

## Celebrate the Fourth in Somers!

Join us for our annual Independence Day parade. It starts at 2:00 p.m. on July 4th. This year's theme is "We the People."

The parade begins from the staging location at the west end parking lot of the Shoreland Lutheran High School, 9026 12th Street, and proceeds east on Highway E, ending at Somers Elementary School, 1245 72nd Avenue. The parade lasts approximately 1.5 hours. Each year the parade brings over 100 entries.

Immediately following the parade, join us for a free ice cream social sponsored by Festival Foods at the Village/Town Hall until 4:30 p.m. Volunteers from Bethany Lutheran church will be serving food and the Balloon Tycoon will be making balloon animals and other creations for the kids.

*We the People*  
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence  
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution

*Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.*  
*The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.*  
*No Representative shall be chosen who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and when elected shall have been seven Years a Citizen of the State in which he shall be chosen.*  
*The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand Persons, but each State shall have at least one Representative, and until such enumeration shall be made, the Number of Representatives shall be increased or decreased in proportion to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and Indians not taxed, in each State, which shall be ascertained by the first Enumeration after the first Meeting of the Congress, and thereafter every tenth Year, in such Manner as they shall be made by Law, which Enumeration shall be made by the Congress, and the Number of Representatives shall be increased or decreased in proportion to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and Indians not taxed, in each State, which shall be ascertained by the first Enumeration after the first Meeting of the Congress, and thereafter every tenth Year, in such Manner as they shall be made by Law.*

## More Parade Information

### Parking

Free parking will be available at the locations below. Parking attendants will guide you to an available spot. There will be no parking along the parade route.

- Somers Elementary School
- Shoreland Lutheran High School in the back lot by the track and baseball diamonds
- Village/Town Hall parking lot before noon only

### Food and beverages for sale

Grilled items, chips, and beverages will be available at Shoreland Lutheran High School until the parade starts at 2 p.m.

Somers Fire & Rescue Association will be selling hot dogs, brats, snacks, and beverages at the fire station and along the parade route from their motorized ATV food cart. Selling starts at 10 a.m. until the end of the parade.

### Free ice cream social

Thanks to generous donations from people and businesses in the community, free cake, ice cream, coffee, and water will be served by volunteers from Bethany Lutheran Church inside the Village/Town Hall.

Please plan on joining us in this longtime family-friendly Somers tradition. The ice cream social begins immediately after the parade.

## HELPFUL HINTS & TIPS

### Roads closures

Parade entrants need to access the staging grounds from the west using Highway E and 100th Avenue.

The following roads will be closed starting at noon to general traffic:

- Highway E between Highway EA and 100th Avenue
- Highway H between highways A and E
- Highway H between highways E and L
- Highway E will be inaccessible using 82nd and 80th avenues
- Highway EA between Somers Elementary School and Highway E

### Restrooms (ADA Compliant)

- Somers Elementary School
- Fire Station at the Village/Town Hall
- Neumiller Woods (west of railroad tracks)

### Garbage containers

Garbage containers will be available at the Fire Dept., Village Hall, the intersections of highways E and H, 82nd Avenue and Highway E, Highway EA at Highway E and the Somers Elementary School.

*Please help us keep our community clean by picking up your trash.*



Rescued trees were planted around the Somers Veterans Memorial behind the Village/Town Hall.

## Village rescues trees

Thanks to a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources urban forestry grant for the year 2019, the Village of Somers was able to save 22 hardwood and pine trees that would otherwise have been bulldozed.

The trees had to be removed as properties are being acquired from highway KR and highway S to widen the roadway for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation KR Project and Kenosha County Highway S Project.

The grant is an effort by the State to replace the ash trees that were cut down due to the emerald ash borer infestation.

The trees are mature, being as big as three inches in diameter.

They have been planted by the gazebo in Memorial Park, behind the Somers Town/Village Hall.

## Important dates

*The Village/Town administrative offices will be closed on the following dates:*

■ **July 4**  
*for Independence Day*

■ **Sept. 2**  
*for Labor Day*

■ **Nov. 28 - 29**  
*for Thanksgiving*

■ **Dec. 24 - 25**  
*for Christmas*

■ **Dec. 31 - Jan. 1**  
*for the New Year*



# ‘Pets’ gets improvements

The revenue share between Kenosha County and the Petrifying Springs Biergarten is paying off.

