



7511 12th Street, Somers, Wisconsin, 53171

NEWSLETTER

Connecting with Your Community

Issue 9: December, 2019

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Happy Holidays!

The Village and Town of Somers have experienced extensive growth this year.

Housing construction is booming. The second phase of the Market Square Apartments is complete, and the Hawthorn Apartments are being built right now.

Businesses are moving to the area. Starbucks is open. Oakfire restaurant and Jiffy Lube have been approved.

A 24-hour veterinary hospital has broken ground and the Pritzker Military Archives has been approved.

It is an exciting time to live in Somers, and we are looking forward to more exciting announcements in 2020.



2020 budget reinvests in the community

The Somers budget was approved unanimously at the Nov. 26 board meeting.

The approved 2020 general fund budget for the town and village is \$5,159,752.

The village's 2020 mill rate will be 6.33 per thousand dollars of assessed value, up from 6.01 in 2019.

This translates into an increase of about \$66 for the average village home value of \$206,600.

The 2020 public safety budget will increase by 3 percent.

That increase is due to the addition of a third-shift deputy which will take place in the later part of 2020.

Some of the reasons for the general fund changes from 2019 to 2020:

- The village tax levy went up by 2.19 percent from last year.

- State shared revenue and personal

property tax have increased.

- The environmental improvement fund decreased because of a one-time contribution payment in 2019.

- Revenue from building permits and court penalties are budgeted to increase.

- The village is adding a new accounting position for 2020.

- The village market revaluation will incur assessor cost.

- The village adopted a 5-year contract with John's Disposal starting Jan. 1, 2020.

- The 2020 presidential election will cause an increase in expenses.

The town's mill rate for 2020 will be 5.61 per thousand, up from 5.54 in 2019.

To calculate your share of taxes, find the assessed value of your home, divide it by 1,000 and multiply it by the mill rate.

Remember that your taxes will be higher as there are other taxing bodies.

Election workers needed

Somers is looking for dependable residents to assist at the two polling stations for the 2020 election.

These non-partisan positions are a great way to participate in the democratic process.

Positions are paid.

You must attend training which is also paid.

Please contact Village/Town Clerk Tim Kitzman at 262-859-2822.

Village takes part in DNR Urban Forestry Grant



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

The Village and Town of Somers are participating in the 2019 Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grant. Somers received the grant in 2018 and 2016. This year the grant amounts to just over \$20,000 and reimburses work done to promote sustainable urban and community forestry. The grant reimburses up to 50 percent of the cost of qualifying work done throughout the year.

The final paperwork will be submitted for review to the DNR at the end of the year. The Village should receive the money it qualifies for in March, 2020.

Village of Somers employees have been rescuing trees that would have been torn down from road construction. Some were planted this spring in Veterans Memorial Park for all to enjoy. Other work includes the removal of trees that are a public safety hazard and dead ash trees. New trees will be planted to replace them as soon as weather allows, according to Somers Public Works Superintendent Jerry Smith.

"We will be purchasing new trees before the end of the year," he said.

Somers is also conducting a tree inventory to identify trees in the public domain, identify trees that would endanger residents and conduct regular trimming and pruning.

"It is an organized approach to maintain the forestry of the Village of Somers, which we never had in the past," said Smith. "The program enhances the urban forest canopy, which provides better air quality for everyone."

More information about the grant and the work Somers is doing can be found on the Somers website. General information about tree pruning, planting and invasive species is also available there.

Pritzker Military Archives moves forward

The Village Board approved a zoning change clearing the way for the Pritzker Military Archives project to go forward. The vote took place at the Nov. 12 Village Board Meeting and was unanimous.

All the stipulations and restrictions of the agreement are available on the Somers website.

