

Somers celebrates the Fourth

Braving the heat, hundreds of people lined up Highway E to watch the Somers Fourth of July celebration.

This year's parade featured 75 entries including the Jolly Giant stilt walkers and Milwaukee Dancing Grannies with the 610 Stompers.

Lutheran Vanguard and Kenosha Ramblers marching bands, Wilfrido Ortiz Mariachi band, Mike Schneider Polka band, Shoreland Lutheran High School band, MGV Harmonia and River City Rhythm provided music while Dinder Brothers Circus performers and Arik the Wanderer juggling act showed off their skills.

Floats by Snap-on Tools, Southport Baptist Church and several local businesses and organizations went down the route to the cheers of spectators along the route.

This year's Parade Marshal was Marianne Kraus.

After the parade, the traditional ice cream social was back after a hiatus due to the pandemic.

It was a nice reprieve from the heat for all. Festival Foods sponsored cakes, ice cream and everything else needed for the event.



Colleen Minisce leads the Milwaukee Dancing Grannies as they close the Somers Fourth of July parade.



Ellie Weiss, 7, hands Pamela Dugger, right, and her friend Stellla Sweeney, both 6, American flags donated by American Legion Post 552.



At left, Caitlin Svoboda, of Hastings, Neb., waves at passing floats while holding her 10-month-old daughter Dottie. Top, Paige Nelson, left, and Celia Borst, both 9, enjoy a cold treat at the Ice Cream Social.

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.

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.

■ **U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil's office** hours are now in room 177 of the Kenosha County Building, 19600 75th Street, in Bristol.

Hours are Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon or by appointment by calling 608-752-4050 or through Steil's website at steil.house.gov/contact.

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

■ **The Yard waste drop-off site** is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

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/.

■ **2023 garbage and recycle calendars** are available on the Somers website at www.somers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Somers-Tn-Village-2023.pdf.

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

■ **Monday Sept. 4 for Labor Day**

Election workers sought

Looking for an opportunity to get involved in the democratic process and serve your community? The Village and Town of Somers are looking for people to help with local elections.

Poll workers are responsible for registering voters, checking identification, issuing ballots, processing absentee ballots, and more.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Somers currently has two polling locations: the Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th Street and the University of Wisconsin — Parkside Sports Center, 4130 Petrifying Springs Road.

Poll workers typically work from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. but half days are also available. This is a paid position.

The dates of the 2024 Elections are as follows. You are not required to work all of them.

- Feb. 20 (If primary is necessary)
- April 2
- Aug. 13
- Nov. 5

To be a poll worker, a person must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- be 18 years old. High school students under 18 are eligible to become poll workers but need to fulfill additional requirements.
- be able to read and write fluently in English.
- not be a candidate in the election they work on.
- be a qualified elector of the county where the polling place is located.

More information is available at this link: elections.wi.gov/node/1012.

If interested, please contact Village/Town Clerk Brandi Baker via email at bbaker@somers.org or via mail at P.O. Box 197, Somers, WI 53171.

Training will be required and coordinated by the Somers Clerk.

Community CPR classes offered

The Make the Difference community initiative had its first Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation class in May and it was a resounding success. Eighteen people were trained to perform the life-saving technique. Additional classes have been scheduled.

Classes are held once a month and participants can choose from a free "hands-only" CPR or an American Heart Association class that includes a certification for \$15. No prior experience is needed to take either class.

"Our instructors are here to provide information and hands-on practice to as many people as possible," said Somers Fire & Rescue Department Public Outreach Officer Nico Celebre.

The next certification class will be 9 a.m. Saturday, July 15 at the Somers Fire Station #1, 7511 12th Street. The next hands-only one will be 6 p.m. Aug. 16 at the same location.

"Having community members be confident enough to perform CPR can have tremendous benefits to patient outcome," said Celebre.

To sign up for either class, fill out this form on the Somers website: www.somers.org/fd-requests or scan the QR code.



Office news

■ James Klinefelter has accepted a position in the Somers Public Works department. His last employment was with the City of Zion where he worked for the public works department for four years.

He is a Somers resident and looks forward to working for the Village.

