

7511 12th Street, Somers, Wisconsin, 53171

Issue 25: October 2024

## Follow these tips for a safe Halloween

Trick-or-Treat hours in Somers will be 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday Oct. 31 (Halloween Day).

Households interested in giving out 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.

■ A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.

■ Agree on a specific time children should return home.



Fontana Jacobson sits on Mrs. Claus' lap during the 2023 Breakfast with Santa event organized by the Somers Fire & Rescue Association.

## Breakfast with Santa returns

The Somers Fire & Rescue Association will be holding its popular Breakfast with Santa, Saturday Dec. 14, at the Village/Town Hall 7511 12th Street.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to noon. Pancakes, sausage links, bacon, assorted fruits, donuts, juice, milk and coffee will be served.

Cost for the breakfast is \$10 for adults and \$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.

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

Check and cash donations can be dropped off at the Somers Fire Station or the Somers Village Hall.

### Blood Drive

Again this year, Versiti will have phlebotomists on site for a blood drive.

Walk-ins are welcome but signing up before is encouraged, check their website for details.

Additional information about the event will be posted on the Somers Fire & Rescue Association Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/people/Somers-Fire-Rescue-Association/100078578027845/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Somers-Fire-Rescue-Association/100078578027845/)

# 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.

## ■ Yard waste drop-off site is open through Dec. 31.

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/](http://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 (at the corner of Highways 45 and 50).



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](http://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:

Nov. 28 — Dec. 1 for Thanksgiving  
Dec. 24 — 25 for Christmas  
Dec. 31 — Jan. 1 for the New Year

Year

# Town and Village reassessment

Associated Appraisal Consultants Inc. has completed the reassessment of the entire Village and Town of Somers.

Residents should have received a letter informing them of the new assessed value of their property.

The Village will be holding its 2024 Board of Review meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Village Hall Auditorium, 7511 12th Street (Highway E).

The Open Book Review will be held Oct. 7 and 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. via phone or by appointment.

The Town will be holding its Board of Review meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Village Hall Auditorium.

The Open Book Review was held Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. via phone or by appointment.

Taxpayers should note that a higher assessed value does not necessarily mean higher taxes.

The final tax bill depends on the mill rate set by all taxing entities such as Kenosha County, school districts and libraries where you live.

The last revaluation of all the properties in the Village and Town was done in 2009.

The Department of Revenue recommends doing a full revaluation every 10 years.

The Village has been out of compliance since 2022.

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 via email at [ttannock@apraz.com](mailto:ttannock@apraz.com) or phone at: 920-749-1995.

# Fire Department Studies Update

McMahon Associates Inc. has completed the Somers Fire & Rescue Department Facilities Assessment study. It was presented to the board at the Sept. 3 Village Board work session.

The study agrees with staff assessment that Station 2 is no longer adequate. It recommends building a new station close to its current location due to the volume of calls east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

The need for a third station was deemed to be several years in the future and growth dependent.

The study also suggests that Station 1 could remain at its current location and could take over the space occupied by the current Public Works Department. That department could be relocated to a new building, which could be built at a lesser cost than a new fire station.



The board has asked for additional information to assess whether Station 2 could be rebuilt behind its current location on Village-owned property, relocating Frank Fabiano Memorial Park closer Highway E for better visibility.

The second part of the study, the Operation Need Assessment and Staffing Assessment, is ongoing and should be complete in November. Staff interviews are currently underway.

McMahon is familiar with the Somers area. The firm was highly recommended by the villages of Mount Pleasant, Sturtevant and Caledonia where similar studies were conducted. Like Somers, those communities are intersected by several railroad tracks.

# Office News

■ Travis Halvorsen started in the Public Works Department on Aug. 19.

Halvorsen previously worked in the Kenosha Parks Department as a Supervisor for almost a decade.

Living on the north side of the Kenosha, he was looking for work closer to his home.

"This has been a great fit," he said. "I like the family atmosphere of the crew here in Somers."

This is a return of sorts for Halvorsen who worked as a paid-on-call firefighter for Somers in 2003.

■ Clerk/Treasurer Wendy Burnette and Deputy Treasurers Tanya Ealy and Samone Naylor went through the University of Wisconsin — Green Bay Clerks & Treasurers Institute annual training in July.

Ealy received her two-year certificate, Burnette and Naylor received their first-year certificate.



## Burn Camp

*The Somers Fire & Rescue Department took part in the annual Fire Truck Parade at the 30th Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youth outside East Troy this past August. Firefighters spent time visiting burn survivors and their families.*

*It was an opportunity for participants to learn more about fire equipment and fire safety as well as a way for the kids to continue their healing journey and grow lifelong support from peers and fire professionals.*

*The camp is a free, week-long, overnight summer camp. More than 100 burn survivors and volunteers take part in the camp each year.*

# Village lift stations updates are complete

Reconstruction of the last two Village lift stations needing upgrades have been completed.

They are located on 45th Avenue just south of 12th Street for the Eaglewood Station and on 63rd Avenue across from 10th Street for the Lichter Station. August Winter & Sons Inc. was awarded the contract for \$1,649,700 which is expected to be completed on budget.

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

The station at 63rd Avenue is a two-pump design. A generator was added which will allow the lift station to keep working in the case of a power outage.

Both are now operational and the contractor has just a few items to finish up to conclude the work.

The stations were supposed to be built last year, but the project was delayed due to supply chain issues.

Service was maintained during the construction project.



Both the Eaglewood Lift Station, left, located on 45th Avenue, and the Lichter Lift Station, below, located on 64rd Avenue, have now been completely remodeled.





## Drug Take Back Day

National Drug Take Back Day events will be held throughout our community Oct. 26.

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department is one of the locations participating in the event. It will be accepting drop-offs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Station 1, 7511 12th Street.

Prescription (controlled and noncontrolled) and over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, inhalers, non-aerosol spray dispensers, creams, vials and pet medications can be dropped off.

Unacceptable items include illegal drugs, needles/sharps, acids, aerosol cans, biohazardous materials, personal care products, household hazardous waste and mercury thermometers.

Additionally, the events will offer the opportunity to receive training and free supplies of the overdose-reversing medication Narcan and Fentanyl test strips.

The Kenosha County Center in Bristol, the Wisconsin Probation and Parole Office in Kenosha and the Pleasant Prairie Police Department are also drop-off locations this year.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a day of recognition held twice annually that aims to provide a safe, convenient, responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

## Upcoming elections

The next elections will be held Nov. 5.

Please note that there will be no ballot drop box in the Village and Town of Somers

On the ballot will be a statewide referendum question. Voters will cast votes for the following positions:

- U.S. President and Vice President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Congressperson
- State Senator
- State Representative
- District Attorney
- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- Register of Deeds

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

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/poll-workers-observers/working-polls](http://elections.wi.gov/poll-workers-observers/working-polls).

If interested, please contact Village/Town Clerk Wendy Burnette via email at [wburnette@somers.org](mailto:wburnette@somers.org) or phone at 262-859-2822.

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

For more information on where to vote or how to get an absentee ballot, visit the My Vote Wisconsin [website](http://www.myvote.wisconsin.gov).



## Property Maintenance Corner

*Somers Building Inspector Scott Seymour would like to let everyone know of upcoming changes to the dumpster ordinance (Ordinance 21.17).*

*The Village will require a \$25 permit for temporary dumpsters and temporary storage containers like PODS. They are only allowed on premises for 30 days, need to be placed on hardened surface and at least 15 feet from the nearest property line.*

*Call the Village Hall or check our website for the information about the new permit.*

*All Village Ordinances are available 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).*

# Proposed development and updates

## ■ Service center and hotel

— The Village Board approved the construction of a service center including a sit-down restaurant at the northeast corner of Highway E. The property will be operated by Golden Oil, who has their corporate headquarters in Somers.

In conjunction with the service center, the property will include a hotel to the north. The property will be a dual brand Avid Hotel and Candlewood Suites. It will be operated by IHG.

## ■ Savannah at Pike Creek

— Apartment buildings are under construction as part of the first phase of the project on the 65-acre parcel.

Seven buildings are complete and some tenants have already moved into the new apartments.

Once fully built out, the neighborhood will consist of 42 buildings with a mix of 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units for a total of 338 residences. The parcels along Green Bay Road are slated to be commercial.

■ **Shoreland Lutheran High School** — The school is presenting a plan for expansion at the Oct. 14 Plan Commission meeting.

■ **Mission94 Firearms Education Center** — The construction of Mission94 is complete.

The state-of-the-art facility is fully staffed and will host a grand opening celebration for the public on Saturday, Oct. 5th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Food from Mission BBQ will be available on site as well as demonstration shoots, tours of the facility, exciting giveaways and raffles.

Local organizations will be present to join in the festivities.

To learn more check out [mission94firearms.com](http://mission94firearms.com).



Hotel architect drawing



Proposed Service Center architect drawing



Savannah at Pike Creek



Shoreland Lutheran High School architect rendering of the main entrance



Mission94

## Yard waste burning allowed in the Fall

The Somers Fire & Rescue Department would like to remind residents that burning yard waste 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 are available at the Village/Town Hall for \$25.

Below are safety requirements:

- 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 and a way of extinguishing the fire is required nearby

- Burn barrels are prohibited

- No burning is allowed if winds are greater than 10 m.p.h.

- Only natural materials such as sticks, leaves and tree wood are allowed to be burned

- Daytime fires (sunrise- sunset) cannot exceed 4'x4'x4'

- Nighttime fires (sunset-sunrise) cannot exceed 2'x2'x2'

If you are concerned about someone burning, please call 911 or the Kenosha County Dispatch 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.

For additional questions, call the fire department at 262-859-2277.



The August 14 Town Board meeting was the first meeting held in the newly remodeled auditorium.

## Auditorium remodel is complete

The Somers Auditorium remodel project was completed in time for the Aug. 13 Primary Election.

The new space now features a new dias for the boards, four screens, a completely new audio system, sound attenuating tiles, new carpet and paint.

The cost was shared between the Village and the Town. The Town's American Rescue Plan Act funds were used to pay for the audio visual upgrades.

We invite you to attend any of the public meetings and check it out for yourself.

## Electronic recycling and shredding event

Somers residents are invited to drop off electronics and any documents needing to be shredded to the Somers Village/Town Hall, 7511 12th Street (Highway E) on Oct. 5, between 9 a.m. and noon.

Please be ready to show your ID.

Bring personal documents such as canceled checks, old bills, old contracts, tax information or credit card applications to be shredded.

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.

They also contain hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury, which are harmful if released into 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](#).

## Somers campus upgrades



The west side of the Somers Village Hall campus, which houses the Fire and Public Works departments was repainted and cracks repaired over the summer.

Additional work is planned for later this year including a fence to shield the yard waste drop-off site and redesigning the dumpster area.

# Rethinking Stormwater Ponds



The stormwater system located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Green Bay Road and Highway KR is a regenerative conveyance system which is designed to improve infiltration and limit footprint and maintenance costs.

The Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recently held a webinar focused on the best practices and innovations of stormwater ponds.

Traditional detention ponds are often built with a turf up to the edge of the water. The grass does not provide good erosion protection

and requires frequent mowing. The cuttings end up in the water and promotes algae growth. Bank erosion fills up the bottom of the pond, reducing its effectiveness.

In addition, the grassy area attracts geese whose waste adds E. coli and other bacteria to the water.

Stormwater pond owners often forget that they are required by

Village ordinances and Wisconsin statutes to inspect and maintain the ponds. Stormwater fees are the responsibility of landowners or home owners associations.

The ongoing study of Stormwater ponds have led to new designs that offer more flood protection, cleaner water and potential cost savings to owners.

Root-Pike WIN has come up with a Stormwater Pond Playbook to help owners build or retrofit stormwater systems to make them more effective at keeping waterways clean, reducing cost to owners and providing pleasing water features.

One of the new designs is the Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance system. One of these was put in place on the southwest corner of Green Bay Road and Highway KR.

You can view the webinar or purchase a playbook at [www.root-pikewin.org/stormwater-ponds](http://www.root-pikewin.org/stormwater-ponds).

If you have any questions about stormwater ponds, email [info@rootpikewin.org](mailto:info@rootpikewin.org).

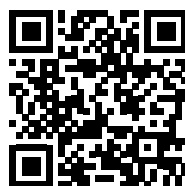
## Upcoming road resurfacing

Payne and Dolan will be repaving 13th Avenue from Highway KR south to the Pike River Bridge and 16th Place from Green Bay Road to the east. The company was the lowest bidder at \$484,100.

The work is scheduled to start in mid October and be completed in November.

Detours will be posted once the work starts. Motorists are asked to avoid the area and follow posted detours.

As part of the 13th Avenue project, Kenosha County is looking into changing the intersection of the roadway and the Kenosha County Multi-use Path.



FD Request Form

life-saving skills such as CPR, Narcan training and new this year "Stop the Bleed" classes.

The Stop the Bleed project is a national campaign to teach anyone the immediate steps to help stabilize a victim of traumatic injuries before the arrival of trained personnel.

Uncontrolled bleeding is a major cause of preventative deaths. Approximately 40 percent of trauma-related deaths worldwide are due to bleeding or its consequences, establishing hemorrhage as the most common cause of preventable death in trauma.

## Learn life-saving skills

Participants in the class learn how to pack wounds, the use of a tourniquet and direct pressure to wounds over the 30-minute class

The next class will be held Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Hands-only CPR classes are will be held Oct. 19 at 1 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. Those classes are free.

For those who want a certification, a \$15 American Heart Association CPR class will be held Nov. 16 at 9 a.m.

Classes are held at the Somers Fire Department, 7511 12th Street.

All CPR classes include an optional free Narcan training.

Use the QR code in this article to reach out to the Somers Fire & Rescue Department and find out more information about upcoming classes.

# In their words ...



*George Stoner  
Somers Village President*

The safety of our residents is my top concern. We have ongoing issues with speeding and traffic accidents in the Village. Our Fire Department does a great job responding to the increasing volume of calls.

I am working closely with the Kenosha Sheriff's Department to address speeding. We have a plan to equip the squad cars assigned to patrol the Village with moving radar to make it easier for the deputies to ticket speeding vehicles and increase safety for all.

We continue to grow and have a few projects in the works. I am especially excited about the area north of Highway E at East Frontage road. The Village Board and plan commission approved a development that consists in a service center including a sit-down restaurant and a hotel.

We have been working for a few years on bringing a hotel to our community, and it looks like this project is coming to fruition. The development also includes a few other lots that will be developed at a later date.

This, in conjunction with the Pritzker Archives and Memorial Park Center, designed by award-winning and internationally recognized architecture firm JAHN, is creating a gateway to the

Village, and we are proud of that.

We continue meeting with a developers looking to bring more housing to the Village to help address the housing shortage that the whole county is experiencing.

We continue to work very well with other government representatives around us: County Executive Smantha Kerkman, County Supervisors Dave Geertsen and Keith Gray, State Representatives Tip McGuire and Amanda Nedweski, Kenosha Mayor Dave Bogdala and Paris Chairman John Holloway.

I meet with them on a regular basis. These great relationships help us work collaboratively through any challenges to the beneficial of all municipalities.

I also meet with the University of Wisconsin — Parkside Chancellor Dr. Lynn Akey. The four-year university, located in the Village of Somers, has been a great partner to the Village and the Chancellor is very excited about the upcoming hotel.

At the Village Hall, the Auditorium is now fully remodeled, and it looks beautiful. It is a tremendous improvement to residents attending meetings. The sound system is now state of the art and the large screens allow everyone to look at the documents for the meeting.



*Mark Molinaro Jr.  
Somers Town  
Chairman*

Fall is once again upon us which means the municipal budget process is in full swing. As I have pointed out in the past, the Town Board continues to work closely with the Village to create a budget that supports the needs of the Town and its residents. The inflationary pressures continue to stretch our personal and Town dollars to the limit. While the federal reserve has recently provided a cut to the benchmark interest rate, we have a long way to go before we are back to a manageable interest rate.

By now, you have all received your updated property assessment. With this being a revaluation year I trust many of you were as surprised as I was with your new assessment. Please keep in mind that Municipalities are required by State Statues to maintain property assessments within 10 percent of fair market value.

I would like to encourage each and every one of us to get out and vote in the upcoming presidential election. It is so critically important that our voices be heard at the polls in all elections and particularly at this critical time.

On behalf of Supervisors Jim Armes, Dick Lesko and myself, we encourage you stay informed of the Town activities and we welcome your presence at any upcoming Town Board meeting.

*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, Assistant to the Administrator/Communications Specialist.*

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