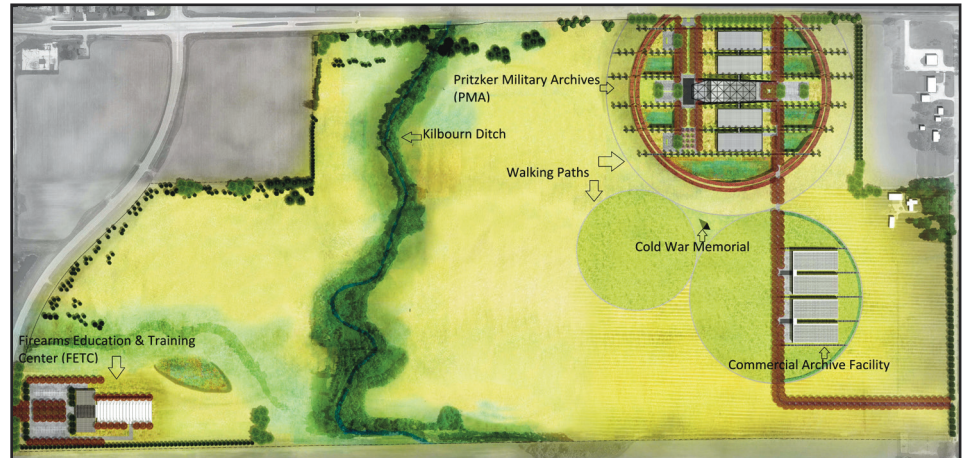
Members of the public presented their concerns to the board and Trustees addressed the public before the vote.

Trustee Jacqueline Klapproth Nelson was last to speak and echoed the feeling from other members of the board saying she believes the project will be a benefit to Somers taxpayers as well as the entire community by providing diverse development in the area.

"There's a history and education element that adds culture to Somers," she said about the project. "The significant amount of green space is an environmental positive. Something a warehouse development would never give us."

The mission of the Pritzker Military Archives is to preserve the artifacts relating to the citizen soldier.

Besides the Pritzker Military Archives, the project will include an indoor Firearms Education and Training Center (FETC), a memorial dedicated to those who served in the Cold War,



A map provided by the developer shows the location of buildings on the property.

community green space and commercial archives. The development is planned to take about 10 years until full completion and will be done in three phases:

■ Phase one of the 288-acre project will include the archives, workspace and gallery center. Construction of green space, including bike and walking paths and picnic areas will also be part of this phase. It should be concluding within three years.

■ Phase two, which should take five years, includes the Cold War Memorial and the commercial archives.

■ The FETC will be built in the third phase of the project, which should be concluded within 10 years.

Of the total acreage, 105 is unbuildable.

The developer will be seeking tax exemption for 10 acres.

A conservative preliminary estimate from the village concludes that Somers will receive just over \$360,000 in increased tax revenue every year once the project is complete and TID 6 is retired.

The village will also benefit from the project paying the upfront cost of about \$14,000,000 to bring sewer and water to the property, allowing for neighboring properties to be developed in the future and become more valuable adding tax revenue for Somers.

Somers to get pizzeria

Oakfire, a Lake Geneva pizzeria, is planning to open a second location in the Market Center development in Somers. The restaurant will be located on the south west corner of Market Lane and 35th Street.

The company's Lake Geneva location is at 831 Wrigley Dr.

The restaurant specializes in Neapolitan Pizza, a traditional pie made with fresh and simple ingredients such as tomatoes and mozzarella. It is known for its smokey-charred outer crust and soft, delicate center.

Each pizza is wood fired at 1,000 degrees in an imported Stefano Ferrara oven, according to the company.

The menu will include locally sourced ingredients and some imported from Italy.

The Somers restaurant will be about 10,000 sq. ft., with an outdoor eating area and have parking for 134 vehicles.



A rendering of the new Oakfire restaurant shows its outdoor eating area.

New garbage pickup provider hired

On Sept. 24, the Somers Village Board unanimously approved a new 5-year contract for garbage pick up. Johns Disposal Service was the low bidder out of three other vendors.

The new contract is an increase of \$70,000 from last year, a direct result of the increased market-cost of recycling.

The village supports the recycling program as it helps in the process of obtaining grants.

"It is helping our grant writing to keep recycle tonnage up," said Village Administrator Bill Morris. "Please continue to recycle."

Recyclables include:

- Brown, green and clear glass
- Steel, bimetal and aluminum cans
- Plastics numbered 1 through 7
- Rigid plastic containers
- Newsprint, paper, magazines and flattened cardboard
- Aseptic containers including milk cartons, juice boxes and juice cartons
- Other materials mandated by State or Federal agencies.



Whitewater & Franksville, WI

Recycling pick up will occur every other week. The new map and schedule is available on the Somer website.

