Anniversary Celebration — possibly to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Richard, meanwhile, graduated from Somerset Elementary School about 1971. He distinctly remembers Deal resident and fellow classmate Lucinda Ortega as being one of the composers for the school song "Somerset, O Somerset." There may have been teachers who supervised this musical creation, perhaps Mrs. Caspi or Mrs. Bernstein. (As an aside, Richard wants a school reunion for his class and is willing to chair! Anyone interested in joining him?)

And we know there was an additional Town song, not included in last month's "History Mystery." In 2012, musician and former Council Member **Cathy Pickar** (Dorset) wrote "Somerset Anthem" at the request of the Mayor and some others who felt a town anthem was needed. No one was aware of any earlier anthems. The anthem has been sung at all of the Town's Fourth of July events and other events such as the newcomer's party.

## Somerset Tennis Round Robin

By Carrie Wofford, Chair, Tennis Committee, Essex Avenue

Three courts of Somerset players enjoyed the Somerset Round Robin on June 4. Players made some new connections and found new partners! Fun was had by all.





# Zola Emily Dincin Schneider

By Norman Schneider, Greystone Avenue

**Zola Emily Dincin Schneider** (Warwick) died on Saturday, May 28, 2022, at the age of 96, after a lifetime of activity and a one-day demise. She was lucid until her last hour. She was a strong, fiercely independent force.

Born in Brooklyn in 1925 to Jewish immigrant parents from Romania and Ukraine, she was named in honor of the French novelist and human rights activist Emile Zola. She was educated at P.S. 161, Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn College, the University of Wisconsin, and Columbia University Teachers College. In her young adult years, she hitchhiked across the country with a girlfriend and traveled alone to Paris — without knowing a word of French — to live in France for a year before returning to the States.

She resisted marrying a doctor until she married my father, Irving Schneider, then a medical student. They settled in the Washington area when my father began his psychoanalytic training under Harry Stack Sullivan, moving to Somerset in 1962. She raised her three sons while working part-time, beginning as a teacher at the Chestnut Lodge psychiatric hospital. She then embarked on a 40-year career as an educational consultant, advising high school students on college choices and admissions. A path breaker in the field, she saw her role as helping young people make the best choices for themselves. She co-authored three books on the subject: *The College Connection*, *Countdown to College*, and *Campus Visits and College Interviews*. She co-authored the third edition of the last one with me; it sold more than 150,000 copies, mostly through the College Board.

She participated in many demonstrations against the Vietnam War, including the Jeannette Rankin Brigade organized by Women Strike for Peace in 1968. She was a firm supporter of abortion rights and other progressive causes.

She served for many years on the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections and was proud of making it easy for all residents, regardless of U.S. citizenship, to register and vote in Town elections. She helped found a program that integrated activities between the almost all-White Somerset Elementary School and the almost all-Black Whittier Elementary School in the District. She was a founder of the Town's *Helping Hand*, which enables neighbors to help neighbors in need (see page 15). In the 1960s, she fought initial proposals for the Bergdall Tract and celebrated the settlement that led to the parkland and pool. She fought to keep Dorset Avenue from continuing directly into Grafton Street, providing the County Council with data demonstrating that the jog at Wisconsin was safer than the straightened road planners proposed. She was active in the Somerset PTA, keeping her membership for decades after her children had left. She was grateful to live long enough to see the former president defeated, but remained deeply concerned about the future of the country and the planet.

She was pre-deceased by her parents, her husband, her older sister and younger brother. She is survived by her sons Peter (of Philadelphia), me (on Greystone) and Daniel (of Champaign, Illinois); daughters-in-law Susan DeJarnatt, Linda Kanefield, and Leslie Reagan; grandchildren Benjamin and his wife Stephanie, Paul, David, Rafael, Jacob, and Rosie Schneider, and Max Goodman; and great-grandchildren Ayla Zola and June (who gave her great joy in her final years). She was intensely proud of them all.

Burial will be at Arlington Memorial Cemetery at a later date. She requested that contributions in her memory be made to Woodley House, **[woodleyhouse.org](http://woodleyhouse.org)**, a community-based organization dedicated to helping people with mental illness live full and healthy lives with dignity, or Posse, **[possefoundation.org](http://possefoundation.org)**, a non-profit that helps minority and disadvantaged youth through college.

# Marnie Shaul Path Dedicated



In honor of **Marnie Shaul's** (Uppingham) years of service to the Town of Somerset, including her service as Council Member and Council President, the path leading from the Somerset Pool to Friendship Heights has been named the Marnie Shaul Path.

