



Employees of the Kwik Trip Somers Travel Plaza gather in front of the store for the official ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 11.

## ***Kwik Trip Travel Center is open***

The Kwik Trip Travel Center at the Highway S exit of I-94 held its grand opening Aug. 11.

The 12,000-square-foot convenience store is the largest Kwik Trip in the state. It features 10 fueling stations, 120 stalls for truck parking, nearly 100 parking spaces, showers and laundry facilities and a certified scale for trucks.

President and CEO Don Zietlow, one of the founders of Kwik Trip, was on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony. He thanked the Village for making the project a reality.

Based in La Crosse, Kwik Trip was founded in 1965 and has more than 800 locations in four states.

They operate in Wisconsin and Minnesota as Kwik Trip, and in Iowa and Illinois as Kwik Star.

Donations of \$1,000 each were presented by the company to the Somers Fire and Rescue Department and the Sheriff Department's K-9 unit.



From left, State Representative Tip McGuire, Somers Village President George Stoner, Village Trustees Karl Otsby and Gregg Sinnen, Village Administrator Jason Peters and Village Trustee Ben Harbach attend the ribbon cutting ceremony.



# Reminders

## ■ Carbon monoxide detectors are available through the Somers Fire and Rescue Department

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 alarm.

## ■ 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.

Look to Chapter 9 of the ordinances for information about junk and abandoned vehicles, Chapter 10 addresses public nuisances and Chapter 21 outlines requirements about property maintenance.

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

## ■ Update to the weeds ordinance

The Village and Town updated the ordinance addressing grass, weeds and other noxious vegetation.

The new ordinance adds that lawns shall be kept free from weeds and other noxious vegetation between April 1 and Oct. 31.

A copy of the new ordinance is available [here](#).

Any parcel that fails to cut weeds will be responsible for all costs incurred by the Village to remove the vegetation and will be subject to penalties as described in the ordinance.

## ■ Town voting map updates

The Somers Town Board approved new [voting maps](#), which will increase the number of wards from two to four. This redistricting is due to the April 15 decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt the legislative redistricting plan.

## Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center



The Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center main building is now enclosed and should open up to the public by late 2023 or early 2024 according to Pritzker officials. The organization is planning to appear before the Village Board to present its plan for the Midwest Firearms Education and Training Center, which will include an indoor firearms range.

## Celebrate Halloween safely

Trick-or-Treat hours in Somers will be the same as the City of Kenosha. Hours are set for 4 to 7 p.m. Monday Oct. 31 (Halloween Day).

Households interested in giving away treats should indicate their intent by turning on the light on their porch or front yard.

Please follow these Halloween safety recommendations:

- Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating treats made by strangers.

- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating.

- Wear well-fitting costumes and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls.

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.

- If out after dark, consider adding reflective tape to costumes and bags, or wear glow sticks. Sunset is at 5:45 p.m. in Somers on Halloween.

- Look both ways before crossing the street. Use crosswalks wherever possible.

- Swords, knives and other costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible.

- Discourage new, inexperienced



drivers from driving on Halloween.

- Remove all makeup before bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.

- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and to stay with friends.

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.

- Agree on a specific time children should return home.

- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home to avoid allergic reactions.

## Electronic recycling and shredding event

Somers residents are invited to drop off electronics and any documents needing to be shredded to the Somers Village/Town Hall at 7511 12th Street (Highway E) Oct. 8, 2022. Electronic collection will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Paper shredding will be 9 a.m. to noon.

Bring personal document such as canceled checks, old bills, old contracts, tax information, credit card applications to be shredded.

In addition to the items you want to dispose of, you will need to bring your ID.

Electronics are a growing share of the waste stream. Televisions, laptops, tablets, video players, external hard drives, cell-phones and other electronics contain valuable materials that can be recovered through recycling.

Electronics also contain hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, which are harmful if released in the environment.

Wisconsin law bans most electronics from landfills and incinerators. For more information and to find a collection site near you, visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources [website](#).

