

Somers

CONNECTION

WINTER
2018
2019

TOWN
DIRECTORY

COMMUNITY
NEWS &
EVENTS

RECREATION

SENIOR
SERVICES

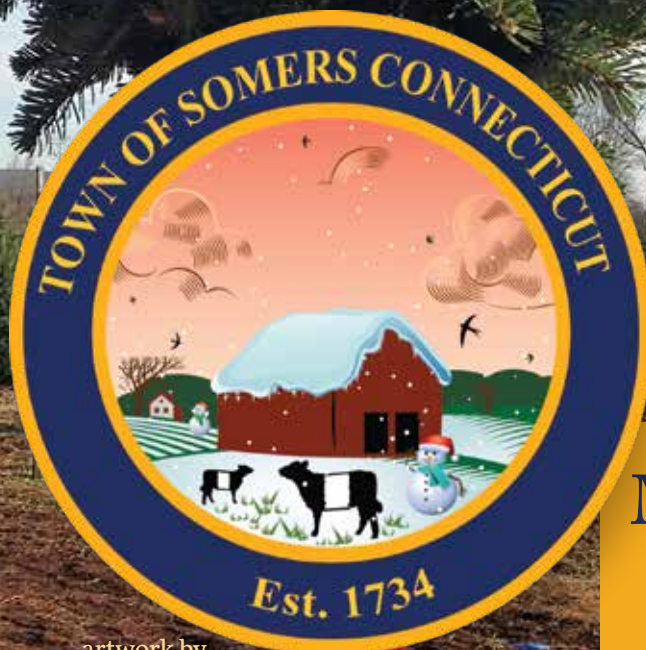
TOWN HALL
NEWS

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

LIBRARY

Pell Family Farm
November 2018

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



artwork by
Joshua Epstein

MEDICARE WORKSHOPS

for Annual Open Enrollment

NOVEMBER 2018



Bill McCloskey

**Register for a Workshop
with Bill!**

STATELINE
SENIOR SERVICES LLC



Found inside Wicked Good News

SELECTMEN'S CORNER

The Board of Selectmen and I are keenly interested in open government with effective and timely communication to keep all of our citizens duly informed. We currently live stream Board Meetings. These live meetings will supplement our Town website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

Most of our citizens currently avail themselves of these methods of communication but for those that prefer to see and hold the written word in paper form we now have the Somers Connection a colorful and informative publication that you are currently reading. We have collaborated with Wicked Good News to deliver a quarterly publication to every household in Somers at no cost to the Town. We are very excited about this addition to our communication outreach and hope you enjoy reading it!

In this publication, we are featuring the Human Services Department, which provides programs, and services to all residents to assist with their basic needs as well as social, recreational, and educational opportunities. The divisions of the Human Services Department include Elderly/Disabled Transportation, the Senior Center, and Social Services.

Let me tell you a little about Deanna. Deanna Schuetz has been the Director of Human Services and Municipal Agent since 2014. She is a graduate of the University of Hartford

and has been in the field of Human Services for 15 years in various capacities, including mental health, substance abuse, adult and senior services, and case management. She resides in Ellington with her husband, Jason, their 10-year-old daughter, Maddy, their 5-year-old son, Cole and their 2 cats (Charlie & Oliver). Deanna is passionate about working with, advocating for, and assisting seniors. In addition to improvements to the Senior Center and its programming, she is very proud of her work with the Somers Comes Together Local Prevention Council as well as the annual Season of Giving Campaign, which she implemented in 2016. She was the recipient of the Adolph P. Anderson Quality Employee Award in 2017. Whether at home or at the Senior Center, she is an avid party planner and knows how to put on a great event. Music means the world to Deanna. Her mother was a piano teacher and she plays the piano, viola, and loves to sing. When she is not working, she can be found spending time with her family, watching "The Golden Girls", or rooting for the New York Giants (sorry Patriots fans!).

I wanted to share some of Board of Selectmen goals with you so that you get sense of our values and leadership.

- 1. Good Stewardship of the Town's Infrastructure** (i.e. The Mill, Roads, Schools, Fleet and Civic Systems)
- 2. Provide and Ensure a Safe and Healthy Community** (Resident State Trooper Program/Local Constables, Staffing, Preparation and Response, Fire and Life Safety and Emergency/EMT)
- 3. Financial Stability** (Responsible and Collaborative Budgeting, Capital Expenditures, Maintaining a Reasonable Tax Structure and Anticipating Community Needs)
- 4. Governmental Compliance** (Federal, State and Local)
- 5. Healthy, Active Community Efforts** (Senior Center Initiatives, Social Services, Opioid Education, Library Outreach and Recreation Opportunities/Expansion)
- 6. Engaging the Community** (Open Door policy with all Elected

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and Town Employees, Community Forums, Mailers, Live Steaming Board Meetings, Town website, FB and Twitter)
I know you share my opinion that Somers is one of the finest and best little towns in the State that embraces old-fashioned New England values.

Just a reminder that Budget planning will commence in January.

