

SOMERS CONNECTS

Town of Somers, CT

May 2020



**COMMUNITY
NEWS & EVENTS
PUBLIC SAFETY
CLASS OF 2020
SENIOR SERVICES
LIBRARY
TOWN DIRECTORY**

Photo by: *Amy Hartenstein*

Artwork by: *Joshua Epstein*



SELECTMEN'S CORNER

The Board of Selectmen - Left to right:

**Selectman Timothy Potrikus,
First Selectman C.G. "Bud" Knorr,
and Selectman Timothy Keeney.**

The COVID 19 virus has forever altered our individual and collective way of life with its impact lasting for the immediate future. The social norms and interactions that have marked the rhythm of our daily lives have been replaced with social distancing, required mask coverings, the lack of handshakes/embraces as well as the inability to go to school, shop, eat at restaurants, and participate in the normal work environment.

In my personal and business life I've never experienced anything like this as I'm certain all of you have but we are resilient, strong and possess an inner strength that will enable us to come through this crisis as a community intact.

Mother, fathers, business owners, even children look to our leaders for peace of mind and reassurance that everything is being done to protect them. This has been the hallmark here in Somers with the dedicated, proactive, tireless responses of our Fire, Police, Ambulance, Advanced Life Support System, DPW, Veterans Affairs, Social Services, schools, churches, Emergency Management direction and Communication outreach all working in unison to secure our immediate needs as well as prepare us for the uncertain future necessitated by these unrepresented times.

I am reminded of what Coretta Scott King said..." The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its citizens".

#...An All Saints Church member donating their government stimulus relief check to the Town's Emergency Fund to help those in need.

#...Somers Village residents generously giving gift cards to 62 plus members of our Fire, Police and First Responders as a way to say " Thank You" for their dedicated and yeoman service.

#... Sale of hundreds of Somers Strong Signs with the proceeds going to the Social Services Emergency Fund.

#...Our schools working in cooperation with our Meals on Wheels Program to prepare and distribute food to our neediest citizens.

#...Somers Education Foundation (SEF) collecting thousands of dollars for the Grab -n- Go food distribution.

#...Numerous Heart Thank You signs throughout Somers acknowledging our First responders as well as offers of free coffee to these dedicated professionals as they work their many shifts responding to COVID patients.

"Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today."

- Thich Nhat Hanh

As Herman Melville said..." We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connects us with our fellow man". My heart is warmed with the generosity of Somers residents as they rally to one another in the time of need because they exemplify the statement that.." Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" !

This crisis has necessitated changes in the normal modus operandi of conducting Town business with the following adjustment/changes being implemented to ensure the primary objective of safety of our citizens and Town employees.

- 1...Entrance to Town hall is restricted and by appointment only with various staff members as needed.
- 2...When entering Town Hall masks/face coverings are required as well as social distancing/interaction.
- 3...Employees will continue to work remotely from home wherever possible.
- 4... transactions like dog and fishing licensing , notary services, payment of taxes, appointments for inspections, etc. should be done via telephone, e-mail or drop boxes in front/back of Town Hall.
- 5...A phone directory of key Town Departments/contacts is listed for your convenience at the back of this magazine.

We are here for you and we ask for your patience and understanding as we all adjust to these necessary and safety precautions. As I've stated before.... Be Kind...Be Well... Be Patient...Be Supportive...Be Compassionate...Show empathy to your fellow man and DO NOT LOSE HOPE.

Warmly,

C. G. Bud Knorr, Jr
First Selectman

I join with my fellow Selectmen, Tim Potrikus and Tim Keeney in Congratulating our 2020 Senior Class and the anticipated Senior Tribute Parade on May 30th at 10:00 am.



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its citizens".

- Coretta Scott King



April 7, 2020

Hello Class of 2020,

Eight months ago, we were raring to go. After eleven plus years, we were entering our final year together as one class. It was finally our senior year. Everything you – we – worked for was going to pay off at senior nights and spring musicals, and in academics, clubs, college applications, and beyond. Yet suddenly, we found them canceled and postponed. If you were to ask me how I felt in early March when we first received word that school as we knew it was shutting down, I would have responded with one word: hopeless. Senior year as we planned and envisioned it was crashing down.

But as I sit to write this message, I reflect on how this pandemic has truly impacted us and what our response has been, and new words come to mind. Strength. Perseverance. Optimism. Hope.

You see, as a senior class, we are made up of athletes, musicians, academics, leaders, and much more, but we are also made up of volunteers, motivators, and inspirations. Instead of grieving in solitude, our class has reached out, checked in, and encouraged each other. Whether through a quick text message or FaceTime chat, a Snapchat or Instagram post or story, or other means of reaching out, we, the SHS Class of 2020, have made the best of our situation.