## Upcoming Elections

*The Fall General Elections are on **Nov. 8, 2022.***

*For more information on where to vote or how to get an absentee ballot, visit the My Vote Wisconsin [website](#). Please remember that Town wards have changed following the April redistricting.*



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

- **Nov. 24 - 25** for Thanksgiving
- **Dec. 23 - 26** for Christmas
- **Dec. 30 - Jan. 2** for the New Year

# Somers Zip Code

The Village Administration and the Village Board are in the process of requesting a Zip code boundary review which would give property owners inside the Village a dedicated Zip code.

The Somers Post Office was established in 1870, however, the Somers 53171 Zip code is used by only the 107 people/businesses with post office boxes.

Over 400 Somers residents have a Zip code in Racine County which does not match the county they live in.

Nearly 3,000 Somers property owners have a Zip code for a different municipality.

Keys reasons for a Zip code boundary review:

- A dedicated Zip code strengthen community identity.
- Clarify where to vote and pay taxes. Residents often wonder why they pay taxes and vote in Somers when their address is in Racine or Kenosha. Because of this, jury notices are sent to citizens who are not eligible to serve.
- Help first responders. Residents can make mistakes describing where they live. Their mailing address may be Racine, Kenosha, Sturtevant or Bristol, but they live in Somers. This can result in life-threatening delays.
- Homeowner may pay higher home and auto insurance premiums. One Village resident pays \$635 more in premiums for having a 53403 Racine Zip code. The insurance company does not recognize the property as being in Somers.
- Sales tax revenue rebates can be misallocated.
- When renewing a driver license, vehicle owners can misidentify where the vehicle is kept. State funds distributed to municipalities are impacted.
- Avoid confusion for business customers, employees and deliveries. A business in Somers is likely to have a Kenosha or Racine mailing address that appears on stationery, signs, business card and website. This messaging is misleading when the business is in Somers.
- None of the new projects in Somers have a Somers Zip code.

Administrator Jason Peters and Trustee Jackie Nelson are in the process of submitting a formal request to the United States Postal Service.

That application can only be submitted once every ten years. According to information from other communities across the country that have attempted this request, the USPS typically denies it.

After speaking with a Florida lobbyist and representatives from US Congressman Bryan Steil and US Senator Ron Johnson's offices, we are attempting to "piggyback" with others who are requesting Zip code changes through the legislative process.

## Staff Update

■ Ryan Vishaway started as the new Assistant to the Village Administrator on Sept. 21.

He was previously working for U.S. Congressman Bryan Steil where he held the position of Director of Military Veterans Affairs and Field Representative.

Vishaway is an Army Veteran who served as an Infantryman from 2014 to 2017 with the 10th Mountain Division.

He will be replacing Cassandra Bodenback.

■ Jane Bartolai was hired as Clerk I in July.

She comes to Somers with a lot of experience working as an assessor for the City of Racine and Deputy Assessor for Algonquin Township in Illinois.

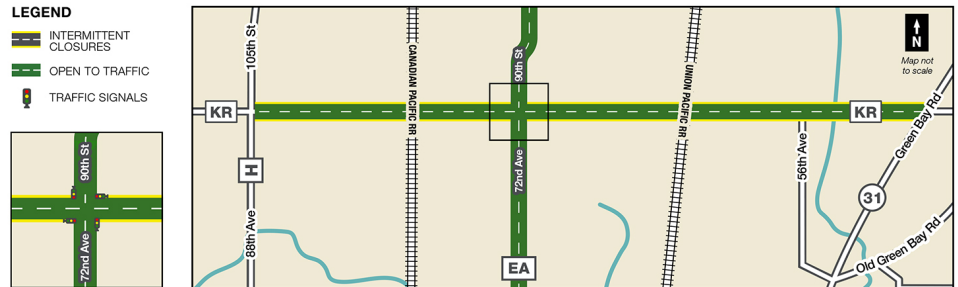
In addition she worked as a local government solutions Specialist for CoreLogix tax services.

She has lived in Kenosha County for 10 years and has always admired the beauty of Somers.

