

Somers July 4th Parade and Ice Cream Social Parade Begins at 2:00 PM

Everyone Invited—Directions

Grab your lawn chair, hat, and sunglasses and join us for Somers 51st parade and ice cream social! We have a reputation for being one of **THE BEST** family-friendly small town parades in the area.

The parade route begins at the intersection of Highways H and E. It proceeds east on Highway E, ending at Somers Elementary School. The parade length is approximately 1-1/2 hours. See you on the 4th!

Food and Beverages for Sale



Shoreland Lutheran High School (Highway E west of Highway H) will be selling grilled items, chips, and beverages until the parade starts at 2:00 PM.

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 AM until the end of the parade. The Association will also be sponsoring a public cook-out at the Veteran's pavilion behind the Village/Town Hall following the parade.

Free Parking

Somers Elementary School

Village/Town Hall parking lot



Shoreland Lutheran High School

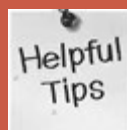
Free Ice Cream Social



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 long-time friendly Somers tradition. The ice cream social begins immediately following the parade.

Helpful Hints & Tips

Road Closed



Highway E between Highway H and Highway EA (parade route) will be closed starting at **12:30 PM** to general traffic. Only emergency vehicles and parade entrants will be allowed to enter. Traffic will be directed in these areas.

Restrooms (ADA Approved)

& Garbage Container Locations

Somers Elementary School

Fire Station at the Village/Town Hall

Neumiller Woods (west of the railroad tracks)

Indoor toilets are available inside the Village/Town Hall

**A MESSAGE FROM
THE TOWN CHAIRMAN***“Town residents are in very good position.”*

It has been just over one year since the Town of Somers, with a singular government and its fair share of budget problems, was successful in an incorporation effort that promised village status and the road to future growth and financial stability. Many in what was referenced as the “remnant town” or the “B zone”, the area of the Town of Somers slated to be annexed into the City of Kenosha by the year 2035 and therefore unable to achieve village

status, were concerned that we would be on our own to survive as a governmental entity with little to no tax base and all but zero opportunity for development. Many were skeptical about the ability of the Village and Town being able to work together. Early indications led some to believe, myself included, that cooperation would not be possible. Quite the opposite occurred.

I am pleased to say that the Town residents are in fact in a very good position. There is a great deal of promise for the future of Somers as a whole. The twelve Village Trustees and Town Supervisors, committed Somers residents, cre-

ated an intergovernmental agreement which outlines a shared vision and commitment of cooperation. We have much to look forward to between now and the expiration of the annexation agreement in 2035.

As a result of incorporation, the Town’s population has been significantly reduced which has prompted the decision to downsize the number of Supervisors from four to two. Effective midnight on December 31, 2016, the Town Board will consist of one Chairman and two Supervisors.

I want to thank the Village President, George Stoner, and the entire Village Board for their efforts and approach to making sure all residents of Somers continue to be well represented. I am honored to serve as your Town Board Chairman and will continue to work with the Village Board in my efforts to represent the interests of the “remnant” Town of Somers. Please do not hesitate to give me a call with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Molinaro, Jr., Chairman, Town of Somers

E-mail: mmolinaro@somers.org

**NEW 4-WHEEL DRIVE AMBULANCE**

The Village Board approved the purchase of a new ambulance on April 26, 2016. The current ambulance, a 2000 Med-Tec, is nearing its life expectancy and is incurring significant repair costs.

The new 2017 Life-Line 171” Super Liner Type I features a Ford E450 chassis.

Life-Line is proudly manufactured in Sumner, Iowa. It will be customized to meet our needs, and it is equipped with a new stretcher, replacing one that is 20 years old. The cost is \$205,000.00. The purchase does not require any down payment during the 2016 budget cycle; however, full payment is due upon delivery in January, 2017.

**22ND AVENUE WATER MAIN PROJECT
SLATED FOR 2016**

Aging and weakening of the existing cast iron pipes, installed in the 1970’s, have caused numerous water main breaks on 22nd Avenue. The expense of repairs, age of the mains, and unreliability, especially in the winter, triggered the need for replacement. New mains will be installed on 22nd Avenue between Highway E and Highway A (Berryville Road). The project is expected to be completed in October or November, 2016.