■ Public Works Superintendent Gerald Smith is retiring after nine years. His last day is scheduled to be July 7.

"Working for Somers has been a very satisfying job," he said. "The Village has been very progressive and the amount of development during my tenure has been astronomical."

Andy Kreye will be promoted to the position. He has worked in the department as a foreman for two and a half years.

■ On May 4th, a Multifactor Authentication (MFA) system was deployed for Somers employees with the help of the Kenosha County IT department.

MFA is a system that enables verification of a user's identification on the internet. It provides added security against malicious access to Somers' computer systems.

In July Kenosha County will train board members on the new system.

■ The Village is currently seeking applications for an open position in Public Works department.

Animal control officer

The Village of Somers will be contracting with the Sheriff's Department to provide animal control services starting this summer.

Somers and the villages of Bristol and Paddock Lake and the towns of Paris, Wheatland and Randall were without a humane officer since Clawz & Pawz no longer offers the service.

Town to be appraised

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue will have staff from the Milwaukee Equalization District Office appraising properties in the Town of Somers toward the end of 2023.

The appraisers will:

■ Conduct inspections of residential, commercial and agricultural properties

■ Take photographs from public roads

■ Contact owners of commercial properties to request onsite inspection, when applicable

■ Residents should be aware that all Wisconsin DOR employees conducting this review will carry state-issued photo identification.

The data will be used to establish the 2024 Equalized Values which will be certified Aug. 15, 2024. The results will not impact the assessed value of individual properties.

A smoother ride on 100th Avenue



Somers Public Works employees Josh Sullivan, left, and Bryan Paielli use a mastic mix heated to 400 degrees to fill expansion cracks along 100th Avenue.

The road was found to have prematurely worn out. The mastic was tested last year and found to hold up well and be a cost effective measure until the road can be repaved.

Work is weather dependent but the full five miles of the road are expected to be completed by mid-July.

The cost of the fix is estimated to be \$50,000 for this year.



Volunteers plant native Oaks

David Giordano, 14, of Somers, plants oaks donated by Living Lands and Waters' Million Trees Project on June 9 at Gitzlaff Park. About 20 Red and Burr Oaks were planted by six volunteers. Oaks are native to this area and are a keystone species of the ecosystem providing food and habitat for over 2,000 species. They support more wildlife than any other North American tree genus.



From right, Somers residents Toby Thomas, his mother Paula Thomas, Carl Drechsler and Larry Funk, look over a map and describe stormwater issues with Strand Associates Engineer Anna Sadowski during the June 14 public meeting at the Somers Village Auditorium.

Stormwater public meeting

People came early for the June 14 Stormwater Utility Capital Improvement public meeting. Residents were given a chance to speak with engineers from Strand Associates, Inc. and share issues they have with stormwater flooding.

Problems brought to the attention of the representatives from Strand Associates were documented on a large map. Residents were given an opportunity to submit photos and videos.

All these will be compiled with other evidence and current studies to create a report to help the Village of Somers come up with a plan and prioritize projects for the utility to alleviate flooding issues for Somers residents.

Pritzker Military Archives Center



The Pritzker Military Archives Center received an Illinois Real Estate Journals' 2023 Commercial Real Estate Award.

The building was designed by Architect Helmut Jahn, who has since passed away.

"TAWANI Property Management was honored to work on this project and help bring Col. Jennifer Pritzker and Helmut Jahn's vision to formation," said TAWANI Property Management Chief Operating Officer of Real Estate, Kimberlee Carr. "We are proud of this building and the services it will contribute to the Village of Somers in Wisconsin and everyone who visits and utilizes the center."

The facility is projected to open first quarter of 2024.

New development updates

■ **Mission94** — On May 11, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site of the Firearms Education Center. It is located at 1487 120th Avenue and is expected to open in early 2024.

■ **Maplecrest** — A conceptual plan for a housing development on the Maplecrest Country Club property was presented to the Plan Commission in May. The proposed development would include 899 total dwelling units including apartments, townhomes and single-family homes.

■ **Flint 94** — The first building in the Somers/Paris growth area at the southeast corner of Highway E and West Frontage Road has been completed. A second warehouse is currently under construction on the site with plans for a third in the future.