The recent dedication ceremony was attended by **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Council President Steve Surko, Council Member Robin Barr, State Senator Susan Lee and State Delegate Marc Korman**, as well as many of Marnie's friends and Somerset neighbors. The path is marked by signs at the pool end of the path and at the Friendship Heights end.

Mayor Slavin opened the ceremony with the following remarks:

*I am very honored to be here today to celebrate Council President Shaul and her thirteen years of service on the Somerset Council. Marnie was a great partner on the Council, and without her the Town would be very different – and in far worse shape. She is a tireless worker on behalf of Somerset, a true testament to the many hours it takes behind the scenes to get things done.*

*Marnie's achievements on the Town Council are too numerous to list completely, but by highlighting just a few, I hope I can give a glimpse to anyone who might not know just how accomplished her time was on the Council.*

*During Marnie's thirteen years on the Somerset Town Council, she was a strong advocate for the Town's most important assets, supporting renovations of our beautiful Town Pool, historic Town Hall, and our parklands. But she knew that Somerset was more than just its infrastructure — it was the community and people that were most important. She supported a variety of events to spark community engagement and camaraderie for residents of all ages, such as an annual newcomer's party, and a nonagenarian ice cream party.*

*Marnie is also a fiscal whiz, and she helped steward the Town through fiscal ups and downs, serving as the Council budget lead through the Great Recession and the recovery, and helping to professionalize our annual budget process.*



*It is especially fitting that Marnie is getting a path named after her that connects Somerset to a neighboring community, as she herself was something of a bridge during her years of service on the Council. She was active on development issues such as the Westwood Shopping Center, the Westbard Sector Plan, and the Downtown Bethesda Plan. She also represented Somerset on the Montgomery Municipal Cable board, and served as the Town's liaison to the Maryland Municipal League's Montgomery County Chapter, among many other extra-curricular activities.*

*Marnie is also an avid walker, now with her dog Willow, making a walking path doubly fitting as her namesake.*

*More than just a colleague to me, Marnie is a personal friend and neighbor whom I admire deeply. She was everything that a Town such as Somerset could ask for in a Council member and President: respectful, thoughtful, diligent, and always willing to listen to resident's concerns (which I don't say lightly, as our residents always make their concerns heard!). President Shaul is the epitome of public service, and I am honored to dedicate this walking path in her honor, to be known henceforth as "Marnie Shaul Path."*



# Public Safety Committee Update

By Kumar Vaswani, Chair,  
Public Safety Committee,  
Trent Street

Whether you are young or old, summer brings the promise (or at least the memory) of lazy days at the pool, swim team meets and practices, vacations abroad (or Stateside), and time spent enjoying the great outdoors.

## Recent reported crimes in Somerset:

Unfortunately, summer sometimes also brings an uptick in criminal activity in Town, so it is prudent to take precautions. Since May 1, Somerset residents have reported three crimes:

- A resident on Dorset Avenue reported a stolen vehicle on June 14. As this issue of the *Journal* is going to press, we do not yet have details on this incident, but we are checking with the County police. (The County police do not notify the Town of crimes that occur in or around the Town – which can be a problem, because it means we have to rely on the County police’s crime map and then ask the police for more details).
- In May, a resident on Dorset Avenue reported a case of check forgery.
- In June, a resident on Warwick Place reported a theft from a vehicle.

To view all reported crimes for the year in Somerset, visit the Police Department’s crime map at <https://bit.ly/3beD1Q1>.

## Don’t forget:

- It is important to note that our police district (which encompasses Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and adjacent areas) has not experienced the same increase in violent crime as the nation or Montgomery County as a whole.
- The recording of the April 6, 2022 Town traffic and safety forum with officials from the Montgomery County Police Second District is available at <https://bit.ly/380S1PY>. The tips from that presentation were recapitulated in the May Town Journal: <https://bit.ly/3Oh5ZNZ>.
- The Town employs Montgomery County police officers to provide “supplemental” coverage for the Town for an average of 2.5 hours a day—about 10% of the time. The Town Council has asked the Town Manager to develop a policing policy in order to maximize the efficiency of the Town’s police program, and the Public Safety Committee plans to make recommendations as well.
- **Please report all crimes to the police.** Dial 911 for an emergency. Dial the police nonemergency line (301-279-8000) to report a property crime that has already occurred. You can also text to 911. For more information on how to contact the police and which number to use, visit “Make the Right Call,” <https://bit.ly/3QCZHtB>.

