SOMERSET
Resource Guide







2025

Somerset Town Hall

4510 Cumberland Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(301) 657-3211 • (301) 657-2773 (fax)
town@townofsomerset.gov • www.townofsomerset.gov

Emergency Numbers

- Ongoing crime or emergency: **911**
- Animal emergencies: **911**
- Fire, Police, Ambulance: **911**
- Electric line down, power outages in home or streets: call Pepco at **1-877-PEPCO-62** (1-877-737-2662), as well as **911** for a downed line
- Gas leak: Call **911** then Washington Gas at **844-WASHGAS** (844-927-4427) and select option 1
- Mental health emergencies
  - Mobile Crisis Team: **(240) 777-4000**
  - National Suicide and Crisis lifeline: **988**
- Poisoning: Call Poison Control **1-800-222-1222**
- Town Tree Emergency: During business hours, call Town Hall at **(301) 657-3211,** after hours call **Town Manager EJ Hardwick** at **(918) 884-9410** or **Mayor Jeffrey Slavin** at **(202) 549-2299.**
- Water, sewer problems: call WSSC at **301-206-4002** or ***wsscwater.com***

Important Contact Information

- Compost Crew/Missed Pickups: ***info@compostcrew.com*** or call **(301) 202-4450**
- Montgomery County Government – for information about services and programs call **311** or (**240) 777-0311** or visit ***montgomerycountymd.gov***
- Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA): **(410) 768-7000** or ***www.mva.maryland.gov***
- Pepco (bills) **(202) 833-7500**
- Police (non-emergency service, including animal control issues): **(301) 279-8000**
- Trash and Recycling Missed Pickup – Goode Trash Removal: **(240) 278-2698**
- Washington Gas (customer service): **844-WASHGAS** (844-927-4427)

Introduction

This publication, *Somerset Resource Guide*, is designed as a convenient all-in-one resource for Somerset residents. The Resource Guide will be updated as needed. This publication was prepared by the Town's Communications Committee and the Town Staff.

The Resource Guide, provides Town highlights, Town history, and general information on Town governance, available services, and special features of the Somerset community. Town residents are encouraged to access the Town's website at ***townofsomersetmd.gov*** for more detailed information.

Each family in Town receives one free copy. Additional copies may be purchased from the Town Hall for $5.00 each. This publication will be sold to Town residents **only** and is not to be used for charitable or commercial purposes.

SECTION I: RESOURCE GUIDE

TOWN HIGHLIGHTS

We are a Tree City U.S.A. Somerset has been a Tree City for many years. We love our beautiful tree-lined streets and our well-established urban forest. Our trees protect our air quality, abate noise, mitigate stormwater runoff, and provide habitat for our wildlife. We share our home with roving platoons of deer, two or possibly three families of foxes, and perhaps even an elusive coyote, while rabbits munch contentedly on our lawns — and all too often on our roses and lilies. Above us we see and hear turkey vultures, two sorts of hawk, the Eastern wild turkeys unique to Maryland, barred owls exchanging hunting cries in the night, posses of crows, and even that blue heron waiting motionless for lunch in Little Falls Branch. There is a kaleidoscope of garden visitors: blue jays, cardinals, the occasional oriole, catbirds, and a ceaseless myriad of sparrows and wrens. The Somerset we are privileged to see every day is home to so many more families than our own.

HISTORY

Our Town motto is ***"Where people and trees have deep roots and grow strong."***

- We are a community of 1200-plus residents in 435 homes.
- Our Town has 4.2 miles of streets across 168 acres (0.28 sq. miles).
- We are the home of Somerset Elementary School and the Dolphins Swim Team.
- We are also a Sustainable Maryland Town and a Maryland Municipal League Banner Town.
- Our budget for the 2025 fiscal year (June 2024 through May 2025) is $2,068,079.

OUR BEGINNINGS

Pre-1890: Prior to and during European colonization and the founding of the Maryland Colony, what would one day become Somerset lay at the nexus of several indigenous peoples including the Susquehannock, the Nacotchtank, and the Piscataway. The land that would become Somerset was first part of the 3,124-acre Friendship Tract patented by Benedict Calvert, 4th Baron Baltimore, to Colonel Thomas Addison and James Stoddart in 1711. By 1811, a 211-acre portion of that tract, dubbed Friendship, was owned by Richard Williams, a farmer.

1890: Five Department of Agriculture scientists working in the red brick mansion still standing in what used to be farmland in Norwood Park came together and bought 50 acres of exhausted tobacco fields in Friendship from **John Beall** and **Dr. Ralph Walsh** for $19,000 ($535,000 today). They were distinguished in their fields, including: **Dr. Harvey Wiley**, founder of the Food and Drug Administration, was one; another, **Dr. Daniel E. Salmon**, is remembered in the name of salmonella bacteria. The five founded the Somerset Heights Colony Company. They laid out a street grid — Dorset Avenue, Cumberland Avenue, Warwick Place, Surrey Street, and Essex Avenue — and proposed "a suburb after the very pleasant ones of Boston."

