

Somers

CONNECTION

SPRING
2019

PUBLIC
WORKS

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

RECREATION

SENIOR
SERVICES

CULTURAL
COMMISSION

VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPT.

HUMAN
SERVICES

STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT

artwork by
Joshua Epstein

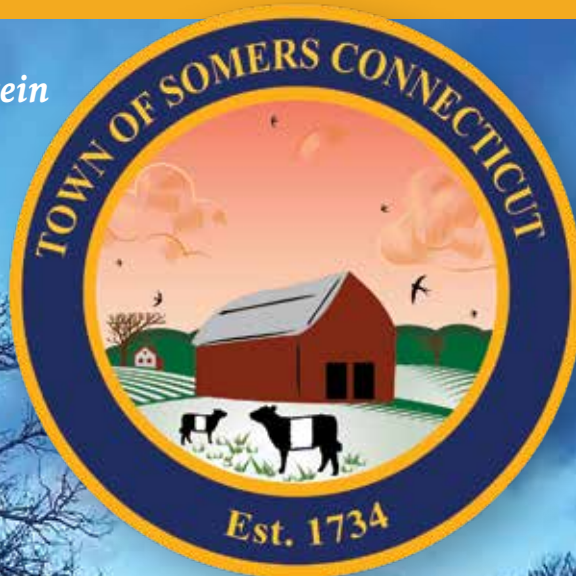


photo by
Nancy Barrett
Scantic Valley Farm

Contact: *Kim LaFleur, Operations Director*
Phone: 860-763-8201
Email: klafleur@somersct.gov

The advertisement for Homestead features a photograph of a person operating a red backhoe loader to dig a hole in a green lawn. Below the photo, the text reads: "Having water issues? Call us!" followed by the Homestead logo, which includes a house icon and the text "Homestead Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Energy • Water". At the bottom, it provides the address "100 West Rd • Ellington, CT • 860.870.8700" and the website "homesteadcomfort.com".



Courtesy of Wicked Good News

SELECTMEN'S CORNER

We outlined the Board of Selectmen's goals in the first edition of the Somers Connection with the Good Stewardship of the Town's Infrastructure being front and foremost so we now are featuring the Department of Public Works (DPW) in this publication.

DPW is comprised of the following divisions: Highway, Parks, Facilities, Recycling, Fleet, and the Office of Tree Warden. Each division is responsible for different aspects of the Town's infrastructure. Highway is responsible for the care and maintenance of Town roads with Parks addressing the maintenance of all Town lands. The Facilities Division maintains the Town buildings with the Fleet Division keeping the many and varied Town vehicles operating properly especially in the demanding winter months where a timely response is critical. In addition, DPW lovingly cares for the many trees within the Town's right of way. (i.e. Tree Warden)

We are very fortunate to have Todd Roland as our Director of Public Works given his past experience and background as a general contractor, developer and real estate broker which he uses very effectively in his position.

Todd is a veteran of the U.S. Army and is an active member of the Somers Community Response Team (CERT) and a liaison for the Somers Open Space and Trail Committee. He is very proud of the Department's annual "Fill a Public Works Truck" food drive during the National Public Works Week in May. In addition, Todd has served on the Board of Trustees, Stewardship Committee at the Ellington Congregational Church along with being a

Financial Peace University Facilitator.

Todd's effective and productive contributions to Somers was acknowledged with him receiving the Adolph P. Anderson Quality Employee Award in 2012 and the similar award to the entire DPW in 2015 under his leadership.

Todd resides in Tolland with his wife Melissa, his sons Troy and Kyle who are both serving in the U. S Army as Military Police Officers and son Dylan a student at Horizons in South Windham. In his spare time when not focusing on his duties at DPW and extracurricular activities, Todd spreads his love with his two dogs Maya and Miley.

The Board of Selectmen acknowledges the entire superb staff at DPW for their tireless work in keeping Somers operating efficiency.



PERTINENT TOWN NEWS

We have received four proposals from developers for the Somersville Mill property and we are evaluating these in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Mill Committee's Vision Statement. We are interested in a mixed-use development that fits in with the historical nature of the property while balancing the goal of increased tax revenue and possible use of the recreational aspects of the property.

The Bonding Resolution for \$10 million for capital improvement of the schools and town roads passed overwhelmingly. These additional badly needed funds will replace current debt with lower interest bonds resulting in reduced debt service in the future.

The budgeting process is underway and, as with all past budgets, challenging issues remain as we grapple with the uncertainty of reduced state aid. The priorities and safety of our citizens remain paramount as we address the conundrum

of what we need and what we can afford. The reality is that we will have to be more self-reliant and less dependent on state aid as we move forward.

The Board of Finance Public Hearing is scheduled for April 23; the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 7; and the Budget Referendum will be held on May 14. All meetings will be held at Town Hall at 600 Main St. and will be live streamed to the Town's YouTube channel. Go to www.somersct.gov and follow the link to subscribe.

Our Boards and Commissions ARE IN NEED of your participation. Government works best when citizens are involved and engaged



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in their communities. Service on a board or commission is an important way to make a positive difference and participate in local government. Below is a listing of all board/commission openings. We urge registered voters of Somers to attend a meeting of their interest and speak with a board/commission

COMMISSION	VACANCIES	TERM
BLDG CODE/ BOARD OF APPEALS	1 FULL MEMBER	4 YEARS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	1 FULL MEMBER	4 YEARS
	2 ALTERATES	1 YEAR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	1 FULL MEMBER	5 YEARS
	2 ALTERATES	2 YEARS
ETHICS COMMISSION	2 FULL MEMBERS	2 YEARS
HOUSING AUTHORITY	3 FULL MEMBERS	4 YEARS
OPEN SPACE TRAILS	3 FULL MEMBERS	1 YEAR
PENSION COMMITTEE	2 FULL MEMBERS	INDEFINITE
PLANNING COMMISSION	1 FULL MEMBER	4 YEARS
	3 ALTERATES	1 YEAR
PRISION LIASON	3 FULL MEMBERS	1 YEAR
SOMERSVILLE MILL STRATEGIC PLANNING	2 FULL MEMBERS	INDEFINITE
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL	1 FULL MEMBER	3 YEARS
	2 ALTERATES	1 YEAR
ZONING COMMISSION	1 ALTERATE	1 YEAR

chairperson to understand their role as a member of that particular board/commission. We welcome your involvement, participation and contribution for the good of Somers.