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- **The most important step residents can take to prevent vehicle-related thefts is to lock vehicles**, remove valuables—or put them in the trunk—and take the key or key fob.
- Theft from mail collection boxes, check forgery (altering of a stolen check), identity theft, and ATM/credit card fraud remain a problem. These types of crimes represent 8 out of the 15 crimes reported in Somerset so far this year. **Deposit your mail—**

**particularly if it contains a check—in a collection box inside a post office.**

- According to the police, on May 29, two suspects attempted to take an adult female’s property inside Giant Food on Westbard Avenue. **As my predecessor as Chair Bruce Tully (Warwick) often reminded us, please be aware of your surroundings, and keep an eye out for potential threats.** There’s no need to be paranoid, but neither should

one be complacent. Try to avoid focusing on your phone when in public, such as on a Metro platform or when walking in a commercial area.

- Additionally, please **keep house doors locked**—even when someone is at home, or even if you are going outside “just for a few minutes.” Leaving a door unlocked makes it very tempting for uninvited visitors to enter. It is also a good idea to keep garage doors locked.

# From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Thanks to Maryland's **Attorney General Brian Frosh** (Grantham) for swearing me in for my eighth term as Mayor recently — and congratulations to newly re-appointed **Council President Steve Surko** (Uppingham) and **Council Member Robin Barr** (Essex) for their well deserved re-elections. These public servants do an outstanding job and I know they are ready to tackle the important issues facing the Town over the next two years. I also want to thank the Somerset Board of Supervisors of Elections led by hard working **Chair Sherry Bindeman Kahn** (Essex), for running a smooth election and making important recommendations to update and improve procedures.

I don't think I need to remind anyone that Maryland's Primary Election is just around the corner. Election Day is Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Early in-person voting will take place Thursday, July 7, 2022 through Thursday, July 14, 2022. Mail-in voting will conclude on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. I hope that turnout in Somerset's precinct will lead the State. At a time when democracy itself is under challenge, it is important that every voter in every household participates and becomes knowledgeable about candidates at every level. While there is lots of information available about gubernatorial, U.S. Senate and other top of the ticket races, be sure to educate yourselves about those down ballot, including Clerk of the Court, Sheriff and most importantly, the Board of Education.

## Re-elected Mayor, Re-elected Council Members Sworn In



Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Councilmember Stephen Surko



Councilmember Robin Barr

On June 6, **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick), **Council President Steve Surko** (Uppingham), and **Council Member Robin Barr** (Essex) were sworn into their new terms by Maryland's **Attorney General Brian Frosh** (Grantham). All had recently been re-elected to their positions.



## Bee Forum – A SUCCESS!

The Environment Committee hosted a Zoom forum on June 7 to discuss the benefits of placing an apiary in our Town parkland (near Wisconsin Avenue). During the Forum, three very experienced and knowledgeable beekeepers shared their expertise, including descriptions of successful apiaries in local communities and neighborhoods. The experts who participated were: Maureen Jais-Mick, who manages the Montgomery County Bee Keeper's Association Bee Yard at Brookside Gardens; Leon Vanderberg, who cares for bees at Leisure World; and Elizabeth Harris, who is a certified beekeeper and neighbor. These experts explained clearly how, unlike yellow jackets and hornets, the honeybees that we are considering for our Town are not aggressive. They also described the enormous benefits that bees provide for the environment and our gardens! For those interested in watching the recording of the Forum, the link is: <https://youtu.be/VTqMlxCn-xU>.

We encourage residents who support having an apiary in our Town to write a short email to the Town Council, at [manager@townofsomerset.com](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com).

## Environment Committee Recommends Banning Gas-Powered Weed Wackers

The noise generated by gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) and other gas-powered lawn equipment, like gas-powered weed wackers, is associated with adverse health effects, such as tinnitus, increased blood pressure and an elevated heart rate. As is the case for leaf blowers, alternative electric and battery-operated models of weed wackers can reduce these health risks for residents and landscapers. Many are reasonably priced, so a transition to electric weed wackers for landscapers and



Town residents would be straightforward. Such a transition could follow our current process for shifting from the soon-to-banned gas-powered leaf blowers to electric and battery-powered leaf blowers.

Therefore, to further reduce noise in our Town, the Environment Committee recommends that the Town Council ban gas-powered weed wackers, beginning Sep 1, 2023. If passed by the Town Council, the Environment Committee intends to continue its education campaign about weed wackers and other more sustainable gardening practices.