**SOMERS WELCOMES****NEW FIRE CHIEF, CARSON WILKINSON**

Chief Wilkinson was sworn-in as the new Fire Chief by Tim Kitzman, Clerk/Treasure at a ceremony held on March 10, 2016. Chief Wilkinson was born in Burlington, Wisconsin and raised in Kenosha County. He started his path toward a career in fire and rescue in 1960. Since then has held a variety of fire and rescue positions. Prior to accepting the position in Somers, Wilkinson held the position of Safety Director at Elkhart Lake’s Road America’s race track (Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin) where he was responsible for a staff of over 350 paid-per-day firefighters, EMT’s, nurses, doctors, and flaggers that helped protect racers and fans.

**A MESSAGE FROM
THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT***"What a difference a year makes!"*

On April 24, 2015 Somers became a new village. June 9, 2015, voters elected a new village president and six trustees. These two events immediately triggered action from major investors who were sitting in the sidelines waiting for village status. Within weeks, developers submitted their proposed plans to the Plan Commission and Board of Trustees.

As a condition to proceed, the three developers, (First Park 94, Festival Foods, and the 280-unit residential housing project from Bear Development), required Somers to provide storm and sanitary sewer and water where there was none, and Tax Incremental Districts that didn't exist. Thanks to the village administration, trustees, and our professional advisors, we provided exceptional customer service and got our job done so development could proceed within their deadlines.

What is the result? First Park 94 has completed their first building, Festival Foods structure is finished, and construction is taking place on Bear's apartment project. The three

developments will produce a cumulative of \$224 million in economic benefits to Somers and Kenosha County over the next ten years.

This past year, many behind-the-scene man hours were spent earning a reputation of being "developer-friendly" to those who chose Somers to invest their capital. Every effort was made to raise the level of sophistication by creating new administrative processes and new policies that are essential to manage growth in our community. We achieved success because everyone worked together. Relationships are everything.

This newsletter is evidence that many good things are happening in our community, and this is just the beginning. Saying that, we also make it a priority to honor and respect our rich agriculture and rural history, which are the very reason why residents love living in Somers! To all our residents and businesses, thank you all for your support and confidence.

Sincerely,

George Stoner, President, Village of Somers

E-mail: gstoner@somers.org



A RECORD 302 PERMITS WERE ISSUED IN 2015 WHICH RESULTED IN NEW ONE-TIME PERMIT REVENUE OF \$306,528.11.

Nearly 60% of the \$306,528.11 has come primarily from First Park 94, Somers first industrial park. The second largest category, approximately 12%, was received from new single family homes, most of which are located in the Parkside Springs subdivision on Highway E just east of Highway 31.

A small portion of the 2015 fees received, which were the result of new sewer and water utility connections, were directed to the Somers Utility District. The majority remained in the general operating fund where the fees contributed to the elimination of the 2014 negative general fund balance.

73% of the permit fees were the result of permits for property improvement, while 27% accounting for new construction. Of the 302 permits, 76% were residential, 1% multi-family, and 23% were commercial related.

2015 -Year of Economic Growth

**Building Permit
Revenue Surges 103%**

**Construction Value
Increases 54.8%**



Administrative Offices

Holiday Closing

July 4

September 5

November 24 & 25

August 9 Election

Partisan Primary

U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, State Assembly, State Senate, and Kenosha County elected officials

November 8 Election

Presidential & General

Shoot! Pass! Dribble! 68 Kids Enjoy Somers Youth Basketball



68 parents enrolled their children in the 2016 Somers Youth Basketball program, managed by Kevin Griffin, Somers Recreation Director. The program, which ran from January-April, held clinics on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings between 6-8 PM for children from Kindergarten to 5th grade. All children, resident and non-resident, were welcome to participate.

Assisting Griffin during the 2016 season was Nick Perrine, who served as clinician/referee. Perrine brings significant experience and energy to the program. He is a retired physical education teacher for Kenosha Unified School District, is listed in the



Kenosha softball hall of fame, and coached St. Joseph's high school baseball teams just to name a few of his accomplishments. He is also a local announcer of high school football and basketball for Kenosha's WLIP. The children enrolled in the program also received one-on-one attention from the following coaches who volunteered their time: Mike Bergnach, Leo Cucunato, John Delavan, Gary Ellis, Kyle Griffin, Ryan Helton, Matt Krauter, and Steve Ripper, and Shawn Steel.