Respectfully,

The Board of Selectmen

C.G. Bud Knorr, Jr. First Selectman

Kathy Devlin Selectman

Tim Potrikus Selectman



Town Offices will be closed
on the following dates:

Thursday November 22, 2018

Thanksgiving

December 13, 2018

Town offices will close at 1:00pm

Monday, December 24, 2018

Town offices will close at 1:00pm

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Christmas 2019

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

New Year's Day

Monday, January 21, 2019

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Lincoln's Birthday

Monday, February 18, 2019

President's Day

Town Hall Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

8:00am – 5:00pm

Thursday 8:00am – 6:30pm

Closed Fridays



600 MAIN STREET, SOMERS, CT 06071

DIRECTORY

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Animal Control | (860) 763-0623 |
| 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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MAKING A SPLASH IN SOMERS

For longtime Somers residents Wendy and Bill McCloskey, giving back to the community that has given them so much seems only natural. Over a year ago, the McCloskey's approached the Somers Recreation Department with a vision to bring a Splash Pad to Somers.

A splash pad - also known as a spray park, aquatic play pad, or water playground- is a zero depth aquatic play area with various features that spray, flow, mist and jet water on active participants. According to Commercial Recreation Specialists, splash pads "combine sensations of different water movements," while providing a fun water experience that "stimulates and challenges children of all ages and abilities."

The McCloskey's vision has meaningful personal origins. In December 2007, the couple lost their daughter Macie Grace to Trisomy13. Macie was only six days old. Both Wendy and Bill recall feeling an overwhelming sense of community togetherness during this period. "People learned our story. There was support and kindness through the pregnancy

and after Macie's passing."

The McCloskey's remember receiving well wishes, phone calls, cards, and countless kind words from folks across the community. Wendy and Bill reflect that the outreach specifically directed toward their other school-aged children made a lasting impact on the family.

From teachers, to friends, classmates to children playing on youth baseball and basketball teams coached by Bill, there was continual love and support.

"Little by little we just wanted to do something for the Town because the Town was just amazing when we went through this."

In more recent years, Wendy has been searching for fun and engaging activities she could do with her now 5 year old grandson, Mason. It didn't take long to stumble upon an emerging recreational trend in neighboring towns: splash pads.

"When he started to toddle around, I started taking him all over to different splash pads just to check them out. He absolutely loved it. It brought him such joy."

The pair particularly loved visiting a pad in nearby Hampden.

"I just fell in love with it.... when I go to the splash pad, my grandson is enjoying it and I love watching him and being there with him. It's just about relaxing and enjoying each other."

The McCloskey's recognize that life can get hectic and say that being at the splash park can "bring you back to basics."

The family observes that while at the splash pad, children aren't focused on anything but having fun. Bill explains, "It's a simple, joyful experience." It's care-free. Parents aren't on phones; they're engaged with kids. Kids aren't focused on screens; they're focused on which jet is going to spray them next or where to stand to make sure the water from the bucket drops right on their head. It's creates a sense of "joyful innocence."

It wasn't long after visiting the Hampden splash pad, and seeing the joy in their grandson, that the



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couple's vision for the Town of Somers became clear. Bill and Wendy soon contacted the Town to share their desire to make a private contribution to construct a splash pad in Somers. Members of the Recreation and Public Works Departments, together with the McCloskey family, have been working to make this dream a reality.

The project is still in the research and design phase, however, considerable progress has been made. After examining various potential locations for the pad, and consulting with industry professionals to ensure thoroughness in planning, a preliminary outline to bring a splash pad to Field Road Park has been developed.

The initial designs feature a pad shaped like a butterfly, signifying Macie and celebrating her life and the spirit of levity and play. Butterflies are commonly seen as a symbol of life, change, happiness and joy. The butterfly symbolism has an extra special meaning to the McCloskey family. Wendy recalls that when Macie was born, she had a purple outfit with butterflies on it, and when she passed, the family began to notice more and more butterflies.

"Back then I used to run. I really started seeing butterflies and in a way it helped me through my grief."

The family is hopeful that this splash pad project can serve as a way to give back that joy and happiness that was bestowed upon them years ago and is still felt today.

The McCloskey's, along with Town staff, are continuing to work diligently on this project and hope to provide the community with a product within the next 12 to 18 months.

The family feels this project "a great way to be able to celebrate her life, but also to create an environment where

other families can go with their children to have a great time."

A slogan for the project that the family and town staff have been adopting is "together today."

Somers is a special town. There is a sense of community and connection. When you step out, you run into neighbors, classmates, teammates, and friends. We're together. The McCloskey's, along with town staff, believe that the Macie's Place Splash Pad Project is yet another way to bring us "together today."

SEASON OF GIVING

The Season of Giving is upon us. This campaign began in 2016 with the goal of raising awareness of programs in Somers that benefit our residents in need in an effort to increase community involvement and contributions. Oftentimes, people want to help but they simply don't know how. The Season of Giving campaign focuses on several ways in which you can care for your neighbors in need. We hope that you will consider making a contribution or getting involved this holiday season and that this information helps you to know where your contributions will go and who they will help. All donations should be sent to: 19 Battle Street, Somers, CT 06071. If you cannot contribute financially, please consider donating your time. Please open your hearts during the Season of Giving.



STUFF-A-CRUISER

Stuff-a-Cruiser "Stuff-a-Cruiser", an annual event coordinated by the Somers Women's Club, will begin on November 21st and run through December 13th. You can drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Somers Police Department (451 Main Street). All items collected come to the Somers Human Services Department and are distributed to families in need.