## Environment Committee Recommends a Wine Cork Recycling Program

The Environment Committee was recently approached by Town resident **Laurent Guinand** (Warwick) about a wine cork recycling program, which would place a small container at the Town Hall for residents to deposit their corks! Laurent's small business, <https://recork.com/>, collects corks and ships them in bulk to California for re-use in multiple industries (shoe soles, insulation for houses, etc.). These types of applications replace petroleum-based products with cork-based ones. We hope the Town Council will support this sustainable program.

If you have ideas regarding how our Town can become more sustainable and carbon-free, please reach out to the Environment Committee at: [tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:tos.environmentcommittee@gmail.com).

[Editor's notes:

1. The link to the recording of the Bee Forum is also provided in Committee-Provided Resources on page 15.
2. Please see the preliminary agenda for the next Town Council meeting for items regarding the apiary and a ban on weed wackers, on page 16.]





# Manager's Corner

By Matt Trollinger, *Town Manager*

Happy summer, Somerset!

June has been exciting, with the school year ending and the beginning of swim team and Camp Summerset activities. Additionally, June marks Pride Month, and the Town Council has passed a Resolution to fly the Rainbow Flag in celebration through the month of June at the Town Hall. The Federal government has also established Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, as a Federal holiday. As I reflected on this holiday, occurring during Pride Month, I was reminded of Somerset's own Equity and Inclusion Committee. This Committee is looking for ways to improve Town operations through the lens of equity. Thank you to **Chair Atsuko Horiguchi** (Essex), and all of the volunteers on the Committee for their work.

Now we move into July, the beginning of the Town's new fiscal year. Somerset, like all municipalities in Maryland, follows a fiscal calendar of July – June, as mandated by State Law. The Somerset Council approved the Town's tax rates and budget in May. The Town's finances are audited annually by an independent auditor, and that work will also begin soon. A report from the auditors will be presented to the Council later this fiscal year, probably around November.

## Town Directory

This is the time of year when we update our Town Directory. Please review your listing in the Directory and let the Town Hall know if you would like any changes. If you are not sure of your current listing, please contact the Town Hall to obtain it. Directory updates will be received through July and August.

## Reminder: Maintenance of Vegetation over Sidewalks and Common Areas

It is the responsibility of property owners to ensure their vegetation is not obstructing the public sidewalks. The Town does its best to work with private property owners

to allow them to trim their shrubbery back as they wish. However, the Town does have the right to protect the public right of way. Should a dangerous condition exist, the Town has the authority to trim back vegetation. Vegetation should be cut back to the following specification: 12 inches from the sidewalk and up to 8 feet off the ground. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that the public sidewalks are as safe as possible for pedestrians. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Hall.

## Town Leaders Celebrated

Finally, I wanted to make mention of two Town residents who have received honors for their service recently.

The first, former **Council President Marnie Shaul**, (Uppingham) was celebrated in June for her many years of service on the Town Council. In honor of President Shaul, the Town Council renamed the walking path connecting Somerset to Friendship Heights "Marnie Shaul Path." This seemed a fitting honor for Marnie — see the article on page 8 for more about her career as a public servant for Somerset.

The second, **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin** (Warwick), was celebrated at the annual Maryland Municipal League (MML) for over 20 years of municipal service, and inducted into the League's Municipal Officials Hall of Fame. In addition to his work in Somerset, Mayor Slavin has been active in the United States Conference of Mayors, the Maryland Mayor's Association, several MML committees, and many town-, state-, and countywide efforts.

Congratulations to these two great public servants – we are all lucky to have them as residents of the Town of Somerset working for the betterment of the community.

# Council Meeting Actions

The following actions were taken by the Somerset Town Council at its monthly meeting, held June 6, 2022:

- **Stephen Surko** (Uppingham) elected as Council President
- Approval of a two-month extension through August 31, 2022 for the continued use of Zoom as a virtual Town Meeting setting (currently set to expire June 30, 2022)
- Approval of a Proclamation declaring June as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Town of Somerset, and hanging the Rainbow Flag at the Town Hall in honor of LGBTQ Pride Month through June 30, 2022
- Approval of the re-appointment of Ron Bolt (Bolt Legal) as the Town Attorney for Fiscal Year 2023
- Approval of the re-appointment of Matthew Trollinger as the Town Manager/Clerk-Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2023
- Approval of a building permit application, submitted by **Garrett Levin** and **Virginia Frasure**, to enclose the existing carport and existing front porch into a garage and foyer, respectively, at the front of the existing home located on the property at 5510 Greystone Street
- Approval of a building permit application, submitted by **Seth Cohen**, for an addition to the front of the existing home located on the property at 5502 Greystone Street
- Approval of a building permit and tree removal application, submitted by **Daniel Bremer-Wirtig** and **Rebecca Lamadrid**, for the construction of a retaining wall and the removal of five (5) trees located on the property at 5613 Warwick Place
- Approval of a tree removal application, submitted by **Joyce Somsak** and **Donald Rosin**, for the removal of the following trees from the property located at 4709 Trent Court
  - 16" Norway Spruce
  - 13" Norway Spruce
- Approval of the removal of the following Town trees, as recommended by the Town Arborist:
  - Swamp White Oak 3" dbh — 4516 Dorset Avenue
  - Ash 26" dbh — 4701 Falstone Avenue
  - Red Oak 19" dbh — 4721 Essex Avenue
  - White Oak 30" dbh — 4823 Dorset Avenue
  - Pin Oak 33" dbh — 5615 Warwick Place
  - Pin Oak 16" dbh — 4809 Grantham Avenue
- Approval of a shredding event for Town residents at the Town Hall parking lot on Saturday, June 18, performed by Shred Instead, as recommended by the Town Environment Committee.

The meeting recording will be made available on the Town's YouTube channel at: <https://bit.ly/3HNgXbG> (for links to recordings of other Town Council meetings, see *Video Recordings of Town Meetings* on page 15).

## 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.*



# 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	Phil Young (Greystone)	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	Jeff Mascott (Surrey)
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)

- Tuesday, July 5, 2022  
(Note: Monday, July 4 is a holiday)
- Monday, August 1, 2022
- Tuesday, September 6, 2022  
(Note: Monday, September 5 is a holiday)
- Monday, October 3, 2022
- Monday, November 7, 2022
- Monday, December 5, 2022

### WORK SESSIONS

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

- Tuesday, June 21, 2022
- Monday, July 18, 2022
- Monday, August 15, 2022
- Monday, September 19, 2022
- Monday, October 17, 2022
- Monday, November 14, 2022
- Monday, December 19, 2022

*Continued on page 14*



## For Your Reference

### 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/3MH5V3o>

### VIDEO RECORDINGS OF TOWN MEETINGS

- Town of Somerset YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3yU2gkG>
- May 2, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3sRf2MI>
- April 18, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3wGV9Jn>
- April 4, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3Ny8iv0>
- March 14, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3IALzTf>
- March 7, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/38HRmDC>
- February 14, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/389iMC8>
- February 7, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3ab6v0B>
- January 20, 2022 Town Council Work Session: <https://bit.ly/3x3qRB1>
- January 3, 2022 Town Council Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3IG5zDS>



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

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

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

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

# 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 July 5, 2022

at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

The Somerset Town Council will meet via Zoom on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda and updates are posted on the Town website: [www.townofsomerset.com](http://www.townofsomerset.com)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/3NidwdY> 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.

## NON-CONSENT AGENDA

7:15 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a building permit application, submitted by **Jeff Nussbaum**, for the construction of a rear addition to the existing home located at 4716 Essex Avenue

7:35 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a building permit application, submitted by **Daniel Bremer-Wirtig** and **Rebecca Lamadrid** for the construction of 2nd and 3rd story additions to the existing house on the property located at 5613 Warwick Place

8:00 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a building permit application for the construction of a rear addition to the existing

home on the property located at 5522 Uppingham Street

8:30 p.m. Building Administrator's Report

8:40 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of an agreement between the Town of Somerset and Elizabeth Harris for the maintenance of an apiary at the Town Park located between Wisconsin Avenue and Little Falls Creek.

8:55 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a wine cork collection site at the Somerset Town Hall, in partnership with Recork, to recycle and re-use wine corks.

9:10 p.m. **Motion:** To introduce an Ordinance to ban the use of gas-powered weed-wackers in the Town of Somerset, effective September 1, 2023.

9:30 p.m. **Public Hearing/Motion:** To consider approval of a Resolution requiring the Town staff to solicit an annual proposal to extend the pool season prior to the Town's budget process.

9:45 p.m. **Discussion:** Manager Report

10:00 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](mailto:manager@townofsomerset.com) or [town@townofsomerset.com](mailto: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](http://www.townofsomerset.com)) seven days prior to the meeting. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board on the Town Hall porch.