

## *Firefighters train with new extrication tools*

The Somers Fire and Rescue Department took delivery of inflatable lift bags and a new extrication set in early July.

The Holmatro equipment set consists of a cutter, spreader and ram extension. They are battery-operated, which allows better access and maneuverability and they work faster than the 24-year-old hosed set they replace.

The new set will also eliminate exposure to exhaust fumes from the generator used to operate the old tools.

The new cutters are designed to better handle the new alloys used in modern cars.

The high-pressure stackable lift bags run off of the same self-contained breathing apparatus bottles that firefighter use to breath. They can lift as much as 87,226 pounds (the weight of a loaded semi-truck) off the ground to free someone pinned under.

The new set is by the same manufacturer as one bought two years ago which will allow both fire engines responding to car accident to be outfitted with the battery operated devices.

The equipment was purchased for \$59,723.

"These tools will allow us to perform extrications quicker giving emergency medical technicians faster access to patients, which leads to better outcomes," said Somers Fire & Rescue Chief Ben Andersen.



(Top) Somers Fire & Rescue firefighters Sergio Kips, right, holds a ram to spread a door frame as Bella Domanico, left, works with a spreader during an extrication exercise at the Fire Station. At left, Jefferson Fire & Safety President Tyler Jefferson explains the features of the new Holmatro battery-operated extrication tools to Somers Fire & Rescue department members during a training session.



## Reminders

### ■ Smoke detectors are available to Somers residents.

If interested, call the Somers Fire & Rescue department at 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 at no cost to you.

### ■ 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](http://www.somers.org).

## Election workers sought

The Village and Town of Somers are looking for poll workers 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. Working all of them is not required.

- 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 at least 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](https://elections.wi.gov/node/1012).

If interested, please contact Village/Town Clerk Brandi Baker via email at [bbaker@somers.org](mailto:bbaker@somers.org), phone at 262-859-2822 or via mail at P.O. Box 197, Somers, WI 53171.

Training will be required and coordinated by the Somers Clerk prior to the elections.

## Fire Department offers community CPR classes



Cody Holden, of Somers, practices what to do when an infant starts choking during a CPR Class at the Somers Fire Station. Behind him, his wife Chantel watches while holding their 6-month-old daughter Cora. The class is part of the Make the Difference initiative, which aims to have members of the community learn the life-saving technique.

The Somers Fire & Rescue department offers Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation classes through their Make the Difference community initiative.

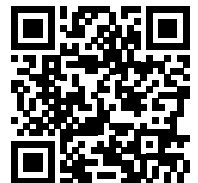
Classes are held once a month and participants can choose from a free “hands-only” CPR or an American Heart Association class that includes a certification for \$15. No prior experience is needed to take either class.

“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.

Upcoming hands-only classes are 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 21 and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Somers Fire Station #1, 7511 12th Street. The next AHA certification class is 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 18 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 the form on the Somers website: [www.somers.org/fd-requests](http://www.somers.org/fd-requests) or scan the QR code.



## Office news

■ Tyler Remus joined the Somers Public Works department on Aug. 28. He previously worked eight years as a foreman for Vil-lani Landshapers, a landscaping company based out of Menomonee Falls.

Remus, who moved to Somers six months ago, wanted to work closer to home.

He has fit right in with the rest of the crew.

"I love the camaraderie," he said.

■ Angela Lasecki took the position of Clerk I on Sept. 18. She came from the Somers Fire & Rescue Department where she worked for four years and will continue to work part time as a Firefighter Emergency Medical Technician.

Originally from Pulaski, Wisc. She has lived and been involved in the area for almost decade.

For information on available positions with the Village or Town of Somers, check the website at [www.somers.org/departments/employment-opportunities/](http://www.somers.org/departments/employment-opportunities/).

# 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. Tuesday 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 and 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.

## New speed signs installed

Public Works employee James Klinefelter sets up one of four flashing speed limit signs that the Village of Somers acquired to remind motorists of the speed limit and curb speeding. A total of four signs were installed, two on 47th Avenue and two on 100th Avenue.



## 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).

Work was expected to start in August and last about a year, but supply chain disruptions have delayed the project until next year.

An information meeting will be scheduled closer to the start date of the project.

This should not cause any road closure or interruption of service to residents.

The Village Board approved the \$1,649,700 upgrade in the 2023 budget.

The new lift station at 45th Avenue will have a submersible three-pump design matching the 7th Street and Seawall lift stations on Sheridan Road.