The agreement, which was brokered by the county and the operators of the Biergarten, turns a portion of the revenue back to the park.

A new ball diamond and grandstand are under construction by the Biergarten at the south entrance of the park off of Highway JR. The project is expected to be completed by July. The facility will also include storage facility and heated restrooms which will be accessible year-round for all park visitors.

The improvements to the ball field will fix the recurrent drainage issues.

In its third season, the Biergarten opened officially Memorial Day Weekend with grand-opening festivities. It is scheduled to remain open until the end of September.

The Biergarten offers a family friendly place to enjoy a wide variety of German and local craft beers as well as German-themed food.



The new bathrooms under construction by the Biergarten are scheduled to be open by the start of July.

This season’s events include live music, yoga, trivia, movie nights, bags leagues and a food truck tour series.

A full schedule of this season’s events and additional information can be found on the Biergarten website at [www.petsbiergarten.com](http://www.petsbiergarten.com) or by downloading the Biergarten app.

## Be safe on the water

The Somers Fire Department, along with other local police and fire departments and the Kenosha Unified School District, took part in the Safety Around Water Coalition (SAW) event, organized by the Kenosha YMCA to promote water safety on Saturday, May 11. This is the inaugural event that the organization plans to hold annually.

“Last year after such a deadly year in Kenosha-area waterways, the Kenosha YMCA started the SAW coalition and then the city of Kenosha declared May Water Safety Month and the idea of a water safety day was born,” said Somers Fire Dept. Lt. Ben Andersen.

The public was able to have questions answered about water safety, what to do if you find yourself in distress in the water as well as what to do if you are witness to a possible drowning.

Somers personnel also

### Safety tips

1. Know your limitations
2. Wear a life jacket
3. Never swim alone

*If you find yourself in distress, follow the Flip, Float and Follow mantra. Flip on your back; Float don’t try to swim; and Follow the currents until rescued. Don’t tire yourself fighting the current.*

took part in the water rescue demonstration with the Kenosha County Dive Team. Probationary firefighter Michael Hennessy played the victim in the water rescue scenario.

In 2018, Somers responded to three water emergency calls in the Village. In addition, the department responded to over 50 water related emergency calls in Kenosha County as a part of the Kenosha County Dive Team.

While Somers did not have any water-related fatalities in 2018, there were several in Kenosha County.



Somers fire personnel takes part in the water safety training demonstration on April 11 at the Kenosha harbor.

The medical examiner recorded seven water-related deaths that year.

Water safety is important. The area has a lot of waterways that can be used for recreational activities. People should not be afraid to go swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking or other water sports; just be safe around the water so everyone can enjoy it another day.

The Somers Fire Department is working on

acquiring more water rescue equipment and training.

Currently, all Department members are trained in basic surface water and surface ice rescue. Some members are also trained as public safety divers and swiftwater rescue technicians.

“We want to spread the word of watery safety so some day we go an entire year with no one drowning in Kenosha County,” said Andersen.



# Neumiller Park set for restoration



A sign marks the entrance of Neumiller Park.

Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) has secured grants totaling \$50,000 to restore wetlands at Neumiller Woods Park, located on the north side of 12th Street (Highway E), just west of the railroad tracks north of the village center.

This project has been five years in the making.

Root-Pike WIN helped raise more than 90 percent of the funding from non-local sources including the Department of Natural Resources and the Fund for Lake Michigan. The project also includes some in-kind ash and nuisance tree removal from the Village of Somers' Department of Public Works.

The work will start as soon as soil conditions are dry enough. It should be completed within a few weeks.

The grant allows half an acre of rare, forested wetland connected to the main tributary of the Somers Branch to be restored. Invasive species such as reed canary grass will be removed and replaced by native vegetation. The grant also includes three years of maintenance of the restored area to ensure the success of the project.

A wetland this size with a depth of about a foot can store 150,000 gallons of water, according to a 1992 Purdue University study.