Questions of committee membership, chairpersons or specific political affiliations may be directed to the Town Clerk's office. alogan@somersct.gov or 860-763-8207

Please consider volunteering!
SOMERS NEEDS YOU!

WARMLY,
C.G. Bud Knorr, Jr. First Selectman
Kathy Devlin, Selectman
Tim Potrikus, Selectman



600 MAIN STREET, SOMERS, CT 06071

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Assessor's Office	(860) 763-8203
Building Department	(860) 763-8220
Emergency Management	(860) 763-7064
Finance Department	(860) 763-8217
First Selectman's Office	(860) 763-8201
Human Services	(860) 265-7551
Library	(860) 763-3501
Public Works	(860) 763-8234
Recreation Department	(860) 265-3840
Registrars of Voters	(860) 763-8211
Senior Center	(860) 763-4379
Somers Resident Trooper	(860) 749-4955
Somers Fire Department	(860) 749-7626
Tax Collector	(860) 763-8209
Town Clerk	(860) 763-8207

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Budget Blinds has been located in Somers, CT for almost seven years. We are located on South Road (Route 83) next to Italian Villa and across from Dunkin Donuts. Our service makes purchasing custom window treatments fun and easy because we bring the showroom to you, expertly design, measure and install. We guide you through many choices and options to arrive at the best window treatment solutions for your home and for your budget. Products offered include blinds, shades, plantation shutters, drapes, valances, board mounted cornices, home automation and more! We are a certified Lutron retailer and offer Amazon Alexa compatible shades that can be controlled from a mobile device and/or pre-programmed to come up when the sun comes up and down when it gets dark. Scenes can be created like "Movie Time" to dim the lights, bring down the shades and bring up the Sonos speakers!

The industry is moving away from cords for child and safety reasons as well for aesthetics. The Smart Home by Budget Blinds allows us to retrofit corded shades and blinds purchased previously with motorized components that are Google and Alexa compatible.

When you call Budget Blinds, you are working with a small, local business that is part of the largest window treatment franchise company in the US and Canada. Collectively our franchisees are in 60,000 homes a week and buy more custom window treatments than many of the big box stores. As a result we carry an exclusive line of products with the best warranties in the industry.

Budget Blinds of Enfield (named for serving the Enfield area, with our showroom in Somers) is proud to have just received the Best of Houzz award in 2019 for our exemplary service. BB of Enfield is also a North Central News Hall of Fame Winner in 2018 for best Home Décor Shop! In 2013 the North Central CT Chamber of Commerce awarded us Business of the Year!

We welcome the opportunity to assist you with custom window treatments in your home or workplace. Custom Window Treatments make a positive impact by adding energy efficiency, beauty, ease of use, light control and privacy. When our clients see the finished, installed design, many tell us they wish they had called sooner!

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department is responsible for the Town's infrastructure including roads, buildings, parks, public property, and open space. The DPW works with all Town Departments and boards and commission to fulfill our mission of husbanding the Town's resources and providing the greatest stewardship of public property possible. We do this through our six divisions: Administration, Highway, Parks and Facilities, Fleet, Recycling Center and Office of the Tree Warden. The Department's management team consists of a Director and an Administrative Assistant.

DPW's mission is important and its implementation is made possible by the proactive work of our dedicated staff. The immense amount of work that DPW is responsible for is carried out diligently with minimal staff that works until the job is done especially during critical times of storms and emergencies. In addition, DPW regularly assists/collaborates with the Cultural Commission, Beautification, Open Space and Trails and Recreation. They volunteer their time/efforts because they care about Somers and are committed to ensuring its success.

The Administrative Division is the "Nerve Center" of DPW and is responsible for the smooth operation of all of its functions including personnel/staffing, cost control and budget

preparation, training, planning and responding to the various citizens requests/concerns. As with all productive and efficient operations, Paula LaFrance as the Administrative Assistant is primarily responsible for its trouble-free daily operation. Paula has been with the Town for 11 years. She came to us from the

private sector with experience in Office Administration and construction services. Paula is active with the Council against Domestic Abuse and is a dog lover. She lives in Enfield with her husband Jeff and two Doberman fur-babies, Sam and Roxanne.

HIGHWAY

The Highway Division is responsible for maintaining 90 miles of roadway, 35 miles of drainage pipes, 1170 catch basins, all town owned detention ponds and waterways, five miles of guard rails as well as parking lots and roadways of Town Hall, Kibbe Fuller, Senior Center, Cemeteries, Police Station, Fire Station, Library, Field Road Park, Transfer Station, Public Works Facility and the Sewer Treatment Plant.

This Division is constantly busy keeping Somers safe despite the constant issues like storms/winter operations, road/guide rail repairs, waterway and drainage maintenance, removal of road hazards and tree trimming/removal. It's all hands-on deck in emergency response for all storm damage, oil spills from accidents as well as traffic control and support to our first



responders during large scale events.

This mandate by the Highway Division is accomplished under the Director of Foreman Bill Haiko with ample

assistance from Crew Leader Ken Grout and Maintainers Fran Bugden and Todd Tisdale.

Despite the occasional knocked down mailbox and curb displacement during storms, our dedicated crew is highly responsive/responsible during these difficult times. (They've agreed to spend less time throwing snowballs at one another while drinking copious amounts of coffee and concentrating on the job at hand!!)

In all seriousness, we owe our thanks and appreciation to this dedicated crew. The next time you see them, please tell them thank you and offer them a free cup of coffee!

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PARKS AND FACILITIES

The Facilities Division is responsible for the maintenance and repair of all Town Buildings including; Town Hall, Piedmont Hall, Kibbe Fuller, Memorial Hall, Senior Center, Police Station, Fire Station, Library, Mill Pond Park Building, Old Blacksmith Shop, Sewer Plant Building, Animal Control Facility, and DPW / Transfer Station facilities.