1891: **Dr. Wiley** built the first house, 4722 Dorset Avenue, near the corner at Surrey Street. His companions followed. Two of their five houses survive, both extensively renovated: 4722 and 4728 Dorset Avenue.

1900: The census recorded 170 residents, among them eight Black and two White live-in servants.

1905: When Somerset had grown to 35 homes, its residents applied to Montgomery County for municipal status.

1906: A charter was granted. The Town of Somerset was born. Its new Council approved a first budget: $511 ($17,000 today), mostly for maintenance and lighting of the dirt streets. The 54 houses built on the initial street grid are now recognized as a Historic District, with the surviving 31 built before 1913 given special status.

MILESTONES

1906: Somerset today is a multinational and multiracial community. Its earliest families, though, were not exempt from the prejudices of their day. Residents joined Friendship Heights in angry protests against a plan advertised by four Black investors to develop a suburb comparable to Somerset for "colored people," stretching up the east side of Wisconsin Avenue as far as Grafton Street. The suburb was to carry the name of that tract of land, Belmont. **Elbert Richmond,** Somerset's very new Town Marshal, twice arrested the principal investor; each time, a local justice of the peace released him. (The Belmont Project collapsed in 1909; Belmont's name was subsequently expunged from Montgomery County property records.)

1913: The Town approved a sum "not to exceed $10" ($300 today) to build a bridge over Little Falls Branch. Children had to ford the stream on their way to school in rented rooms in Mr. Shoemaker's house in Friendship Heights. Later, they went to **Mrs. Givens'** school near Chevy Chase Circle. Parents took turns shepherding them.

The Town's first speed limit was established: 12 mph.

1917: The Department of Agriculture established a Bee Culture Station at 4823 Dorset Avenue. A surviving photograph shows at least three dozen sizable hives in the garden. Pioneering apiary research was done there, while Dorset Avenue residents endured occasional stings. The work moved to Beltsville in 1937.

1921: Women attained the right to vote in Town elections.

1924: The Town issued $40,000 ($593,000 today) in bonds to begin paving the streets. Somerset Women's Club organized a Town Carnival to celebrate. (When paving was completed the next year, the speed limit rose to 15 mph.)

1926: The U.S. Postal Service agreed to deliver mail to individual addresses in Somerset.

1928: **Edna Miller Gish** became the first woman elected to the Town Council.

Somerset's first school opened on the old site of Joshua Callahan's farm. The school had eight rooms and separate entrances for boys and girls. There were 138 pupils (most from outside Somerset), six teachers and a 25-year-old principal, **Kathryne M. Bricker,** who stayed for 37 years. When she retired, the Town gave her a trip around the world.

1940: The Town's population had doubled to 399. After much debate, keeping cattle, horses, and pigs within the town was banned. Free-roaming chickens were banned two years later.

1943: The Bergdoll family from Philadelphia, which owned most of the land to the south of Somerset's initial street grid, applied to erect apartment blocks. So began a more than 40-year struggle to save Somerset from high-rises and commercial development along our side of Wisconsin Avenue.

1946-1947: Rebuffed, the Bergdoll family sold 115 acres south of Essex Avenue in four auctions. Successful bidders had to sign pledges to sell houses only to "those of the Caucasian race" (although "partial occupancy…by domestic servants" was to be allowed). What Somerset children called "the great woods" were slowly felled, and the street plan of Lower Somerset took shape: Falstone Avenue, Grantham Avenue, Trent Street, Uppingham Street, and Greystone Street.

Through the 1950s: After the 1946-1947 sales of land that became Lower Somerset, a final 30 acres running down to Friendship Heights remained open fields. Somerset waged an epic legal battle to preserve these, by blocking all efforts to have the land zoned for commercial development. The Hecht Company was forced to abandon plans for a department store there; The Yater Medical Clinic abandoned its plans as well.

1950: The U.S. Census (whose details were released in 2022) recorded 429 residents in 129 houses. Only 15 residents were born in Maryland; others came from elsewhere in the U.S. and from 21 foreign countries (four diplomatic families among them). Several Somerset wives were pursuing their own careers: among them were two physicians, an economist, a journalist, and a celebrated sculptor. Only three people of color were recorded: one cook and three maids, all Black.

1954: **Philip Elman,** of Cumberland Avenue, wrote the government's brief in the historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case, when the Supreme Court ordered school desegregation "with all deliberate speed" (Elman's phrase). Elman was an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Solicitor General, which takes the lead in government litigation before the Supreme Court. He had been an editor of the Harvard Law Review and had clerked for Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter.

1955: In the name of desegregation, Montgomery County shut River Road School. Since 1912, this had been the sole source of education (elementary only) for local Black children, many of whose families had their homes in what is now Kenwood. The two-room schoolhouse, built in 1926 to replace a 1912 wood hut, was where the tall radio mast rises now behind McDonalds. Displaced, several of the children came to Somerset Elementary, its first Black students.

