



The Somers newsletter is now online and is published quarterly instead of bi-annually which will make the information more timely. You can find current and past newsletters in a pdf format which can be printed or read easily [online](#). A few hard copies are available in the lobby of the Town/Village Hall.

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!



# In their words ...



*George Stoner  
Somers Village President*

This past year, we have upgraded a large amount of the infrastructure in the Village and Town of Somers. The Sheridan Road corridor project has been fully completed: all roads have been repaired, the water main to all the side streets are done, the sewer laterals to homes have been relined and all four lift stations have been rebuilt. This is the largest public works project the Village has ever undertaken.

Of the eight lift stations in the Village, we have upgraded all but two. They are scheduled to be done in 2023.

All Town roads will have been resurfaced once 22nd Street from Green Bay Road to 47th Avenue has been done sometime in 2022. In the Village, 75 percent of all the roads will have been resurfaced by the end of 2022.

Safety is a concern for our growing community.

Starting July 1, 2022, we will have four Sheriff's deputies assigned to Somers. They are doing a fantastic job. Traffic has increased and unfortunately speed is an issue that constituents are concerned about. We have brought this to the attention of the Sheriff's Department.

We realize that the demands on the fire department have increased due to the growth in Somers. We will be looking for a solution to increase staffing.

We are growing. Developers from all over the country are approaching us to build in our area. By the end of 2022 we will have close to three million sq. ft. of new warehousing development. That is in addition to new restaurants, gas stations and other businesses opening their doors.

The Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center is a crowning achievement for the Village. Not only will it be a great gateway into Somers once completed, it will be a huge attraction for the public with its park and walking trails.

The infrastructure that was put in the ground for that project has spurred an incredible amount of development. The main building is now fully enclosed. The gun education center is the next phase of the project. An architect from Milwaukee has been retained and the two-story building is now being designed. We are expecting renderings this summer.

On the other side of the interstate, our relationship with Paris has been great. We are working on developments that will benefit both communities. Working with them has been a real pleasure.

Thankfully more housing projects are in the works: Somersville is a 52-acre development just east of Somers Elementary School and Savannah at Pike Creek is a 65-acre development on the corner of Highway L (18th Street) and Green Bay Road.

I could not be happier with how things are going in the Village of Somers and I want to thank all of our employees. They are doing a fantastic job and I really appreciate it.



*Mark Molinaro Jr.  
Somers Town  
Chairman*

I am hopeful each and every one of you had a wonderful holiday season and the new year is off to a great start.

While we turn the calendar on a tumultuous 2021 and continue to struggle through all that the pandemic has thrown at us, I am acutely aware that many of us have suffered significant loss over the past year and a half.

It is my sincere wish that 2022 is a new start for all of us.

The Town continues to stay the course as we move another year closer to 2035 when it will cease to exist.

Supervisors Jim Armes and Richard Lesko continue to work hard in the governance of the Town and I appreciate their continued efforts and support.

The cooperative Town/Village budget adopted in November maintains a high level of services for Somers with an eye toward a balanced approach to development in the Village.

We welcome your attendance and participation at Town work sessions and board meetings.

May you have a prosperous and healthy 2022.

# Staff updates

## Clerk I

Brandi Baker started Dec. 13. The Kenosha native was previously the Village Treasurer for the Village of Bloomfield in Walworth County.

She was also a blogger for the Kenosha Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

## Municipal Court Clerk

Kathy Keisler started as the new Court Clerk Nov. 8.

## Promotion

Heather Teigland was promoted from Accountant I to Accounting Manager, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. "Heather has been great addition to Somers," said Village/Town Administrator Jason Peters. "Her experience was a great fit for this promotion."

For job opportunities with the Town/Village of Somers, check our [website](#).

## Pay taxes, utilities

Residents can pay their **property taxes** in person at Tri City Bank, 5901 Washington Road.

Branch hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, closed Sunday.

Payment can also be made through the [Somers website](#).

Payments for **utilities** or **court fees** can also be made through the [website](#).

## Upcoming Elections

■ **Feb. 15** Spring primary elections

■ **April 5** Spring elections

■ **Aug. 9** Fall primary elections

■ **Nov. 8** Fall elections

# New development

■ **Kwik Trip** — The utilities and public roadway for the project are in. The building on the north side of Highway S is going up.