The Parks Division is responsible for maintaining all 500+ acres of town property including the daily maintenance of 150 acres of buildings and grounds. This includes the maintenance, repair and landscaping of all playing surfaces, playscapes, buildings, bathrooms, fencing, and structures within Town. The Parks division maintains all playing surfaces of baseball, softball, soccer, football and lacrosse fields, as well as volleyball courts, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts.

Tasks include; trash pickup and removal, fence and sign repair, bathroom and building cleaning (Field Road facility), athletic field repair, field layout, grooming, line painting, mowing, trimming, and fertilizing, vandalism repair and mulch installation and maintenance.

If the above wasn't enough for this important Division they also assist in maintaining the Somerville Mill Pond area. despite the fact that it interferes with their fishing. (on the job !!).

Facilities is directly supervised by Bruce Urbon who has been with Somers for nearly 20 years and is life-long resident of Somers. Bruce is a key contributor but could not do his job without his faithful crew he oversees - Chris Atkinson, Eric Peterson and Nicholas Jennings. (They make Bruce look good while he spends his time on his fishing skills!!)



working, he's enjoying visiting friends and helping his family throughout New England. We thank Dave for his quarter century of service to the Town of Somers as well as his commitment to the Town.

RECYCLING CENTER

The Recycling Center is located at 127 Egypt Road. It is open Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7:30am to 4:00pm, Sundays from 11:30am to 4:00pm.

The Center accepts household waste (MSW), recycling, metal, electronic waste, white goods such as refrigerators & air conditioners, brush, woody debris, and mattresses for free and waste oil, auto batteries, tires and other bulky wastes for a fee. Transfer Station and Recycling Center operation and maintenance is accomplished with a small highly dedicated staff of one part-time Maintainer and one part-time Operator.

A Personal Note from the First Selectman

"I interact and work with DPW on a regular basis and I can honestly say that I have never met a more competent dedicated and caring group of professionals that I am proud to be associated with. Join me in sincerely thanking them and appreciating all that they do for Somers." **C.G. Bud Knorr, Jr.** First Selectman

860-763-8234

Email: publicworks@somersct.gov

Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm

FLEET SERVICES

Our Fleet Division is responsible for maintenance and repairs of all of vehicles and equipment at the DPW as well several other departments. Fleet services also assists with the Recycling Center operation and maintains and manages both of the towns fuel island locations the first at the school bus parking area on Field Road and second at the DPW on Egypt Road.

This is accomplished with our highly dedicated Fleet manager, David Mikulski. Dave is our longest serving team member having started with in 1992. Dave is a lifelong resident of Somers and lives with his wife in Somers. When Dave isn't



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SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION

PIEDMONT COFFEE HOUSE CONCERTS

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at Piedmont Hall, 604 Main Street, Somers

March 10 T-Bone Stankus

(Irish Songs & Comedy)

April 14 Boogie Boys

(50s-60s-70s Swing & Country Music)

The Cultural Commission was established in 1993. Its mission is to promote cultural programs and activities in Somers.

The Commission sponsors varied and interesting events throughout the year. It receives a small stipend from the town; other funds are raised independently and by receiving donations from the people in town. Most events sponsored by the Cultural Commission are free but donations are always welcome. Piedmont Hall is the focal point of our events and meetings.

Correspondence to the Cultural Commission may be addressed to the Town of Somers, 600 Main Street, Somers, CT 06071.



SOMERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Somers Historical Society, Inc. was founded in 1962 for the purpose of uniting people who love historical records, customs, traditions, documents, artifacts and historic buildings. The Society's mission is:

- To encourage the discovery, collection, preservation and displays of artifacts and documents that relate to the social, civil, military, literary, and ecclesiastical history of the town of Somers
- To promote research relating to local history and to disseminate that information to the community
- To investigate and preserve customs and traditions that now exist only in the memory of Somers citizens

The first Free Public Library, a delightful building of eclectic Victorian design built in 1896, represented an era of Somers history that needed to be preserved and treasured. Somers Historical Society members were responsible for saving the Library and turned it into the Somers Historical Society Museum. The building's rehabilitation truly brought the Somers community together, and the Museum is now the proud centerpiece of Somers Common as well as being listed on The National Register of Historic Places. This remarkable structure is an educational resource for the Somers community. [The Society has sponsored two historical surveys, one of Main Street and one of The Mill Village of Somersville. The dedication of Little Sorrel Lane in Somers commemorated the Somers horse ridden by Stonewall Jackson at the Civil War Battle of Chancellorsville. Society members oversaw the incredible task of organizing a project to compile a pictorial directory called Somers at the Millennium Book. This effort resulted in a unique

book filled with pictures of Somers, past and present, and its people. This book was entered into the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.]

Now, the Somers Historical Society has launched a bold Museum Window Restoration Project. The building and windows of the Somers Historical Museum need maintenance and special care. There are cracks in some of the bullseye glass windows. The original window glazing and the bottom rails of the museum windows need to be stabilized and repaired. The cost for fully restoring these magnificent windows is \$14,000. With \$4,000 in funds to date, the restoration of the

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windows has begun. One-half of a window has been restored. If you are interested in donating to this worthy effort, please contact the Museum Director, **Carole Pyne**, at **860-749-6437**, or mail your donations to **The Somers Historical Society, Inc., PO Box 652, Somers, CT 06071**.



The non-profit Somers Historical Society, Inc. welcomes new members who share the Society's concern for the need to preserve Somers' link with the past for the benefit of the present and the future.

People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to join and participate in meetings. The Museum is currently closed for the winter, but will reopen in April 2019. The Museum is open one Sunday afternoon a month during the spring, summer, and fall. The Somers Historical Museum collection includes many objects donated by residents of Somers. A wide assortment of textiles is housed at the Museum: clothing, flags, quilts, and large samples of material from the Somersville Mill which operated from 1836 until the 1970s. Other unique items include an organ, melodian, a saddlebag and little bottles carried by a vet, palm hat hand tools, small machinery, >100 carpentry tools from the 1850s, and genealogy books from local families. Primary textual documents are books, letters, sermons, wills, title transfers, original deeds, playbills, written local family histories, and transcripts of oral history videotapes. Image documents are diverse including maps, paintings, drawings, and photos of residents, historical sites and events. Special mini-collections are presented and highlighted at the Museum throughout the year.