The one at 63rd Avenue will be a two-pump design and will have a generator, which the current facility does not have. This will allow the lift station to keep working in the case of a power outage.



## Pritzker Military Archives Center



Architecture Firm Jahn's Managing Director Philip Castillo presents a tribute to Architect Helmut Jahn during a media preview for the facility.

The Pritzker Military Archives Center held a media preview Sept. 13 in front of dignitaries and the media.

Jahn Architecture firm's Managing Director Philip Castillo presented a tribute to Helmut Jahn, the designer of the 51,800-sq.-ft.-building. Jahn passed away in a traffic accident before the building was finished. Castillo said Jahn would have been proud of the structure, as it embodies toughness and courage, themes he envisioned when designing the building, drawing inspiration from WWII D-Day landing crafts.

"His legacy will live on with this building," said Castillo.

The staff at the PMAC is in the process of moving, organizing and cataloging more than 100,000 items into the state-of-the-art temperature and humidity-controlled building.

The 24,000-sq.-ft. lower level, featuring moveable storage racks by Spacesaver Corporation in Fort Atkinson, should meet the storage needs for the next 30 years.

A special area was set aside as cold storage for historic photographs.

The facility replaces archives located in the Chicago area.

The PMAC is projected to open to the public during the first quarter of 2024.



Col. Jennifer Pritzker talks about the collection held at the PMAC.



Somers Fire & Rescue Firefighter and Paramedic Dan Radandt, left, asks Lieutenant in charge of Public Education Adam Pisula a question as they check out the inside of the new inflatable fire safety house that they setup for the first time.

## Fire Department gets safety house

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department took delivery of its first safety house. The department had been using the County's until it broke down.

They tested the new inflatable house for the first time in September and had it up within a few minutes. It has advantages over the one it replaces as it has a level entry, which makes it handicapped accessible, it features additional safety messages and can be setup inside a building.

It is planned to be used for the first time Oct. 3 at Somers Elementary School for Fire Prevention Month.

## Breakfast with Santa is back

The Somers Fire & Rescue Association will be holding its popular Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 16.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to noon. Pancakes, sausage, fruit, donuts, juice, milk and coffee will be served in the auditorium of the Somers Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th St.

Cost for the breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children 5 to 12. Children under 5 eat for free.

Breakfast will be prepared and served by members of the Somers Fire & Rescue Department and Somers Explorers Post #463.

Parents with children, bring your camera;

Santa will be available for photos.

The event is a fundraiser for the Somers Fire & Rescue Association. Check and cash donations can be dropped off at the Somers Fire Station or the Somers Village Hall.



# New development updates

■ **Mission94** — The roof is now on the structure and the building is on track to be completed next year.

■ **Flint 94** — The second warehouse has been completed. There are plans for a third in the future.

■ **Bobcat** — The 13,325-sq.-ft. dealership, located on the southeast corner of 122nd Avenue and West Frontage Road is under construction and is projected to be completed in the spring.

■ **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 tracks.

■ **Somers Highland Commerce Center** — The walls and roof of the 900,000-sq.-ft. warehouse are up. Flooring is being poored. It is anticipated to take six weeks for the whole floor to be done. The project is located on a 65-acre parcel along Highway S just east of the new Kwik Trip Travel Center.

■ **Savannah at Pike Creek** — The Clubhouse is being built on 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.

■ **Mister Car Wash** — Construction on the building is expected to start soon.



The form for the central stair case at Mission94 has been poured.



Flint 94 Commerce Center



Bobcat Plus dealership



Compressed natural gas filling station



Somers Highland Commerce Center



The walls and roof of the clubhouse are up at Savannah at Pike Creek at the corner of Green Bay Road and Highway L.

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

■ **Nov. 23 - 24** for Thanksgiving

■ **Dec. 22 - 25** for Christmas

■ **Dec. 29 - Jan. 1** for the New Year

# Credit rating increase benefits borrowing

In August, the credit rating agency Standard & Poors Global Ratings upgraded the Village of Somers' rating from AA- to AA. The review was done as a part of the Village's application for borrowing.

The rating agency cited the rapid growth in the community, the implementation of cybersecurity systems, strong financials and available reserves as being some of the positives that warranted the higher rating.

The increase was a major accomplishment for the community said Ehlers Senior Municipal Advisor Jon Cameron.

"This really speaks to the sound management of the Village," he said.