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EMERGENCY FUND

Did you know that you can make a donation to a fund that is utilized only by the Town of Somers Human Services Department to assist low income families in Somers with basic needs and emergency situations? Residents who are struggling financially are able to utilize the fund for heat, electricity, rent, or any number of other extenuating circumstances. This fund is utilized throughout the entire year, but especially during the winter heating season. Without your donations, this fund would not exist. There are policies in place and an application process to avoid any misuse of the fund. Checks can be made payable to Town of Somers Emergency Fund.

SALVATION ARMY KETTLE CAMPAIGN

Have you ever wondered where your money goes when you drop it into the red kettle of the bell ringers at holiday time? The Town of Somers Human Services Department is part of a service unit for the Salvation Army and receives funds from the Salvation Army annually to help meet the needs of our low-income residents and part of our role as a service unit is to assist in coordination of the Kettle Campaigns. 90%

of funds raised through the Kettle Campaigns stay in our service unit. We are able to purchase items at a much lower cost when we utilize our Salvation Army funds. To ensure that funds remain in your community, be sure to drop your donation into the red kettle when you see it in Somers! The kettle campaign cannot be successful without volunteers. If you are willing to donate an hour or two of your time this holiday season to ring the bell, contact Deanna Schuetz at 860-265-7550 or Dschuetz@somersct.gov.



SOMERS BEAUTIFICATION

Somers Beautification is looking for volunteers to join their group to help keep Somers looking Beautiful. If you are interested in digging in the dirt with us, please call Joan Rivard at 860-749-5115.

VOLUNTEER

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MEALS ON WHEELS

The Town of Somers Meals On Wheels (MOW) program has been operating continuously for 37 years independent of support from federal, state or local government funds. The program provides meals 6 days a week, 52 weeks a year. It not only provides necessary nutrition, but is also a daily wellness check for our frail, elderly residents, many of whom live alone. Meals are graciously prepared by Hometown Kitchen Restaurant. Clients with financial need are able to apply for the MOW subsidy program to reduce the cost of their meals. The subsidy program utilizes income and asset guidelines similar to state and federal assistance programs. The funding to be able to provide this subsidy as well as funding for all MOW related supplies comes entirely from donations. The number of clients on the MOW program continues to increase and we ask for your help to replenish our MOW fund. Your donation will help to ensure that homebound seniors in Somers continue to receive warm meals and daily contact with volunteers, greatly improving their safety, well-being, and quality of life. Checks can be made payable to Town of Somers Meals on Wheels. The MOW program is also in need of volunteers to deliver meals. Volunteers can deliver once a month, once a week, or whenever their schedule permits. Background checks are required. This program cannot run without the help of volunteers. If you are or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Christina Cenac at 860-265-7551 or Ccenac@somersct.gov.

at Foodshare at a reduced cost. Checks can be made payable to Somers Congregational Church with "Champ's Place" in the memo section. Please check all food donations for expiration dates and also remember that hygiene items such as toilet paper, soap, laundry detergent, etc. are accepted and encouraged as well, as these items are not covered by SNAP (food stamps).

ADOPT-A-CHILD HOLIDAY PROGRAM

This program assists low-income families with providing gifts for their children for the holidays. The program is entirely anonymous. Donors "adopt" a child and receive a list of items the child needs as well as a few "wishes" and some general information about the child's interests/hobbies/etc. giving the donor the opportunity to get to know their child. Gifts are dropped off at the Human Services office by a specified date and staff provides the gifts to the family. Recipients write an anonymous thank you note to their donors so that donors can experience a connection with the family. This program is truly a fun and rewarding experience for those who get involved. Most donors return year after year, as it becomes part of their holiday tradition. There are no set expectations such as dollar amounts for our donors. Some donors choose to adopt one child, some adopt several. It is entirely up to the

FOOD PANTRY

Champ's Place Food Pantry is located at the Somers Congregational Church at 599 Main St. Monetary donations and food are accepted in the church office. Monetary donations are preferred, as storage space is an issue and items can be purchased

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★ ★ ★ DECEMBER 7TH IS THE DEADLINE ★ ★ ★

ADOPT-A-CHILD HOLIDAY PROGRAM

... CONTINUED

donor what they are able to contribute. Any help to these families is appreciated. This program cannot exist without our donors. If you are interested in adopting a child this holiday season, please contact Christina Cenac at 860-265-7551 or Ccenac@somersct.gov.



HUMAN SERVICES

19 Battle Street, Somers, CT

Deanna Schuetz, Director/Municipal Agent for the Elderly
860-265-7550 | Dschuetz@somersct.gov

The Human Services Department provides programs and services to all residents to assist with their basic needs as well as social, recreational, and educational opportunities. The divisions of the Human Services Department include Elderly/Disabled transportation, the Senior Center, and Social Services.