Wetlands reduce the volume and velocity of storm water runoff that erodes stream banks — a problem that has plagued the Somers Branch, which flows through Neumiller Woods and Gitzlaff Park.

When storm water flows through the Somers Branch and other area tributaries to the Pike River too quickly, it erodes the river banks and causes more trees to fall into the stream. Excessive debris creates more problems for landowners and Lake Michigan downstream. This project will allow for a more gradual release of water and clean it in the process.

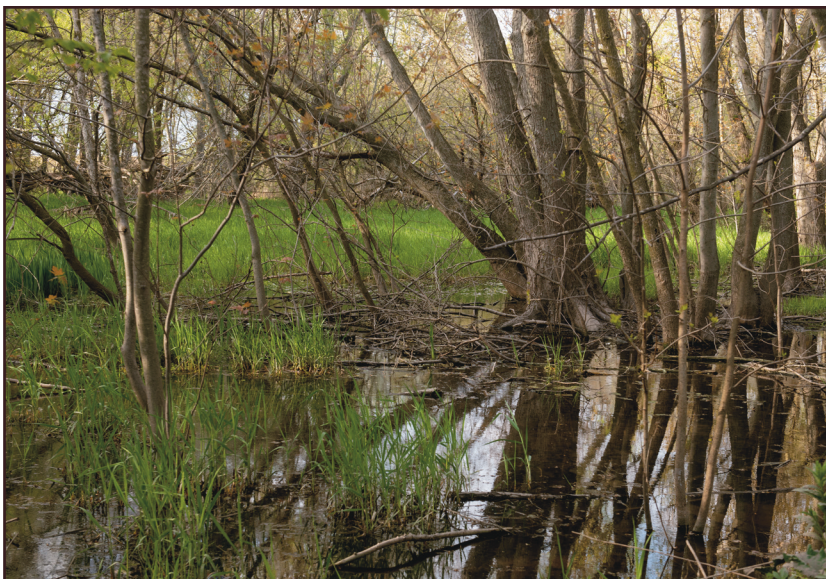
Additionally, the restored wetland will create a more stable habitat for a vast array of plants, insects, fish and animals, which are now far less common in the Pike River watershed.

The wetland will also create an opportunity to educate the public about rare wetlands that were once very common before the area was settled. Currently, approximately 90 percent of the wetlands that used to be part of the Pike River watershed are gone or altered, according to Pike River Watershed Restoration Plan (2013). Future projects would add boardwalks for easier access and education programs for area schools.

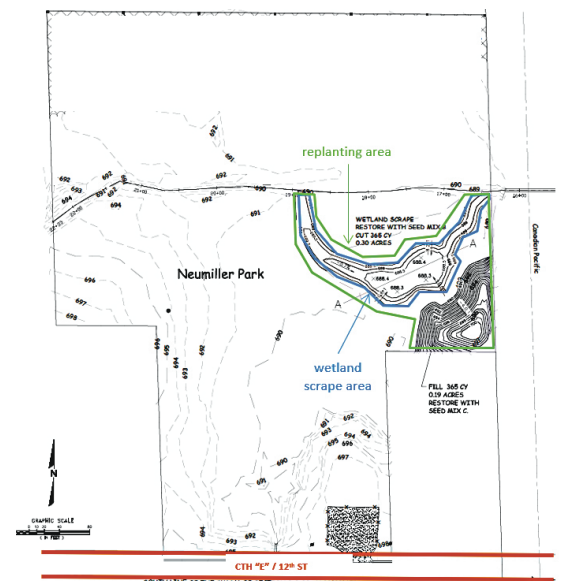
The wetland restoration is phase one of a multi-phase program, according to Dave Giordano, executive director of Root-Pike WIN.

Villani Landshapers was selected as the general contractor to do the wetland restoration, and Thompson & Associates will serve as the construction quality assurance manager. Root-Pike WIN is managing communications and providing project oversight.

The wetland restoration project is a result of a parcel-specific recommendation in the Pike River Watershed Restoration Plan.



Standing water can be seen in the Neumiller Park.



Map showing the location of the project.