The vendors will also offer large bulk pickup. Residents who want a pickup will need to make an appointment and will be charged \$50 if the items can be picked up within 5 minutes. Additional charges will apply for larger loads.

Johns Disposal Service will provide and maintain carts to Village Residents. Each residence will receive two 95-gallon carts: one for garbage, one for recycle collection. Any additional items that do not fit in the cart will have to be picked up by a bulk pickup.

Multifamily apartments will be provided dumpsters.

In addition, the contractor will provide electronic and shredding collection annually.

Somers gets new engine, updates fleet

A new fire engine has been delivered to the Somers Fire Department. It features a 1,000-gallon tank, a 1,500 gallon per minute pump and a top-mounted panel.

It also includes a tower light to illuminate emergency scenes. All lighting is LED and eliminates the need for a separate generator on board.

The engine replaces the unit at Station 1 which was over 20 years old and taken out of service in September as it became unsafe.

The village will pay \$520,000 for it in January 2020, including leasing for the remainder of 2019.

The engine will carry rescue equipment including \$30,000 for new self-contained breathing apparatus and \$40,000 for two new extrication tools.

It will also include hearing protection for firefighters and a two-way radio system to allow them to communicate.

A second engine from Rosenbauer will be delivered in the spring of 2020 for a cost of \$480,000.

That engine will be assigned to Station 2 and feature a 1,000-gallon water tank, a 2,000 gallon per minute pump and a top mount panel for the pump operator. It will replace a 20-year old unit.

The Fire Department is also purchasing a new ambulance



Somers Firefighters push the new fire engine in Station 1's the bay in front of people gathered for the dedication ceremony Nov. 17, 2019.

to replace one built in 2006 with 129,751 miles. The new ambulance will cost \$281,764. It will be very similar to the one purchased 2 years ago. It is scheduled to be delivered in January.

Thank You

Congratulations to Ann Brumback. After 15 years as administrative assistant to Village/Town Administrator Bill Morris, Brumback announced she will retire at the end of the year.

She has organized, assisted, planned, solved, coordinated and done a billion other things to keep the administrative office running smoothly.

Thank you Ann for all your hard work, strong work ethic and keeping the office organized.

The Somers/Village Town Hall will not be the same without you.

We also want to welcome Scott Fredrick who was just appointed to the Somers Plan Commission.

Peggy Kormylo and Tom Larsen were also reappointed to the Board of Appeals.

Thank you for your service.

Reminders



■ *If you live near a fire hydrant, please make sure it is clear and accessible to Somers firefighters. For your safety and that of your neighbors, snow should be kept 3*

feet away.

■ *Residents can help determine where we need to focus our efforts during our winter road maintenance work by reporting potholes. We want to repair them promptly.*

Call Village/Town Hall at 262-859-2822

■ *Residents can help keep their water system functioning by trickling water in drains during subzero weather.*

A pencil-lead size trickle is all that is needed.

New village ordinances

The Village of Somers has passed 42 new ordinances this year.

More than half update existing shoreline floodplain ordinances to comply with DNR and FEMA code.

■ Ordinance 19-001 updates the public comments procedure at board meetings. Citizens must now register, are limited to speak once and for no more than 5 minutes. Board members shall not engage in debates with speakers.

■ Ordinance 19-004 requires a certified survey map when dividing land in no more than six parcels.

■ Ordinance 19-006 clarifies the kennel license in the village. Anyone keeping more than three dogs on their property will need to get a kennel license.

■ Ordinance 19-019 rezones land to allow for the Hawthorn Apartments, veterinarian hospital and other businesses to be built at the corner of Highway 31 and Highway E.

■ Ordinance 19-022 updates the code relating to electrical inspections.

■ Ordinance 19-036 updates the smoking ordinance to include vaping. Vaping is no longer allowed indoors.

■ Ordinance 19-037 updates the tobacco ordinance to include that vaping products shall not be sold to minors.

■ Ordinance 19-039 changes the name of 6th Street to 6th Way to alleviate mail delivery problems.

All ordinances are available on the Somers website.

New website coming

Somers hired Dooley and Associates of Kenosha to design the town and village's new website this summer. An unveiling event will take place at the Village/Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 9, 2019.

"Residents will have a website that showcases their community and provides robust search functionality to easily search documents, ordinances, events and more," said Jennifer Dooley-Hogan, owner of the marketing firm.

