



Fall is upon us, the foliage at Hawthorn Hollow, pictured above, is turning. There is that familiar chill in the air. Farmers are harvesting their crops and trees are donning their colorful coats. We want to share with you some of the

exciting things that are happening in Somers. Developers have been knocking at the door to move into our community and more housing is being built. It is an exciting time to live here!

*The Somers newsletter is now online only. The new publication is expected to be available quarterly instead of bi-annually which will make the information more timely.*

*The newsletters are in a pdf format which can be printed or easily read [online](#).*

*This new delivery method makes it available to a broader audience and saves the Village money on printing and mailing cost.*

*We hope you like it!*



# Staff updates

## Court Clerk

Somers Municipal Court Clerk Francine Dibble is leaving her position. Her last day is Oct. 21.

We thank her for her service.

Municipal Judge Robert Kupfer is in the process of finding a replacement.

## Fire Chief

Somers Fire and Rescue Chief Carson Wilkinson's last day was Oct. 1. Ben Andersen will take over.

## Plan Commission

Plan Commissioner Robin Wamboldt has resigned and was replaced by Sandee Gardinier Sept. 21 for the remainder of her term.

## Fire Department

Lieutenant Jodin Froeber was promoted to Captain.

Nico Celebre was promoted from paid-on-call firefighter to full-time firefighter paramedic.

## Pay taxes, utilities

Pay your 2021 Somers taxes at  
Tri City Bank,  
5901 Washington Road.  
Payment can also be made  
at the Village Hall,  
by mail or via the drop box at  
the Village Center.

Utility bills can also be paid online  
by setting up your account  
through the [Somers website](#).

The Village/Town Hall will be  
closed on the following dates:

- Nov. 25 - 26  
for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24  
for Christmas
- Dec. 31  
for the New Year

# New development

Somers welcomes the following new businesses to the area:

■ A multi-tenant building anchored by Taco Bell is being built at the Somers Market Center shopping center. The building is located just south of Starbucks. It will feature a 300-square-foot outdoor patio.

■ The Dunkin' Donuts store at Somers Market Center is under construction as well.

■ Becknell Industrial was approved to build a 795,000-sq.-ft warehouse on 50 acres on East Frontage Road north of Highway S. It will feature 148 loading bays.

If successful, the developer has plans for additional industrial buildings on the property.

■ Grading is ongoing along Highway S and East Frontage Road in preparation for construction of the Kwik Trip Travel Center. The project includes fuel stations for cars and trucks, a convenience store, outside dining area and a dog park and will be open 24 hours a day.



Taco Bell



Popeyes



The Kwik Trip construction site



Becknell Industrial



The Dunkin' Donuts site



Bear Real Estate Group president S.R. Mills leads Somers Trustee Jackie Nelson on a tour of one of the apartments of the Pike Ridge Commons apartments, 2215 Sheridan Road. Nelson and other village officials attended the August open house for the facility, which is already fully occupied.

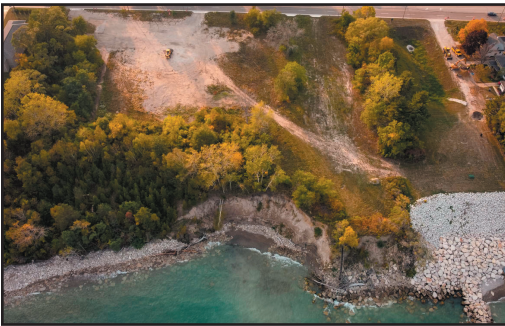




## *Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center*



Work continues on the Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center. The main building frame is up and the surrounding park is taking shape.



Above, an aerial view of the vacant land in the 700 block of Sheridan Road where the project is to be located. At right, a rendering of the building



## **Diamond Estates apartments approved on Lake Michigan**

The Village Board approved the Diamond Estates of Somers 3-story apartment project by developer Blue Paint Development LLC. It will be located on a 5.57 acres of lakefront

property in the 700 block of Sheridan Road.