1957: The first edition of the Town Journal was published. Its editor was *Washington Post* columnist **Hobart Rowen.**

1960: The Town's population, propelled by the development of Lower Somerset, had grown to 1,444.

1961: Somerset School's first Black teacher, **Shirley Gordon,** arrived. She taught 2nd and then 1st grades. Ms. Gordon moved on in 1966.

1963: Recognizing that ongoing actions to block the development of the final 30-acre expanse bordering Lower Somerset could not succeed indefinitely, Somerset's then-**Mayor Warren Vinton** proposed to accept an offer from the developers. Somerset would get 12 acres of the land, primarily woodland along Little Falls Branch, but also acreage for a swimming pool. The developers would build three big apartment blocks on the remaining 18 acres. By now, though, lawyers representing Friendship Heights and Chevy Chase were involved. The resulting legal maze was so tangled it was another 21 years before the deal could go through.

1965: The Town purchased the "Little Red House" at 4510 Cumberland Avenue. It was first used as a schoolhouse, run by the American Foundation for Autistic Children beginning in 1968 before officially becoming the Somerset Town Hall in 1982 with the rear addition being added in 1986. Built in 1902, the house aptly fits our historic Town.

1966: The first high-rise block in Friendship Heights was erected, the 17-story Irene (now known as Willard Towers) on Willard Avenue, looming over Warwick Place and Uppingham Street.

1971: Somerset Pool opened – built on five acres that then-**Mayor Jerald Goldberg** persuaded the developers to cede even though the 1963 deal was still in legal limbo.

1977: Somerset worked to shore up its Wisconsin Avenue boundary, buying the rectangle between Dorset and Cumberland Avenues. Its name, Capello Park, honors **James Capello,** the Town's Clerk-Treasurer from 1940-1976.

1981: Somerset finally secured its boundary. With much help from the State Board of Public Works, the Town bought the 1.79 acre plot on the southern corner of Dorset and Wisconsin Avenues.

1984: In January, decisions by the Maryland Court of Appeals brought to a close the decades-long zoning battle, the longest in Maryland's history. **Mayor Vinton's** deal could finally go through. The developers could start to construct their apartment blocks. The 12 acres of woodland Somerset got in return were named Vinton Park in his honor.

1988: The first speed bumps were laid on Dorset and Cumberland Avenues.

As the first of three Somerset House high-rise apartment blocks was going up, Town residents feared their occupants would, by sheer numbers, come to control our Town Council. In a referendum, they voted four-to-one to "de-annex" those acres, redrawing Somerset's new southern boundary to straddle Little Falls Branch.

1989: A major windstorm toppled many trees, downed overhead power lines, damaged dozens of houses, blocked the Dorset Avenue and Cumberland Avenue entrances to the Town, and caused a six-day power outage.

1995: The Somerset Town Hall received first place in the Ninth Annual Beautification Contest of the Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Program.

1997-8: A survey by parents found that of the school's 391 students, 121 came from 45 foreign countries.

2003: After multiple additions and renovations — 1949, 1951, 1958, 1971 — the old Somerset Elementary School building was finally demolished, to be replaced by the present structure.

2006: Somerset celebrated its centennial with trolley-bus tours of the historic district, tours of historic houses, banners on our streetlights, and the creation of Founders Park.

2007: The Maryland Municipal League (MML) launched the MML Banner City/Town Program which bestows formal recognition each year to Maryland cities and towns that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to MML programs and activities through the involvement of their elected and appointed officials. Somerset was in the program's inaugural cohort and has received the honor many times since.

2012: The pool got a new pool house. Its open and airy design won the architects numerous awards.

2019: The Town began multi-year structural renovations of our beautiful but aging Town Hall. Ties were installed to bind its bulging exterior walls. First-floor offices were updated, and the big meeting room was illuminated by tall windows. In what had been an attic, a new second floor now housed an office for the Mayor, plus a room for the Town's archives.

2020: Somerset rallied its community spirit to cope with coronavirus. There were community mask-making efforts, drive-by celebrations of graduations and birthdays, virtual Town Council and committee meetings, Zoom candidate forums, mail-in ballots, and a virtual Fourth of July celebration.

The U.S. Census gave Somerset a snapshot of who we had become:

- **Multinational**: one in six of our residents is foreign born, of whom just under half have chosen to become U.S. citizens. One in six residents speaks a language other than English in their homes.
- **Multiracial/multiethnic**: While predominantly White, our residents include 102 who describe themselves as of "mixed race," 43 select Asian, 19 select Black, and two are from Pacific islands; 94 select Hispanic or Latino as their ethnicity.
- **Well-educated**: more than nine in ten adults have a bachelor's degree or higher; two-thirds have gone on to earn a graduate or professional degree.
- **At work**: One in five adults works in Federal, state, or local government; the same proportion works in the non-profit sector; one in five runs their own business. Close to a third work from home.