"Wisconsin is a wonderful state and I feel blessed to be here," she said.

For information on available positions with the Village or Town of Somers, check our [website](#).

# Highway KR is now open



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has reopened Highway KR to traffic.

The reconstruction project that widened the roadway from two to four lanes is nearing completion.

New signals have been installed at the highway intersection with 90th Street in Racine County and 72nd Avenue in Kenosha County.

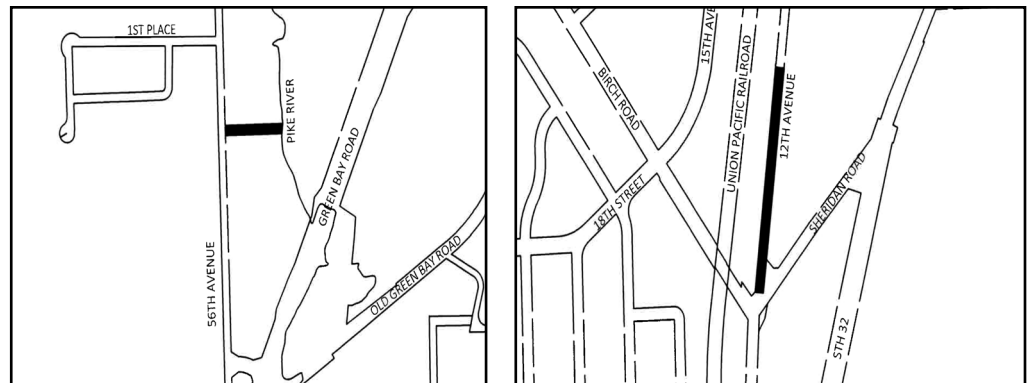
Motorists may still experience intermittent lane closures on Highway KR, between Highway H and Green Bay Road until full project completion.

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Athena Kuhl via phone at 262-933-0467, or email at [athena@devopr.com](mailto:athena@devopr.com).

## Storm water utility improvements

Globe Contractors Inc. finished repairing the storm sewer adjacent to 56th Avenue and installed a new storm sewer pipe on 12th Avenue. The project was completed on Sept. 9.

The cost of the project was \$168,338 and was part of the stormwater capital improvement plan.



The maps above show the area where the storm water work was done.

## New Water Transfer and Lift Station are operational

The new sewage lift station and water transfer station on the utility expansion across the continental divide are now fully operational.

The project was done by Camosy Construction Inc. at a cost of \$2,987,716.62.

The project consists of two separate buildings, both masonry structures.

The lift station is a 620-sq.-ft. masonry waste water lift station that features a wet well, pumping equipment and emergency power.

The water transfer station is a 1,600-sq.-ft. building equipped with a booster pump, water storage tanks and emergency power.

Public Works employees received training on how to operate and maintain the new equipment.



# New development updates

■ **Carthage College** — The Village Board approved the building of a new maintenance building. The 18,000 sq.-ft. building will be located on the north end of campus along 17th Street on former residential parcels acquired by the college.

Construction should start shortly.

■ **First Park 94** — A third building is going up at First Park 94. The new 450,000-sq.-ft. building is being built on spec and is expandable to 615,000 square feet, if needed.

■ **Becknell** — The first building is going up on a 50-acre parcel on East Frontage Road north of Highway S. The 795,000-sq.-ft. building will have 148 loading bays.

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

■ **HSA** — Grading has started on a 775,000 sq.ft Class A warehouse/industrial building on the north side of Highway S, just east of the new Kwik Trip. It will feature 150 loading bays screened by berms and landscaping.

The developer is naming it Somers Highland Commerce Center.

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

The residential part of the development consists of 42 buildings with a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units for a total of 338 residences.

■ **Flint** — Grading is underway for this project located in the Somers Expansion Area west of the interstate.

The developer plans three industrial buildings totaling 1.8 million square feet.

■ **Popeyes** — The restaurant is scheduled to open this year. It was delayed by supply chain bottlenecks.

