

Somers Community Day

The Somers Fire and Rescue Department is inviting residents to attend the first Somers Community Day Saturday May 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Somers Village/Town Hall will be open to the public for tours.

The event will start with a Kenosha Sheriff's Department K-9 demonstration at 10 a.m.

Firefighters will be on hand to explain how smoke detectors and other fire prevention devices work. There will be a smoke house on site for participants to experience how to best escape a smoke-filled room.

A fire extinguisher demonstration will take place at 11 a.m.

See the Flight For Life helicopter land at 11:30.

Firefighters will demonstrate life-saving measures like first aid and hands-only CPR at 12:30 p.m. followed by a car extrication demonstration at 1 p.m.

Make the Difference

There will be a 50/50 raffle to support the Somers Fire & Rescue Association "Make the Difference" community outreach initiative that promotes teaching CPR and other life saving measures to community members.

"We see an amazing opportunity to create more of a partnership with our community," said Somers Firemedic Nico Celebre. "The "Make the Difference" initiative will raise our overall community health and wellness immensely."

For more information about the initiative, fill out this form on the Somers website: www.somers.org/fd-requests.



Ryker Wlahovich, 9, gets help to get in turnout gear from Capt. Scott Schoenfeld as he tours the Somers Fire Station with his brother Drake, 11, and his grandfather Bill Kram in February.

The fire department would like to thank the following sponsors for their help: Walmart, Festival Foods, Dunkin', Froedtert Pleasant Prairie Hospital, Aurora Medical Center, VRC Animal Hospital and Golden Oil — Amoco among others.

There will be information booths at the event.

Festival Foods is donating a Milwaukee Brewers Play-Ball home game experience for the June 18 game against the Pittsburgh Pirates at 1:10 p.m. The winning child (age 6 to 14) will be able to go on the field before the game, receive four field level game tickets, a free t-shirt and open the afternoon's game by shouting "Play Ball!" from the scoreboard.

The Somers newsletter is now online and is published quarterly to make the information more timely. You can find current and past newsletters in pdf format which can be printed or easily read on our website at www.somers.org/newsletters/. A few hard copies are available in the lobby of the Town/Village Hall. We hope you like it!

Reminders

■ Carbon monoxide detectors are available to Somers residents.

If interested, call the Somers Fire and Rescue department at 262-620-3285 or email apisula@somers.org and firefighters will gladly come to your home and install a new alarm at no cost to you.

■ Keep Somers looking its best.

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 at www.somers.org/government/.

■ Garbage calendar available.

The 2023 garbage and recycle schedule is available on the Somers website at www.somers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Somers-Tn-Village-2023.pdf.

■ Yard waste drop-off site is open.

The entrance is located on the paved driveway between the Public Works garage and the salt barn building.

The site is open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

Somers residents can drop off their grass clippings, leaves, small pruned plants, shrubs and tree debris under 8" in diameter and no longer than three feet.

For more information about the yard waste site, visit www.somers.org/departments/public-works/yard-waste/.



Firemedic Brandon Dzibinski, Chief Ben Andersen, Deputy Chief Jodin Froeber, Capt. Joe Scruggs, Capt. Scott Schoenfeld, Capt. Robert Hamm

Firefighters get recognized

The Somers Fire and Rescue Association held its Awards Banquet in February at Cortese Banquet Hall to recognize full- and part-time members of the department. It was the first banquet in several years.

Assistant Chief Pete Skendziel was recognized for 35 years of service.

Capt. Scott Schoenfeld was recognized for 25 years of service.

For serving for 20 years, captains Robert Hamm and Joe Scruggs as well as Deputy Chief Jodin Froeber received an award.

Capt. Kevin Koloen and Lt. Adam Pisula were both recognized for their 15 years of service

Firefighter/EMT Scott Poltrock, Firemedic Jason Pankoff and Chief Ben Andersen were recognized for 10 years of service.

Firemedics Jamie Thorpe and Bradon Dzibinski were recognized for 5 years of service.



Architect rendering of the new Village/Town auditorium and desk courtesy of Rudie Frank Architecture.

Somers Auditorium remodel study

Somers Administrator Jason Peters and Trustee Jackie Nelson have had meetings with Ryan Rudie, of Rudie Frank Architecture and Steve Prochaska of Michael's Signs to discuss objectives of remodeling the Somers auditorium in order to make it more user friendly for the public, staff and elected officials.

Plans have been drawn for new desks for trustees, commissioners and staff.

The addition of acoustic tiles is considered for better sound. Modern audio visual equipment will also be added to the room to improve the public's experience during meetings.

Paint and carpet will also be part of the improvement. Final cost and funding options will be considered by the Village Board within the next few months.

Office news

■ Scott Seymour was hired for the position of Building Inspector. His first day was Feb. 27.

He is a certified commercial and residential building and HVAC inspector as well as residential plumbing and electric.

He came from the Village of Caledonia where he was a building inspector for five years.

Seymour is a graduate of Gateway Technical College and currently serves on the advisory board for its engineering department.

He is replacing Russ Nolen who retired after more than 20 years with Somers.

■ Heather Kruk was hired as Accounts Payable Clerk. She started March 6. She is a Somers resident who was working for Kenosha County as Deputy Clerk for the elected officials.

Prior to that she worked in accounts payable for more than 20 years at her family's business.

She is replacing long-time employee Janet Martin who recently retired. Martin is temporarily helping Kruk transition into her new position.

■ Patric Garcia started working for the Public Works department on Jan. 25.

He formerly worked maintenance for the Kenosha Water Utility for two years.

Before that he worked for the Village of Pleasant Prairie Water Department as a foreman.

He said he is looking forward to work for a growing municipality.

■ For more information on all available positions with the Village or Town of Somers, check the website at www.somers.org/departments/employment-opportunities/.

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

■ **Monday May 29** for Memorial Day

■ **Tuesday July 4** for Independence Day
The Village/Town Hall will be open during normal business hours on Monday July 3rd.

Somers Zip code

The Village and Town of Somers are continuing their efforts to have the municipalities have a dedicated Zip code that reflects our community.

A Zip Code Boundary Review was submitted in November of last year to the United States Postal Service, but no response was received from the federal agency.

Concurrent to the review, Somers was part of a House Bill that would have allowed it and six other communities (including the villages of Mount Pleasant and Caledonia) to have their own Zip codes. The bill was co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil, who has been supportive of the effort. Unfortunately it never came up for a vote.

The Somers Administration has been in touch with a group of more than a dozen other municipalities facing the same issues and will be joining an advocacy group to further these bills in the Congress.

U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson's offices have been contacted to help reintroduce the legislation in the new Congress.



From left, Trustees Joe Smith, Jack Aupperle, President George Stoner and Trustee Karl Ostby throw candy to the crowd during the 2022 Somers Fourth of July Parade.

Fourth of July Parade

The registration form for the 4th of July Parade is now available.

This year's theme is "Home of the Free: 2023!"

The parade will start at 2 p.m. on July 4 at Shoreland Lutheran High School and head east on Highway E (12th Street), then turn south on Highway EA (72nd Street) where it will end in front of Somers Elementary School. Highway E will be closed for the duration of the parade.

Anyone looking to register to participate in the parade can do so by filling out and submitting the form at www.somers.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-somers-independence-day-parade-entry-form.pdf.

Steil office moves

U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil, R-District 1, no longer has office hours at the Somers Town/Village Hall.

Instead, the Congressman is leasing an office in the County Building, 19600 75th Street in Bristol.

Office hours are now held at their new location Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon, by appointment by calling 608-752-4050 or through Steil's website at steil.house.gov/contact.

The office hours are intended to help residents with issues pending in Congress or to request assistance dealing with federal agencies.



U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil

Somers first in state with new CPR device

The Somers Fire Department acquired a new heads-up cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) device in February: the EleGARDTM Patient Positioning System.

The device slowly and gradually elevates the patient's head allowing for better blood flow to the brain. It has been shown to improve return of cardiac activity by as much as 60 percent.

Somers is the first department in Wisconsin to use this device in each front-line ambulance.