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. Service is "curb to curb", meaning that we are not permitted to enter private driveways and passengers must be able to reach the bus without the assistance of our driver. Drivers are not permitted to physically assist passengers or enter passenger's homes or apartments. If a passenger requires assistance boarding or disembarking from the bus, the passenger must have an aide/friend/family member, etc. accompany them. Aides are permitted to travel with passengers. Our hours of operation are 8am-4pm Monday through Friday. Medical appointments



must be scheduled between 8:30am and 2pm. We cannot provide transportation to medical appointments scheduled after 2pm. Passengers must call one week in advance to schedule transportation. Our service area includes the Town of Somers, the Town of Enfield, and Johnson Memorial Medical Center in Stafford Springs. Medical appointments always take priority. In addition to medical appointments, transportation is provided to the Somers Senior Center, Adult

Day Centers, employment, Somers Public Library, voting, grocery shopping, personal appointments/errands, and other activities. There is no fee required for this service, but donations are encouraged and appreciated. Please call the Somers Senior Center at 860-763-4379 to register and to obtain our full transportation brochure which contains additional information about traveling with us. Registration is required prior to utilizing the transportation service.

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The Town of Somers Senior Center is open to all residents ages 55+. There is no membership fee and all seniors are welcome! Registration is required. It is our goal to create a warm and welcoming environment where seniors feel at home and can take part in social, educational and recreational activities. In addition to our regularly scheduled weekly programs, the Senior Center Newsletter features all of our special events and opportunities for travel. Monthly meals, foot care, healthy breakfasts, blood sugar/blood pressure testing are also offered. Please note that sign-up is required and there may be small fees for our special events. Copies of the newsletter can be obtained at the Senior Center or various locations throughout town. It is also available via email, on our facebook page, or on our website (www.somersct.gov).

TRIPS & TRAVEL

November 16th: Radio City Christmas Spectacular New York City, NY \$204 (includes lunch at Carmine's)

November 29th: Gingerbread House Festival & Nutmeg Restaurant, South Windsor, CT *Festival is free, lunch at your own expense.

December 6th: Yankee Candle South Deerfield, MA *Lunch shopping at your own expense.

December 13th: A Connecticut Christmas Carol – Terris Theatre Chester, CT \$75 (includes lunch)

December 19th: Bright Nights at Forest Park, Springfield, MA \$2.00 per person



FREE SHRED DAY

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Saturday, June 22, 2019 | 9:00am to 12:00pm

Town Hall Parking lot
600 Main Street, Somers, CT

We invite the public to shred up to 2 boxes (10" h x 12.5" w x 16" d) of outdated documents per household. You do not have to remove any staples or paperclips, but please take documents out of binders and notebooks.

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| Sunday | 11:30 am - 4:00 pm |

Transfer Station Stickers are available for purchase for \$35.00 and valid July 1st through June 30th.

*Please note that when there is a Monday Holiday the Recycling Center will not open on that following Tuesday.



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BEFORE THE DECEMBER 7TH DEADLINE.



Bill McCloskey



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P.O. Box 398, Somers, CT 06071

860.749.0482



Kate McCloskey

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The Social Services division of the Human Services Department is available to all residents in the Town of Somers experiencing difficulty and seeking assistance. Our goal is to ensure that individuals and families in need are aware of all programs for which they may be eligible and resources that are available to help. Social Services is located in the Senior Center, an ideal location because many seniors find themselves in need of financial assistance as they retire And begin living on fixed incomes. The Social Services office has its own entrance and waiting area to ensure the privacy of those seeking assistance. Please call 860-265-7551 to make an appointment to meet with Social Services staff.

WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

Energy Assistance: There are many programs available to assist with heating and energy costs. We are an intake site for the Connecticut Energy Assistance and Operation Fuel Programs. We can assist with shut-off notices and provide information on winter and medical protection, the New Start and Matching Payment Programs.

Salvation Army Funds: We are a Service Unit for the Salvation Army. Funds may be available through the Salvation Army for a wide variety of needs.

Back-to-School Program: The Town of Somers wants to ensure that all children get the school year off to a good start. We provide a variety of school supplies to qualifying families.

Holiday Adopt-a-Child Program: Made possible by generous donors in the community, the Adopt-a-Child Program helps to provide holiday gifts to children whose families are struggling financially.

Meals on Wheels: Social Services coordinates this program to ensure homebound seniors can regularly receive a hot meal and adequate nutrition.

Housing Rehab Grant Program: For income eligible households, Social Services can assist clients with applying for funds for home maintenance/repairs.

Medicare Savings Program: This program can pay for your Medicare Part B premium and, for those who meet the income guidelines, co-pays and deductibles could be covered as well.

Farmer's Market Vouchers: Vouchers that can be utilized at any Farmer's Market in the state are available to those who qualify.

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

There are many issues that Social Services can assist with by providing information and/or referrals. Issues may include, but are not limited to:

- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Food Assistance
- Social Security
- Hoarding
- Department of Social Services benefits (SNAPS, TFA, Husky, Medicaid)
- Housing
- Employment
- Veteran's Benefits
- Health insurance/ Access Health
- Legal aid
- Medicare CHOICES Counseling



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SOMERS COMES TOGETHER

Are you interested in helping to prevent substance use in your community?

Consider getting involved with your Local Prevention Council. 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. LPCs work to raise awareness about substance use and its impact on the community by planning and implementing educational opportunities, local media campaigns, and other events around the topic of substance abuse prevention. In addition, they look to address policies at a local level that may have an impact on substance abuse. Participation in an LPC is an opportunity to make positive changes in your community, meet other committed community members and participate in engaging activities ranging from program planning to positive youth development activities. Please email SomersComesTogether@somersct.gov for more information.

**Please join us for our next meeting:
Tuesday, November 27th—10:30am
Somers Public Library-Conference Room**

Let's see what we can accomplish when Somers Comes Together!



