



# VILLAGE AND TOWN OF SOMERS

CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

7511 12th Street— Somers, Wisconsin 53171

Issue: April, 2015

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## SOMERS VOTERS SAY YES TO INCORPORATE A PORTION OF THE TOWN INTO A VILLAGE

The April 7, 2015 Somers election results approved incorporating a portion of the Town of Somers into a village by a vote of 676 votes “for a village” vs. 526 votes “against a village”. Somers will now be known as the Village and Town of Somers. The certified election results were submitted to the Kenosha County Circuit Court, who will then forward the same to the Wisconsin Office of the Secretary of State. Somers officials expect the Secretary’s office to issue a certificate of incorporation within two weeks. *More information about incorporation on pages 2 and 3.*

### SOMERS SPRING ELECTION RESULTS FOR SUPERVISORS AND JUDGE

#### **Town Chairperson**

**Ben Harbach 933 votes**

**George Stoner 640 votes**

#### **Town Supervisor #1**

**Al Brokmeier 827 votes**

**Fred Loomis 672 votes**

#### **Town Supervisor #3**

**Judy Schantek 1,169 votes**

#### **Municipal Judge**

**Robert C. Kupfer 1,161 votes**

### SOMERS PLAN COMMISSION APPROVED CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN FOR NEW BUSINESS PARK ON HIGHWAYS S AND H

On Monday, April 13, 2015, the Somers Plan Commission approved a conceptual site plan presented by representatives of First Industrial Realty Trust based in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. The proposed business park is located on the northeast corner of Highways S and H in the Town of Somers. The 308-acres\*, known locally as the Tunkieicz farm, was zoned for industrial development during the December 9, 2014 Town Board Meeting.

First Industrial plans to develop buildings from 300,000 to 600,000 square feet in phases, with a goal to complete the park within ten years.

Construction of infrastructure could begin as early as the summer of 2015. A potential tax district and final plans will require further approvals.

*\* Source: Kenosha County Land Information Office*

### SPRING BURNING TIPS FROM OUR FIRE CHIEF, TOM SMITH

- Learn before you burn. Review Ordinance Chapter 5 on Somers.org.
- Safety is #1. Never leave your fire and have your cell phone handy.
- A burn permit may be required. Permits can be purchased at the Village and Town Hall.

## THE NEW VILLAGE AND TOWN OF SOMERS NOW WHAT? INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

### **Description of the New Village and Town of Somers**

The new Village encompasses roughly 12 square miles, and the Town remnant area roughly 17 square miles. However, some of this remnant area, referred to as the 'B Area', will transfer to the City of Kenosha by 2035 pursuant to the *Kenosha-Somers Cooperative Boundary Plan*. Regarding population, the new Village will consist of approximately 6,970 persons, with the remnant Town containing about 2,627 persons.

### **Remainder Town: Taxes**

It is expected that the Town of Somers remnant will not be negatively impacted. The shape of the remnant Town is compact and rational, and clearly defined physically and politically. The remnant has sufficient population and equalized value to continue to provide the services desired by residents at a reasonable tax rate. The Wisconsin Department of Administration determined that the petition for incorporation met the *Impact on the Remainder of the Town* standard set forth in §.464<sup>1</sup> (6) (c), Wis. Stats.

### **Impact on Services: Shared Service Agreements**

In order to facilitate cooperation between the new Village and new remnant, the Town Board and new Village Board will develop an intergovernmental agreement that provides specifics regarding future service sharing (fire & rescue, public works including sewer and water utilities, garbage and recycling, employees, etc.), regulatory control, and municipal boundaries, among other issues that will arise between the Town and Village. This will spare the remnant Town from needing to duplicate these services.

### **Equalized Value Impact**

The proposed Village will acquire the majority of the existing Town of Somers' equalized value, roughly 73% of the total, while the proposed Town remnant would receive roughly 27% of the total. The gradual transfer of 'B area' lands to the City of Kenosha will reduce the remnant's equalized value.

### **Budgets**

The Somers Town Board and the new Somers Village Board will develop a budget for each respective municipality.

### **Administration, Buildings, Employees**

The current administrative staff, including the Village and Town Administrator, Clerk-Treasurer, Building Inspector, Public Works Supervisor, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/Accountant, Fire Chief and fire and rescue employees, and paid on call professionals, will continue to operate and manage the Town and Village business at the current Village and Town Hall.

### RESIDENTS IN THE NEW VILLAGE WILL CONTINUE TO...

- 1) Call 911 for fire and rescue
- 2) Call 911 for law enforcement (*Somers Fire and Rescue and Kenosha County law enforcement will serve both the Village and Town*)
- 3) Remain in the Kenosha Unified School District
- 4) Go to the current Village and Town Hall for all public, board, committee, and commission meetings
- 5) Use the same telephone number, (262)859-2822, to contact the Village and Town Hall
- 6) Contact the current Village and Town Hall for all questions, concerns, and information relating to public works, garbage and recycling, taxes, permits, fees, development, zoning and ordinances
- 7) Obtain all official information relating to Village and Town business on the Somers.org website

### CHANGES YOU WILL NOTICE IF YOU LIVE IN THE NEW VILLAGE AREA

#### **New Elected Trustees**

New elected trustees will represent you. In the upcoming June special election, Village residents will elect six new trustees and one village president. If you live in the Town of Somers, you will continue to be represented by the current Town Board of Supervisors.

#### **New Tax Parcel Numbers**

Village residents will pay their 2015 real estate taxes to the Town of Somers. Effective January, 2016, all property owners in the Village will be assigned new tax parcel numbers because the Village is a new municipality. 2016 tax bills will be payable to the Village of Somers.

#### **New Voting Wards**

New wards will be established for both the new Village and remnant Town; however, the polling places (the Village and Town Hall and UW-Parkside) will not change.

#### **Licensing, Permits, etc.**

All licensing for alcohol, amusement, trailer parks, dogs, etc. will continue to remain in force until the license expires. Renewals will then be issued by either the Village or Town.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ANNEXING YOUR PROPERTY INTO THE NEW VILLAGE OF SOMERS?

The annexation process starts with the property owner contacting the Village and Town Administrator, William Morris at (262) 859-2822. Because of the large number of inquiries from owners of real estate within the Town for annexation into the Village, the Town/Village have set a streamlined process for annexation into the Village. Then the property owners sign a Petition for Annexation which is approved by the interim Village board.

The owners of parcels located in the town "B Area" that transfers to the City of Kenosha by 2035 pursuant to the Kenosha/Somers Cooperative Boundary Plan, are not eligible to transfer or annex into the Village of Somers.

Interested residents are encouraged to contact William Morris, Village and Town Administrator with questions concerning the process, or Attorney Jeff Davison at (262) 657-5165.

## NEW VILLAGE TRUSTEE ELECTION SLATED FOR JUNE, 2015 ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

The new Village of Somers is a new municipality and therefore will require a new Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees will be the official governing board for the new Village of Somers. Trustees will hear and address the general concerns of the public, enact resolutions and ordinances, adopt policies and annual budgets, and fulfill obligations with respect to financing, borrowing, taxation, and decisions regarding development or administration.

Attendance at Board meetings, typically held twice a month, special meetings, work sessions, and other meetings will be required.

Are you interested in serving? Citizens who have the ability to interact and make decisions, communicate effectively through listening and speaking, and who have a willingness to commit the time to serve your community are encouraged to contact Tim Kitzman, Clerk-Treasurer at (262) 859-2822 with ques-

tions and to receive information regarding how to run for an elected office..

### *Eligibility*

- Citizen of the United States of America
- Resident of the Village of Somers
- 18 years of age or older
- Not a convicted felon
- Eligible voters

### NEW VILLAGE POLICE SERVICE

Wisconsin Statutes require that incorporated villages over 5000 persons in population provide proprietary police protection. It is anticipated that the Village of Somers will contract with Kenosha County Sheriff's Department

for one law enforcement individual whose responsibilities will include ordinance enforcement and traffic control in the Village area. New annual revenue from citations issued by sheriff's deputies and collected by a Village Municipal Court will offset costs. The new police service will not impact the Village budget until the second full year following incorporation.

### NEW BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

New appointments for Town and Village Plan Commission, Board of Appeals, Board of Review, Fire Commission, Economic Development Committee, and Parks Committee will be required.

If interested, please contact William Morris, Village and Town Administrator at (262) 859-2822 or e-mail at [bmorris@somers.org](mailto:bmorris@somers.org).

### NEW HIGHWAY E SEWER RELIEF PROJECT ACCOMMODATES FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TO I-94

The Somers sewer moratorium, disallowing land splits or development in a specific area, was adopted by the Somers Town Board in 1997 because the sewer system was at capacity during rain events. The new Highway E Sewer Relief Project, expected to be completed by June 2015, resolves the flooding problems. The new sewer will have sufficient capacity to accommodate new development west to I-94 and it will allow for sub-dividing of property within this previous restricted area.

The Highway E Sewer Relief Project includes new sewer lines in area of Highway H, one-half mile south of Highway E, east to Highway EA, north to Highway E, and east to the Somers Elementary School.



Town of Somers "downtown" looking west from the railroad tracks. Circa 1920's. *Photo courtesy of Ellen Klapproth Mortensen.*

## SOMERS CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARADE

JULY 4, 2015

THEME: "REMEMBERING OUR PAST"

Mark your calendar for 2:00 p.m. on July 4, 2015 and plan to join us for the Somers Parade and Independence Day Celebration. Bring the family, a few lawn chairs, and get ready for a treat! This year's parade is very special. We are celebrating our 50th Parade and hope that this year's theme inspires everyone to honor and remember the rich history of our community.

The first Somers Parade debuted in 1965. Over the years, our small town July 4th celebration has grown, attracting thousands of people who make it an annual family tradition to attend the parade and ice cream social. Somers is a very special and unique community in that it continues to be one of the best small town parades that is supported solely by volunteers and contributions from financial supporters.

*Connecting With Your Community* is newsletter published by the village and town of Somers for public education and informational purposes. This newsletter is distributed to the residents via the U.S. Postal Service.

William Morris, Village and Town Administrator, Managing Editor

Jacqueline Klapproth Nelson, News and Creative Editor

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## SOMERS CHARGERS 4-H CLUB A SUCCESS!

The Somers Chargers 4-H Club meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Somers Village and Town Hall. Our youth participate in many community activities such as the Somers July 4th Parade, Kenosha County Fair, and they maintain a section of Adopt-A-Trail located in Somers. 4-H grows confident, capable, and caring kids with the life skills to thrive in today's world and succeed in their boldest dreams for tomorrow. Thank you to all the parents and leaders who volunteer their time and talent to make the Somers Chargers 4-H Club a success! Any parents who have questions about joining the Somers Chargers 4-H Club are encouraged to contact Sally Dahl, General Leader, at [dahl4@wi.rr.com](mailto:dahl4@wi.rr.com).

*(Photo by Jacqueline Klapproth Nelson, April, 2015, taken at Somers Village and Town Hall)*