■ **Savannah at Pike Creek** — The project is a multi-family development set on an 65-acre parcel on the northwest corner of Highway L (18th Street) and Green Bay Road.

The development includes a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom dwelling. Part of the parcel is planned to be a commercial development.

The residential part of the development consists of 53 buildings with 338 residences.

■ **Becknell Industrial** — This project is a "Class A" spec building on a 50 acre parcel on East Frontage Road north of Highway 142. The first phase will be a 795,000-sq.-ft. building featuring 148 loading bays.

If successful, the developer has plans for additional industrial buildings on a 82-acre parcel immediately to the north.

■ **HSA** — This project, on the north side of Highway 142, just east of the new Kwik Trip, will be a "Class A" warehouse/industrial building of approximately 775,000 sq. ft. with the a possible 130,000-sq.-ft. addition to the north side of the building.

It will feature 150 loading bays screened by berms and landscaping.



Becknell Industrial



HSA Commercial development to be potentially named Somers Highland Commerce Center.



Rendering of the proposed Savanna at Pike Creek development.

# Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center



The Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center building is now fully enclosed with specially designed glass panes. A solar array reducing the buildings electrical consumption has been installed.

## Changes in sewer rates

Starting with the New Year, the sewer rates will increase by three percent for residents of Utility District 1.

The new rate of \$185.40 represents a \$5.40 increase per quarter.

The sewer rate for public entities will increase from \$6.6110 per thousand gallons to \$6.8093 per thousand gallons.

The increase will help cover the Clean Drinking Water Loan and offset the levy that was removed from the 2022 budget.

The proposed KR Utility District rate will increase from \$131.02 per quarter to \$134.95 per quarter.

## New award recognizes residents

The Village and Town of Somers have established the "Making A Difference" award to recognize citizens who have made significant contributions to the community.

The first recipient of the award was Betty Edquist who was the Town Clerk for 19 years. In 1989, she was elected to a term as Town Supervisor.

"She would find always find time to sit down and listen," said her friend of 40 years Doris Nygren. "She was great."

She was recognized with a plaque during the Oct. 12 Village Board Meeting. It is now displayed in the lobby.

"We miss her input and fun," said Nygren. "She was so smart."

She died in January of 2021.

A [submission form](#) was created for anyone who would like to nominate a resident for the award.

# Highlights of the 2022 budget

The 2022 budget was adopted Nov. 9, 2021.

The combined levy for the Town and Village is \$4,743,113, an increase of \$211,240, or 4.4 percent.

The 2021 assessed value for the Village of Somers is \$966,447,800. This is a 5 percent increase from the prior year,

A hard copy of the budget and information sheet is available to residents by request at the Village/Town Hall.

### Tax levy for 2021

- Village — \$4,252,988 (90.1 percent of the total levy)
- Town — \$490,125 (9.9 percent of the total levy)

### Mill rate for 2021

- Village — \$5.34382 per thousand of assessed value (up from \$4.98419).
- Town — \$5.40573 per thousand of assessed value (up from \$4.69338).

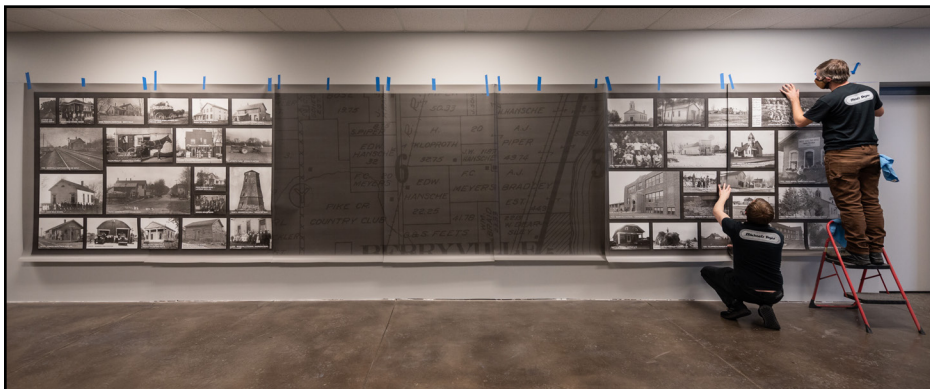
### Budget key points

■ Law Enforcement costs are increasing by \$132,532 as a fourth shift will be added in July per contract with the Sheriff Department.