The 85,000-sq.-ft. building will have 68 units consisting of 52 2-bedrooms, 12 one-bedrooms and four

studio apartments. Most of the units will have a balcony.

It will also feature a game room, bike storage, an exercise room, a community room and beach access.

## **Town/Village Hall offices get an upgrade**



The front counter of the Village/Town Hall was remodeled to provide better access to all people including a lower counter for people in wheel chairs. It is also more secure for visitors and staff.

The upgrades were a project that started last year. It included the purchase of office furniture, upgraded workspace for the building inspector's office, painting, new carpet, Americans with Disability Act compliant door openers and security cameras.

Somers Village/Town Hall lobby

## Keep Somers looking good

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

*Chapter 9 of the ordinances addresses junk and abandoned vehicles, Chapter 10 addresses public nuisances and Chapter 21 addresses property maintenance requirements.*

*For more information, Village/Town ordinances can be found under the Government tab on the Somers [website](#).*

### Winter Pot Holes

*Just a reminder...*

*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*

## Changes at the top for fire department

Somers Fire & Rescue Dept. Capt. Ben Andersen was promoted to Fire Chief after a short time as Deputy Chief. He started in this position Sept. 22 replacing Fire Chief Carson Wilkinson who retired.

Wilkinson was chief for more than five years, but was in the fire services with multiple departments for more than 50 years.

"I think we are in a better position than when I came," he said. "We have some excellent employees."

Under his leadership, the department began to transition to a paramedic ambulance service. With the support of the Village Board, Wilkinson oversaw the replacement of aging equipment. Wilkinson was hoping to have the Insurance Services Office increase the rating of the fire department before he left. A better score would potentially lower insurance rates for homes and businesses in Somers. The next review will be in six years, leaving it to Chief Andersen.

"I am excited that he will be the next fire chief," said Wilkinson. "He is

as dedicated to Fire and EMS as I am and has experience on more than one department."

Becoming Fire Chief is the culmination of a life-long interest in the fire services for Andersen.

Andersen was born and raised in Racine and lives in the Village of Somers. He started on the Somers Fire Department as a paid-on-call member in 2006.

In 2010, he was hired full time by the Village of Bristol and four years later, he returned to a full-time position in Somers. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2017 and captain in 2020. He is the team leader for the Kenosha County Dive Team.

He plans to have more training for firefighters in specialty areas such as water rescue and hazardous material.

"As we get more industry, there's more chance for hazardous materials calls and technical rescue calls," he said.

It is an exciting time for Andersen, as he and Amanda Killips were just married this fall.



Former Chief Carson Wilkinson



Somers Fire Chief Ben Andersen

## Infrastructure upgrades are ongoing

■ **Paving** — Payne & Dolan is in the process of repaving 93rd Avenue, 94th Avenue, 95th Avenue and 14th Street in the Country Charms subdivision and 25th Avenue and 14th Street between 12th Street and 14th Place. The project should be completed before winter at a cost of \$556,645.

■ **Water booster station west of the subcontinental divide** — Completion is scheduled by the beginning of 2022.

■ **Sanitary sewer lift station west of the subcontinental divide** — Camosy Construction is currently in the process of constructing the lift station and it is anticipated to be complete by the beginning of 2022.

■ **Sheridan Road side streets water main replacement** — AW Oakes has completed eight of the 21 streets

included in the project. All streets will be repaved following the water main replacement. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of November.

■ **Sheridan Road corridor sewer system lining** — Musson Brothers Inc. has televised sewer laterals and installed cleanouts. They are contracting with Visu-Sewer to do the sewer main lining. All sanitary sewer manholes will be sealed and have water proof manhole covers installed as part of the project. This project is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of 2022.

■ **Sea Wall and 7th Place lift stations reconstruction** — August Winters is currently in the process of reconstructing the two lift stations. This project was just finished.

*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 through the Somers website in a easily printable format.*

*Jason Peters, Village/Town Administrator, Managing Editor. Kevin Poirier, News and Creative Editor.*

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