RESIDENT TROOPER'S OFFICE

**451 Main Street, Somers, CT
860-749-4955 or 869-896-3200**

24 hours a day for police. Call 911 for emergencies.

There are 7 Town Police officers, one state trooper, and one civilian administrator – all of whom are here to supplement the patrols conducted for Somers by the CT State Police barracks, Troop C in Tolland. Services are always available, even if the office itself is closed.

Services provided by Somers Police:

Vacant House Check: we will conduct specific patrol checks of your home/ business if your request when you are away for vacation or any other reason. (Found online, Somers town website, or at the office)

CT Pistol Permit Applications: available on the town website or at the RT office for Somers residents who would like to apply to purchase and/ or carry pistols, revolvers, long guns or apply for a certificate to purchase ammunition. Charitable games applications for Bazaars, Raffles, and Bingo games are all approved locally through the police department. Applications and Instructions can be found at www.somersct.gov.

Prescription Medication DROP OFF BOX: Dispose of old or unused medications properly. For more information, call 860.749.4955.

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Valley View Farm

Valley View Farm started with 4 Herefords in the spring of 2002. They opened Valley View Farms feed store in January of 2004 and expanded their space in the summer of 2006. Valley View Farm has continued to grow over the years and now offers over 50 varieties of animal feeds, 20 brands of cat and dog foods and small animal feeds. Their cattle are hormone and antibiotic free, 100% vegetarian diet and live a pastured-based free range lifestyle, and is processed under USDA inspection. With 30 to 40 head of cattle on the farm today, they are proud of their locally raised beef and sell at the store year-round. Our freezers and shelves are also stocked with chicken, pork, lamb, bacon, sausage, eggs, honey, maple syrup, ravioli, tortellini, pierogi, gnocchi, sauces, spices and much more.

257 Orcuttville Road, Stafford, CT | 860.684.1621
www.facebook.com/Valley-View-Farm

October 2018

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John Fontanella

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Stafford, CT

RESIDENT TROOPER'S OFFICE

...CONTINUED

Reminders to Residents:

Phone scams are prevalent nowadays, do not give out any personal information to anyone over the phone that you are not familiar with.

Always lock your home and your vehicles to help prevent theft. Home security systems, including security cameras, are a good deterrent for criminals.

During the holiday season, try to schedule package drop offs and pickups when someone is home or with a neighbor or at your place of employment.

Reminder to shovel the snow off public sidewalks in front of your home or business within 24 hours of any new snowfall during the winter season. (Town ordinance)



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management is responsible for undertaking all activities and measures necessary to minimize and control the effects of disaster, both natural and technological, as well as the effects of military or terrorist attacks by enemies of the United States. Natural disasters and mass injuries are all possible threats for Somers. When disasters strike the Town government responds through its Emergency Preparedness

Advisory Committee (EPAC). Police, Fire, DPW, Schools, Local Officials, Communications, and Emergency Management represent this Committee as well with the assistance of many other outside stakeholders. In an emergency Town Departments will be grouped into Emergency Support Functions (ESF's). This will allow



Emergency Management Director - Tim Kradas (right)
Deputy Emergency Management Director
Jeff Bord, Town Engineer (left)

the Town Departments to work as coordinated groups to combat any emergency. The ESF concept follows the organization of the National Response Framework (NFR). The FRP outlines how the Federal Government would assist our local government when a major disaster or emergency overwhelms our ability to respond effectively and overwhelms our limited resources.

Disasters demand a number of special services that must be ready to roll out. Our current shelter facility is located at the Somers High School on Vision Blvd. if needed. If a shelter needs to be opened we will publicize the location on the your car or home radio on FM radio station 89.7 FM, on the Town's web page and on the Town's Facebook and Twitter pages on the internet. If needed, residents can obtain water at the fire department during an event. Information is critical in an emergency. Emergency Management maintains the Town Emergency Operations Plan and all its annexes. The Town annually trains and exercises all the plans, preparations and procedures for all departments and agencies. Take a moment to explore the many 'checklists' available to citizens

in order to be 'Prepared' at: <https://www.ready.gov/>
Responding to the disaster draws upon every resource available to the Town. The Town establishes an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is located at the old Kibbe Fuller School. The members of the EOC staff will coordinate the Town's efforts to combat the disaster. Radios and Telephone lines are set up in the Emergency Operations Center, which has generator back up, to gather information about the disaster and dispatch Town resources. Information for the Town residents will be channeled through a Public Information Officer in order to provide accurate information and quell rumors.

Recovery is perhaps the most difficult phase of disasters. Peoples' lives have been altered. Damaged homes must be repaired or rebuilt. The American Red Cross and Salvation Army can help families. Many volunteers come forward in disasters. Volunteer's staff shelters, help neighbors clear away debris, provide four-wheel drive vehicles to help critical workers such as medical personnel get through snowstorms. The best of a community shines through during the worst of times.

