

It has been another exciting year in Somers. We have seen more growth and are welcoming new businesses and residents to our community.

From the Village and the Town, we wish all residents a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.

Happy New Year



Somers Fire & Rescue Lieutenant Nico Celebre, left, presents a Zoll CPR machine to Kenosha Sheriff's deputies Korin Bourdo and Joseph Thomas during a brief ceremony on Dec. 21. Also present were elected officials Kenosha Sheriff David Zoerner, Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman and County Board Supervisor David Geertsen.

Firefighters donate CPR machines

The Somers Fire & Rescue Association "Make the Difference" initiative has been striving to improve patients' outcome by holding Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation classes in the community and through the donation of CPR devices.

On Dec. 21, Somers Fire & Rescue Lieutenant Nico Celebre presented six Zoll ResQ CPR devices to Kenosha Sheriff's Department deputies assigned to Somers. The devices feature visual feedback on how well CPR is performed and improve blood flow through active compression and decompression in a compact system.

The devices have been found to greatly improve the quality of CPR provided over that of manual compressions.

The cost of each unit was \$1,500, five were purchased through fundraising and one was donated by the company.

The Somers Fire & Rescue and Somers Professional Firefighters Local 4831 will keep fundraising and hope to be able to present one of these devices to all deputies.

The "Make the Difference" initiative is continuing into 2024. Donations are accepted at the Somers Fire Station.

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.

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

If interested, call the Somers Fire & 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 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](https://www.somers.org).

■ **Garbage calendar available.**

The 2024 garbage and recycle collection is available on the Somers [website](https://www.somers.org).

■ **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.



Genellen Finch and her one-year-old daughter Lailanii Foshey, both of Greenfield, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the annual Breakfast with Santa at the Somers Village/Town Hall on Dec. 16.

Community Breakfast held

The Somers Fire & Rescue Association hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa Dec. 16.

More than 200 people attended — the largest turnout since the event started.

For the first time, the Versiti Blood Center had phlebotomists on-site. Seventeen units of blood were collected including seven from first-time donors.

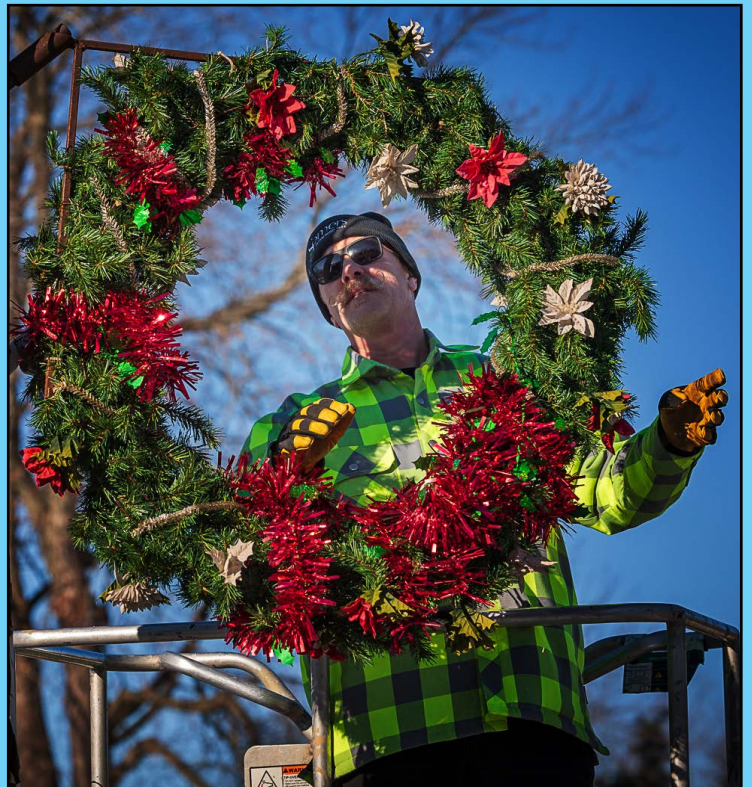
The donations translate into the potential of 51 lives being saved.

The event raised close to \$2,000 for the Somers Fire Association, thanks to the following businesses for their support: Walmart, Kwik Trip and Festival Foods.

The money will be used to support the "Make the Difference" initiative for equipment or community training.

Building on Community Spirit

Public Works employee James Klinefelter sets up a wreath along Highway E. The banners welcoming people to Somers were given a seasonal update for the Holidays. The Village is planning to add additional year-round banners celebrating the community in 2024 through donations from residents. If you would like to make a donation, reach out to Assistant to the Administrator Poirier at the Village Hall.



Office News

■ Firefighter Paramedic Austin Hoecherl started with the Somers Fire & Rescue Department on Jan 1.