Softball Light Replacement "in the works" Somers Memorial Park

This year, 340 youth will participate in Somers co-ed t-ball and softball leagues. All games are evening games, requiring long-distance lighting to meet the viewing needs of both players and spectators. About 40 years ago, in the mid 1970's, six light poles with 47 light bulbs and fixtures were installed at the Somers ball park, and, 40 years of weather and old technology have taken their toll. The lights are not reliable and when all are working, only illuminate 30% of the field. Bulbs are approximately \$10 each and public works, who is responsible for the maintenance, finds up-keep and replacement of parts costly and ineffective.

The plan is to replace the old bulbs with LED lights. The six light poles will be reduced to three and field viewing will increase from the current 30% to 100%. The vendor, Musco Lighting, includes a 25-year maintenance program (parts and labor) with the light purchase. The cost estimate is \$120,000.00. In April, 2016, Somers submitted a \$60,000 grant request to the Baseball Tomorrow Fund. If approved, matching funds will be required by the Village/Town of Somers.

Somers New Youth Recreation Director Kevin Griffin



As a result of Somers expanding their youth programs, Griffin was hired to serve as Recreation Director for all Somers youth programs. This year, Kevin Griffin will mark his third season overseeing the Somers youth co-ed softball program. His experience is extensive and we receive many compliments from parents about the positive impact our softball and basketball programs have on their children. Welcome Kevin!



BATTER UP!! STARTS JUNE 7TH

COME AND WATCH 340 KIDS PLAY BALL

SOMERS CO-ED YOUTH SOFTBALL LEAGUES

Pre-Kindergarten (t-ball) through High School (softball)

Play 6:00 PM Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Nights

Somers Memorial Park next to the Village/Town Hall

Season Starts June 7 and runs through July 28th

SOMERS RECREATION DEPARTMENT MISSION

Foster personal, recreational, physical, ethical, and social development by offering programs that address competition, following instructions, leadership, and social interaction.

Help youth develop a positive attitude toward life-time fitness and healthy lifestyles. Teach not only sport skills, but also life skills including teamwork and conduct.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED NOVEMBER 8TH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Tim Kitzman, Clerk/Treasurer, anticipates a large voter turnout for the November 8th election. He is looking to fill 15 new paid poll worker positions for this election only. Potential workers must be Kenosha County residents. New poll workers will be paid \$15.00 for a two-hour September training session and \$110.00 for election day work. Persons interested in serving should expect a 16-hour day for this election. Contact Tim Kitzman at 262-859-2822 or e-mail at tkitzman@somers.org.



**880 TONS!
WOW!
...WAY TO GO SOMERS!!!**

Somers recycled 800 tons in 2015, a **22.5% increase** from 2014. Recycling in one container has encouraged residents to increase their recycling activity. Thanks to all of you, we can make a difference, one community at a time.

Important Fact

The 2015 change in garbage and recycling vendors will save Somers taxpayers up to \$500,000 during the new five-year contract with Advance Disposal.



2015 AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS: HEALTHY IMPROVEMENT

On March 30, 2016, the draft of the 2015 Somers audit was presented by a representative of the firm of Andrea & Orendoff of Kenosha, Wisconsin, to the Village Board of Trustees.

Somers earned an impressive rating, achieving a "clean" audit, indicating there were no exceptions. This outstanding result demonstrates that the Village administration and Board of Trustees policies and procedures were followed and executed and in compliance with the Government Accountability Standards Board accounting principles. The highlight featured a very healthy improvement of the general operating fund, showing a balance of \$531,704 as of December 31, 2015.



SOMERS WELCOMES FESTIVAL !

GRAND OPENING TARGETED FOR JULY 22, 2016.

**SOMERS—HIGHWAY 31 NORTH OF SAM'S CLUB-
WATCH KENOSHA NEWS FOR DETAILS**

SOMERS FIRE & RESCUE COMMENDATION AWARDS

Dr. Ben Feinzimer, Kenosha County EMS Medical Director and Somers Fire Chief Carson Wilkinson, recognized members of the Somers Fire & Rescue Department for their dedication and exemplary service to the community. The awards were presented for the actions taken on March 12, 2016 when Somers responded to call for a man down. Ultimately the life of a 33 year old man was saved and their collective efforts resulted in this person walking and talking today.