It works in conjunction with the LUCAS mechanical chest compression system that is already used by the department to increase the chance of surviving a heart attack.

The two new devices, which cost around \$14,700 total, were purchased with Wisconsin State EMS Grant Funds. The two LUCAS CPR machines they work with, which had a combined cost of \$32,000, were purchased with funds raised by the Somers Fire & Rescue



Somers Fire Chief Ben Andersen demonstrate the new heads-up cardio-pulmonary resuscitation device the department acquired in front of Trustee Jackie Nelson and her husband Tom Nelson.

Association and the Somers Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 4831.

The total \$46,700 worth of life-saving equipment came at no cost to Somers taxpayers.

"The CPR machines have already saved lives and we hope to save more with these new devices," said Somers Fire Chief Ben Andersen.

Roundabout under construction for highways A and Y



Covelli Heights resident Michele Ludvigsen asks Kenosha County Highways Director Clement Abongwa questions about the upcoming roundabout project at the intersection of Highway A and Y.

The intersection of Highway A and Highway Y (22nd Street) is closed as it is being changed from a 4-way stop to a single-lane roundabout.

Access to local residences and

businesses will remain during construction.

More details, including a map of the project area and detour routes, are available on the Kenosha County website at



Rendering of the roundabout courtesy of Kenosha County and R.A. Smith, Inc.

kenoshacounty.org/2245/Highway-A-Y-Intersection-Project.

The project is weather dependent and expected to be completed in August.

New development updates

■ **Mission 94** — Grading work has started on the site of the Mission 94 Firearms Education Center. It is located at 1487 120th Avenue and is part of the Pritzker Military Archives Center project. It is expected to open in early 2024.

■ **Chipotle** — The restaurant officially opened on March 13. It is located at 3671 Market Lane, just south of the Taco Bell.

■ **Somers Logistics Center** — Becknell Industrial was granted occupancy for a 795,000-sq.-ft. spec warehouse at 11705 18th Street. They are proposing to build an additional 1,000,000-sq.-ft. building to the north.

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

■ **Home Inspired II** — The plan commission approved a 40-bed assisted living facility on the parcel to the east of the Village/Town Hall. The 24,710-sq.-ft. building has been designed to match the existing facility located at 1201 Village Centre Drive.

■ **Bobcat Plus** — A Bobcat dealership is planned in the Somers/Paris growth area. The 13,325-sq.-ft. building has been approved on a parcel at the southeast corner of 122nd Avenue and West Frontage Road.

■ **First Park 94** — A new 450,000-sq.-ft. building was granted occupancy. The building is expandable to 615,000 square feet, if needed.

■ **Savannah at Pike Creek** — Modifications to existing highways are complete for access to 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.

■ **Compressed Natural Gas** — A fueling station project was presented to the Plan Commission. The facility would service fleet vehicles running on compressed natural gas.

It is located on Highway KR, just east of the Canadian Pacific railroad.

■ **Flint 94** — The first building in the Somers/Paris growth area at the southeast corner of Highway E and West Frontage Road is expected to be completed in May, the second in August.



Mission 94 Firearms Education Center



Chipotle



Somers Logistics Center



Carthage College Maintenance Building



Home Inspired II



Bobcat Plus dealership



First Park 94



Compressed natural gas filling station

Somers officials remember James Smith



Jim Smith

A moment of silence fell over both the Town and Village boards on April 11 as those present remembered James Smith who passed away April 4 at the age 76.

"We could always count on him being supportive of the Town," said Town Chairman Mark Molinaro. "His influence will be felt for a long time."

He was a graduate of Mary D. Bradford High School.

After knowing each other for years, he married Sharon Bose, on Feb. 8, 1969.

Smith ran the family farm with his father until 1986.

He was a Charter Member of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, a volunteer organization started in 1977. He served on the department for 18 years.

Interested in local politics, Smith served several terms as Town of Somers Supervisor and Town of Somers Chairman.

Committed to preserving history, he contacted Somers Village Historian and Trustee Jackie Klapproth Nelson expressing his desire to donate his personal photographs, grandfather's schoolbooks and other items relating to Somers history.