2023: Somerset residents voted to lower the voting age for Town elections to 16.

The Town Council created the Somerset Youth Council for high school students in grades 9 through 12. The goal of the Council is to give Somerset's youth the chance to have a real impact on the community, to learn about local government, and to have a voice in shaping our Town's future.

Somerset launched a new and much improved website and established its social media presence on the Town of Somerset website, the Somerset Pool website, Facebook, Instagram, Threads, LinkedIn, Bluesky, and YouTube.

The Town installed solar panels on the Town Hall.

2024: Somerset became a Bronze Sustainable Maryland Certified Town and was recognized at the Fall 2024 Maryland Municipal League Conference. Sustainable Maryland is a certification program for municipalities in Maryland that want to go green and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Sustainable Maryland is a collaborative effort between the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland and the Maryland Municipal League.

Somerset received the Maryland Municipal League Municipal Achievement Award in Recognition of Excellence in eGovernance for the implementation of an Artificial Intelligence Database and Search Bar hosted on the Town website.

Somerset adopted a privacy policy for photographs published in the Town Journal and/or social media. A parent or guardian must provide written consent for the use of photos of minors identified by name.

Somerset began its Town Talks program featuring residents. The first speaker was former resident **Norm Ornstein** who spoke about "The Threat to Democracy." In a subsequent event, **Andrew Weiss** addressed "Czar Putin: What Does he Really Want?"

TOWN HONOREES

Somerset has thrived thanks to the efforts of so many of its residents. The community has a tradition of recognizing those who have made special contributions by naming features of the Town in their honor.

- Founders Park is named in honor of the Town's founders: **Dr. Harvey W. Wiley** (Father of the FDA), **Dr. Charles A. Crampton** (the first Mayor of Somerset), **Dr. Daniel E. Salmon** (namesake of salmonella), **Miles Fuller, Horace Horton,** and **Dr. E. A. deSweinitz.** The tree that sits at the center of the park is dedicated to **Mayor J. William Stohlman,** the fifth Mayor of Somerset.

- Vinton Park is named for **Mayor Warren Jay Vinton,** the tenth Mayor of Somerset, for his efforts to gain the land for the Town.
- Capello Park is named after **Clerk-Treasurer James Capello,** for his service as Clerk-Treasurer from 1940 to 1976.
- A plaque at the Pool commemorates **Mayor Jerald Goldberg,** the eleventh Mayor of Somerset, who oversaw construction of the Pool on land he helped to acquire.
- A. Eugene Miller Grove — the grassy area enclosed within the grounds of the Somerset Pool — is named after **A. Eugene Miller,** the thirteenth Mayor of Somerset, for his efforts to preserve Somerset parkland.
- The Walter J. Behr Tennis Courts and the Walter Behr Path are both named after **Mayor Walter J. Behr,** the twelfth and fourteenth Mayor of Somerset, to commemorate his three decades as Mayor and his passion for tennis.
- **The Alan Proctor Bench** — the bench at the entrance to the Somerset Pool — bears a plaque commemorating former **Council Member Alan Proctor** who energetically oversaw the design and building of our new pool house.
- The Judy Frankel Archive Room — the Town Hall's archive room — is named for former **Council Member Judy Frankel** in honor of her long service on the Town Council.
- The Peale-Zeughauser Gallery — the Town Hall's meeting room — is named after former **Council Members Barbara Zeughauser** and **Franny Peale** for their leadership on the Town Hall Renovation Project.
- The Marnie Shaul Path — a short path winding up from the Somerset Pool to the Village of Friendship Heights — is named in honor of former **Council President Marnie Shaul.** The path symbolizes Council President Shaul's tireless work connecting Somerset to our neighboring communities.
- Two benches have been donated in memory of Somerset residents. The first, on the corner of Wisconsin and Dorset Avenues, is a bench dedicated to **Hobart and Alice Rowen. Fun fact: Hobart Rowen** was the founder and first editor of the Town Journal! The second bench, on Dorset Avenue near Founders Park, is a bench dedicated to **Tarunica V. Dehejia.**

- Two homes in Somerset are on the National Register of Historic Places. First is the Wiley-Ringland House (4722 Dorset Avenue), named after original owner **Dr. Harvey W. Wiley** and longtime owner **Arthur Cuming Ringland** (founder of CARE). The second home (4728 Dorset Avenue) goes by two names: Clover Crest and the Salmon-Stohlman House after original owner **Dr. Daniel E. Salmon** and longtime owner **J. William Stohlman.**

GOVERNMENT

Since 1906, Somerset has been an incorporated town led by a Mayor and Town Council. The Mayor is elected for a two-year term, oversees the ordinances and regulations governing the Town, and serves as the administrative head of Town government. The Town Council consists of five members who are elected at large for staggered two-year terms. The Council approves the annual budget and all contracts, reviews and approves building permits, and makes laws. Somerset is served by a variety of committees comprised of Town residents. Additionally, Town Council members represent the Town on local and county boards and committees.

All Somerset residents 16 or older are eligible to vote in Town elections. All residents who are U.S. citizens, and who are 18 or older are eligible to run for office.

The Town Council meets on the first Monday of each month except when this date falls on a holiday and another date is set. The preliminary agenda for each monthly meeting is published in the Town Journal.

The final agenda is sent out by email prior to the meeting and is provided on the Town website. Agendas, background materials prepared for the Council Members on the agenda items, and the minutes from the meetings are posted on the Town's website at ***townofsomersetmd.gov/government/council_agendas___minutes.php.*** Links to recordings from Zoom Council meetings can be found there as well. In addition, recordings from Zoom Council meetings can be found on the Town's YouTube channel (***youtube.com/@townofsomerset***). All residents are welcome to attend the Council and Committee meetings.

Somerset has many committees that focus on a broad variety of Town issues and interests. The Mayor establishes the committees and appoints members and committee chairs, subject to the Council's approval. The committees usually have five to nine members of which

one is the committee chair. In addition, each year the Council agrees on Council Member liaison and alternate assignments to the committees. The committees have official agendas that are developed by the chairs and sent out by email by the Town Manager before the meetings. The Board of Supervisors of Elections and the Audit Committee are in the Town's Charter.

FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

FEDERAL OFFICIALS

U.S. SENATORS
Angela Alsobrooks
202-224-4524
Email: See "Contact Angela" form at
www.alsobrooks.senate.gov

Chris Van Hollen, Jr.
202-224-4654
www.vanhollen.senate.gov

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 8TH DISTRICT
Jamie Raskin
202-225-5341
raskin.house.gov

STATE OFFICIALS

GOVERNOR
Wes Moore
410-974-3901
governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governors-office

LT. GOVERNOR
Aruna Miller
410-974-2461
lt.governor@maryland.gov

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Anthony G. Brown
410-576-6300
oag@oag.state.md.us

COMPTROLLER
Brooke E. Lierman
410-260-7801

mdcomptroller@marylandtaxes.gov

STATE SENATOR: DISTRICT 16
Sara Love
410-841-3124
Sara.love@senate.md.us

STATE DELEGATES: DISTRICT 16
Marc A. Korman
410-841-3649
marc.korman@house.state.md.us

Teresa Saavedra Woorman
(410) 841-3454
Teresa.Woorman@house.state.md.us

Sarah S. Wolek
410-841-3642, 301-858-3642
sarah.wolek@house.state.md.us

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICIALS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Marc B. Elrich
240-777-2500
marc.elrich@montgomerycounty.md.gov

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER DISTRICT 1
Andrew Friedson
(240) 777-7828
Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov

TOWN OF SOMERSET OFFICIALS

MAYOR
Jeffrey Z. Slavin
202-549-2299
mayor@ townofsomersetmd.gov

TOWN COUNCIL
council@ townofsomersetmd.gov

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS
Robin Barr, Council President
301-655-3479
rbarr@ townofsomersetmd.gov

Debbie Heller
202-321-9400

dheller@ townofsomersetmd.gov

Rohit Khanna
202-725-1306
rkhanna@townofsomersetmd.gov

Kabir Kumar
202-830-4905
kkumar@ townofsomersetmd.gov

Shannon Rovak
608-334-2306
srovak@ townofsomersetmd.gov

TOWN MANAGER
EJ Hardwick
301-657-3211 (office)
918-884-9410 (emergency)
manager@ townofsomersetmd.gov

DEPUTY TOWN MANAGER
Justin Burgett
301-657-3211
deputy@ townofsomersetmd.gov

TOWN CLERK
Linda Williams
301-657-3211
town@ townofsomersetmd.gov

TOWN COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

See Town of Somerset website **(*townofsomersetmd.gov/government/town_committees.php*)** for current members and chairs.

SOMERSET REGULATIONS

PERMITS

Permits are required for:

- Installing or replacing exterior components for HVAC systems and generators;
- Driveway replacements;
- Any construction, including fences and walls; and
- Tree removal. A Town of Somerset permit is required for removal of any trees on private property that are four inches (4″) or more in diameter as measured four- and one-half feet (4.5′) above the average surrounding ground. **No permit is required for tree pruning on private property.** However, residents are not allowed to prune the Town trees lining our streets. Tree contractors must have a Maryland tree expert license number. The Town has its own arborist for the oversight of Town trees. Contact the Town Hall for more information. Detailed information on planting and removal of trees can be found on the Town's website. If a tree falls down because of a storm, please contact the Mayor or the Town Manager.

This is not a complete list of permit requirements. A complete list, permit application forms, related explanatory information, and a fee schedule are available on the Town's website. For any permit questions, contact the Town Hall.

NOISE CONTROL REGULATIONS

Construction noise is restricted to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturdays and holidays. No exterior construction is permitted on Sundays.