Photo left to right: Aaron Strom, Ryan Nelson, John McMahon, Christopher Mason, Daniel Quntanilla, Ben An-

HONOR A VETERAN

PURCHASE BRICK PAVER FOR

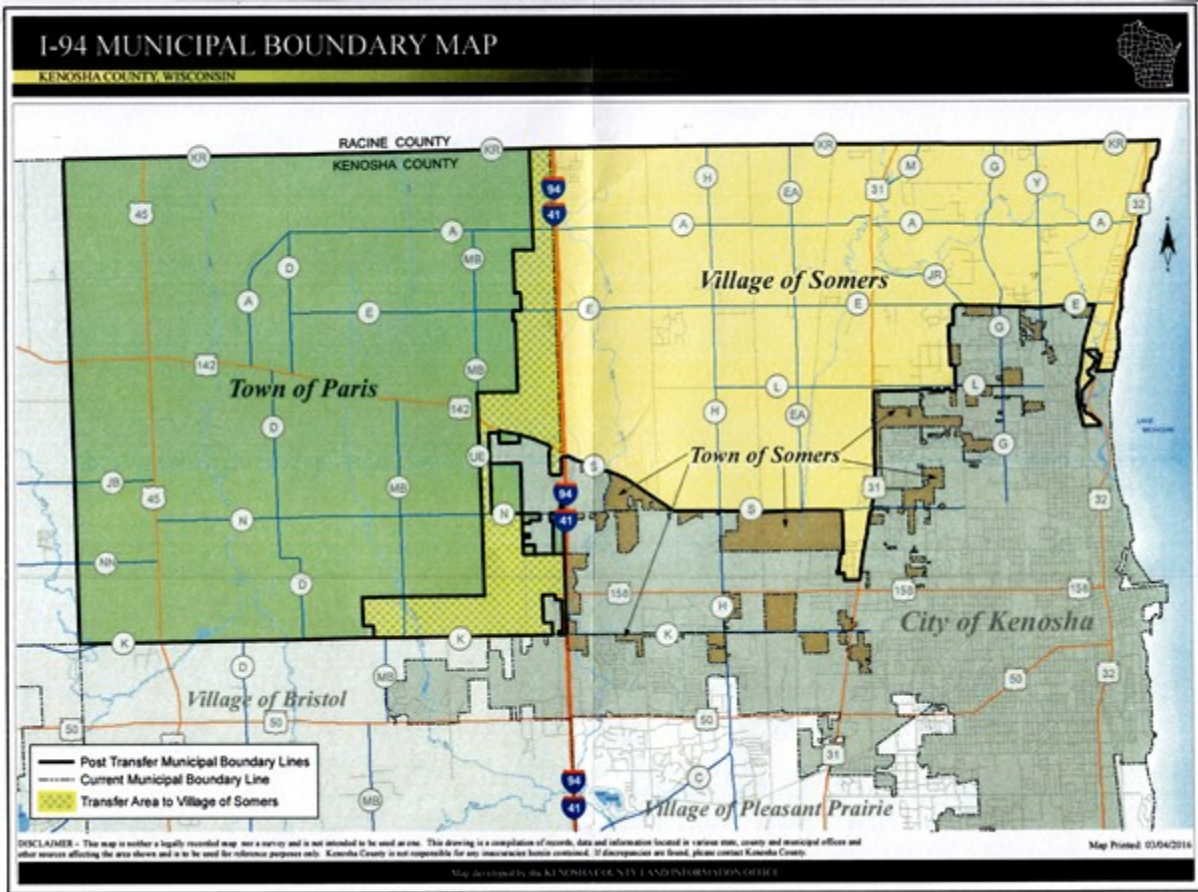
THE "PATHWAY OF HONOR"

AT SOMERS MEMORIAL PARK

Pavers may be purchased for \$100.00 to honor or memorialize ANY U.S. Veteran or current active duty U.S. military member.