He was a Lieutenant with the Campbridge Area Emergency Medical Service in Dane County but kept working for the Somers Fire & Rescue Department part-time since Spring of 2020.

"I am excited to have him back," said Fire Chief Ben Andersen. "He will be a valuable asset to our department."

One additional firefighter-paramedic will be hired later this year.

■ Attorney Tim Evans was hired as the new Village Prosecutor in December. He will be filling the position of outgoing prosecutor Victoria Oleniczak.

Evans is a licensed attorney in Wisconsin, Illinois and Florida.

He serves as Municipal Law Judge for several municipalities in Illinois and a Court Commissioner for Kenosha and Racine Counties.

■ Somers Village Administrator Jason Peters, Assistant to the Administrator Kevin Poirier and Accountant Renee Kelly attended the annual League of Municipalities to learn about current trends and new programs.

We are hiring

■ Somers is looking to fill two positions in Public Works, one full-time, one seasonal.

■ Somers is looking to fill the position of Accountant I.

Property Maintenance Corner

Somers Building Inspector Scott Seymour would like to share a few tips for residents.

If your business has a dumpster enclosure please be sure it is kept clean and in good order to maintain public hygiene and prevent rodent habitat.

You can now pay for building permits through the Somers website at client.pointandpay.net/web/TownofSomersWI/

You can reach Seymour at sseymour@somers.org.



County to resurface Highway E

The Kenosha County Highway Department held a public meeting Nov. 16, to discuss the proposed resurfacing of Highway E (12th Street).

The project will resurface about 1.4 miles of the roadway from Sheridan Road west to just past Wood Road (30th Ave.).

It will include guard rail upgrades and a culvert replacement.

Construction is expected to start in the summer. The roadway will be open during construction.



Kenosha County Highways Director Clement Abongwa answers questions from residents during a public meeting at the Somers Village/Town Hall.

Don't forget about your upcoming local elections

The next elections will be held on April 2, unless a primary is necessary, which would be held Feb. 20.

Three Village Trustee positions will be on the ballot in the Spring General Election. Incumbents are:

- Joe Smith
- Karl Ostby
- Benjamin R. Harbach

There will be one Town Supervisor position. Incumbent is:

- James Armes

Sample ballots for this election will be available in March.

Other Elections Days

- Aug. 13 — Fall primary election

- Nov. 5 — General election

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

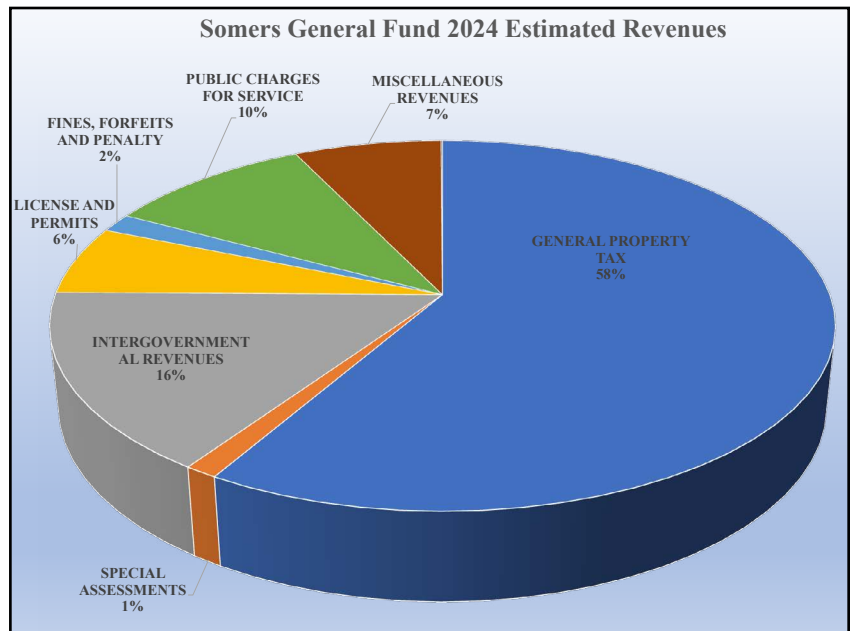
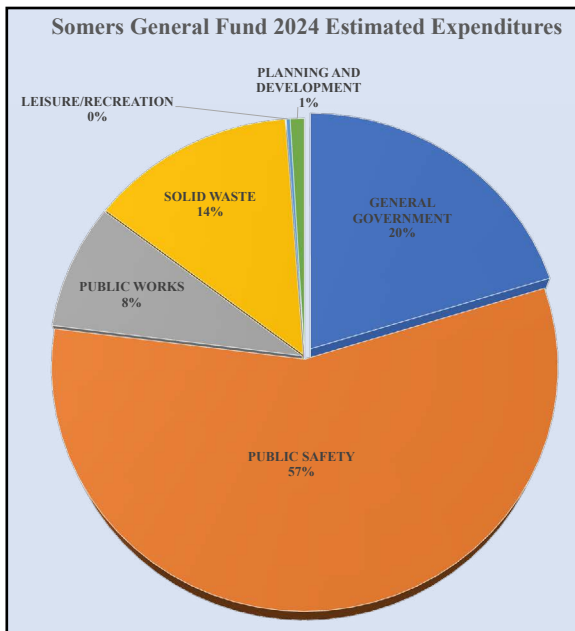
Somers currently has two polling locations: the Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th Street and the University of Wisconsin — Parkside Sports Center, 4130 Petrifying Springs Road.