The Somers Historical Society seeks to provide access to the Museum so that it may be a valuable resource and inspire all those interested in the rich history of an old New England town.

very successful one at that!

The Somers Education Foundation (SEF) was created in 2004 by Paul Salva and Louis Bachetti. It started with \$14,000 in 2004-05 and has grown exponentially, building a sustaining endowment of \$600,000 while awarding \$450,000 in grants to the schools as of December 2018.

SEF's sources of income are its very successful Geissler's Receipts Program, donations from citizens, Smile. Amazon Program, and a Tasting Event coming soon. The Tasting Event – March 30, 2019 at Pleasant View Golf Center - is our sole public fundraising event this year. Five local microbreweries, a cidery and a winery will participate, with food being provided by local restaurants. There will be raffle prizes as well. Previous tasting events were very successful and were a ton of fun.

A unique attribute of the SEF is that funding requests originate from the teachers rather than the Board of Education or school administration. While many grants have been awarded, two major projects deserve special mention. They are: paying for white-board technology in nearly every classroom and funding seed grants to investigate the appropriateness of introducing iPad/Chromebook technology into the school system. This was so successful that every student now has an iPad or Chromebook. These two projects have truly made a significant, material difference in the education system.

To quote Dr. Maynard Suffredini, our recently retired School Superintendent, "Throughout my career I had the fortune to work with education foundations in support of district programs. It is fair to say that the Somers Education Foundation is the most supportive and effective foundation that I have experienced. The SEF has grown and established itself as one of the best foundations in the state of Connecticut. It was recognized as the Outstanding Foundation of the Year in 2014 by the Connecticut Consortium of Education Foundations."

Our present superintendent, Brian Czaplak states, "The Somers Education Foundation is a critical partner of the school district."

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A SOMERS SUCCESS STORY ... continued

Their dedication to staff and students in support of dynamic and innovative instructional programming is invaluable. The funds they give for teacher professional development helps us provide students with best and emerging practices in education. The Board of Education and I are incredibly grateful for their generosity, leadership and unwavering dedication to the students of Somers.”

None of this could have happened if the citizens of Somers didn't grasp the concept and embrace its potential. The Somers Education Foundation is a Somers success story that will continue to enhance our school system for decades to come. To learn more about SEF and how to purchase tickets for the Tasting Event please go to www.sefonline.org, contact any Board Members or call **860-882-2813**.



Senior/disabled transportation service (“Dial-a-Ride”) is available to all Somers residents age 60+. Somers residents between the ages of 18-59 are also eligible for service if receiving Social Security Disability. The full transportation brochure and registration form can be accessed on the Somers Senior Center website, by calling 860-763-4379, or by stopping into the Senior Center.

Somers Comes Together is the Local Prevention Council whose mission is to increase awareness of the impact of substance abuse and support services available in our community, empower the community to identify and implement prevention strategies, and reduce the stigma surrounding substance abuse. Local Prevention Councils (LPCs) are made up of volunteers from diverse sectors in the community including the municipal sector, youth, parents, grandparents, business leaders, educators, law enforcement, faith based organizations, healthcare professionals, concerned citizens and other organizations. Anyone is welcome to join and meetings are open to the public. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for February 26, and March 26 at 10:30am at the Somers Public Library. Please email SomersComesTogether@somersct.gov for more information or find “Somers Comes Together” on Facebook!

SEASON OF GIVING UPDATE

The 2018 Season of Giving has come to a close and the kindness and generosity of the Somers community was, once again, amazing to see. We are excited to share with you the success of this year's campaign. On behalf of the Town of Somers Human Services Department and the residents we serve, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all who contributed to and participated in this year's Season of Giving.

SENIOR CENTER TRIPS:

Trips are open to all ages, residents and non-residents. For a complete listing of trips, including numerous daytrips, visit the Somers Senior Center website (www.somersct.gov-Somers Senior Center) is found under Town Departments), stop by the Senior Center at 19 Battle Street, or call **860-763-4379**.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Somers Senior Center, located at 19 Battle Street, is open to all individuals age 55+. There is no membership required and all seniors are welcome. The Somers Senior Center offers a warm and welcoming environment where seniors feel at home and can take part in social, educational and recreational activities. The Somers Senior Center Newsletter is the best way to stay informed of all programs, trips, and events. The newsletter is available by email, online (www.somersct.gov: Somers Senior Center under Town Departments), or by picking up a copy at the Senior Center/other locations throughout town. You can also find “Somers Senior Center” on Facebook!

ADULT CHILDREN WITH AGING PARENTS/LOVED ONES

As our parents/loved ones grow older, it is important to be aware of how their needs might change and how you can best assist them to remain in their homes for as long as possible. The following is a list of just a few of the many ways you can assist your parents/loved ones as they age.

1. Get acquainted with your loved one's doctor and accompany them to the doctor if possible. Reduced hearing and anxiety can make understanding difficult.
2. Get to know your loved one's neighbors. Ask them to call you if they see anything unusual.
3. Assist them with purchasing a personal emergency response system.
4. Purchase a weekly medication box and prefill it with them or for them. There are also other more high tech medication reminders.
5. Set up a system to call them every day at the same time. Have a back up plan if they don't answer.
6. If you think nutrition or meal preparation is a problem look into meal programs like Meals on Wheels, commercial meal delivery programs, grocery delivery like Peapod or a local grocery store.
7. Be sure they have a will, a living will, and a health care proxy.
8. Look into having power of attorney for them.
9. Set up automatic bill payments.
10. Arrange for automatic oil or gas refills.
11. Look into home health care agencies for personal care, housekeeping, errands, companionship.
12. If they are still driving, go for a ride with them to assess safety. Be sure vision is adequate for safe driving.
13. State of CT Board of Education and Services for the Blind, 184

Windsor Ave. Windsor,
860-602-4000 has many helpful ideas, services and devices for people with reduced vision.