Gas-powered leaf blowers are not permitted. Noise from lawnmowers, electric leaf blowers, chain saws and similar equipment is permitted only from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:00 am to 7:00 p.m. on weekends. In case of severe noise problems, call the Town Hall. After business hours, call the Mayor's cell phone.

PETS/ANIMALS

- All dogs must be exercised on leashes, even when jogging with their owner. Dogs are not allowed on school property. Cats are not permitted to roam off owners' property. Pets may not run loose on Town land. (Somerset follows the Montgomery County Code regarding pets.) Owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets or risk County fines. Excessive barking is against the law and should be reported to the Town Hall.
- For any threatening situation or animal cruelty in progress, including a dog locked in a hot car, call **911**.
- For dead animal pickup, call **311** during business hours.
- For urgent and non-urgent animal issues, including a loose animal, cases of animal neglect, injured animals and defecation or odor complaints, contact Office of Animal Services at **301-279-8000**.
- To report a lost pet, call Montgomery County Animal Services & Adoption Center at **240-773-5900**.
- For additional information on Montgomery County's laws on such issues as unwanted noise, animal trespassing, and unwanted contact, please refer to the County's website at ***montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/asd/laws.html.***

RIGHT-OF-WAY AND OVERGROWN VEGETATION

The Town Code prohibits plant growth on a resident's private property from extending into the right-of-way in such manner that interferes with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Please ensure that any structure, wall, fence, tree, hedge, shrubbery, or any other plant growth located on private property adjoining a right-of-way is maintained in such a manner and at such height that a clear and unobstructed view of the right-of-way is available to pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

COUNTY SERVICES

POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENT

If you see something suspicious, or if there is an emergency situation, call 911 for police, fire, or ambulance service.

Social services, schools, courts, building inspections, and planning and zoning services are provided by Montgomery County. In addition to Montgomery County's regulation, the Town has separate regulations for buildings and renovations.

TOWN SERVICES

REFUSE, RECYCLING AND GARDEN WASTE

- Household refuse, recyclables, and garden waste are collected **every Tuesday,** unless Christmas, New Year's Day, or July 4th fall on that day. Pickup may also be delayed because of inclement weather. In either case, pickup will occur the following day (Wednesday).
- If you have a problem with refuse collection or recycling, call **Goode Trash Removal at 240-278-2698 to speak with Miguel Saavedra,** the Operations Manager who oversees Somerset's collections.
- Cuttings, grass and leaves must be in paper bags or reusable containers. Branches may be included or bundled and must not exceed 4' in length or 4" in diameter.
- Recyclables, including commingled paper, plastic (except plastic bags and number 6 plastics), metal, glass and cardboard should be placed in a blue bin. Check the Town's website to view the Recycling Guide or obtain a copy at the Town Hall.

Composting: Food scraps, meat, dairy, grains, eggshells, paper napkins and much more will be picked up and composted by The Compost Crew. Contact information for The Compost Crew: ***customers.compostcrew.com/create-account*** or call **301-202-4450.** There is no registration fee, and you will receive an air-tight 5-gallon bin. There is a $4.00 monthly charge for a 12-gallon bin on wheels. **Pick-ups are every Tuesday, unless public holidays fall on a Monday, in which case pick-up will slide to Wednesday.** New residents should contact the Town Hall for more information about this service.

Special Trash Collections: The Town provides four special pickups during the spring and fall for large household items that are not acceptable for regular collections. The Town frequently partners with A Wider Circle or other charitable organizations for pickups of usable items.

SNOW REMOVAL

The Town is responsible for removing snow from public sidewalks when accumulation is two inches or more, and for plowing the streets. Residents are urged to keep cars off streets to facilitate plowing. Residents may make arrangements with private contractors or individuals for help clearing driveways or walkways.

LEAF COLLECTION & REMOVAL

The Town contracts with a local company, Wray Brothers Landscapes, which provides curbside leaf pickup throughout the fall (roughly mid-October through mid-December. Exact dates vary depending on the weather and leaves). During this heavy leaf season, residents can simply rake their leaves to the curb, and Wray Brothers will come through the Town to pick them up. There is no set schedule – leaf pickup trucks come through the Town daily and prioritize areas that have accumulated leaf piles. Please do not rake leaves into the street or block sidewalks. Bagged leaves continue to be picked up throughout the season on Tuesdays as part of regular trash pickup.

NOTARY SERVICES

The Town Manager, EJ Hardwick, provides notary services during normal business hours. Please call ahead for an appointment: (301) 657-3211

OUR COMMUNITY

TOWN EVENTS

Earth Day Celebration: Somerset recognizes Earth Day each year with an event to celebrate the natural environment.

Fourth of July Celebration: Each year on July 4th the Town hosts an event for residents at the Town Hall. Weather permitting, residents usually have picnics and organized games on the lawn. There is in addition a formal program in which residents, especially children, and local officials participate.

Newcomers' Welcome: Each September, the Town hosts a party to welcome new residents. Everyone in Town is invited.