The Village and Town of Somers are still looking for poll workers to help with local elections.

Poll workers are responsible for registering voters, checking identification, issuing ballots and processing absentee ballots. 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 phone at 262-859-2822.

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



Highlights of the 2024 budget

The 2024 budget was adopted Nov. 14. The total levy is \$4,807,948, an increase of \$134,731, or 2.82 percent.

The 2023 assessed value for the Village of Somers surpassed one billion this year for the first time at \$1,045,712,500. This is an increase of \$65,802,300 (6.72 percent) from the prior year.

The 2023 assessed value for the Town is \$89,013,900. This is a decrease of \$310,300 (0.35 percent) from the prior year.

Tax levy for 2024

■ Village — \$3,570,366. This is an

increase of \$254,670 from 2023.

■ Town — \$352,357. This is an increase of \$191 from 2023.

■ Debt levy — The total debt levy is \$1,012,225. This is a decrease of \$120,129 from 2023.

Mill rate for 2023

■ Village — \$5.34315 per thousand of assessed value (up from \$5.31586).

■ Town — \$4.54792 per thousand of assessed value (down from \$4.69932).

Budget key points

■ The Sewer Fund Capital Im-

provement Plan budget came in at \$1,849,700. Most of that money will be spent on upgrading the last two lift stations: Eaglewood and Lichter.

■ The Somers Fire & Rescue Department will add two full-time Firefighter Paramedics to their roster this year.

■ The Somers Public Works Department will add one full-time position.

■ State Shared Revenue increased by \$265,666 due to the legislature changing its formula in June.

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

How do I pay my taxes, utilities and building permit?

Residents can pay their **property taxes** in person at the Somers Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th Street between 8 and 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Alternatively, payments can be made 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.

Tax payment can also be made through the [Somers website](#). Make sure to select "Real Estate Tax" in the drop-down menu.

Payments for **utilities, court fees and building permits** can also be made through the website.

After Jan. 31 tax payments have to be made at the Kenosha County Treasurer at 1010 56th Street in Kenosha.

Fire Department Social Media

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department now has its own Facebook page.

To stay up to date with the department, like the page by scanning the QR code to the right.

The page displays news from the Somers Fire & Rescue Department, upcoming events, job openings and information about the Somers Explorer Program Post #463.

You can also find more information about the "Make the Difference" initiative."



New development updates

■ **Mission94** — The building is now enclosed and is on track to be completed this year.

The Firearms Education Center is hiring and accepting charter memberships. Education and construction update videos are available on their website. Find out more at mission94firearms.com.

■ **Bobcat Plus** — 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.

■ **Savannah at Pike Creek** — Three apartment buildings are under construction as part of the first phase of the project on the 65-acre parcel.

Once completed, the neighborhood will consist 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 has started and is expected to be completed in 2024.

■ **IV Nutrition** — The wellness franchise, located at 3667 Market Lane, had its official ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 6. They offer nutrients intravenously.

■ **Carthage building** — Carthage College held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new maintenance building.

Carthage President John Swallow complimented the Village of Somers for their help during the process and being able to open the building on time.

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

■ **Maplecrest** — A developer is looking at turning the property into a mixed residential neighborhood.

A proposal for apartment buildings went in front of the Plan Commission on Dec. 9. It is on the schedule for the Feb. 12 meeting.

■ **Somers Highland Commerce Center** — The 900,000-sq.-ft. warehouse is expecting occupancy this spring. The additional traffic generated by the project was the trigger to add an additional east bound turn lane to the I-94 northbound off ramp.



The Mission94 building is now enclosed.



Mister Car Wash



Bobcat Plus dealership



IV Nutrition ribbon cutting



Carthage ribbon cutting



Three apartment buildings and the clubhouse are currently under construction at the Savannah at Pike Creek development. It is located at the corner of Green Bay Road and Highway L.



Building Inspector Scott Seymour took possession of the new truck Oct. 20.

Building inspection gets truck

A truck for the building inspector was approved for \$75,000 in the 2024 budget, Building Inspector Scott Seymour found a 2023 GMC Sierra that would fit the department's needs.