14. If they are not driving, look into Dial-a-Ride or other senior ride programs (Nutmeg Senior Rides).
15. Assess home safety. Remove scatter rugs, be sure there is a railing on both sides of stairs, try to have the laundry on the main floor.
16. Look for symptoms of depression, particularly in the winter months when isolation increases. Symptoms to look for may include difficulty sleeping, changes in weight or appetite, agitation, confusion, restlessness, chest pain, fatigue, joint/muscle pain, digestive problems, headaches, back/neck pain, etc.



Please visit www.somersct.gov and locate the Somers Senior Center's page under Town Departments. On the Senior Center page you will find a link to survey where you can indicate topics you are interested in learning more about. This survey will help us determine topics for future community education events.

VOLUNTEER

Do You Have What it Takes? The Somers Fire Department is looking for dedicated citizens of the Town of Somers to become Firefighters and EMS personnel.

The Department provides:

**Free Training
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A Chance to Give back to Your Community!**

If interested, contact us as follows:

860-749-7626

**membership@somersct.gov
www.somersfire.org**



BUILDING A BASE FOR SOMERS STUDENTS

At Somers Elementary School, students continue learning and having fun even after school gets out for the day.

Last year, Somers Recreation Department- in partnership with Somers Elementary School- began the SES After School Enrichment Program. The program was designed to provide SES families a quality after school program option located right at the school.

The program ran the entire 2017-18 school year. Now in its second year, it has evolved and expanded.

“Based on community feedback and need, we decided to include a before school component for the 2018-19 school year,” Recreation Director Chris Boucher said. “After the first year, we saw an opportunity to re-brand with our growth and that’s how the BASES program was born.”

BASES stands for: Before & After School Enrichment Services. The “enrichment” aspect of the program comes in the form of homework help for students, reading time, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities and games, arts & crafts and more.

Students in the BASES program participate in educational, social, and physical activities and play every school day.

Boucher comments, “I think this program has been successful, in large part, because of collaboration. It was really a team effort to get this program off of the ground and has remained so as we’ve grown.”

The creation of the BASES program required input from school personnel including administrative staff, custodial staff, teachers and paraprofessionals, and students of all ages.

Today, the program staff is largely comprised of elementary

school professionals and high school students or recent graduates.

The BASES After School Program is overseen by program director, SES paraprofessional Heather Croken, and assistant director, 4th grade teacher Lindsey Griffiths. “We’re so incredibly lucky to have such seasoned and experienced professionals leading our program. It really makes a difference and I think the families in our program recognize that,” Boucher reflects, “whether it’s with homework help, planning fun and creative activities or just sort of speaking the language of the school- that connection to the school day is important for us.”

“It’s fun for them (the students) and for us because this is a little more laid back than school,” Croken notes about the BASES After School Program.

“We still follow our school rules, but it’s nice they have that relaxed time and to see them interact with kids from different age groups is nice.”

Ms. Griffiths enjoys a unique perspective as a fourth grade teacher within the school, who then gets to oversee students from Kindergarten through 5th grade in the BASES program.



She enjoys the interaction with the students of different age levels, “it’s fun for me when I drop my (fourth grade) students off at specials and get

a 'hi Miss Griffiths!'... and I can interact with kids outside of my classroom, which I would not have otherwise because I don't get to experience the other kids or grades during the traditional school day."

The BASES After School Program is open to all Somers Elementary School students from Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Students get to interact and play with their classmates, but it is also common to see students from different grade levels engaging with each other.

Both Mrs. Croken and Ms. Griffiths say that they love to see the collaboration and mentorship between the students of all grades within the program. "It's great seeing the older students wanting to work with the younger ones and seeing that bond," Croken says.

She explains that the older and younger students often play on different playgrounds. The program uses a "buddy system" where older students will volunteer to accompany the younger students to the "little playground" to assist in play and oversight. "The older kids want to go to the little playground to help," Croken observes. "It makes it more of a family and a community."

In addition to the bond that develops between the participants of various different age groups, there are also bonds that form between the students and counselors. The students look forward to seeing their favorite counselors each day.

The program utilizes current students from Somers High School, as well as recent SHS graduates to serve as counselors for the program. "The counselor program has really evolved as BASES has grown," Boucher notes. "Our first month of the SES After School program last year we had a little over 30 participants. This year, with the addition of the Before School component, we have right around 70 students monthly. That creates a greater need for resources, including quality staffing."

The BASES After School program employs 7 current Somers High School students. The high school students work in shifts and get an opportunity to guide the younger students, while also learning tangible skills to benefit them in the future. "For some of the counselors in the program, this is their first real



job. It teaches them responsibility, accountability to others, time management skills, communication skills, and more," Boucher comments. "They're learning and growing just like our elementary school students."

Somers Recreation Department plans to continue to offer the BASES program in future school years. "We hope to continue this partnership and teamwork with the school going forward. The program brings students of different age levels together in a positive after school environment and we're excited to see how it can keep growing."



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

SHS JUNIOR KYLIE RAYMOND, STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

For student-athlete Kylie Raymond, the Somers community helped her find her stride.

Raymond, a junior at Somers High School and a captain of the cross country team, is humble about her many successes both on and off the track.

Her most recent victories include winning the Class SS state title and finishing 12th in the state open this passed fall.

Raymond, who has been a varsity athlete in cross country since her freshman year, said she began the sport in sixth grade. In addition to running cross country, she specializes in the 3,200-meter race during track

season.

"I was not athletic at all," she said with a laugh. "I kind of did it because my parents said I had to do a sport."

Reminiscing on what she described as a lack of athleticism before she found her way with running, she and her father chuckled.

"She tried soccer," her father Scott Raymond said. "I tried dance," his daughter added.

But, she said cross country became a focus after middle school, and Raymond now plans to continue running in college.

"It's been a great opportunity for her," Scott said. "There are a lot of schools interested in meeting her."

Raymond said she might want to pursue a career in the medical field at either Boston College or the University of New Hampshire, but for now, she's keeping her options open.

When asked how the community helped shape her, Raymond credited the town's overwhelming support and newly minted athletic facilities.

"It's really exciting that we got the grant for the track," she said with a smile. "We haven't had a track for a while, and obviously doing track and cross country was kind of tough without that... It's exciting that people advocated for that, and there's a lot of support with people knowing who I am and congratulating me on races."

The junior is a four-time state champion and her coach, Michael Szafir, said she has been the NCCC and Class "S" state champion for the past two years in addition to being all New England her sophomore year and qualifying again her junior year.

Kylie's father said the school system has helped her get to the New England championships, and the Booster Club has also helped support her journey to nationals.

In addition to practicing everyday and excelling in athletics, Raymond said she's enrolled in mostly honors courses as well as advanced placement (AP) U.S. History, and is a member of the National Honors Society.

She was also chosen to represent Somers High School at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation (HOBY) conference at the University of Bridgeport during her sophomore year.

The junior said balancing both school and athletics has helped her succeed in both avenues.

"I put pressure on myself in both areas," Raymond said. "Cross country and track kind of take a little bit of the school stress away."

Szafir said Raymond is a "tremendous leader and asset" to the Somers cross country program and the school community.

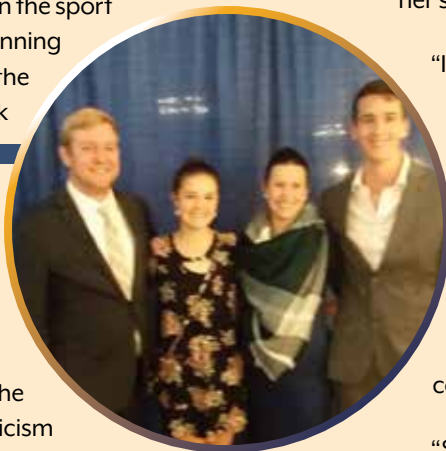
"She is a top competitor in the state who puts in a tremendous amount of work," Szafir said, adding that Raymond has great leadership skills. "She is someone who puts the work in before the season starts and continues to push herself and others each day."

Szafir said that Raymond is a leader who not only wants to better her own athletic performance, but also that of her teammates.

"As a coach, I could not ask for a better leader or role model," he said.

Raymond said her goals for the remainder of her high school career are to get faster, win a state open, commit to a college, and return to nationals.

Her advice for anyone thinking about getting involved in a sport? "Even if you're not athletic... if it can work for me, it can probably work for you, because I still can't throw or catch a ball."



MOONLIGHT RUN AND FAMILY HIKE AT CAMP AYA PO

The Town of Somers, together with the Shenipsit Striders, are excited to offer the 33rd annual Moonlight Run & Family Hike at Camp Aya Po on **Saturday, February 16.**

The Family-friendly hike starts at 7PM for a 1 mile loop around Hurds Lake. The 2.4 mile trail run kicks off at 8PM which includes a run up and over Perkin's Mountain. Hot cocoa and baked goods available in the pavilion for all afterwards! Bring your flashlights and join us for a night under the stars!

For more information contact the Somers Recreation Department at recreation@somersct.gov, visit the Somers Recreation Department website, or visit the Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/338585026729590/>

About Shenipsit Striders:

The Shenipsit Striders trail running club was started in 1975 by a small group of friends in Somers, Connecticut that wanted to get together for weekly runs in the woods. Today the club has grown to include members from all corners of Connecticut and the New England region, with all abilities represented from new runners to experienced ultramarathoners.

Our races serve to give back to the trail community by donating to Connecticut trail stewardship and land use programs. As a nonprofit club, our membership helps further support our goals to give back to the trail community.

We host regular group and social runs at various locations around Connecticut, showing off some of our great local trail systems. We welcome everyone to our runs and races, the only requirement is that you love to run and love the outdoors!

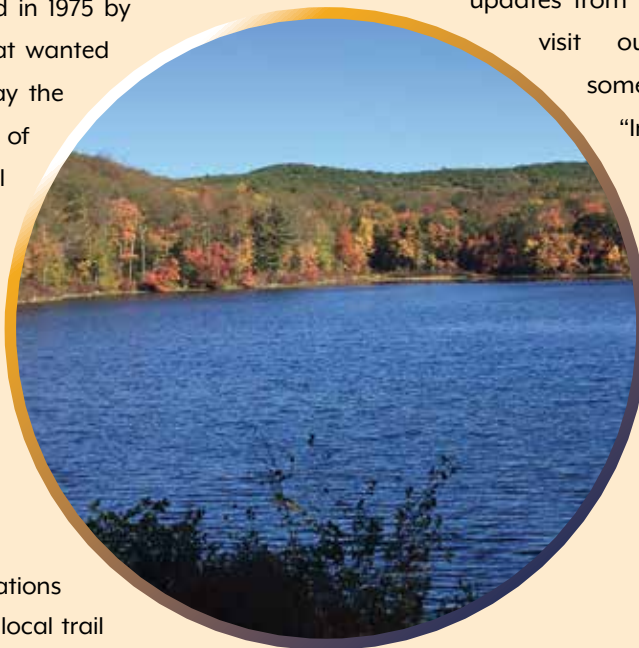
For more information check out www.shenipsitstriders.org



LAND USE NEWS

For the past several months the Somers Zoning Commission has taken on the task of reorganizing and amending the Town's Zoning Regulations. In order to assist in this process, the commission has teamed up with Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics; a consulting firm out of Avon, CT, who previously worked with the Somers Planning Commission on the update and adoption of the Plan of Conservation and Development in June 2015. It is the hope of the Zoning Commission that the updated regulations will allow for a

more diverse business community while maintaining the historic and rural character of Somers. Once the reorganization & review process is complete, and a rough draft of the regulations is prepared, there will be a Public Informational meeting held. After receiving feedback from the community, a final draft will then be prepared and presented at a Public Hearing. Members of the community are encouraged to attend the informational meeting and public hearings. To receive notifications on this, and other news and updates from the Town of Somers, visit our website: www.somersct.gov and click on "Inform Me".



REC SPRING PROGRAMS

B.A.S.E.S. Program at Somers Elementary School Before & After School Enrichment Services

Somers Rec offers child care options at SES through the BASES Program. Openings are available for the entire 2018-19 school year. Join us for engaging and fun mornings and afternoons.