■ **Bobcat Plus** — Work on the dealership should start shortly on the 13,325-sq.-ft. building. It is located at the southeast corner of 122nd Avenue and West Frontage Road.

■ **Mastercraft** — The Village Board approved two single-family homes to be built in the 9000 block of 12th Street.

■ **Compressed Natural Gas** — A fueling station project was approved by the Village Board. The facility will service fleet vehicles running on compressed natural gas. It is located on Highway KR, just east of the Canadian Pacific railroad.

■ **Somers Highland Commerce Center** — HSA Commercial Real Estate is building a 900,000-sq.-ft. warehouse located on a 65-acre parcel along Highway S just east of the new Kwik Trip Travel Center.

■ **Savannah at Pike Creek** — Grading is taking place at the 65-acre parcel on the northwest corner of Highway L (18th Street) and Green Bay Road. The residential multi-family development consists of 42 buildings with a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units for a total of 338 residences.

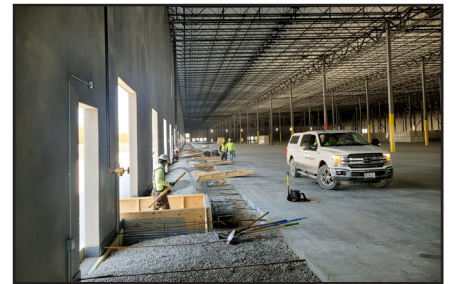
■ **Smoothie King** — The new franchise opened its doors June 12 at 3667 Market Lane next door to the Taco Bell.



Mission94 Development Facilitator Chris Meter, left, and Col. Jennifer Pritzker turn over the first shovelful of dirt at the Mission 94 Firearms Education Center groundbreaking ceremony in May.



Maplecrest



Flint 94 Commerce Center



Bobcat Plus dealership



Mastercraft



Compressed natural gas filling station

Fire Department holds live fire training

On April 30, the Somers Fire & Rescue Department conducted a live training burn at a house located off of Highway E on West Frontage Road.

Another house was also burned for training on May 20 on Highway A near the Petrifying Springs Golf Course.

These live fire trainings are invaluable for firefighters as they are held in a controlled environment where dangerous materials have been removed from the premises and utilities have been disconnected.

"It is the most realistic way to train," said Somers Fire Chief Ben Andersen. "We only get a chance to do it about once a year, depending on development."

Between the two events, more than 60 firefighters and trainees took part in the events.



Fire spreads through the house at the end of the training.



Somers Firefighter Brandon Dzibinski contains the now fully engulfed house.



From left, Somers Fire Explorers Sergei Varvil and Jace Grams, wearing full masks and air tanks watch as the room fills with smoke. Paris Fire Chief Colin Hennessey is at right.

Open-burning rules reminder

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department would like to remind residents that burn permits are required in the summer.

Below are guidelines which are also printed on the [permit](#).

■ All fires must be at least 25 feet from any structure

■ All fires must be monitored at all times by someone 18 years of age or older

■ Burn barrels are prohibited

■ No burning is allowed if winds are greater than 10 m.p.h.

■ You are only allowed to burn natural materials such as sticks, leaves and tree wood

■ Prohibited materials include but are not limited to construction materials, garbage, furniture and tires

■ Daytime fires (sunrise-sunset) cannot exceed 4'x4'x4'

■ Night time fires (sunset-sunrise) cannot exceed 2'x2'x2'

■ You must have a way of extinguishing the fire if needed.

If you are concerned about someone burning please call 911 or the non-emergency line at 262-605-5100.

Please understand that any calls about a fire will be investigated even if a burn permit was issued.

If all rules are being followed you will be allowed to continue burning.

If you have additional questions the fire department at 262-859-2277.



SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269

PROpane Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- July is the peak month for grill fires.
- Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



SOMERS FIRE & RESCUE

SOMERS.ORG

Somers Community Day draws hundreds

Hundreds of residents and their families were treated to safety demonstrations throughout the day on May 13.

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department showed how hydraulic tools commonly calls Jaws of Life could cut right through a car to the delight of children. Some even got a chance to try to lift the heavy equipment.