Now I wish I could say that life is soon returning to normal. I wish I could say nothing will happen to those senior nights and spring musicals, along with prom, the senior outing, and graduation. I wish we could be back in school and I could walk down the hall and hear friends chatting, sports teams practicing, the drama club rehearsing, and extracurriculars meeting. I wish all of that and more. I can wish all these things, and yet nothing would change.

So here is what I wish instead: I wish for you to reach out to that friend or acquaintance and check in with them. I wish for you to relentlessly debate and reflect on your future plans. I wish for you to go for that walk or run or bike ride. I wish for you to find that digital volunteer opportunity. I wish for you to get involved. I wish for you to do good.

They say it is times of strife that define who we are. Well then, let them define us as the optimists and world-changers that we are. We have been through thick and thin together, Class of 2020. Let this pandemic be just another opportunity for us to show our community, our nation, and our world who we truly are.

I hope to see you all in the hallways of Somers High School soon, Class of 2020, and I look forward to hearing how you made a difference. As President John F. Kennedy said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try". I encourage you to use this time to use your talents and make a difference, whether it impacts one person or many.

This year was supposed to be one of endings, a conclusion to this first phase in our lives. Let's instead use it as a beginning – the prologue to a new phase in our lives.

Take care, Class of 2020, and I hope to see you soon!

Stay healthy and safe,

Christian Chlebowski

Senior Class President



2020 *Class*
OF *congratulations*

Taylor Althaus * **
 Thylo Alves
 Meghan Baker **
 Alexander Barresi
 Anthony Bartley
 Athena Baumann * **
 Chelsea Bergamini **
 Brianna Bernier **
 Jacob Boyd
 Alexis Brown
 Ashanti Brown
 Samantha Brown
 Sophia Carenzo * **
 Aidan Case * **
 Zachary Chaisson
 Wula Cham *
 Lauren Champiny
 Fiona Cheyney * **
 Christian Chlebowski * **
 Ahron Clovis
 Jack Constant
 Jared Cranna
 Meaghan Crowley
 Amit Deonarine *
 Andrew Devin
 Marissa DiBacco
 Hayden Eastman
 Egan Foye
 Samantha Gershowitz
 Alyssa Gionfriddo
 Matthew Grandpre' **
 William Heller

Ashleigh Hesse
 Nathanael Hicking
 Isiah Hildebrand-Renaud
 Zachary Hojnowski
 Megan Hollister
 Derek Hostetler
 Nora Jones
 Makenzie Jordan
 Nathan Kalish
 Jack Karszes
 William Karszes
 Jonathan Kelly * **
 Emma Koseski **
 Kari Laskow
 Marissa Long **
 Kyle Mailhot
 Ryan Majowicz
 Caterina Mancini
 Michael Manning
 Lauren Martin **
 Callie MacFeat
 Miranda McCarthy * **
 Jeremy McGowan
 Nicholas Mendez
 Aiden Miller
 Summer Nadler
 Ashlyn Nelson
 Brandon Nguyen
 Amari O'Connor * **
 Donovan Ocasio * **
 Jazmine Oquendo
 Harry Orosz

Adin Ouellette
 Ryan Paquette
 Jonathan Paskewitz
 Stephen Piescik * **
 Abby Pomeroy
 Rachel Ranelli * **
 Cade Raymond
 Kylie Raymond * **
 Victoria Reid * **
 Cassandra Rich **
 Zofia Roberts
 Halley Robinson
 Danielle Rodriguez
 Miguel Rodriguez
 Ryan Rogers **
 Dimitri Sanchez
 Kaitlyn Savage
 Siobhan Scully * **
 Ashelle Sealys
 Shane Shirley
 Andrew Skowronek * **
 Caleb Spielman
 Jensen Stanton
 Caitlyn Stevens
 Nancy Strever * **
 Scott Symington
 Nicole Tardif **
 Samuel Teel
 Richard Vivilecchia
 Quinn Welch
 Colby Whaley
 Emily Wheeler
 Noah White **
 John Whiteley
 Spencer Whitford * **
 Kyle Yvon **
 Jeannette Zanazanian
 Anna Zheng **
 Samantha Zukowski

* National Honor Society
 ** Beta Club

A Tribute to the Somers Class of 2020
Making New Memories... see page 10



RAYS OF HOPE

By Brian P. Czapl
Superintendent of Schools

In March, the school system was abruptly forced into a distance learning form of teaching. This change in teaching styles typically takes months of intensive development and training to be successful. The Somers Public School staff met the challenge and transitioned in a few days and continue to maintain it for the duration. Distance learning is far from perfect for children, yet our staff, parents, and community members have partnered to try and bring some normalcy and support. The humanity of Somers has come in full view. Below are just a few of the charitable and humanitarian acts of the community that have come to my attention.

