



Top Madison Rider, 8, laughs as she carries an armload of flags to give out to the crowd ahead of the parade. Middle, Rambler Band baritone saxophone players march down the street. Madison, 7, and her brother Rocco, 5, of Pleasant Prairie gather candy that was thrown from floats.



Thousands lined the street of downtown Somers to see about hundred entries in the Somers parade.

Community gathers for Fourth

Humidity and drizzle were no match for the thousands of people lining up along 12th Street for the annual Somers Parade.

This year's theme was "Family, Fun & Freedom on the 4th!" Vern and Sandy Kotten were the Parade Marshals.

The celebration started with the traditional Kenosha Running Company one-mile run. Somers Elementary Students distributed American flags to the crowd, which were donated by American Legion David Leet Post 552.

Music was provided by the Rambler Band, the Mike Schneider Polka Band, MGV Harmonia, Shoreland Lutheran High School Band, River City Rhythm, and a mariachi band among others.

Entertainers included Tripoli Shriner Longriders, Dinder Brothers Family Circus, Elkhorn Lion's Club car, Milwaukee Flyers, Arik the Juggler, TA-DA Entertainment and Jolly Giant Stiltwalkers.

The ice cream social wasn't possible this year with Village/Town Hall renovations. But new this year, food trucks were

setup along the route — De La Rosa, Sweet Cream, Kona Ice and Haydn Cheese. The Somers Fire Association also sold tasty burgers and brats in front of the station.

The Parade Committee would like to thank the following donors: Dooley and Associates, Pinnacle Engineering Group, Proko Funeral Home, Huck, Liftpro LLC, Nielsen Madsen & Barber, Tri City National Bank, Taco Bell, Pike Creek LLC, Jerry Smith Farms, Baxter Woodman Consulting Engineers, Becknell, CJW, Inc., H. J. Smet, Huck Realty, Kwik Trip, Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Protective Coatings/Line-X, Reesman Company, Gregg Sinnen, Ben and Bette Harbach, Riley Construction, Jackie and TG Nelson, Karl Ostby, Jim Armes, Bryan and Amber Infusino, Golden Oil, Davison Law, Dejno's Trucking, Becknell, George Stoner and Bob Kupfer.

The parade committee is always looking for volunteers.

If interested, call Parade Chair Judy Schantek at 262-818-4448.

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 and firefighters will gladly come to your home and install a new alarm at no cost to you.

■ Yard waste drop-off site is open.

The entrance is located on the paved driveway between the Public Works garage and the salt barn building on the west side of the Village/Town Hall.

The site is open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.

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/.

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



U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil

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

■ Monday Sept. 2 for Labor Day

Town and Village reassessment nearly complete

Associated Appraisal Consultants Inc. has completed its on-site visits to reassess properties in the Village and Town of Somers.

They are now analyzing the data collected and looking at market trends and past sales to finalize valuations.

Once the analysis is complete, property owners will receive a letter informing them of their property's new assessed value by the end of August.

Taxpayers should note that a higher assessed value does not necessarily mean higher taxes and that their final tax bill depends on county taxes, municipal taxes as well as school districts.

The letter will include frequently asked questions and answers about

how the new assessed value was determined and information about how to contest it if thought to be inaccurate.

The last revaluation of all the properties in the Village and Town 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.

If property owners have any questions that were not answered in the letter, they should reach out to Associated Appraisal Consultants Inc. Project Manager Tyler Tannock at ttannock@apraz.com.

The Board of Review Board is expected to be scheduled toward the end of September.



From left, Kenosha County Board Supervisor Mark Nordigian, Public Works Director Shelly Billingsley, County Executive Samantha Kerkman and Somers Village President George Stoner pose with a Project of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association, in recognition of the Highway S expansion.

Highway S reconstruction recognized

On May 2, Village President George Stoner, Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman and Kenosha County Public Works Director Shelly Billingsley accepted an award from the Wisconsin chapter of the American Public Works Association

for the Highway S expansion project. It included widening 3.5 miles of roadway to a four-lane divided highway, new traffic signals, improved railroad crossings, the addition of a shared-use path and 18-acre storm-water pond.

Office News

■ Wendy Burnette was hired as Somers Village/Town Clerk/Treasurer. Her first day was April 29.

Burnette came from Brook, Ind. where she was Chief Deputy Treasurer.

"I want to thank everyone at the Village and Town of Somers," she said. "Everyone has been very supportive as I take on this new role."

■ Somers Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Hoercherl received his Swiftwater Rescue Technician Level 1 and 2 certifications.

Somers Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Butts was certified by Emergency Response Diving International as a Level 2 Public Safety Diver.

"This training will greatly improve our department's water rescue abilities," said Somers Fire & Rescue Chief Ben Andersen.

■ Jerry Romanowski has been confirmed as Plan Commissioner. He will be replacing Ron Grimes who stepped down.

The Village thanks Grimes for his years of service.

Fire department replaces air-fill station

Thanks to a Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the Somers Fire & Rescue Department was able to replace its Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus bottle filling station.

The one replaced was 20 years old and was in dire need of repairs. It was scheduled to be replaced in 2025. The grant is saving the Village a significant amount of money and allows for the new equipment to be used a year ahead of schedule.

FEMA contributed \$71,184.76 toward the purchase leaving \$3,559.24 to be covered by the Fire Department.

"Savings in this year's budget allowed us to contribute this money and capitalize on the federal grant," said Somers Fire & Rescue Chief Ben Andersen. "It is a win-win for firefighters and the Village as a whole."



Graphics Installers from Byfuglien, Inc. Miranda Smith, left, and Becca Hartman place the Somers Fire & Rescue Department decals on one of the two new Utility Task Vehicles.

Somers Fire & Rescue gets UTVs

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department took delivery of two new Polaris XP1000 Utility Task Vehicles, one is a four-seat unit with wheels for on- and off-road usage, the other a two-seater with tracks for off-road operations. The latter is designed to operate over mud, snow or soft ground.

"Somers has a large trail system that includes Petrifying Springs County Park and its golf course; Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum and now the Pritzker Archives and Memorial Park Center in addition to large areas of farm fields," said Somers Fire & Rescue Chief Ben Andersen. "The tracked UTV will be helping us when conducting rescues in those areas."

Both units are enclosed and have heat and A/C allowing year-round operation. They are outfitted with additional features including a patient transport area and water tanks and pumps for fire suppression. Those modifications cost \$8,200 per unit. The Somers Fire Association paid for one with the help of a Union Pacific Railroad Grant.

The unit being replaced will now be used by the Somers Public Works Department for grounds maintenance and inspections.

Village conducting Fire Study

The Somers Village Board has hired McMahon Associates Inc. of Neenah to conduct a Fire Department Facilities Assessment study, Operation Need Assessment and Staffing Assessment.

McMahon is currently analyzing the volume and types of calls the Somers Fire & Rescue Department responds to, and will be conducting site visits and interviewing key department personnel.

Once completed, the study will give staff and Trustees current and impartial information to help them decide the best course of action for current and future station locations as well as staffing.

The current need for extensive repairs at Station 2 and the expected need for a third fire station in the future was the impetus for the study. The three-part study is expected to cost \$33,500.

McMahon is familiar with the Somers area and came highly recommended by Mount Pleasant, Sturtevant and Caledonia where similar studies were recently conducted.

Trustee travels to DC to advocate for ZIP Code

For years, the Village of Somers has been advocating to the United Postal Service for a unique ZIP Code.

In 2022, a boundary review was submitted to the USPS. Staff has been meeting monthly with a growing group of municipalities who have similar issues.

In parallel, the Village Board and staff have been reaching out to Congress for help.

Somers is on House Bill 860 with seven other municipalities including Mount Pleasant and Caledonia. In partnership with these municipalities, Jon Deuser of the Smith Free Group was hired to push for the bill to get out of committee and put to a vote. To that end, Deuser was able to arrange a meeting with House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer. Village Trustee Karl Ostby and representatives of other communities met with the Chairman on May 22 in Washington D.C., to advocate for the bill.

The visit was fruitful and is likely to be the start of an extensive drive.



From Left, Eastvale Economic Development Manager Alex Fung, Connor Dinco and his father Mayor of Eastvale Christian Dinco, Congressman James Comer, Castle Pines Mayor Tracy Engerman, Castle Pines City Manager Michael Penny and Somers Trustee Karl Ostby stand in Comer's office on May 22.

Residents wanting to support Somers' efforts can request a petition and more information by emailing the Assistant to the Administrator at: kpoirier@somers.org.

Somers held second annual Community Day

The second Somers Community Day took place May 18. The Village/Town Hall was open to visitors, who were able to get a close-up view of the fire and public works departments equipment and even a Flight for Life helicopter.

This year, the Somers Fire & Rescue Association served up burgers, brats and hotdogs and Pico's Tacos' food truck sold tasty treats.

The fire department conducted a mock extrication and set up the smoke house for hands-on experience on how to escape a smoke-filled room. The Sheriff's Department held a K9 unit demonstration.

The event raised \$1,500 for the Make the Difference initiative. The money is expected to be used to provide Stop the Bleed kits geared toward stabilizing victims of traumatic bleeding injuries. Training will be offered to local schools and businesses.

"The Stop the Bleed training is a new initiative for us," said Somers Fire & Rescue Department Public Outreach Officer Nico Celebre. "We are starting to provide community classes to teach those skills."



Four Somers Fire & Rescue Department Chiefs, from left Carson Wilkinson, current Chief Ben Andersen, Ernest "Bunky" Tabbert Jr. and Steven Krause stand together at the 2024 Somers Community Day that celebrated the 90th anniversary of the department.

The event was made possible by donations from area residents and businesses. The Somers Fire & Rescue Association would like to thank Walmart, Sam's Club, Jerry Smith Pumpkin Farm, Green Acres, Feed and Seed, Burr Oaks Greenhouse, Somers' Dunkin', Festival Foods, Kwik Trip, Risk Management Officer Bob Grieshaber on behalf of the University of Wisconsin — Parkside, Hansen's Pool & Spa, Sozo Chiropractic, Mastercraft and all the partners who set up information booths.

The event was also a celebration of the Somers Fire & Rescue Department's 90th anniversary. O&H Bakery provided a cake. Three

past Fire Chiefs: Carson Wilkinson, Steven Krause, Ernest "Bunky" Tabbert Jr. and current Chief Ben Andersen were all at the event.

"The department has evolved a lot during the leadership all four chiefs," said Andersen. "We would not be so successful today without the leadership of the chiefs who came before me."

New development updates

■ **Maplecrest** — The housing project for the former golf course property was approved by the Somers Village Board on May 28.

The 162-acre-parcel will include 443 apartment units, 230 single-family lots, 46 twin homes, a clubhouse and 54 acres of the property will remain open space.

This is the first large-scale single-family development approved in Somers in years.

■ **Mister Car Wash** — The car wash, located along Highway 142 in front of Walmart, was granted occupancy in June and is expected to open to the public this summer.

■ **Bobcat Plus** — The 13,325-sq.-ft. dealership, located on the southeast corner of 122nd Avenue and West Frontage Road was granted temporary occupancy.

It is expected to be open to the public this Summer.

■ **Mission94 Firearms Education Center** — The construction of the building is complete and occupancy was granted.

The state-of-the-art facility is currently hiring and offering a limited number of charter memberships through its grand opening, expected in October.

Additional membership levels will be available starting in July.

To learn more and stay up to date check out mission94firearms.com.

■ **J&M's Bar & Grill** — The downtown Somers bar, located at 8013 12th Street, reopened June 22 after being closed for two years following an electrical fire and a flood due to frozen 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 facing Green Bay Road will be commercial.

The developer expects to open a leasing office onsite soon.

Tenants are expected to move in before the end of the year.

■ **Single-family homes** — Four single-family homes are currently under construction in Somers.



The Maples of Somers is a large housing project located on the former Maplecrest Golf Course property. It will feature a mix of housing with apartments, single-family and twin homes.



Mister Car Wash



Bobcat Plus dealership



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.



Pritzker Military Archives Center

On a sunny Saturday over Memorial Day weekend, local dignitaries and representatives of the Pritzker Military Archives Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening the facility to the public.

About 100 people gathered in front of the building designed by Helmut Jahn and got a chance to see inside the building for some behind-the-scenes tours.

The new building was the brainchild of Retired Army National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Pritzker and will serve to house military artifacts dedicated to the Citizen Soldier.

While local officials cut the red ribbon with oversized scissors, she joined in using an original 1913 saber designed by George S. Patton for the U.S Cavalry.

Patton, who later became a decorated U.S. General, attributed his success on the battlefield to his extensive study of military history.

"Similarly, it is crucial for us to examine historical events to derive lessons that address current challenges," said Pritzker.

"It is imperative to understand who the military is and how it works. The PMAC is committed to help people do just that. By studying the past, we can work toward a more informed and improved future."

The current exhibit features original work by American Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist Bill Mauldin. He is famous for his work depicting World War II soldiers.

His worked spanned three decades and covered may conflicts as well as commentary on U.S politics.

The PMAC will become the new home of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library which will close its downtown Chicago location.



Ron Dahl, of Paddock Lake, right, makes a purchase at Fishtech, the new tackle shop in the Town of Somers. At left is store manager Tim Hart.

New business in the Town

Fishtech, a bait and fishing supply store, opened in Somers in April. It is located at 5219 88th Avenue.

The retail space caters to every fisherman's needs, from beginner to pros getting ready for tournaments.

"They've got it all," said Ron Dahl, of Paddock Lake, who stopped by the store for the first time April 29.

The owner, Jim Templin, is a licensed captain who has worked in the fishing industry since he was 17, and owns a sister store in Morton Grove, Ill. Store manager Tim Hart, worked at Jalensky's for 40 years until they closed last year. Since then, there had been no place left in town to buy bait or fishing supplies, according to Hart.

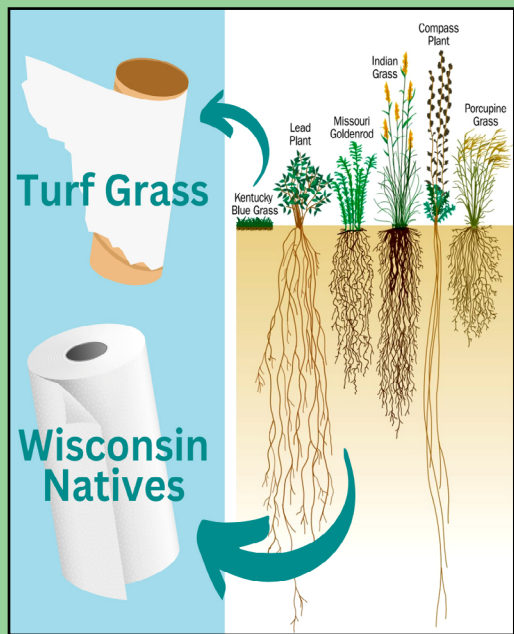
The store is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends.

Building is sprucing up



Employees of JDR Painting have been hard at work repainting and fixing the concrete of the Somers Fire & Rescue and Public Works departments.

Select native plants to prevent flooding



Below are tips from Respect Our Waters Program Manager and Communications Coordinator **Laura Buska**.

Are you concerned about lawn and basement flooding? Or perhaps you have an area of lawn that's always wet and muddy. Calm these concerns with Wisconsin native plants.

Native plants evolved a deep and long root system that can help homeowners alleviate flooding and is perfect for capturing stormwater.

In fact, native vegetation infiltrates eight times more stormwater than lawn. That added absorbing power helps counterbalance the increasing amount

of waterproof surfaces like roads and rooftops. These impervious surfaces allow stormwater to quickly move over the landscape, collect pollutants like pet waste and car chemicals, and transfer them directly to nearby freshwater streams.

Using native plants in your landscap infiltrates more water on your property and turn even the smallest area of muddy turf into resilient and gorgeous gardens that prevent flooding and improve water quality for your home and community.

Learn more about native plants at www.rootpikewin.org/gonative and about protecting water quality at www.respectourwaters.org.

Summer Park Activities

Summer activities at Petrifying Springs County Park have started.

Yoga in the Park is instructor-led sessions presented by Hot Yoga Kenosha from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Monday through Aug. 12 in Area #4.

Movie Night in the Park starts at dusk each Friday next to the Biergarten at Petrifying Springs Park. Movie schedule includes:

- July 12 — Haunted Mansion (2023)
- July 19 — Puss in Boots: The Last Wish
- July 26 — Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem
- Aug. 2 — Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves
- Aug. 9 — Jurassic Park
- Aug. 16 — Wonka
- Aug. 23 — Back to the Future: Part II

The park is located at 5555 Seventh Street (Highway A) in Somers.

Firefighters receive Lifesaving award

Somers Fire & Rescue Department Firefighters and Kenosha Sheriff's Deputies were recognized at the June 11 Somers Village Board meeting for their quick action for a woman with difficulty breathing.

Aurora South Wisconsin EMS Medical Directors Steven Andrews and Andrew Aswegan presented Lifesaving Award certificates and pins to Somers Fire & Rescue Department Captain Scott Schoenfeld, Fire-Medic Joseph Butts, FireMedic Brandon Dzibinski, Firefighter/EMT Ryan Smith, Firefighter Timothy Casey and Sheriff's Deputies Samantha Wells, Jakob Pekosh and Korin Bourdo.

On April 28, deputies Wells, Pekosh, and Bourdo responded to Walmart for a woman who was not conscious and not breathing.

As a team, the deputies conducted



Somers Fire & Rescue Firemedic Joe Butts receives a Lifesaving Award from Aurora South Wisconsin EMS Medical Directors Andrew Aswegan during the June 11 Village Board Meeting. From left are fellow award recipient Captain Scott Schoenfeld and ASW EMS Medical Directors Steven Andrews.

CPR on the patient and connected her to an automated external defibrillator while continuously performing CPR.

Upon arrival, Somers Fire & Rescue personnel took over life-saving measures then transported the patient to Aurora Hospital. She made a full recovery.

Being able to quickly start CPR is essential to improve outcome for people in cardiac arrest.

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department offers CPR training through its Make the Difference initiative. To learn more about the classes, check this page: www.somers.org/fd-requests.

Auditorium is being upgraded



The remodel of the Village/Town Hall Auditorium is underway, demolition and painting is complete.

Bukacek Construction was awarded the contract which is paid by the Village and Town of Somers.

Once finished, it will feature new audio visual equipment, including screens, speakers and microphones, new dais and side tables, paint and carpeting.

It will also include sound attenuating panels which should greatly improve the acoustics during meetings.

The work is scheduled to be complete before the August election.

Upcoming Elections

*The Partisan Primary Election is **Aug. 13.***

*The General Election is **Nov. 5.***

If you're interested in working at the polls, send your contact information to Wendy Burnette at wburnette@somers.org or call 262-859-2822.

For more information on where to vote or how to get an absentee ballot, visit the My Vote Wisconsin [website](#).

Please remember that Town wards have changed following the April redistricting.



Property Maintenance Corner

Somers Building Inspector Scott Seymour would like to remind residents of the proper way to dispose of yard waste.

Residents can drop off yard waste from April to December at the drop-off site behind the Village/Town Hall.

Shrubs need to be cut to a length not to exceed three feet. No solid waste (concrete, stone, pavement or tree trunks) or dirt is accepted.

Residents can also burn yard waste (only yard waste) without a permit during the Open Burning season, which is limited to April 15 to May 15 and Oct. 15 to Nov. 30 every year.

Fires are restricted to 4' x 4' x 4' and must be monitored at all times, be 25 feet away from structures, and are restricted to daytime hours when winds are less than 10 m.p.h.

Outside those times, a burn permit is required. Permits can be purchased at the Village/Town Hall for \$25 and are valid for a year.

Residents need to respect [Village Ordinance 5.115](#) and normal safety precaution around open fires.

For more information, all Village Ordinances are available at: ecode360.com/SO4253; Town ordinances at: somers.org/government/ordinances-town-of-somers/.

For additional questions, contact the Somers building inspector at sseymour@somers.org.

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/villageofsomerswi/>.

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.

Jason Peters, Village/Town Administrator, Managing Editor. Kevin Poirier, Assitant to the Administrator/Communications Specialist.

© 2024 Village/Town of Somers, All Rights Reserved.