Administration proposed moving the purchase to 2023 to avoid any supply-chain delays. A request to move \$50,000 to the 2023 CIP budget for the purchase was approved at a special meeting on Oct. 17.

The price of the vehicle was approximately \$44,000. The rest of the money was earmarked for decals for the truck and safety lighting.

Village Board recognizes Shoreland team



Shoreland soccer players pose with Somers Village Trustees and President George Stoner during the Nov. 14 Village Board meeting.

The Shoreland Lutheran High School Boys Soccer team was recognized in front of the Village Board on Nov. 14 for their Nov. 4 victory against Saint Mary Catholic in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 4 State Soccer Finals by a score of 2 to zero.

The Board approved Resolution 2023-017 to recognize the team's efforts and to congratulate them on their 2023 WIAA Division 4 Wisconsin State Championship.

This is the second State Boys Championship for the school.

The team presented a school scarf to the Village which will be part of a future display at the Village Hall.

Patient stops by to thank firefighters

October 23rd is a date that Gale Greenhoe, of Kenosha, is not going to forget, even though the details are still a little fuzzy to her.

On that day, her car was hit square-on by a semi as she was traveling north on Highway H and crossing Highway KR.

Responding to the accident were Somers Fire & Rescue Capt. Rob Hamm, Firefighter Dan DiMaria and MATC Intern Jim Sullivan. Drawing on their training, their quick action to get her extricated from the car and transported to Froedtert in a Flight for Life Helicopter made a big difference.

"I would not be here without you," said Greenhoe, using a walker as she is still going through rehab.

She, her husband Ric and daughter Jessica stopped by the fire station to thank the firefighters who responded to the call in person. She shared her recollection of the event and her path to recovery. She also brought treats for the staff.



From left, Jessica Greenhoe, Gale, Ric, firefighter Dan DiMaria, MATC Intern Jim Sullivan and Capt. Rob Hamm talk about the Oct. 23 accident.

New banners coming

Seven additional banners were purchased with a \$1,500 donation from the Gregg Sinnen family.

The Sinnen family has often donated money to the Somers Fire & Rescue Department and community and community

The design at left will be displayed at the entrances of new neighborhoods to welcome residents and visitors to Somers.



Somers projects planned

The Village of Somers has published Requests for Proposals looking for contractors to help with the following projects:

■ **Auditorium** — On Nov. 30, the Village received proposals for the redesign of the auditorium. The work will include new audio-visuals, new carpeting, a new dais and desks and new paint.

The Village proposals were reviewed by the Village Board at their Jan 2 work session.

■ **Fire Needs assessment** — The Village is currently seeking proposals for a Fire Needs Assessment. The study will assess the current and future needs of the Somers Fire & Rescue department.

The study will include an evaluation of current and future facilities and could include an assessment of the department's staffing if the Village Board chooses.

Volunteers help with rain garden



Root-Pike WIN and Amazon volunteers weeded and replanted the rain garden in front of the Village/Town Hall on Sept. 6.

Rain gardens are shallow areas filled with native plants with deep roots that help capture water and reduce polluted runoff from entering the watershed.

Winter Salt pollutes waterways

The salt we use to de-ice in the winter finds its way into nearby waterways as snow and ice melts. More than 1 million metric tons of salt is added to Lake Michigan each year. The concentration of chloride has risen from 1–2 mg/L in the 1800s to more than 15 mg/L in 2020.



Freshwater is vital to human life and a finite resource as only three percent of the world's water is fresh. Once salt enters large bodies of freshwater, it is nearly impossible to remove. High salinity in freshwater is toxic to humans, birds, freshwater fish and other wildlife.

Winter salt also costs communities as it damage concrete and metal infrastructure.

Community members can do their part to prevent salt pollution with the following practices:

■ Shovel often and early to prevent compaction and eliminate the need for deicers.

■ For better traction on ice, use boot cleats, sand in small amounts, and bird seed instead.

■ Don't use salt when temperatures dip under 15 degrees Fahrenheit, as it is too cold to be effective.

■ Don't overuse salt, one 12-oz cup of salt will melt a 20 ft driveway or 10 sidewalk squares with 3 inches between crystals. More salt will NOT make ice melt faster and can negatively affect nearby turf and vegetation.

■ Prevent pollution and save money by sweeping up excess salt for reuse.

■ Request the same behaviors from contractors. Over-use of salt only increases the cost for their services.

Winter Salt Awareness Week is January 22-26, during that week, webinars will be held for those wanting additional information about the issue. Find the list of events here:

<https://www.wisaltwise.com/Event/Detail/1723>

FEMA considers new flood Maps

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is reviewing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) along the South Branch of the Pike River after a study by the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) used new river models.

FIRM are used to determine flood insurance rates for properties along waterways.

Letters were mailed out to property owners affected by the revision on Dec. 11.

More information, including digital version of the maps are available at the Somers Village/Town Hall.