Who: SES Students in grades K-5
When: Every school day of the 2018-19 school year
Where: SES Cafeteria
Time: BASES Before School Program: 7:30AM-8:30AM
After School Program: 3:15PM-6:00PM
How: Register by month though the end of the school year

TOT & Kindergarten Basketball

The perfect opportunity to introduce your little one to the game of basketball. Registration includes t-shirt, a new basketball, and a participation medal.

Who: Ages 3 & 4
When: Saturdays March 9 through April 6
Where: Mabelle B. Avery Middle School
Time: TOT Session A: 9:00-9:45AM
TOT Session B: 10:00-10:45AM
TOT Session C: 11:00-11:45AM
Kindergarten: 12:00PM-1:00PM

Adult CoEd Kickball

Kickball isn't just for kids! This league promotes fun competition in a social environment. Games are played weekly. Register as a full team, small group or as an individual. Every player receives a league jersey. Afternoons of fun for the whole family at Field Road Park.

Who: Participants 20 & up
When: Sundays beginning in April
Where: Field Road Park
Time: Game times vary depending on participation
How: Register online by April 1

Adult CoEd Softball

Join other adults who like to play CoEd softball. This league promotes active participation and friendly competition. Games are played at the 'E' CoEd competition level. Teams can expect to play at least 1 game per week at Field Road Park beginning in May and running through the summer. For more information, or to register, contact league organizer Kevin Barrows at: barrowschimney@yahoo.com.

Yoga

Join certified Kripalu yoga instructor Diana Gunther in a stimulating and fun class designed to strengthen, tone, increase flexibility, and improve the function of all body systems. You'll enjoy the benefits after your very first class. Easy to follow instruction & a down-to-earth atmosphere.

Who: All ages welcomed

When: Tuesday evening
Thursday evening
Saturday morning

Where: Kibbe Fuller Gym

Time: Tuesday/Thursday:
6:00-7:00PM
Saturday: 10:00
11:00AM

How: Contact Diana Gunther at dianagyoga@gmail.com for more information on program scheduling and pricing options.

Gentle Yoga

Kripalu certified instructor Pat Baker teaches a gentle, therapeutic yoga that is designed for individuals who have little or no experience as well as the experienced yogi. Participants will learn breathing techniques while doing basic yoga postures.

Who: All ages welcome

When: Tuesday mornings

Where: Kibbe Fuller

Time: 9:30-10:30AM

How: Contact Pat Baker
860-668-4851

Pickleball

The Recreation Department has Pickleball equipment available for use. If you are interested in getting a great work out while having some friendly competition, come try Pickleball. It is a fun game for all ages and all abilities.

Contact the Rec Department to check availability. The equipment can be picked up at the Rec Department office during office hours.

Youth Sport Associations

These organizations and/or leagues are not run by Somers Recreation Department, but by volunteer boards and committees. Please contact the organizations directly with any questions or for further information.



Somers Lacrosse Association somerslacrosse.org
Somers Little League somersll.org
Somers Soccer Association somerssoccerassociation.org
Somers Youth Softball somerssoftball.com
Somers Youth Wrestling somerswrestling.com

FACILITY RENTAL

Connor's Place

The Somers Recreation Department offers rentals of the Pavilion & Gazebo at Connor's Place at Field Road Park throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall seasons. Perfect for your upcoming birthday parties, family event, or business outing. Rental availability is dependent on Park scheduling. If you are interested

in renting either of the facilities at Connor's Place please contact the Somers Recreation Department.

Kibbe Fuller Community Center

The Kibbe Fuller Community Center is a historic Somers building. Meeting rooms and the auditorium are available for rental by Town boards and commissions, civic groups, athletic associations, advisory groups, and independent organizations.

Kibbe Fuller Gazebo

Located on the Town Common, situated between the Kibbe Fuller Community Center and the Somers Senior Center. Available for rental with a close proximity to the Battle Street Playground.

Summer 2019 Program Schedule

Keep an eye out for the upcoming summer 2019 Recreation Department program schedule! We have lots of exciting camps, programs, and events planned. Visit the Somers Recreation Department website, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Instagram to stay up-to-date with all of the fun planned right here in Somers!

REC ON INSTAGRAM

The Somers Recreation Department is now on Instagram! Follow us @somersrec for photos and updates from programs throughout the year, and keep an eye out for our monthly photo contests. If you

have suggestions about what you want to see us post, feel free to directly message our account.



FINANCE NEWS

Budget season is upon us, and this year, the Finance Department has made changes to improve efficiencies, increase transparency, and encourage civic engagement.

The Board of Selectmen has already requested budgets from department directors who submitted budget requests in early January. The Finance Department reviewed each department's budget proposal and along with the Selectmen, have scrutinized, and adjusted individual line items where necessary.

Both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen will present their approved 2019-20 budgets to the Board of Finance for the first time on February 25. The Board of Finance will then discuss, review, and modify the budgets as necessary, a process that can take up to a few weeks.

The Finance Department's goal is to have the Board of Finance make their modifications and tentatively approve the Fiscal 2020 budget by March 25. Citizen input is encouraged throughout the process. Once the Board of Finance approves the proposed budget, booklets with all budget information, including a breakdown of department spending, will be made available.

The Board of Finance Public Hearing is scheduled for April 23; the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 7; and the Budget Referendum will be held on May 14. All meetings will be held at Town Hall at 600 Main St. and will be live streamed to the Town's YouTube channel. Go to www.somersct.gov and follow the link to subscribe.

The Finance Department staff recommends citizens contact them by phone, e-mail, or to schedule a meeting in person to discuss budget questions during the coming months. To reach the Finance Department, contact Chief Financial Officer Michael Marinaccio at (860) 763-8204 or Assistant Finance Director Brian Wissinger at (860) 763-8217. To e-mail the Finance office, contact bwissinger@somersct.gov.

INVESTMENT & MEDICARE OPTIONS

Attend our
ConnectiCare
Medicare Workshop

at the **Enfield Senior Center** on
Wednesday February 27th at 1:00 pm
or call our office to schedule an individual appointment.



860.749.0482

48 South Road, Unit 2, P.O. Box 398 Somers, CT 06071 | www.statelineseniorservices.com



Spring Forward & Celebrate 300 Years of Community!