It will serve as a great tool to showcase all that the village has to offer and communicate with residents, businesses and people looking to move into the area.

The site will feature a prominent alert banner on the homepage to quickly notify residents of snow emergencies, changes in waste pickup and other timely information.

It will be optimized for mobile use and will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Pay taxes, utilities

Residents can pay their taxes at Tri City Bank, 5901 Washington Road.

Branch hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, closed Sunday.

Utilities can be paid online. Residents need to set up an account through the Somers website.



Construction reminders!

There are many construction 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.

Juniors golfers polish their skills



William Below helps Ella Stoner, 9, of Somers with her swing during the 2019 co-ed golf clinic.

The Village/Town of Somers is offering its annual co-ed golf clinic to children ages 4 to 14 who are familiar with the game.

Teaching stations will be set up to go over putting, full swing and short game drills. V1 Video Golf Software will be used during this class.

Classes will be taught by Bristol Oaks Golf Club Head Golf Professional Dan Plens. He is a graduate of Golf Academy of America (2009) and has spent the last 10 years as the Teaching Golf Professional.

While providing lessons to all ages, Plens is also a certified U.S. Kids Golf Coach. He specializes in working with players' own authentic swing, while providing sound instruction so they understand and grow their skills.

Classes are held in the lower level of the Village/Town hall, 7511 12th St., on Wednesdays starting Jan. 8. Space is limited to 10 participants. There are two sessions each day: the first from 4:40 to 5:30 p.m., the second from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

The cost of the class is \$65 per participant. Checks can be made to the Village of Somers, and mailed to Village of Somers Golf Clinic Registration/Mr. Tim Kitzman, Clerk-Treasurer, P.O. Box 197, Somers, WI 53171.

Participants also need to fill out a registration form available on the Somers website under the Forms & Licenses tab.

Don't forget to register for the 2020 Co-Ed Indoor Basketball

The Village and Town of Somers invites children in grades K through 5 to take part in the Somers Co-ed Youth Basketball Program.

The season starts Jan. 13 and runs through April 1. All games and practices are held at the Somers Elementary School Gymnasium, 1245 72nd Ave.

The program is an opportunity for youths to sharpen their basketball skills as well as learn important life skills such as teamwork and sportsmanship in a safe environment.

Somers residency is not a requirement to participate, but you need to register through the Somers website or at the Village/Town hall 7511 12th St.

The deadline is Dec. 19. Cost is \$45 for Somers residents, \$55 for non-residents. All fees must be paid at time of registration.

Any health limitations your child may have should be given immediately to the coach. Registration includes a t-shirt. Please provide your child's size at the time of registration.

Participants will be divided into three groups:

- Minors (Kindergarten and Grade 1) will be held Monday nights
- Intermediate (Grade 2 and 3) will be held Tuesday nights
- Majors (Grade 4 and 5) will be held Wednesday nights

All practices and games will start at 5:30 p.m. and



Alexander Serrano laughs while dribbling the ball during the co-ed basketball workshop held at Somers Elementary School.

should be done by 7 p.m.

Coaches are volunteer positions. Parents who wish to coach or help should reach out to the Village/Town of Somers. Questions should be directed to Somers youth recreation Athletic Director Fran Dibble at 262-859-2822 Ext. 117, or through email at fdibble@somers.org.

In their words ...



*George Stoner
Somers Village President*

New development has come to our community and more developers are contacting us to move here. We are in a great position for growth and our board is proactive to make sure we are in an even better position in the future.

In the second part of the year, Starbucks has opened, and ShopKo Optical is moving next door. A new 24-hour veterinary hospital is coming to the corner of Highway E and Highway 31, which will be a huge asset to the community. The last 50 units of the Market Square Apartments project, just south of Festival Foods, will be finished by the end of the year. A new restaurant, Oakfire, a pizzeria with a location in Lake Geneva, is coming to the northeast corner of Highway 142 and Highway 31.

These developments have brought one-time contributions to the village that allow us to plan for badly needed upgrades to village equipment. We will be able to replace two fire trucks and one ambulance in 2020 with little impact on residents' taxes. We are also replacing vehicles for the Somers Public Works Department.

These developments will also help our tax base in the future.