They catalogued the items and the University of Wisconsin - Parkside accepted them as the Jim Smith



Charter members of the Somers Rescue Squad are gathered beside the town's first rescue vehicle which recently went into service. From left, kneeling, are Mark Schlitz, Fire Chief Ernest (Bunky) Tabbert Jr., Randy Tabbert, Lt. Roger Whitefoot and

Warren Nelson; standing, James Smith, left, John Lichter, Capt. George Mikulski, Neil Thorpe and Julius Vines. Charter member John McKinzie was not present.

Kenosha News photo by Allen Fredrickson

This Kenosha News clipping from March 8, 1978 shows Jim Smith, (standing on the left) with other members of the Somers Rescue Squad.

Collection.

"This made him happy," stated Nelson.

After retiring from farming, he went back to school to study mortuary science and was a 1989 graduate of the Milwaukee Area Technical College Funeral Service program. He worked as a funeral director for the Bruch Funeral Home in Kenosha, the Hansen-Lendman Funeral Home and retired from the Proko Funeral Home after many years of serving families.

Smith was a proud member of the Somers Community Church.

He lived for his yard and if you ever drove by his home, chances were good that you would see him on his riding mower manicuring his lawn.

Somers Public Works gets new equipment

In March, Public Works took delivery of a Komatsu front-end loader to replace one that was more than 20 years old.

The new rig is outfitted with several attachments: buckets, sweeper, forks and snow blade.

In January, Public Works also took possession of a new Chevrolet 2500 HD fleet pickup truck.

It was outfitted with a plow and light bar and already took part in this year's snow removal.

This was ordered as a part of the 2022 CIP. It replaced a 2003 vehicle at a cost of \$50,169.



The Somers Public Works department took delivery of the front-end loader in March.

Gregg Sinnen steps down from Village Board

Gregg Sinnen was recognized by the Village of Somers staff and elected officials on his last meeting April 11.

He has been a Village Trustee since 2017 and chose not to seek another term.

Sinnen also served on the Somers Rescue Squad and Somers Fire Department from 1981 to 1997.

He also served on the Fire Chief Study Committee, the Somers Fire Commission, the Town of Somers Board of Supervisors, the Somers Board of Appeals and the Incorporation Study Committee.



Trustee Gregg Sinnen receives a plaque from Village/Town Administrator Jason Peters for his service at the end of the April 11 Village Board Meeting.

Lift Stations

The contract to remodel the last two lift stations that need upgrading in the Village: 45th Avenue (Eaglewood) and 63rd Avenue (Lichter) went up to bid on March 16.

The bid was awarded to August Winter & Sons, Inc. at the March 28 Village Board Meeting for a three-pump design in the amount of \$1,649,700.

An information meeting for residents will be scheduled.

Paving bids

The contract to repave the Somers Estate subdivision went to bid on March 30.

The lowest bidder was Payne & Dolan for a price of \$1,223,109.21 for the repaving of approximately 1.4 miles of Somers Estates public roadway. The project will include 29th Avenue, 10th Place, 27th Court, 27th Avenue, 11th Street, 11th Place and 25th Avenue.

The Village has worked with this contractor in the past with great results.

Weather permitting, the project will begin at the end of April or early May and be completed by the end of June, if the weather cooperates.



A white-tailed deer walks through the Neumiller Woods property.

Root-Pike WIN updates

■ **Neumiller Woods phase two** — A new wetland is being designed for the north side of the Somers Branch.

It will help treat water runoff and further reduce downstream flooding and erosion.

■ **Gitzlaff Park phase two** — Two new engineered wetlands will improve conditions along the Somers Branch while creating future outdoor recreational opportunities.

An acre of wetland a foot deep can store more than 330,000 gallons of stormwater which makes wetlands planted with deep-rooted native plants so important. They act like nature's kidneys, processing pollutants and filtering water before it flows downstream.

Funding assistance is being provided through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

■ **University of Wisconsin - Parkside stormwater** — The first part of this runoff reduction program will start this summer. When complete, the project will reduce campus runoff to the Pike River.

The Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance (RSC) system allows for more runoff filtration and pollutant processing. It also creates native habitat for pollinators while reducing mowing and maintenance costs.

Funding assistance is being provided by the Fund for Lake Michigan.

■ **Respect Our Waters** — This community outreach effort aims to bring light to pollution from lawn clippings. Grass clippings create excess phosphorus that impair rivers, ponds and lakes with algae. When mowers direct the clippings away from the pavement and back on the lawn, they are less likely to run off with stormwater. Water flowing into swales and pipes is not treated, so the less grass in the system the better. The Respect Our Waters citizen education program is funded by a collaboration of 20 municipalities in southeastern Wisconsin to help meet their stormwater permit requirements.

For more information, email Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network at info@rootpikewin.org.

Green Bay Road project

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is in the process of reconstructing Green Bay Road between Highway 50 (75th Street) and County Highway S (38th Street).

The project will include:

- Grinding the current pavement down and laying a new top surface
- Replacing the existing signals with new monotube signals. This type of signal support consists of a single structure spanning the whole intersection.
- Improvement of pedestrian crossings.
- Concrete pavement and curb and gutter replacement.

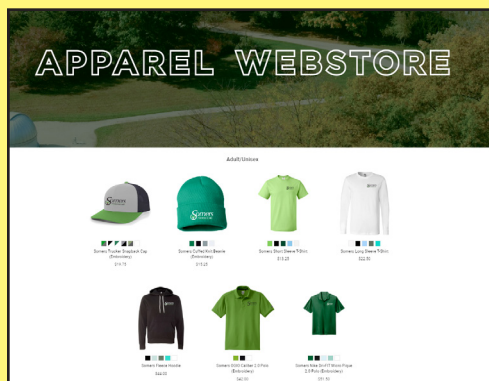
Expect delays. Get the latest project updates at this website: storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/81a76e86dc044426aba8a56eb93fc207.

Lights upgraded to LED

The Somers Public Works Department has been switching lighting to LED around the Village/Town Hall offices, parking lots and both fire stations.

The new, more efficient lighting is expected to not only save money on electricity but will also save time as LED bulbs have a longer useful life and do not need to be changed as often.

Show your Somers pride



Somers has partnered with The Lettering Machine in Kenosha to create a webstore where you can order Somers branded apparel.

Somers does not make a profit from the sales. Order your new threads at theletteringmachine.com/somers/shop/home.

April 4 Spring Election Roundup

Election results

■ Scott Fredrick, who served on the Somers Plan Commission was elected to the Somers Village Board. He is a new face on the board as long-time Trustee Gregg Sinnen did not seek another term.

■ Returning to the Village Board are Trustees Jack Aupperle and Jackie Nelson who won reelection and will serve for another two-year term.

■ Incumbent Somers President George Stoner will return for another two-year term.

■ Municipal Judge Robert Kupfer was elected to another four-year term.

■ Town Chairman Mark Molinaro Jr. and Supervisor Richard Lesko were also both reelected to another two-year term.

Participation

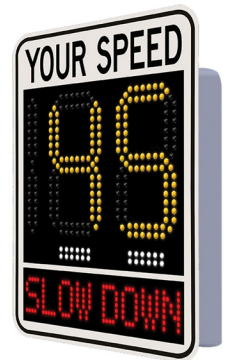
■ 293 votes were cast in the Town out of 623 registered voters, a 47 percent turnout.

■ 2,609 votes were cast out of 5,598 registered voters in the Village, a 46.5 percent turnout.

New speed limit signs

In an effort to curb speeding in Somers, the Village has ordered four solar powered flashing speed limit signs from the TAPCO sign company.

These signs are the same used by the City of Kenosha and display motorists' speed as the drive by.



Stormwater contract

The Village of Somers is contracting with Strand Associates to help create a stormwater capital improvement plan to prioritize stormwater projects to alleviate flooding issues for Somers residents.

A public meeting will be scheduled for residents to share their flooding concerns with Strand.

The study is expected to cost \$28,900.