The credit rating helped save taxpayer money on the Village's plan to borrow for scheduled road maintenance, building renovations and equipment for the Public Works and Fire departments planned to be purchased in 2024.

The Village of Somers is borrowing about \$3.4 million for three years' worth of projects.

When the Village Board was looking at borrowing for the Somers Estates repaving project completed earlier this year, discussions with financial advisor firm Ehlers found that it would be less costly to taxpayers to lump several years' worth of borrowing in one bond issuance instead of applying for borrowing each year.

Increasing interest rates makes borrowing now more prudent than waiting for rates to increase and the improved credit rating helped keep the cost of issuance lower than initially expected.

During the borrowing review, Standard & Poors stated that the Village's sustained economic growth puts it in a strong financial profile.

The 10-year note from Baird of Milwaukee was issued on Aug. 30. The interest rate the Village will pay will be less than 3.4 percent. Even with the additional debt, the Village is staying under its self-imposed debt limit of 65 percent of its total general obligation borrowing capacity.

## Sheriff's Department to provide animal control

The Village and Town of Somers have entered into an agreement with the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department for animal control services starting in August.

Somers and other municipalities throughout Kenosha County including the Towns of Paris, Wheatland and Randall and the Villages of Bristol and Paddock Lake had been without those services since Clawz and Pawz ceased operation.

Sheriff Deputy Nicole Sorensen will be the new animal control officer. She completed the necessary training to recover loose domesticated animals and stray farm animals, handle calls for animal attacks and investigate animal cruelty complaints.

Domesticated animals will be transported to the Wisconsin Humane Society — Kenosha Campus at 7811 60th Avenue in Kenosha.

Any fees associated with the transport and care of animals found in Somers will be charged to owners.

The service does not include wild animals.

"We will assist as much as we can with wildlife," said Capt. Eric Klinkhammer. "But in most cases the resolution would require the citizen to contact an animal rescue, trapper or private contractor."

To contact animal control, residents should call dispatch at 262-656-1234 or 262-653-6600.

## Open burning allowed in the fall following these rules

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department would like to remind residents that burning is allowed without a permit from Oct. 15 through Nov. 30. Outside of those dates, an annual burn permit is required. Permits are good for a full calendar year and cost \$25.

Below are requirements to safely burn yard waste:

■ 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'

■ Nighttime 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, call the fire department at 262-859-2277.





Rusty Patched Bumble Bee. Photo by Clay Bolt, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## Endangered bee sighted in Somers

The Root-Pike WIN staff located a Rusty Patched Bumble Bee nest in the Village of Somers.

The species population is experiencing a drastic decline and has been listed as a federally endangered since 2017. It is one of only seven nests observed in the past 20 years according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

This find is incredibly important to the watershed. Native bees are crucial to the pollination of native plants and the restoration of a balanced ecosystem.

The promotion of native plant species helps avoid runoff as they have much longer and more fibrous root systems than traditional horticultural plants, giving them super water-absorbing power that curbs flooding, holds soil in place, and absorbs nutrients that would otherwise harm water quality.

The native plants evolved alongside native pollinators and are crucial to the survival of native bees such as the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, which are better at pollinating food crops than non-native honeybees.

With efforts focused on removing invasive plants and re-establishing native vegetation for water and habitat quality, nearby restoration projects managed by Root-Pike WIN, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum, the Village and Town of Somers, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside there is hope for the bee to reestablish a foothold in our community.

You can help support native pollinators by planting more native plants.

## Grant secured for project

The Root-Pike WIN secured funding through the Great Lakes Commission's Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program to complete the second phase of improvements to Neumiller Woods.

Phase 2 will create a secondary wetland scrape, or depression, to maximize the pollutant processing abilities of the native landscape.

The property, owned by the Village of Somers, has been identified as a great location to improve the Pike River watershed water quality, which is on the Environment Protection Agency's impaired waters list.

This project aims to reduce phosphorus entering Lake Michigan by 83 pounds per year, nitrogen by 217 pounds per year and sediment by 60 tons per year.



## Electronic recycling and shredding event

Somers residents are invited to drop off electronics and any documents needing to be shredded at the Somers Village/Town Hall at 7511 12th Street (Highway E) Oct. 7, 2023.

Electronic collection will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Paper shredding will be 9 a.m. to noon.

Bring personal documents such as canceled checks, bills, contracts, tax information and 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 at: [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycle](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycle).