

## Snowy Easter Egg Hunt a success

The Easter's Bunny's bounty stood out on the fresh snow and made it easy for participants to find the thousand colorful eggs spread out in the park behind the Village/Town Hall during the Somers Fire & Rescue Association Easter Egg Hunt.

More than 100 people stopped by during the event and were offered refreshments and treats by dozens of volunteers on hand.

Children were able to turn their eggs in for prizes.

"The event was an incredible success," said organizer Angie Lasecki. "We appreciate everybody braving the weather. We didn't expect snow, but it made the event more fun. We hope to see everyone next year."

Organizers thank local sponsors: Kwik Trip, Jerry Smith Farm, Culver's, Visit Kenosha and Golden Oil.

Anyone with feedback about the event is encouraged to reach out through the association's Facebook page.



Top, Leilani Arzate, eight, of Kenosha, runs through the snow as she collects Easter Eggs during the Somers Fire & Rescue Association event on March 23, 2024. At left, Blake Baker, ten, trades her Easter Eggs for prizes.



From left, Somers Fire & Rescue Department Recruit Vanessa Ebbleston and Explorer Brianna Vranak help Kenzie Montey, of Somers, aim a firehose at a small cone during the Somers Community Day at the Village's Fire Station.

## Somers Community Day date announced

After the success of the first Somers Community Day last year, the Somers Fire & Rescue Department will hold the event again on Saturday May 18.

Like last year, the Somers Village/Town Hall will be open to the public for tours and there will be demonstrations of life-saving measures like first aid, hands-only CPR, the proper way to use a fire extinguisher and other fire prevention devices.

The new inflatable smoke house will be on site for participants to experience being in a smoke-filled

room and the best way to safely get out.

New this year, there will be at least one food vendor.

There will be raffles to support the Somers Fire & Rescue Association "Make the Difference" initiative that offers CPR classes and promotes other life-saving measures.

"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."



# Office News

■ Samone Naylor accepted the position of Accountant. She started on Jan. 23, 2024.

A life-long Kenosha resident, she came from Johnson Financial Group where she worked for 19 years.

She was a Reconciliation & Accounts Payable Manager.

"It's been great so far," she said. "I am learning a lot."

■ Ricardo Macias was hired in the Public Works Department.

He previously worked for Goodwill Industries where he was a truck driver for 15 years.

He has been a great addition to the team.

■ Troy Steege and Michael Deluca have been confirmed as Plan Commissioners. They will be replacing Paul Aiello and Bob Lee whose terms are expiring.

The Village thanks them for their service.

## We are hiring

■ Somers is looking to fill a part-time seasonal position in Public Works.

■ The Clerk/Treasurer position has been posted and applications are being taken.

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



Uncut grass exceeding the height allowed by ordinance

## Property Maintenance Corner

*Somers Building Inspector Scott Seymour would like to remind residents that the grass cutting ordinance goes back in effect for the season on April 1. It will be enforced until Oct. 31. Lawns need to be regularly cut as to not exceed four inches in height.*

*Violators will be notified through the mail and have 10 days to mow their grass. After that time, penalties will be issued.*

*There are additional Village/Town ordinances regulating the upkeep of your property. They address items such as junk cars and how large trucks and recreational vehicle should be kept.*

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

*For more information, Village ordinances can be found under at: [ecode360.com/SO4253](http://ecode360.com/SO4253); Town ordinances at: [somers.org/government/ordinances-town-of-somers/](http://somers.org/government/ordinances-town-of-somers/).*

*For additional questions, contact the Somers building inspector at [sseymour@somers.org](mailto:sseymour@somers.org).*

# Don't forget about your upcoming local elections

The next election will be held on April 2. Locally, there will be three Village Trustee positions and one Town Supervisor.

Other Election Days this year:

■ Aug. 13 — Fall primary election

■ Nov. 5 — General election

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

### Incumbents are:

- Trustee Joe Smith
- Trustee Karl Ostby
- Trustee Ben Harbach
- Supervisor James Armes

They are running unopposed.

Sample ballots for this election are available on our website at [somers.org/departments/clerk-treasurer/elections-voting-information/](http://somers.org/departments/clerk-treasurer/elections-voting-information/).

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

Poll workers register voters, check identification, issue ballots and process absentee ballots. More information is available at this link: [elections.wi.gov/node/1012](http://elections.wi.gov/node/1012).

If interested, please contact The Somers Clerk at 262-859-2822.

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



Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Sugaring Manager Laura Smith, left, explains how maple syrup is made to students visiting from Imago Dei School in Kenosha. Above, maple sap starts flowing from a spile that was just drilled into a tree.

## 'Tis the sweet season for maple sugaring

*Every year, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum taps maples on its property once the temperature rises above freezing during the day and sap begins flowing.*

*This year started early. The first maple was tapped on February 1st and the boil started five days later.*

*It takes about 48 hours of continuous boiling to turn 40 gallons of sap into one*

*gallon of maple syrup.*

*The nature preserve uses wood from the property to keep the boil going.*

*Maple syrup is sold on site while supplies last.*

## Historical Town Hall gets new foundation



The Somers historic Town Hall is lifted up onto a new foundation. The building is located on the Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum property.

Noticing the cement block foundation of the Somers Town Hall had been pushed out by hydrostatic pressure as much as eight inches, Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum hired Precise Contractor to fix the problem.

Precise Contractor and sub-contractor Chase Building Movers lifted the building and poured a new concrete foundation.

“Due to the severe condition of the foundation, they had to act quick to save the building,” said Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary and Arboretum Executive Director TJ Leveque. “Luckily our generous neighbors allowed all the heavy equipment through their property to the site. This would not have been possible without their assistance.”

The restoration, which cost \$60,000, was paid through a donation in memory of Margaret Wilder Shaw.

The building was built in 1859 at the southeast corner of Green Bay Road and Highway E (12th Street). It was moved to its current location in 1967.

The building is expected to reopen in the spring.

Two other historical buildings on the property are the first and second Pike River schools.

# New development updates

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

The Firearms Education Center is now hiring and accepting charter memberships. Education and construction update videos are available on their website. Find out more at [mission94firearms.com](http://mission94firearms.com).

■ **Mister Car Wash** — Construction on the building is ongoing and expected to be completed this spring. The car wash is located along Highway 142 in front of Walmart.

■ **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.

■ **First Park 94** — PurposeBuilt Brands is relocating from New York to Somers. They will be occupying the east half of Building D, on the north side of the industrial park.

They will be manufacturing cleaning powders for equipment in coffee shops, offices, restaurants and homes.

■ **J&M's Bar & Grill** — The Downtown Somers bar, located at 8013 12th Street, will reopen this spring after being closed almost two years following an electrical fire and a flood due to frozen water pipes.

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

Once complete, the neighborhood will consist of 42 buildings with a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units for a total of 338 residences. The property along Green Bay Road will be commercial.



Interior construction is wrapping up on the Mission94 Firearms Education Center. It is expected to open early this summer.



Mister Car Wash



Bobcat Plus dealership



Purpose Built



J&M



Apartment buildings and a 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.

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

■ **May 27 for Memorial Day**

■ **July 4 for Independence Day.** The office will be open on Friday July 5.



## Kenosha Expo

*Somers Fire & Rescue Firefighter Paramedic Brandon Dzibinski looks over as Deja Cunningham, 5, of Kenosha, high-fives Sparky, the Fire Prevention Mascot, during the 2024 Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce Expo held at the University of Wisconsin — Parkside Frank J. Petretti Fieldhouse.*

*The department's booth was busy all weekend.*

*"It was a chance for us to interact with the public in a non-emergency setting and answer questions," said Somers Fire & Rescue Department Public Outreach Officer Nico Celebre.*

*Residents were able to learn about the department career opportunities, receive free Narcan training and other life-saving measures. The department also offers a free smoke detector program for Somers residents.*

*Community members could also sign up for upcoming CPR classes offered through the "Make the Difference" initiative."*

*Find out more about the Somers Fire & Rescue Department on their Facebook page.*



Somers Public Works employees work late into the evening to restore service to residents after a water main break.

# Sheridan Road Water Main Break

While investigating a water leak on Feb. 29, the Somers Public Works Department found a substantial water main break under Sheridan Road north of 13th Street.

Once the extent of the leak was discovered, Public Works Superintendent Andrew Kreye called his entire crew to the site to start the repair. They quickly shut the water off and closed two lanes of Sheridan Road.

Their quick action prevented a large sinkhole from appearing in the middle of the state highway.

This was the first major break the Village has seen in some time. It was a difficult break to fix because of its challenging location.

"Public Works did an excellent job coordinating the repair of this main," said Village/Town Administrator Jason Peters. "This involved finding a contractor within two hours of the break's discovery, informing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, shutting down the road in a safe manner and coordinating help from the Sheriff's Department."

The Fire Department lent a hand dropping off reflective cones and their crash trailer to direct traffic and ensure safety.

Water north of the 1300 block of Sheridan was shut off at around 6 p.m. and was restored by 9:45 p.m.

## Public Works refurbishes trailer

Somers Public Works employees, refurbished a 40-year-old trailer that could no longer be used due to its condition.

Now refurbished with new paint, wiring, boards and reflective tape, the trailer is fully operational.

The purchase of a new trailer of this size would have cost taxpayers more than \$15,000.



# Somers projects planned

The Village/Town Hall Auditorium is going to be re-modeled. The work should start after the April election and be complete before the next election in August.

The project will include new audiovisual equipment, including screens, speakers and microphones, new dais, paint and carpeting.

It will also feature sound attenuating panels and should greatly improve the sound quality in the space during meetings.

The Village is also currently reviewing proposals for a Fire Needs Assessment. The study aims to assess the current and future needs of the Somers Fire & Rescue Department including facilities and could include an assessment of the department's staffing if the Village Board chooses.

A sub-committee is currently reviewing the proposals.

The Village board will make a decision at a future meeting.

## Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman

announces a

### Household Hazardous Waste, E-waste & Refrigerant Collection Event

#### Household hazardous waste items include:

Household cleaning items, aerosol cans, bug sprays, vehicle related fluids, oil-based paints, paint removal products, fluorescent bulbs, pool chemicals and garden/outdoor related products.

#### E-waste (electronic waste) items include:

Computers, laptops, fax machines, keyboards, mice, stereos, scanners, iPods, TVs, VCRs, DVD, CD and MP3 players, printers, phones, copiers, power tools, toner cartridges and electronic toys.

#### Refrigerant waste (containing freon) items include:

Refrigerators, water coolers, freezers, air conditioners, water heaters, dehumidifiers, microwaves and other household appliances.

#### Do NOT bring the following materials:

Latex paint, tires, infectious or biological waste, compressed gas cylinders, explosives, radioactive waste, medical and pharmaceutical waste and commercial or business waste. These materials will NOT be accepted.

#### Bring your items to the

Kenosha County Center  
19600 75th Street, Bristol, WI 53104

**on Saturday, June 1, 2024  
from 8 AM to 1 PM**

Sponsored By:



in partnership with Kenosha County

#### 1Hope Diaper Drive

Please join WM, 1HOPE and Kenosha County in collecting unopened packages of diapers and wipes, as well as monetary donations, for the 1Hope Foster Family Support Network.

## Upcoming road construction

Kenosha County will be resurfacing Highway E (12th Street) from Sheridan Road to Wood Road, 30th Avenue this year.

A public information meeting has been scheduled for March 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Somers Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th Street.



There are many construction projects in our area and road closures change regularly.

If you are traveling this summer, or just commuting to work, find up-to-date travel information from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation at [511wi.gov](https://www.wisconsin.gov/511).

## Town and Village to be reassessed

The Town and Village have hired Associated Appraisal Consultants Inc. to reassess properties.

The last full revaluation was done in 2009. The Village has been out of compliance since 2022. The Department of Revenue recommends doing a full revaluation every 10 years.

Assessors will be looking at every property in the Village and Town starting in April. They will be wearing badges to identify themselves.

Property owners should receive letters in the mail notifying them of the process.

## You can now pay for building permits online

Residents can pay for building permits in person at the Somers Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th Street, or online through the Somers website at: <https://client.pointandpay.net/web/village-geofsomerswi/>.

Keep in mind that the link recently changed and the vendor charges a 2.75 percent fee for credit card transactions or \$1.50 to pay from a bank account.

The Village does not profit from the service.

This is the same web address used to pay for taxes, court fines and utilities. Make sure to select the appropriate payment in the drop-down menu.

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.

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