We keep updating our infrastructure. We started a multi-year project to replace the obsolete lift stations along Sheridan Road. By the time they all get updated, they will feature interchangeable pumps, which will facilitate maintenance. We will have one extra pump in storage that will allow us to quickly swap a failing pump without impact to residents. We are looking for grants to replace antiquated water mains along Sheridan Road.

A 5-year capital improvement plan for stormwater is being put together to target projects along the Kilbourn Ditch, the Pike River and its tributaries. The Pike-Root Watershed Initiative Network has been a valuable partner, helping secure grants for these projects.

Toward the end of next year, we will be adding a third shift from the Sheriff's Department thanks to our great partnership with Sheriff David Beth and Capt. Robert Hallisy Jr.

We are working very well with nearby communities. We will be repaving 56th Ave. with the city of Kenosha. That cost will be split 50/50.

I also want to welcome the Pritzker Military Archives to Somers. I've been working on it for two years. It is a great development. The museum will bring tax revenue to the village. They are paying about \$14 million to bring water and sewer to the property. This will be a huge improvement for that area and will spur more development in the future.



*Mark Molinaro Jr.
Somers Town
Chairman*

The Somers Town Board continues to make every effort to engage our dwindling population. As the 2035 sunset of our boundary agreement with the city of Kenosha grows nearer, it is more important than ever to be part of the efforts to steward the Town of Somers over the remaining years of the agreement.

Our cooperation with the Village of Somers continues to pay dividends as we work on town infrastructure improvements like road paving and stormwater drainage.

The town board approved a stormwater utility fee for all town properties.

We felt strongly that the fee was a manageable way for the town to assist the village in addressing the stormwater problems that are facing communities across the county.

As we approach the end of 2019 we look forward to continued growth and interest in our Somers community.

No doubt the new year will present its share of challenges but together we can solve any problem as easily as we can celebrate the successes.

Important dates

■ **Dec. 24 - 25**

closed for Christmas

■ **Dec. 31 - Jan. 1**

closed for the New Year

■ **Dec. 10** *will be the*

*last Town & Village
board meeting until Jan.
14*

■ **Feb. 18** *Spring*

primary elections

■ **April 7** *Spring*

elections



Numbers are missing from this mailbox.

Help first responders find you!

When firefighters, EMS or law enforcement get a call to respond to your house, they identify the address by the number displayed by the road. Those numbers should be displayed on your mailbox and your house.

Making sure your address is visible approaching from either sides and at night is essential.

Kenosha County ordinance requires that house numbers be displayed on or in front of buildings.

If you have multiple houses off of one driveway readable numbers at the end by the road and at each house are very helpful.

If there is a group of mailboxes, first responders may not know which house is which.

House numbers that can be seen on your house or at the end of your driveway are fantastic.

If you have a corner lot, your mailbox may not be on the street of your address and make it harder to find your home.

If your address is not clearly visible from the road, it will delay their response.

Lift stations upgrade continues

On Oct. 22, the Somers Village Board approved a bid from August Winter & Sons Inc. to replace the 11th Place Lift Station. The bid from the Appleton company came in at \$1,235,000, below competitor Staab Construction, of Marshfield, Wis.

Lift stations are part of the sewage system. They pump it to a higher elevation so it can run on gravity until it reaches its destination or another lift station. Running a system on gravity alone would be more expensive as sewer lines would have to be buried too deep.

The lift station replacement is part of a multi-year project to upgrade all four lift stations in the Sheridan Road corridor, which are the oldest of the village's eight lift stations.

"They're wearing out," said Somers Public Works Superintendent Jerry Smith, adding that he has seen more breakdowns at the sites and the equipment is very corroded.

This is the second lift station to be replaced. The one located across from Carthage College was updated in 2016.

The Sheridan Road corridor serves residents east of the railroad track from the Racine County line to Carthage College where it connects to the city of Kenosha system.

The lift stations in that area were installed in the early 1960s and after more than 50 years of service, have reached the end of their life expectancy.



The lift station at the end of 11th Place is scheduled for upgrade.

The replacement system will provide new technology such as submersible pumps which will make it safer for Somers employees to do weekly service and maintenance.

The new station will also be more efficient and have a larger holding capacity allowing for more time to respond to possible power failure.

It will reduce the risk of sewer utility back-ups for customers in that area.

Residents services should not be affected by the replacement.

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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