■ Fire Department costs are increasing by \$104,923 due to the addition of a full time position and overall cost increase.

■ Salaries for Village staff will increase by 3 percent for most employees.

## Town/Village Hall upgrades continue



Michael's Signs designers Kyle Doyle, left, and Haydon Cowan install the new mural in the Somers Village/Town Hall lobby on Jan. 5.

The lobby of the Somers Town/Village Hall is getting a facelift as part of the ongoing upgrade project.

In addition to a fresh coat of paint, a mural has been designed featuring the Somers logo and historical photos of the area.

The front counter was remodeled to provide better access to all people including a lower counter for people in wheelchairs and mechanical assist door openers.

Security features for visitors and staff have also been added.



## Reminders



■ **If you live near a fire hydrant, please make sure it is clear and accessible to firefighters.**

*For your safety and that of*

*your neighbors, snow should be kept three feet away.*

■ **Help us fix pot holes promptly by reporting issues to our road maintenance crew.**

*Call Village/Town Hall at 262-859-2822.*

*We want to repair them promptly.*

■ **Residents can keep their water system from freezing during subzero temperature.**

*Let a faucet run. A trickle the size of a pencil lead is all that is needed.*

■ **Somers residents in need of a carbon monoxide detector are invited to reach out to the Somers Fire & Rescue Department.**

*A limited number of alarms are available for free.*

*If interested, call 262-620-3285 or email [apisula@somers.org](mailto:apisula@somers.org) and firefighters will gladly come to your home and install a new carbon monoxide alarm.*

## New software improves workflow

The Village acquired new software by Dude Solutions to efficiently manage work and assets. The subscription the Village has selected will track storm water, sewer and water assets.

The service will be paid for through the American Rescue Plan Act.

In conjunction with the new software, Public Works employees received new smart phones that the village was able to procure at no cost. It will allow them to fill out reports right from the field.

The Kenosha Unified School District has used the same service for seven years and has been very happy with it.

## Root-Pike WIN updates

■ **Gitzlaff Park** — Ten acres of fallow farmland have been returned to prairie, wetland and oak savanna. The restoration is critical to improve the water quality in the Pike River watershed. The work was fully funded by the Fund for Lake Michigan and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

■ **Neumiller Woods** — Volunteers helped cut and treat the invasive buckthorn. The shrub prevents native species from growing. Cutting it at its base and dabbing the stump with a drop of herbicide is the best way to eradicate the prolific invader. Contact Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network at [info@rootpikewin.org](mailto:info@rootpikewin.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

■ **Pike River South Branch** — Restoration of the South Branch of the Pike River was given a stamp of approval. Led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with help from Root-Pike WIN, Phase 1 will restore 1.5 mile of the river from Highway K to Highway

142. The project secured a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It will improve water quality for aquatic life and provide habitat for the federally endangered Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee. It will also include a multi-purpose trail.

■ **Award** —

Root-Pike WIN Executive Director, and Somers resident, Dave Giordano was named Land and Water Conservationist of the year by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.



Dave Giordano

“Without the collaboration and determination of our staff, board, members, volunteers, municipalities including the Village of Somers and funders, this award would not be possible,” he said. “I am grateful for all they have done to help me and Root-Pike WIN fix our broken watersheds.”

## Infrastructure upgrades are ongoing

■ **Roads** — All paving projects in the Village and Town are complete.

■ **Sheridan Road water main replacement** — The contractor, AW Oakes has completed the project.

■ **Sheridan Road corridor sewer system** — Musson Brothers Inc. has completed the lining of the sewer laterals and the installed cleanouts. All sanitary sewer manholes have water proof manhole covers installed as part of the project.

■ **Lift stations** — August Winters has completed the reconstruction of both the Seawall and 7th Place lift stations. Camosy Construction has completed the new lift station west of the continental divide. The two remaining lift stations are planned to be upgraded in 2023.

■ **Roundabout** — A public meeting was held Dec. 1, 2021, to discuss the possibility of a roundabout at highways A and Y.

*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.*

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