Contact Jerry Smith or Tim Kitzman at the Village/Town hall at 262-859-2822

VILLAGE OF SOMERS-TOWN OF PARIS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT



The Village of Somers and the Town of Paris held a joint public meeting on a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement pursuant to Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes on April 7, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Kenosha County Center Hearing Room on the corner of Highways 45 and 50.

Summary

The Village of Somers and the Town of Paris wished to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement where the two municipalities would come together in their visions and plans to address and resolve issues of mutual interest. The Agreement adjusts and establishes a new boundary separating the Town of Paris and the Village of Somers, transferring 2,572.6 acres in the Town of Paris adjacent to I-94 and Highway K to the Village of Somers. The new boundary area will be called the "I-94 Corridor Neighborhood Planning Area".

Highlights

The Agreement promotes a planning process, management structure, marketing plan, and revenue-sharing plan to encourage sound economic development of the I-94 corridor neighborhood. The Village of Somers will have the responsibility for serving and managing new development that considers the use of Tax Incremental Financing as a tool to foster new business sought by both the Village of Somers and the Town of Paris. Both the Village of Somers and the Town of Paris believe this approach will provide mutual benefits to the citizens of both communities.

Somers Village Board and the Paris Town Board executed the Agreement April 7, 2016.

Recent

The Clerk of the Town of Paris was served petition pages seeking to hold a referendum on the Intergovernmental Agreement. On May 20, 2016, the Clerk posted a Certificate of Insufficiency on Paris.org stating that the petitions were insufficient to require a referendum. The Village of Somers officials are hopeful that the Court will approve the Agreement and its implementation.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved hiring **Anandhi Krishnan** on April 26, 2016 to serve as Somers Accounting Manager and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer. She was selected from a slate of 26 applications for this position. Krishnan earned her bachelor's degree in commerce and accounting and has over seventeen years of related experience. She will be responsible for day-to-day fiscal operations including general ledger, account analysis, reconciliations, related software modules, grant management, payroll back up, state reporting, tax incremental district accounting, and other duties that support Tim Kitzman, Clerk/Treasurer perform his duties as defined in Wisconsin Statutes.

Krishnan was hired to replace **Janet Cushing** who served in this position since 2013. Cushing retired from her position effective June 3, 2016, the same day as her husband retired from his job. Together, the Cushing's plan to enjoy camping, fishing, and traveling. Thank you Janet, and safe travels as you enjoy your new adventures!

Sue Prostko and **Anna McGuire**, both residents of the Town of Somers were elected to the Town Board of Supervisors in April, 2016. Prostko will serve as Supervisor #2 and Anna McGuire will serve as Supervisor #4. Prostko and McGuire terms end January 1, 2017 when the Somers Town Board reduces to a three-member Board.

Wal-Mart, Somers Market Center, donated mulch for our Somers parks.

Yutka Fence, a family owned business located in Somers, donated the fence by the softball diamond at Somers Memorial park.

Jeff Michaud, owner of Tree Solutions, donated his services to cut a dead ash tree down, including stump removal, from the grounds at the Village/Town Hall. Michaud is a life-long resident of Somers. He currently lives in Somers on a hobby farm with his family.

Village Plan Commission 2016 appointments: **Paul Aiello, Donald Boxx, Bob Lee, John Lichter, Jim Smith, Randy Zerzanek**

Village Board of Appeals 2016 appointments: **Michael DeLuca, Greg Sinnen**

Village Park Committee 2016 appointments: **Tom Maurer, Sherri Heinisch, Tyson Froh, Mike Gorman, Steve Maurer, Greg Retzlaff, Judy Schantek, Gordon Lake**

Village Board of Fire Commissioners 2016 appointments: **Greg Retzlaff, Michael DeLuca**

Thank you to Master Gardeners **Margie Hannes, Deanna Leipzig, Dave Ginger, Sharon Janusz, and Dr. Rafi Rafiullah** for donating their time and Master Gardener skills to perform spring clean-up in our Rain Garden located next to the entrance of the Village/Town Hall. Also donating their time and garden expertise was **Tim Fulton** and **Mark Pellicori**.

This spring, the **Somers Chargers 4-H** group created their "Spring into Somers" wall art project on our new lobby bulletin boards. Thank you **Sally Dahl**, General Leader, for organizing and coordinating this wonderful youth project. Exhibit ended June 5.