Emergency Operations Center

860.763.7064

(Activated ONLY in a declared Emergency)

Somers Resident State Police Office

860.749.4955

Fire Department - 860.749.7626

Eversource Phone numbers:

Street Light Outage - 800.286.2000

or www.eversource.com/clp/wms

Residential Power Outage - 800.286.2000

Residential Gas Odor - 877.944.5325

CITIZENS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

**Are you prepared in the event of an
emergency? Do you know what to do in
case of a hurricane or blizzard?**

Somers CERT encourages everyone to be aware and plan for emergencies. CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is a group of local citizens who help our community be prepared for major emergencies like blizzards, tornados, and hurricanes. You will find our members staffing the shelter and shower locations and helping with food and water distribution. We participate in volunteer events and provide community education about disasters. We are willing to come and speak to groups who are interested in learning more about preparing for disasters. If you are interested in joining CERT, or are interested in taking the basic CERT class, contact the Team Leader, Karen Hocking, at 860-759-2693. Please consider joining CERT to help yourself and our town be prepared for disasters.



Shelter Exercise Held in October 2018

The Shelter was activated in October with actual resident participation. A BIG Thank You to our Emergency Management Director Tim Kradas, Assistant Director, Jeff Bord, Town of Somers Staff, CERT Members, Public Works Staff, Residents and our four legged friends.

EMERGENCY



PARKS & REC

RECREATION DIRECTOR:

Chris Boucher

cboucher@somersct.gov

RECREATION COORDINATOR:

Kim Halligan

somersrec@somersct.gov

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:

Megan Krementowski

mkrementowski@somersct.gov

93 Egypt Road Somers, CT 06071

Mailing Address: 600 Main Street Somers, CT 06071

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm

860-265-3840

<http://somers.recdesk.com/recdeskportal>

www.facebook.com/somersrecreation

The Town of Somers Recreation Department strives to enhance the quality of life of our residents and strengthen the bonds of community by offering diverse and affordable recreational and cultural programs in welcoming and safe parks and recreational facilities. We aim to make fitness, health and wellness a priority for people of all ages. Our mission is to create a happy and healthy community where residents come together to play, learn and live.

Visit us online at somers.recdesk.com for complete programming schedules, facility & program information, and to register for programming. Create a profile or join our mailing list to receive information about all of our community offerings. We hope to see you soon!

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somersrecreation to stay up-to-date with all of the Recreation Department happenings. Keep an eye out for the upcoming release of our new Instagram page. Somers Recreation Department is committed to engaging with our residents, sharing experiences together, and providing quality programming to best fulfill the needs of our community. If you have ideas and/or recommendations for new programming, please contact the Somers Recreation Department.

The Somers Recreation Department reserves the right to reschedule, relocate, or cancel any announced program due to facility availability and public response. The Recreation Department may also establish minimum or maximum class sizes to ensure appropriate instructor-to-participant ratios.

REGISTRATION

All registrations for Somers Recreation Department programming are conducted online at the Somers Recreation Department website: somers.recdesk.com. To register online:

Visit our website and Login as Member, or Register as New Member.

Input your information as Head of Household and add Family Members.

Choose the program(s) you wish to register for, and pay by credit or debit card.

Registration is accepted on a first come, first serve basis

PAYMENT

Payment must be made in full at the time of registration without exception.

Non-Residents: Non-residents are eligible for programs unless otherwise noted. Separate fees for non-residents exist for select programs and activities.

REFUNDS

The Somers Recreation Department will provide a full refund when a program is cancelled. All refund requests for a program that has not been cancelled must be submitted at least one week prior to the start of the program. Refunds will not be issued once a program begins unless there is an injury or illness which prohibits active participation in the program and is documented by a physician. No refunds will be issued without a Refund Request Form. If a refund is granted, the amount will be pro-rated to reflect the number of remaining days in the program from the date the Refund Request was submitted.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

The Somers Recreation Department follows the Somers School District inclement weather policy. So, if schools are closed, recreational activities and rentals are cancelled. Tune into WFSB Channel 3 for the most recently updated information. Also, cancellations due to weather will be posted to the Somers Recreation Facebook Page and/or the Somers Recreation Website.

RECREATION SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Somers Recreation Department, in conjunction with Somers Human Services Department, is proud to offer the Recreation Subsidy Program. The Recreation Subsidy Program is available to Somers residents and is based upon



Federal Poverty Guidelines. Applicants are eligible for the subsidy on a sliding scale. Applicants should contact Social Services at 860-265-7551 to inquire about the Recreation Subsidy Program or to complete an application.

WINTER 2018 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

BEFORE SCHOOL: 7:30AM-8:30AM

AFTER SCHOOL: 3:30PM-6:00PM

Register by month though the end
of the school year.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

With winter comes youth basketball season! Participants in Grades 1 through 8 have THREE different choices of divisions to play in during the 2018-19 youth basketball season.

Instructional Division

Boys and Girls grades 1 & 2

Boys Instructional: 10:00AM-11:00AM

Girls Instructional: 9:00AM-10:00AM

Instructional basketball is an introductory program designed to focus on the fundamentals of the game in a fun and relaxed environment.

Rec Division

Boys and Girls grades 3 through 8

Practice and game times vary depending on team and age level. Games are played on Saturday's beginning January 5 and will run through February. Rec basketball is a slightly less competitive format designed to emphasize skill development and active participation. Families can expect one practice per week and one game per weekend.

Travel Division

Boys and Girls grades 5 through 8

Practice and game times vary depending on team and age level. Travel basketball is a more competitive format. Players tryout for teams. Games are played Fridays, Saturdays and/

or Sundays. Families can expect two practices per week and two games per weekend.