“Today, I helped my brother with his schoolwork when he was confused.”

“Shopped for two elderly neighbors.”

“I cleaned my whole house when my parents went grocery shopping.”

“I vacuumed my sister’s room.”

“I shoveled my neighbor’s driveway without him knowing.”

“I folded my laundry and my sibling’s laundry without being asked.”

The school system’s “Grab and Go” program has distributed more than 2,700 meals to families. Additionally, the school system, in partnership with the Somers Social Services Department, are providing meals to our senior citizens. More than 200 meals to have been delivered to date.

The Somers Education Foundation is helping offset the additional costs of the “Grab and Go” program through a special grant. Residents have contributed nearly \$2,000 to date. If you are interested in donating to the SEF grant, please visit <https://www.sefonline.org/>.

“Somers Supporting Families” is partnering with Bond 124 to raise money and provide meals to families in need. More than \$7,500 has been donated, and 150 meals provided. These meals will continue as long as the funding lasts. If you are interested in donating, please contact Mike Cianci 860-966-0573 or Melissa Cianci 860-604-0448.

Growers Direct donated Easter Lillies, which were given to families when they picked up their “Grab and Go” meals before the holiday. The recipients very much appreciated these flowers as they brought some rays of hope in a dark time.

Hint Water donated 150 cases of water to the “Grab and Go” program.

The Mabelle B. Avery Student Government has remained active and is focusing their activities on support and charity. They are working with the entire school to create special RED HEARTS with messages from MBA Students that will be distributed to local nursing homes and hospitals. Additionally, they conducted a food drive in which food was collected from family members, Walmart, Target, and ShopRite. All items were donated to Champs Place.

Tenley Stoltz (Somers High School Library Media Specialist) organized and developed a video of thanks from Somers Public Schools for healthcare workers who are tirelessly working to cure and protect us. This video was sent to local hospitals. The responses from our healthcare workers have been exceptional. Below is an example of one response:

“I wanted to send you guys a quick thank you for the wonderful video! I work at Manchester Memorial Hospital, and the staff was so appreciative of the love and support shown by Somers Public Schools. It is the home town to several of the employees here, like myself, and they expressed such gratitude for



the kindness and compassion shown in the video. My daughter is in the first grade and was very excited to see her friends and teachers online. Thank you again for being a glimmer of hope through this tough time, and I appreciate all you are doing for the children in our community!"

Ray Wolters and KWB Media, LLC has generously been helping the school system develop our videos. He is working with the principals to continue to bring some normalcy to this time of distress, including a "We Miss You Video" from staff. He is also working with the high school to develop a virtual graduation ceremony in the event we cannot gather at the high school.

Students at Mabelle B. Avery are engaged in the Daily Kindness Challenge that asks students to help around the house, reach out via phone to someone who is lonely, and show kindness in ways that middle school kids can do. Here are some of the recorded acts of kindness (there are over 350 of them.)

SOMERSault Jungle Gymnastics organized a drive to provide first responders and healthcare workers with gift cards from local restaurants and businesses.

Somers Public School Teachers are continuing their afterschool clubs and activities helping students to continue socializing with their friends. Additionally, many teachers and staff are making masks and donating them to healthcare workers and first responders.

Residents of Somers Village have been making masks. They also took up a collection and, with the help of Jeff Lipton, owner of Joanna's, gave \$25 gift certificates to each of the town's sixty-seven first responders.

Lori Caron (Somers High School Administrative Assistant) and her family have been painting rocks and sealing them to withstand the outdoor elements. They place them along hiking trails, bike paths, and even neighborhood mailboxes to spread some cheer.

In closing, I wish the Somers community, health, happiness, and peace during this period of isolation. While I am not a resident of Somers, I am honored to be a small part of this community that genuinely cares about each other.

SOCIAL SERVICES

In these unprecedented times, we want all Somers residents to know that the Somers Social Services Department is here to help. We are available to assist with financial aid, Meals on Wheels, information and referral and case management services. We understand that some of you may have never needed our services before and we want to take this opportunity to encourage you to call our department (860-265-7551) and speak with one of our staff. On our website you will also find additional information on mental health tips for quarantining and COVID-19 related resources. www.somersct.gov

For those that would like to donate to our Town Emergency Fund you can send checks to: **600 Main Street, Somers 06071**

Take good care,
Allison Maynard, Director
Christina Hurdle, Social Services Coordinator



The Town of Somers Social Services Department will be selling "Somers Strong" signs. We hope these signs will be a reminder to all of us that as a community we will remain resilient and hopeful during this challenging time.