# New Faces



Joe Smith

Life-long Somers resident **Joe Smith** was elected Village Trustee and appeared at his first board meeting April 9.

The 49-year-old ran for the one-year term out of curiosity to find out more about how the Village works.

"Somers is growing fast and I want to get involved and help out" he said.



Newly elected State Representative Tip McGuire is sworn-in by Kenosha County Circuit Court Judge Jodi Meier at the Somers Village/Town Hall on May 13.

**Thaddeus "Tip" McGuire**, a Somers native, chose the Somers Village/Town Hall for to be sworn in in by Kenosha Judge Jodi Meier.

Tip, a Democrat, won the special

election April 30 to represent Assembly District 64.

The position was previously held by Rep. Peter Barca, D-Kenosha, who was chosen by Gov. Tony Evers as the State Secretary of Revenue.

The Somers Village Coard hired **Kevin Poirier** as the new communications consultant.

He is replacing Jackie Nelson who was elected as a Village Trustee.

Poirier, of Kenosha, worked for years at the Kenosha News as a photographer before being promoted to Chief Photographer and Features Editor until the fall of 2018.



Kevin Poirier

## Electronic waste and shredding event

Residents are invited to drop off items to the Electronic Waste and Shredding Collection. In addition to the items you want to dispose of, bring your ID to the Somers Village/Town Hall at 7511 12th Street (Highway E) in Somers between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the first Saturday in October.

Electronic items collected include: cell-phones, computers, tablets, computer monitors, keyboards, mice, computer scanners, speakers, printers (including all-in-one), DVD players, VCRs, televisions, DVRs and all other video players, external hard drives, fax machines, flash drives, USB drives and other computer peripherals.

Bring your canceled checks, old bills, old contracts, tax information, credit card applications, or even old love letters to be shredded.



## Steil announces office hours

U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil, R-Wis., announced new office hours for residents of his district. Constituents can meet a representative from his office at the Somers Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th St. Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Anyone interested is invited to make an appointment by calling 608-752-4050 or through Steil's website.

## Help keep Somers looking good

*As a reminder, there are Village/Town ordinances regulating the upkeep of your property. It addresses items such as grass cutting, how a trailer should be kept and junk cars.*

*For more information check out chapters 10 and 21 of the Village/Town Ordinance which can be found on the website.*



## Construction reminders!

There are many constuction projects in our area and road closures change regularly.

If you are traveling this summer, or just commuting to work, find up-to-date travel information from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation at 511wi.gov.



# Somers Fire Dept. acquires new CPR machines

In April, the Somers Fire and Rescue Association (SFRA) donated the first "Lucas Machine" to the Fire and Rescue Department. This state-of-the-art device, once applied to a patient in cardiac arrest, delivers chest compressions automatically and more efficiently than a human can. Additionally, it allows the medical staff on scene to do other procedures. Compressions can continue even when a patient is being moved. This increases survival rates of cardiac arrest incidents. The SFRA was able to purchase the \$16,000 Lucas Machine through donations from the community and fundraisers like Dibbs 17, Breakfast with Santa and food sales at the Fourth of July parade. Money is being raised to purchase two more machines.

*Somers Fire and Rescue Association is a 501(c)3 corporation comprised of members of Somers Fire and Rescue with Adam Pisula as president, and can be reached at PO Box 395 Somers, WI 53171. The association is not involved in department operations.*



Somers Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Pisula demonstrates how the Lucas device works.

## Fire Dept. gives safety tips for open fire

As the summer season starts, residents should be aware of the ordinances regarding open fire. Somers Fire and Rescue Chief Carson Wilkinson offers these friendly reminders:

1. Fires must be at least 25 feet from any building.
2. Piles larger than 32 cubic feet are not allowed to be burned.
3. Fires can only be burned on your property.
4. Anything other than a camp fire or bonfire needs to be extinguished by dark.\*
5. Only clean wood or yard waste is allowed to be burned.\*\*
6. On high-wind days, burning is not permitted.
7. Flammable liquids cannot be used to start a fire.
8. Burn permits are required, except from April 15 to May 15 and Oct. 15 to Nov. 30.
9. Burn barrels are not allowed.