■ **Chipotle** — The new restaurant is under construction on a one-acre parcel at Somers Market Center just south of the Taco Bell. It will feature a drive thru and outside dining areas.

■ **Mister Car Wash** — A new car wash is planned just west of the upcoming Chipotle restaurant at Somers Market.



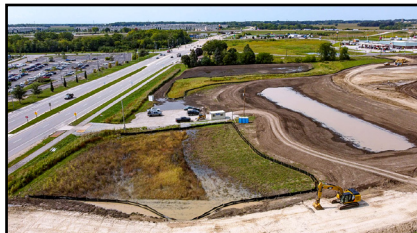
Carthage College's proposed maintenance building.



First Park 94



Becknell Industrial



Somers Highland Commerce Center (HSA)



Savannah at Pike Creek



Flint 94 Commerce Center



Chipotle



Architectural rendering of the Mister Car Wash building

# In their words ...



*George Stoner  
Somers Village President*

Traveling through Somers it is impossible to miss all the growth that is going on around us. We are well positioned in southeast Wisconsin as a prime place for developers.

The expansion of the utilities for the Pritzker Archives & Memorial Park Center has spurred incredible interest that would not have happened without it.

Among the new businesses that have been able to move to Somers are the Kwik Trip Travel Center, the largest in the state of Wisconsin, right at the entrance to the Village off of the I-94 exit at Highway S. We are proud to welcome this great company to the Village of Somers.

Others who have benefited from the extension of the utilities are the Flint 94 Commerce Center and Becknell Industrial.

We are also proud to welcome new dining opportunities for Somers' residents: Dunkin', Taco Bell and Popeyes.

Lots are filling up on Market Lane across from Walmart. Residents can now patronize US Nail Bar, US Cellular, Shopko Optical, Jersey Mike's Subs and Starbucks. A new Chipotle restaurant and a car wash (Mister Car Wash), will also be coming soon to that area. The lots in this development are now almost all filled.

Single home construction has been slow. So far this year, only 13 permits for new homes were requested.

Carthage College is planning to build a maintenance facility on the north side of the campus. We were able to negotiate with the college to have them pay the existing tax rate on the land that is being converted from residential use so the Village will not lose tax revenue from the rezoning. They have been a great partner.

We have been in touch with other developers and are hoping to announce a hotel coming to Somers soon.

We have been able to repave 99.9 percent of the roads in the Town of Somers. In the Village, about 80 percent has been repaved. Kenosha has been sharing in the cost of repaving roads that are half in the Town and half in the city.

We will be rebuilding the last two lift stations in the Village: Eaglewood on 45th Avenue and Lichter on 63rd Avenue.

We have had turnover in our administrative staff, but everyone has been working very hard and I could not be more proud of our staff. We will be looking at adding an Assistant Fire Chief to the Somers Fire and Rescue Department very soon.

We will have more turnover in the upcoming year as employees retire from the Public Works Department.

We continue to work very well with other municipalities around us, and these great relationships have helped us save money on infrastructure. Our relationship with the Town of Paris has made growth west of the Interstate possible. These new businesses will be a benefit to both communities.



*Mark Molinaro Jr.  
Somers Town  
Chairman*

Welcome to Fall! This is a great time of year as the weather cools, the leaves begin to change color and we start talking about our plans for the holidays.

September is also when we kick off the annual Town and Village budget process. We continue to work closely with the Village to create a budget that supports the needs of the Town and its residents. The Town of Somers remains in a difficult budget situation that gets more difficult with each passing year. In addition to the costs of services rising year over year, the Town continues to lose properties to the City of Kenosha through annexation under the Boundary Agreement.

While we struggle to hold the line on the annual budget, you can rest assured that we continue to maintain the level of services you expect.

We have repaved nearly all of the Town roads in recent years with many of them done on a cost sharing approach with the City of Kenosha. Additionally, we are contemplating several changes to the Fire Department to help improve the recruiting and retention of firefighters.

On behalf of Supervisors Jim Armes, Dick Lesko and myself, we encourage you stay informed of the Town activities and we welcome your presence at any upcoming Town Board meeting.

*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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