The cost of the sign is \$10.00. All proceeds will go to benefit the Town Emergency Assistance Fund.

To request a sign please email Allison Maynard at amaynard@somersct.gov.



We are all in this TOGETHER!

*Continue to spread a little
CHEER to others,
physical distance
does not = social distance !*



SENIOR CENTER

We hope all are well and staying healthy during this time of physical distancing, we miss you all and look forward to seeing everyone again. In the meantime, we will continue to reach out to our members via telephone, email, & Facebook with any updates. We will adjust and create new programming to accommodate and abide by the rules of physical distancing as we prepare to again open the senior center. Our doors may be closed but we are here for you!

AARP DRIVERS SAFETY

AARP Drivers Safety Course was cancelled for April 3, 2020. And rescheduled for July 31, 2020 and October 23, 2020. If anyone signed up for July 31st the price is still \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members but in October, the price will be a \$5 increase for both. If you may not be able to renew your car insurance discount due to this postponement, please direct them to the AARP Smart Drivers online course. AARP is offering a special 25% discount for those who may have to take it online now.

Website: www.aarpdriversafety.org

Promo code for 25% discount **DRIVINGSKILLS**

In addition, the special 25% off discount for the AARP Smart Driver online course has been extended through August 31, 2020. This would be helpful for participants who may not be able to renew their car insurance discount due to course cancellations.

Judy Plantier AARP District Coordinator- 860-875-1344

AARP TAX ASSISTANCE

Is postponed until further notice.

When new dates become available anyone who had a scheduled appointment will be contacted.

NEED GROCERIES?

The Somers Senior Center has teamed up with Geisslers in Somers to provide a timely doorstep delivery service to our seniors in Somers.

Delivery is provided by our Dial a Ride bus and delivers Monday and Thursday afternoon. For more information on this service please call the Senior Center at **860-763-4379**

DIAL A RIDE TRANSPORTATION

We know that getting to appointments is important, so we are continuing to provide this service. However, we reserve the right to ask you how you are feeling and if you are or have been experiencing any symptoms of covid-19. We respectfully ask that you report any symptoms such as fever or cough you have experienced within 14 days, and help keep our staff safe.

At this time our Dial a Ride service is continuing to provide transportation for essential medical appointments. We ask that you schedule your ride one week in advance when possible. All riders will be required to use a face mask.



Please feel free to contact us at

860 763 4379

jconnors@somersct.gov

UPDATE ON SENIOR CENTER TRIPS

We are hopeful to be back on the open road enjoying our day and overnight trips soon when the worst of this virus is behind us. We appreciate your patience as we postpone or cancel some of our previously planned trips for May & June.

Out to Lunch Bunch ~ Postponed

Mohegan Sun Bus Trip June- Cancelled (Next Trip August 17, 2020)

Friesians of Majesty- Postponed until 2021

VIRTUAL TOURS & ACTIVITIES

Broadway Plays & Musicals

<https://tinyurl.com/wyq8vsx>

15 Broadway Plays & Musicals you can enjoy from home

Virtual Museum Tours

<http://tinyurl.com/wp2gmtw>

12 Famous Museums offer virtual tours of their galleries

Guided Painting with Acrylics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3dBqRHQSdQ>

Rock Painting

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD_v8zg26VU

Exercise

30 Minute Seated Workout

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASXGYu7IFxE>

Gentle Chair Yoga

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YHjBYcqJ5c>

Mindfulness ~ The Daily Calm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?vS=ZToicYcHIOU>

Line Dances for Beginners

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZXQuqPnp8g>

BINGO WITH A TWIST

HOW TO PLAY: Complete a row, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Let us know when you have achieved a BINGO and we will enter one ticket into our raffle with your name on it! Contact us at fhurley@somersct.gov or send us a private message on Facebook.

FIVE BINGO MAXIMUM = 5 RAFFLE TICKET MAXIMUM

ONE BONUS TICKET FOR ANYONE WHO SUBMITS A PHOTO COMPLETING A BINGO TASK!

3 WINNERS WILL BE DRAWN ON FACEBOOK LIVE JUNE 17TH

See next page for game card!

VIRTUAL TRIVIA

Jillian Connors is inviting you to a scheduled **Zoom** meeting!

Topic: **Virtual Trivia**

Time: **Jun 17, 2020** 14:00 Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5881304057?pwd=dk05V0lrLzNYWGRhQ21qeFdWemJ2dz09>

Meeting ID: **588 130 4057**

Password: **5dVFX3**

See next page for instructions!