Men's Open Gym & Over 40 Open Gym

Join others who love to play basketball on Monday evenings. "Pick-up" style basketball games.

Men's Open Gym: Participants 18 & up

Mabelle B. Avery Middle School 7:00PM-9:00PM

'Over 40' Open Gym: Participants 40 & up

Somers Elementary School 7:00PM-9:00PM

Timing subject to change pending facility availability and scheduling. Check Somers Recreation Department website for updated times.

KARA WOLTERS DREAM BIG CLINIC

The sixth annual basketball clinic instructed by UCONN great, former WNBA champion, and Olympic Gold Medalist, Kara Wolters that will focus on fundamentals, teamwork, sportsmanship and individual skill improvement.

Girls grades 4 through 8

Saturday, November 17 - 9:00AM-12:00PM

Mabelle B. Avery Middle School, Register online by November 16

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. Saturdays beginning March 2, Mabelle B. Avery Middle School

Ages 3 & 4

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. Participants ages 20 & up.

Sundays beginning in April, Field Road Park

Game times vary depending on participation. Register online by April 1, 2019

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.



PARKS & REC ...CONTINUED

All ages welcomed! Classes held at Kibbe Fuller Gym.

Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6:00-7:00PM

Saturday mornings 10:00-11:00AM

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

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.

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.

All ages welcome, Tuesday mornings 9:30-10:30AM
Kibbe Fuller. Contact Pat Baker at 860-668-4851

THANK YOU

Somers Recreation Department would like to extend a sincere 'thank you' to the hundreds of volunteers who contribute thousands of hours to help make recreation in Somers function and flourish. Somers Recreation Department programs and classes, our youth sports teams and leagues, and the outstanding special events offered in Town are the result of community-wide assistance and support. Recreation in Somers is truly a collaborative effort, and the hard work of our community members results in outstanding and diverse recreational opportunities for our residents.

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.

Youth Athletic Organizations

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 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



PIEDMONT COFFEE HOUSE CONCERTS

Somers Cultural Commission

Sunday Nights 6-8pm

at Piedmont Hall, 604 Main Street

December 9

Samantha Goodman (Standards –Show tunes)
KC Sisters (Americana Vocals & Instrumental)

January 13

Jose Paolo & Band (International Music)

February 10

Dixieland Jazz Band (Traditional Jazz & Dixieland)

March 10

T-Bone Stankus (Irish Songs & Comedy)

April 14

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

SHINING STARS

The Board of Selectmen each year Honor individuals and or groups for their outstanding service, dedication and compassion for their fellow man. This year in June 2018, the Board was so excited to honor these two remarkable individuals.



Recipient of the 2018 Robert B. Percoski Community Service Award went to **Ann Levesque**. Ann serves on the Cultural Commission as Chairman.



Recipient of the 2018 Adolph P. Anderson Award went to **Chris Boucher**, Somers Recreation Director.



OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

The Somers Open Space & Trails Committee is a volunteer group of invested community members whose mission is to enrich the lives of the residents of Somers through the creation and maintenance of public walking and multi-use trails on Town-owned open space. The Somers Open Space & Trails Committee advocates passive recreational use of these properties by conducting public events connecting residents of all ages to the natural world around them. The Somers Open Space & Trails Committee began in November 2014. Since the Committee's inception, the group has had

many accomplishments and successes. The Committee was awarded a grant from the CT Recreational Trails Program which was used for the construction of two bridges on the South Forest Trail thereby improving this beautiful Town space, while allowing for greater connectivity and access to the Shenipsit State Forest trail network. Somers Open Space & Trails Committee has worked diligently on the Camp Aya Po property: cleaning existing trails, blazing new trails, organizing work parties, developing maps, and leading community hikes. Together with the Somers Recreation Department, the Open Space & Trails Committee has finalized a comprehensive Town Trails Guide. The Guide includes complete descriptions of trails on Town-owned land including information on trail length, difficulty, access information & maps. This Guide is available at the Somers Recreation Department website: somers.recdesk.com under the "Hiking & Trails" tab. The Committee is in the process of creating a trail brochure containing this information and looks forward to sharing it with the community in the near future. Somers Open Space & Trails Committee is excited to continue their work in 2019 and has exciting plans for work on current and new trails including the Somersville Mill trail space. For more Hiking & Trails information, including a community calendar with upcoming events, visit the Somers Recreation Department website: somers.recdesk.com and click the "Hiking & Trails" tab or visit the Somers Recreation Department Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/somersrecreation. Email recreation@somersct.gov if you would like to volunteer, receive e-mail updates, or if you have questions. We look forward to hearing from you!



PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Vision Blvd., Somers

Monday – Thursday 10:00am – 8:00pm

Friday and Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm

ADULT EVENTS

Tech Tuesdays - Every Tuesday from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Cecelia Becker will give instruction on the month's tech topic. Craft and Chat! - Come in every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and join other crafters for some company! The Adult Coloring Club meets every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Every month we also have a Cozy Mystery book club, a Non-Fiction book club, and a Literary Fiction book club for adults. Please register for each book discussion.

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LIBRARY

...CONTINUED

Wreath Making Workshop – Saturday, Nov. 17th at 10:30 a.m. John Clark will demonstrate a wreath-making technique and attendees will be able to take a “starter kit” home. Space is limited. Please call 860-763-3501 to register.