The Flight For Life helicopter landed behind the Village/Town Hall and the crew invited people to look at the back of the flying ambulance as well as sit in the pilot seat.

The Sheriff's Department K9 unit showed how dogs search for drugs and are used to help apprehend a suspect.

Somers Public Works vehicles, from a front-end loader to the vacuum truck and everything in between were on display as well as the Sheriff's Department's armored vehicle.

The event raised funds for the "Make the Difference" initiative, which aims to train the community on life-saving measures.

Organizers hope to make this an annual event in the community.



Somers Fire & Rescue Firefighter Brandon Dzibinski helps Explorer Artyoms Varvil cut a car windshield during Somers Community Day.



David Lundgren, of Racine, helps his daughter Abigail, 3, into the back of the Flight For Life helicopter during the Somers Community Day event at the Village/Town Hall.



Somers Fire Recruit Tom Larson, of Kenosha, helps Cove Pollack, 3, of Somers, get out of the smoke house through a window. The smoke house was one of the displays at Somers Community Day and simulates smoky conditions inside a room during a fire.



Above, Kenosha Sheriff Deputy Terry Tift and his K9 partner Riggs demonstrate how to apprehend a suspect. Left, Somers Fire & Rescue Department Firefighter Kenneth Smith puts out a small fire to demonstrate the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

Gardening tips from Root-Pike WIN

Garden fertilizers contain phosphorus and nitrogen. Once applied, whatever is not absorbed by plants will be washed away by the rain into nearby rivers, lakes, and streams.

Those chemicals cause algae blooms that deplete oxygen in the water and make it inhabitable for aquatic species.

The tips below can help safeguard precious freshwater resources that support thousands of local species from humans to macroinvertebrates that make up the base of the food chain.

- Test soil first to be sure fertilizer is needed and to determine what nutrients are lacking.

- Opt for native species. Evolving for centuries in southeastern Wisconsin, native plants are naturally resilient in the local climate and soil, eliminating the need for costly fertilizer.

- Accept that lawns are not native nor are they meant to stay green in times of drought or season change.

- If fertilizing, do so in the fall when plants are actively storing nutrients before winter dormancy.

- Refrain from using lawn chemicals before a rain event to prevent polluting water runoff from yards.

Freshwater is vital to life, yet only three percent of the world's available water is fresh! Join Root-Pike WIN in helping to protect local and vital freshwater resources through upholding this season's "Sparkling Stormwater" tip on fertilizing. Learn more about going native here: root-pikewin.org/gonative.

Keep an eye on local water bodies for algae blooms and contact Root-Pike WIN with concerns at info@root-pikewin.org.



Lift stations update

August Winter & Sons Inc. will be remodeling the last two lift stations in the Village: 45th Avenue (Eaglewood) and 63rd Avenue (Lichter).

The Village Board approved a submersible three-pump design costing

\$1,649,700. That design will match that of the 7th Street lift station on Sheridan Road.

Work is expected to start in August and last about a year. This project should not cause any road closure or interruption of service to residents.

An information meeting will be scheduled.

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, Assistant to the Administrator/Communications Specialist.

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New asphalt has been laid on 11th Street. All public roads in the Somers Estates subdivision have been repaved.

Somers Estates paving completed

The paving of the Somers Estates subdivision has been completed.

Work still needs to be inspected and approved by the Village. If issues needing correction have been identified, the contractor has until September to fix them.

The contractor, Payne & Dolan, was the lowest bidder at \$1,223,109.21 for the repaving of approximately 1.4 miles of public roadway.

The project will be funded through borrowing.



Highway E is closed to traffic west of West Frontage Road.

Highway E closed to traffic

The Kenosha County Highway Department started resurfacing Highway E from West Frontage Road to Highway MB in the Town of Paris. Asphalt shoulders will be added as part of the project.

The road is closed to traffic. Motorists are asked to use West Frontage Road, Highway 142 and Highway MB to get around the closure.

The work is weather dependent. It is expected to continue through August.

Projects updates will be posted on the Kenosha County website at www.kenoshacounty.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2868.