### Be respectful of others

If the smoke is a nuisance to neighbors or causes traffic hazards, you will be asked to put it out.

### Be safe

Fires need to be monitored at all times and be able to be extinguished right away. Make sure to have the necessary equipment to do so.

*\* A campfire is no larger than 2 foot by 2 foot by 2 foot. If you wish to have a bonfire, special permission must be obtained through the Somers Fire Dept. The fuel and area for the bonfire will be inspected and may require our Fire Department standby.*

*\*\* "Clean wood" is defined as wood that has not been painted, stained, varnished or pressure treated and does not have glue in it. This means many modern wood like plywood, particle board and other laminated wood products may not be burned.*



# In their words ...



*George Stoner  
Somers Village President*

"I want to thank all the voters who participated in the spring elections and entrusted me and the other board members to lead the Village of Somers for another term.

The Village is in the best financial position that it has been in years. We went from one of the worst rated villages in the state to one of the best with a bond rating of AA-. This gave us the opportunity to save \$180,000 when we refinanced.

The Village has seen some tremendous successes. We just completed our comprehensive Village plan which will guide our growth in the future.

On the residential front, we had more than 20 homes built, raising over \$150,000 in permit fees. Other residential developments are underway. The second phase of the Somers Market Center is under construction, adding about 50 units to the existing 200-unit mixed-housing complex.

We are excited to announce The Reserve at Pike Creek development which is proceeding and will include 241 apartments at the north-west corner of Highway E and Green Bay Road. The project will feature a total of 30 buildings. Each apartment will have a separate walk-up entrance. Amenities for residents include a swimming pool, fire pits, grilling areas, a 7,000-square-foot clubhouse, a pet washing facility and fitness center.

We are proud to continue to do our part to provide housing for residents of Kenosha County and the surrounding area.

Commercial developments are ongoing as well. The Firestone Complete Auto Care and Burger King on Market Lane have been in operation for just over a year. To the south, a new Starbucks store and Verizon store are under construction. The cellphone store should open in July, while the coffee shop is scheduled to open in the fall.

We continued to improve our current infrastructures. The Board approved the purchase of a new fire truck. We will be spending \$500,000 for road improvement. We will rehab our lift stations, the first one, located by Carthage College, was just finished, the others will be phased in over the next six years.

We have a great relationship with agencies in our area such as the Wisconsin DNR, Kenosha County and Wisconsin DOT. Through these agencies, we were able to negotiate the addition of retention ponds and improvements to ditches to be included in the KR project to alleviate the recurring flooding at 113th Avenue.

Many of you asked about the storm water utility. The Village Board will be looking at the projects within the next few weeks for the summer of 2019."

"Somers is an exciting place to live, and we are working diligently to foster growth in a sustainable way for our residents.



*Mark Molinaro Jr.  
Somers Town Chairman*

"As our spring weather struggles to warm up, the Somers Town Board members would like to remind you that our Town/Village summer sports leagues sign-ups are open. The popularity of the summer programs continues to grow and we look forward to another great year.