Judy Schantek, former Town of Somers Supervisor, Parade Chairperson, and current teacher at **Somers Elementary School**, organized a group of students to create a wall art project on our lobby bulletin board featuring the July 4th Independence Day theme. Please stop in the Village/Town Hall after the parade to view the work of our talented youth. Exhibit began June 6.

Jim Smith has taken over the responsibility of serving as Administrator of the **Oakwood Cemetery Association**. Oakwood Cemetery was established for Somers pioneers in the 1840's on the corner of Highways E and Green Bay Road. Oakwood is a rural, non-denominational community cemetery. Lots are available. Thank you to **John Marti**, a long-time Somers resident who recently retired after serving many, many years.

CARTHAGE COLLEGE LIFT STATION PROJECT STATUS- SHERIDAN ROAD CORRIDOR

Installed in 1962, the 54 year old lift station and forced main, which provides sanitary sewer and storm water processing for the Sheridan Road corridor, is in the process of being replaced. The service extends from Carthage College north to County Road KR (Kenosha Racine County Line Road).

The station has reach its life expectancy as evidenced by more frequent costly repairs and aged technology. Replacement will avoid the risk of sewer utility back-ups and problems for customers. The engineering for the project has been completed. The specifications have been forwarded to the City of Kenosha and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with a request to approve. We are prepared to begin construction in 2016 when approvals are received.

The Village and Town of Somers 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

Jacqueline Klapproth Nelson, News and Creative Editor

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VILLAGE TRUSTEES TAKE HISTORIC STEP TO CREATE TEN-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Village Trustees met on May 11, 2016 to review a newly established ten-year financial plan that ensures adequate funds are committed for preservation, maintenance, improvement, or replacement of Somers buildings, vehicles, roads, utilities, and equipment. This differs from priors years where annual budgets addressed primarily current and short-term needs.

The ten-year plan establishes priorities and anticipates contingencies that relate to the annual operating budget. This plan also serves as a tool for determining what improvements are necessary relating to developers, intergovernmental partners, and our residential communities. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be reviewed and updated annually by the Village Board as part of the budget process.

The new plan will undertake several revisions and reviews before the Village Trustees vote to approve. It is expected the CIP will be implemented during the 2017 budget process. Upon approval, a copy of the complete plan will be posted on Somers.org.



NEW INFORMATION SOMERS ANIMAL CONTROL

CAPTURE

Somers has contracted with Robert W. Melby, Jr. of Clawz and Pawz, for animal control services. Residents may contact Melby 24 hours a day/7 days a week to **capture** a lost/found stray domestic dog, including those who are injured or dangerous. Upon capture, the animal will be transported to Safe Harbor Humane Society in Kenosha.

Clawz and Pawz telephone (262)880-3482.

IMPOUNDMENT AND CARE

Somers has contracted with Kenosha County Humane Society d/b/a Safe Harbor Humane Society to temporarily house, feed, water, and care for animals brought in by Clawz and Pawz. Safe Harbor shall promptly attempt to notify the owners. **We encourage all owners to provide a CURRENT identification tag and/or ear chip so every effort can be made to return your pet.**

2015 animal control cost to Somers taxpayers was \$15,085.

SOMERS RECIPIENT OF 2016 URBAN FOREST GRANT FOR EMERALD ASH BORER PROBLEM

The Village of Somers was awarded a \$5,000 start-up urban forest grant in 2016 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Grants are offered to support municipalities in their effort in community tree management.

The grant eased the high cost of Somers removing all species of ash tree located in public right-of-ways that have been attacked by the Emerald Ash Borer. Infected trees typically die in one to three years once infected.

Jerry Smith, Public Works Supervisor, estimates the Sunset Ridge subdivision areas has approximately 100 ash trees that are severely damaged or dead, requiring removal in 2016. In the fall of 2015, Smith completed an informal inventory of infected ash trees in the Village and Town of Somers. This will serve as a work-in-progress plan for tree removal in the upcoming years.

The start-up grant, which required a 50-50 match, helped fund this \$10,000 public works project. Upon completion of the work, Somers will apply for their 50% approved reimbursement.