Dog Swim: On the last day of each pool season, a dog swim is held at the Town Pool — one of the Town's most anticipated happenings!

Nonagenarians' Party: Every September, the Town hosts the Ice Cream Social for Nonagenarians and their spouses at the pool.

Community Service Programs: Each year, usually in November, the Town organizes a community service day held at the Town Hall. Non-perishable food items and coats are collected. There is also a Toys for Tots campaign during the holiday season.

Brown Bag Lunches: The Mayor invites Town residents to informal monthly brown bag lunches with Council Members.

Town Talks: Several times a year, the Communications Committee invites current and former Town residents to share their expertise in topics of interest to fellow residents.

SOMERSET BACK TO SCHOOL CLASSIC RACE

This race along the roads in and around Somerset — 8k for committed runners, 2k for those just along for the fun — is typically held each October. The race, which has been held every year since 1988, is a fundraiser for Somerset Elementary and managed through the school.

HELPING HAND

Helping Hand assists Somerset residents with rides to doctors, business/social appointments, or shopping, when they cannot make it on their own. There are over 30 volunteers in this group.

Residents should email ***HHSomerset@gmail.com*** or call Barbara Zeughauser at 202-368-9986, Kathleen Kenyon at 301-651-0758 or Jim Berry at 240-994-3939 to make a reservation for their help.

TOWN POOL

Located at 5545 Warwick Place, the pool is open from mid-May through early fall. The pool may only be used by Town of Somerset Residents and their guests, and by campers enrolled in Camp Summerset. Registration for residents is at no cost; a fee of $4.00 is required per guest per day. This must be pre-paid on the Pool website, ***townofsomerset.membersplash.com*** or at Town Hall. Rules about the use of the pool and the picnic area are available at the Town Hall, on the website and at the pool. Private parties may be held at the pool for a fee. Contact the Pool Manager at **301-951-1141** or consult the Town's website for more information.

- **Somerset's swim team,** the Dolphins, competes in the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL). The team is open to any Town of Somerset resident ages 6-18 who can pass the deep-water test (swimming two lengths of the pool in any manner and treading water for 1 minute). The Minis Learn To Swim program is open to residents ages 4-7. For more information about the Dolphins or the Minis, please contact Ann Bolten, Team Operations, at 206-972-3255 or ***annkelly411@gmail.com***. You can also visit the team's website at ***somersetdolphins.com*** to learn more.

- **Water aerobics classes** are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings mid-June through September on a drop-in basis, and are conducted by enthusiastic, experienced, and certified teachers. A per-class fee is required. Contact Lucy Freeman at ***dorset4708@yahoo.com*** for more information.
- **Early morning swim sessions** are held from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. There are 12 slots open (two swimmers per lane) for two different groups:
  - Group 1: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
  - Group 2: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

  The cost to participate is $100 per participant. Residents can sign up using a link that will be sent out by the Town Manager approximately two weeks prior to the Pool opening. The slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and there are no drop-ins/guests allowed. Contact the Town Manager with any questions.

ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Town Tennis Courts, Cumberland Avenue: Yearly tennis memberships can be purchased at the Town Hall. A family membership costs $35. Court reservation rules are posted at the courts and are available on the Town's website. Residents seeking a coach or a Town partner can contact the chair of the Tennis Committee at ***carrie.wofford@gmail.com***

Basketball Court, Cumberland and Wisconsin Avenues: Open to the public year-round; no reservation required. The basketball courts located at Somerset Elementary are not open to the public.

Town Communications

The Town uses a variety of means to keep its residents informed about Town activities, policies, issues under deliberation by the Mayor and Town Council, events, and initiatives in surrounding neighborhoods.

Among the Town communication methods are:

- **Town Journal:** *The Somerset Town Journal,* published monthly, is the Town's official means of communication, covering the actions of the Mayor and Town Council, news of committees, issues, events, features about residents, and classified ads. The Journal is available online (***townofsomersetmd.gov/communications/town_journal.php***) and in print. Contact Editor Leslie Caplan (***LeslieCaplan.townjournal@gmail.com***) for information. Guidelines for article submissions can be found on the Town website.

- **Town Email Announcements:** These are sent out by the Town Manager every week to residents who have provided their email addresses to the Town Hall. These emails serve as official notices about Town business, such as street cleaning and closures, leaf collection, tree removal, snow removal,Town Hall events, committee meetings, news, etc. Additional email notices are sent out on an as-needed basis.
- **Website:** The Town's website, ***townofsomersetmd.gov***, provides comprehensive information on Town government, services, permits, community facilities, and events. Residents may apply for permits on the Town website (***townofsomersetmd.gov/services/permitting.php***). They may pay online for pool guest fees and water aerobics classes using the Membersplash link (***townofsomerset.membersplash.com/***)
- **Social Media:** The Town of Somerset maintains accounts on the following platforms, where it provides information on Town events and other information: Facebook, Instagram, Threads, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Bluesky. *(See inside back cover for more information.)*

ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESOURCES

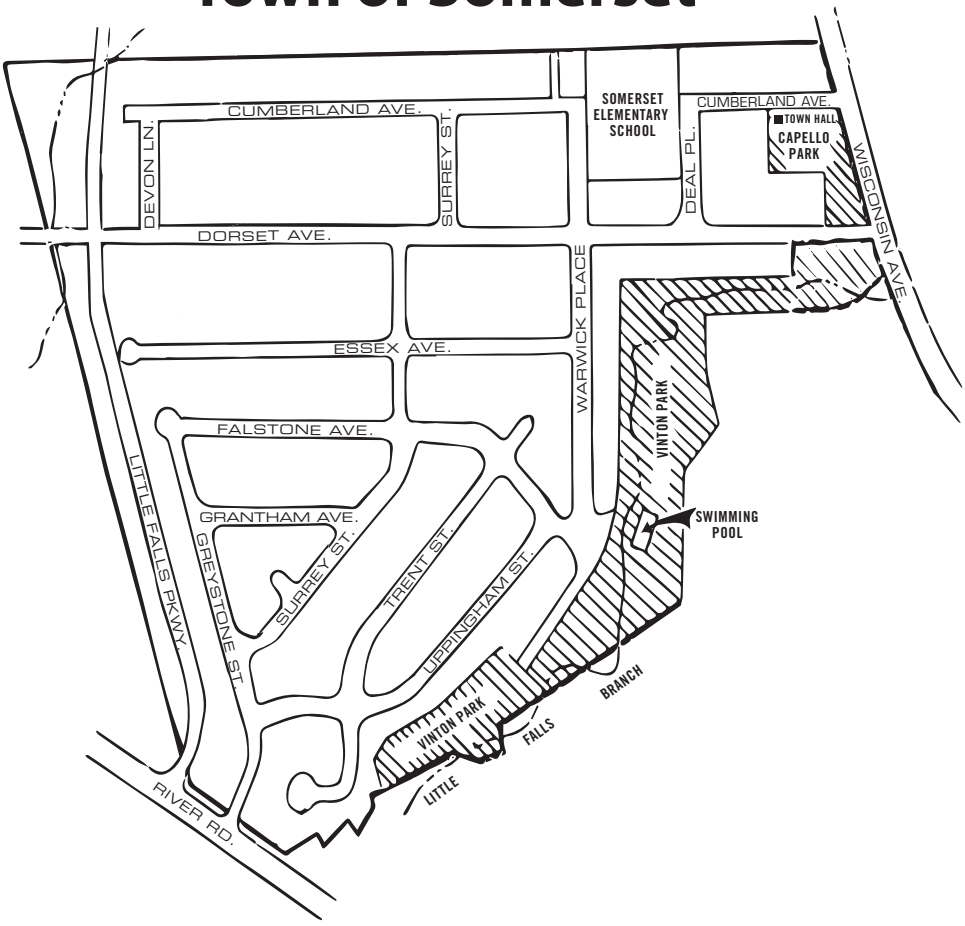
- Town residents have access to a privately-run, community-driven listserv (***somerset-list@groups.io***) for posting personal announcements and exchanging information. For more information regarding this listserv, contact Somerset resident Sarah Morse at ***morsekathan@gmail.com***. This listserv is privately maintained and not affiliated with the Town of Somerset. Residents wishing to communicate with Town officials should email the Council directly at ***council@ townofsomersetmd.gov***, or the Town staff at ***town@ townofsomersetmd.gov***
- **Alert Montgomery:** Montgomery County has an emergency alert system that provides emergency notifications on school status (closures, delays, cancellations), weather, infrastructure issues, and severe traffic issues. Alerts are delivered to designated cell, work, or home phones via text, email, or voice message. See ***www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/alertmontgomery***

Local Schools

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is Maryland's largest school system and the sixteenth largest of the 12,000-plus school districts nationwide. It oversees 211 schools: 136 elementary schools, 40 middle schools, 25 high schools, five special schools, plus two early learning centers and three offering alternative programs. Enrollment in fall 2024 was 159,671 students speaking 162 languages. MCPS transports them daily in 1,300-plus buses. Its 2025 operating budget is $3.322 billion. The website is ***montgomeryschoolsmd.org***

- Somerset Elementary School **240-740-1100**
- Westland Middle School **301-320-6515**
- Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School **240-740-1100**

Town of Somerset



TOWN OF SOMERSET'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

You can find the Town of Somerset on the following platforms:

- facebook.com/townofsomerset
- instagram.com/townofsomersetmd
- threads.net/@townofsomersetmd
- linkedin.com/company/townofsomerset
- youtube.com/@townofsomerset
- Bluesky: bsky.app/profile/townofsomersetmd.gov

To access these links, you can also consult this LinkTree: https://linktr.ee/townofsomerset.


SOMERSET POOL
5545 WARWICK PLACE