“How to Get Published” Workshop - Thursday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. led by local author Dawn Metcalf. Please call 860-763-3501 to register.

A Visit with Queen Victoria – Saturday, Dec. 1st at 11:00 a.m. Sally Mummey performs this living history of Queen Victoria in proper 19th century clothing resplendent with Royal Orders. Please call 860-763-3501 to register.

TEEN EVENTS

Teen Crafternoon! – Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board – Thursday, Dec. 6th from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
The TAB is an opportunity for young people to serve the Library community by providing important feedback.

Teen Acoustic Jam – Thursdays, 29th, and Dec. 20th from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Bring your ukulele, guitar, or any other acoustic instrument to play!

CHILDREN’S ROOM EVENTS

Read to a Dog! - Saturday, Nov. 24th from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Practice your reading skills by reading to a dog. All dogs have been trained, tested and certified by Healers with Halos. Registration is required.

Snacks with Santa - Saturday, Dec. 8th The Friends of the Somers Library will hold their annual Snacks with Santa Program on December 8th. Due to the popularity of this program, registration must be done in person, beginning November 24. Admission to each session will be with ticket only. Children must be Somers residents 8 years old or younger.

Make an Ornament with Jumping Clay - Monday, Dec. 10th at 6:00 p.m. For ages 5 & up. Registration begins on November 26. Sponsored by the Friends of the Somers Library.

Gingerbread Fun Night! - Tuesday, Dec. 18th at 6:30 p.m. For ages 3 & up. Decorate your own gingerbread cookies after a

special gingerbread storytime. Registration begins Dec. 3.

Sing-A-Long with Nappy’s Puppets - Thursday, Dec. 27th at 2:00 p.m. Puppeteer Jim Napolitano and his shadow puppets present some of the greatest sing-a-long songs of all time. Registration begins December 10. Sponsored by the Friends of the Somers Library.

For information on upcoming events, please check the library website events calendar at www.somerspubliclibrary.org. To register for events please call 860-763-3501.



SOMERS SCHOOLS

Somers has a rich history of academic excellence and strong community support, and I am truly honored to be leading the Somers Public Schools. During my first year in Somers, I had the opportunity to get into the schools and the community and meet many people. My guiding principle was, listen to all so that I could learn in order to effectively lead. The connections I made will help me ensure students have the best possible experiences in our school system. This year, the Board of Education, staff, parents, and community members will engage in Strategic Planning. Our goal is to transform our instructional practices so we can responsibly prepare students for the complexities of our dynamic society. The plan we develop will be a roadmap that will guide the school district for the next five years. We are excited about this renewal process and eagerly await our forward-thinking plan. On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank the parents and the community for all their support now and in the future. It is the community’s dedication to the success of our students that makes Somers an exceptional town.

Brian P. Czepla
Superintendent of Schools

SOMERS CONNECTION

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Are you a hobby Photographer?

If so, please submit your "SCENES OF SOMERS" for consideration for the next COVER PHOTO of our town newsletter coming out in February!

Deadline is Friday, January 4th. Specifications are as follows: Unedited, original files MUST BE in RAW or jpg format, 300 dpi and no smaller than 10 inches in width; taken in a vertical format. Please email photo submissions to klafleur@somersct.gov.



THE FINANCE GROUP

Michael Marinaccio, CFO

(860) 763-8204

mmarinaccio@somersct.gov

Brian Wissinger, Asst. Fin. Dir.

(860) 763-8217

bwissinger@somersct.gov

Sherri Czyz, Tax Collector

(860) 763-8209

sczyz@somersct.gov

Walter Topliff, Jr., Assessor

(860) 763-8202

wtopliff@somersct.gov

Meet the members of the Finance Group. The Finance Group consists of three departments: Finance, Tax, and Assessors. CFO Michael Marinaccio leads the Finance Group. Also serving the Town in the Finance Department are Brian Wissinger, Assistant Finance Director and Marie Caron,

Financial Assistant. The Tax Department consists of Sherri Czyz, Tax Collector and Patricia Thomas, Tax Clerk. Walter Topliff, Jr., Assessor, and Karen Neal, Assessor Assistant make up the Assessor Department, rounding off the Finance Group. Being responsible for the overall financial management of the Town, the Finance and Treasury Group ensures that Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Governmental Accounting Standards (GAS) are followed and appropriate internal controls are in place to safeguard Town assets and ensure the accuracy of its financial reporting. We develop and implement financial policies and procedures that ensure a financially strong and effective Town government along with providing guidance and assistance to maintain the financial integrity of the Town and its departments, commissions, and committees.

The Finance Department also serves the community with Cemetery Lot Sales and information.

Budget discussions begin in January so please make a note and participate in as many meetings as you can. The ideas and feedback from the community make a budget more valuable.



TOWN CLERK

Ann Marie Logan, Town Clerk

alogan@somersct.gov

Deb Murphy, Assistant Town Clerk

dmurphy@somersct.gov

860.763.8207 or 860.763. 8206

The Town Clerk's Office is responsible for the recording of all land records, birth, marriage and death records, maps, liquor permits, veteran discharges, assists the Registrar of Voters, issues dog licenses, marriage and sporting licenses, registers trade names, and is the repository for meeting agendas and minutes and the official keeper of the Town Seal.

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