Join the Stafford 300 Anniversary Committee and Johnson Memorial Hospital for breakfast in the beautifully renovated Community Medical Education Center! In addition to a fresh breakfast, the morning will serve as an opportunity to *connect with neighbors*, deepen understanding of Stafford history, and honor residents and organizations who help strengthen the quality of life in town.

WITH A FRESH MENU FEATURING

Made-to-Order Buttermilk Pancakes *plain, chocolate chip & gluten free options*
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AN OFFICIAL 300 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
EVENT, MADE POSSIBLE BY:



Johnson Memorial
Hospital
Trinity Health

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TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
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SATURDAY | MARCH 30, 2019 | 6PM • 10PM

*A formal evening of entertainment, dinner and
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Entertainment from the Silk City Quartet, Stafford High School Jazz Band and
Madrigal Singers, with dancing concluding the evening
Historic Memorabilia and Stafford-inspired Silent Art Auction, and "Gala Games"
Family style, upscale dining & seating with a variety of delicious eats
\$65 per person tickets · VIP tickets \$100 each · Cash Bar

please purchase your tickets in advance at
staffordct300.com or by calling 860.851.8102

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SPRING GARDEN CHECK LIST

Once the weather becomes more dependable, the snow has finally gone, and you just can't wait to start your gardening, be sure to tackle these tasks:

Rake leaves out of your garden beds and do a final clean up of debris and expired plants. Prune non-spring flowering shrubs. If your fall clean up has you ahead of the game, you can dig up and separate hosta and bleeding hearts at this time.

Remember the old gardening adage: "one year's seeds, seven years weeds". Pull out those weeds before they are your arch nemesis. You may want to consider one of the many great products on the market for weed suppression. Early application is your best tool.

Now is the time to fertilize. Be sure to choose the appropriate fertilizer for the type of plant material you have. Evergreens and early flowering shrubs, such as azaleas and rhododendrons, are acid loving plants. An organic fertilizer such as Holly Tone is a great choice for those plants. Amend your soil by adding organic compost or composted manure. Don't forget the roses, they love to be fed in the spring!

If your perennial gardens are still holding upright stems that you left for the birds, it's time for them to go! Cut back all herbaceous perennials to the ground. Woody perennials should be left to green up some before they are trimmed. If you're not sure which is a woody perennial, our gardening experts are ready and waiting to help you out.

Apply fresh mulch. A depth of 4" is great for weed suppression and consistent moisture control.

If you're tired and confused just reading this list, come see the experts at Garden's Dream Farm for help tackling your gardening tasks



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156 Springfield Rd, Somers
\$344,900



21 Partridge Run, Somers
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UNDER DEPOSIT
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143 Old Hampden Rd, Somers	9 acres	\$100,000
20 Denison Rd, Somers	1.29 acres	\$74,900



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TAX-AIDE SERVICES FOR ADULTS 50 AND OLDER

The Somers Senior Center is thrilled to announce that, after two years of being unable to offer this service, AARP will once again be providing an income tax preparation site in Somers!

Tax-Aide is an AARP Foundation program that offers free tax filing help for those who need it most, especially adults 50 and older, during the tax season. Volunteer tax preparers complete tax preparation training and IRS certification prior to working with taxpayers. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

Appointments for tax preparation in Somers are being offered on an extremely limited basis, so you are encouraged to call early to schedule. We will begin taking appointments as of January 2nd. AARP will be on site at the Somers Senior Center on March 1st, 15th, 29th, and April 5th.

In preparation for your appointment, please note the following:

1. You should arrive 15 minutes early to complete paperwork.
2. If the return is a joint return for a married couple, both spouses need to be present.
3. It is very helpful if you are able to bring a copy of your return from last year.
4. You must bring identification (name and social security number) with you.
5. You should bring your checkbook (or routing number and account number) if you want to get a direct deposit of your refund.

The Somers Senior Center would like to extend our sincere appreciation to AARP and its volunteers for helping to bring this extremely valuable program back to Somers.

SOMERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Children's Department has lots to offer in the upcoming months. Our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program kicked off on February 1, so be sure to stop in for details and to sign up. We will have storytimes, a music program, read to a dog and more during the months of March and April. Check our events calendar for special programming during April school vacation week. There are also lots of new items available to check out including our new Launchpads (durable tablets preloaded with high-quality learning apps geared for children ages 3-10) and the popular Early Learning Backpacks filled with early learning materials, books and activities. Come in and visit us!

Our Teen Department has debuted a new supervised snack time after school program! The Library will now be offering space and time for teens coming from MBA and SHS to have an after school snack. For 30 minutes after school, teens will be allowed to eat food they've brought from home in a supervised space. Due to budget constraints, the Library will not be able to provide any food or drinks, but teens are welcome to bring and enjoy their own snacks from home. We know that many of the teens who spend time at the Library are still in the middle of a very long day when they come to us. We know our growing teens are hungry after school and believe that the opportunity for a snack will create a more productive and friendly atmosphere in our Teen Room afterwards.

The Adult Department invites town residents to take advantage of some of our great ongoing programs! Every Thursday morning we have a growing "Craft and Chat" group that knit, weave, and more while sharing concepts and patterns. On Friday mornings, you could join the Adult Coloring Club and



relieve some stress in a fun, productive way! Don't forget we also have Tech Tuesdays where you can learn more about technologies available to you through the Library. Plus, there are three great book club meeting every month!! We hope to see you stop in soon.

SAVE A LIFE NARCAN[®] TRAINING

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Somers Fire Department
400 Main Street
Somers, CT

TRAINING

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- Overdose risk factors
- Signs and symptoms of overdose
- How to administer Narcan[®]
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For more information:

SomersComesTogether@somersct.gov



SOMERS RESIDENT TROOPER'S OFFICE

The Somers Resident Trooper's Office is asking residents and business owners to register their Security Cameras with the Police Department. The purpose of this program is to allow police to have a list of people willing to allow police to review private security footage to obtain evidence related to crimes when needed.

If you wish to participate in this program please contact us at



860-749-4955 or 860-749-2636
or email police@somersct.gov.
Let's keep Somers Safe.



Thank you

To each and EVERY business who have supported us along the way,
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~ Your Wicked Good News team



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