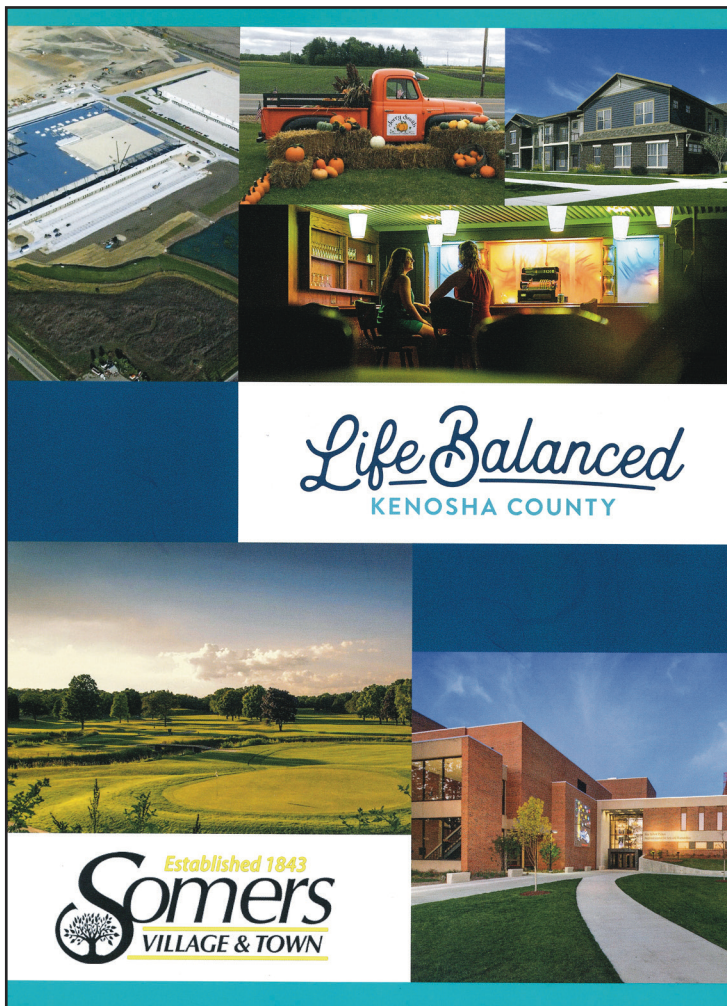
We would also like to encourage you to continue to participate in your town government. We welcome your thoughts, questions, concerns and recommendations, but we can only understand the issues if your voices are shared with the Board. Watch the website for our meeting agendas, dates and times and be present when you can. Additionally, the contact information for the Town Board members can be found on the website as well.

We will be paving a few more miles of roads this summer with funding from the Town/Village capital improvement plan budget. We continue to get favorable bids on our paving projects and have been able to stretch our dollars further than anticipated the past couple of years.

Be safe this summer drive carefully. Remember to watch for kids, bicyclists and motorcycles on our county roads."



# Promoting our community



Cover of Somers' promotional packet.

The Somers Village administration has partnered with local firm Dooley and Associates to create new retail development materials aimed at businesses, employers and job seekers relocating to the area.

The original "fact sheet" was developed by Trustee Jackie Nelson. Dooley and Associates was able to take it to the next level.

Those materials integrate with the new Life Balanced website, spearheaded by the Kenosha Area Business Alliance. Somers is now featured on that website showcasing the communities in the county. In addition to Somers, Kenosha, Pleasant Prairie Paris and Bristol are also highlighted.

It showcases the many great things that Somers has to offer.

Check the site at this link: [www.lifebalancedkenosha.com/somers/](http://www.lifebalancedkenosha.com/somers/)

## Somers Quick Facts

**Village population:** 8,827.

**Average home value:** \$256,700.

**Annually spent dining out within 10 minutes:** \$67,766,006.

**Housing units within 10 minutes:** 22,873.

**Distance to Amtrak Station:** 6.43 miles from Village/Town Hall.

**Distance to Metra Station:** 7.67 miles from Village/Town Hall.

**Number of area colleges:** 4 (Carthage College, UW-Parkside, Gateway Technical College and Herzing University.)

## Administration learns about real estate market

On April 2nd, administration representatives attended the Commercial Association of Realtors Wisconsin (CARW) event, which was put on by the Milwaukee Realtors group.

CARW brought in the International Council of Shopping Centers President and CEO Tom McGee. ICSC serves the global retail real estate

industry. It represents over 70,000 members in over 100 countries and connects them to municipalities and provides industry insights.

During industry roundtables and breakout sessions, the Somers administration had an opportunity to network with retail and commercial real estate professionals.

*Don't forget to come out and support the more than 200 children from kindergarten to high school taking part in the Co-Ed Youth Softball program.*

*Games are played at Somers Memorial Park, located behind the Village/Town Hall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting at 5:30. The season runs through Aug. 1.*

*Bleacher seating is available as well as snacks and refreshments.*

*Come out and support this great family event.*

*The Village and Town of Somers "Connecting With Your Community" newsletter is published by the Village/Town of Somers for public education and informational purposes. This newsletter is distributed to the residents via the U.S. Postal Service.*

*William Morris, Village/Town Administrator, Managing Editor. Kevin Poirier, News and Creative Editor.*

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