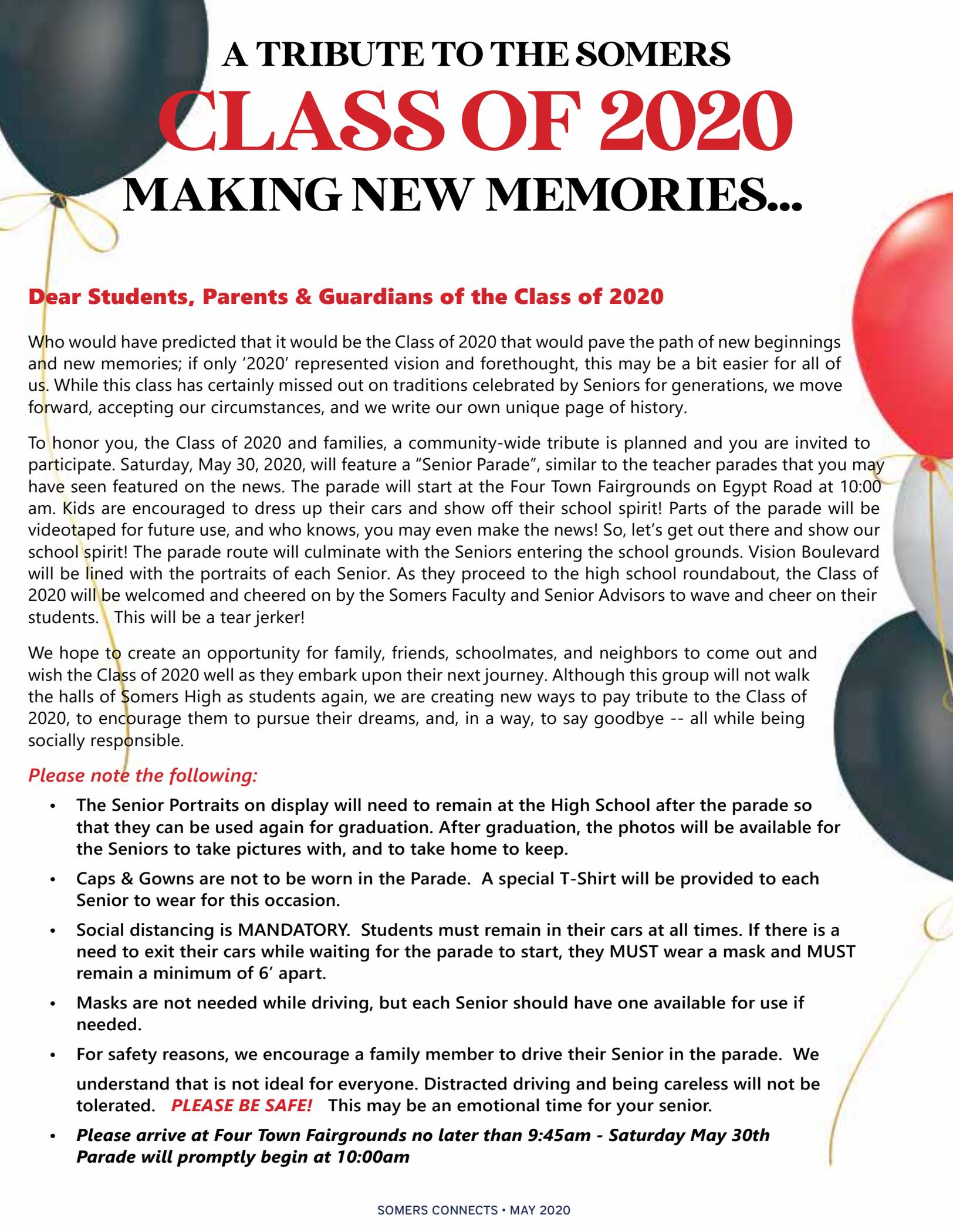
For the full 'Bingo with a Twist' page, please visit the town website at:

www.somersct.gov/town-departments/somers-senior-center/

For help on installing and working with the ZOOM platform, please visit the town website at:

www.somersct.gov/town-departments/somers-senior-center/





A TRIBUTE TO THE SOMERS CLASS OF 2020 MAKING NEW MEMORIES...

Dear Students, Parents & Guardians of the Class of 2020

Who would have predicted that it would be the Class of 2020 that would pave the path of new beginnings and new memories; if only '2020' represented vision and forethought, this may be a bit easier for all of us. While this class has certainly missed out on traditions celebrated by Seniors for generations, we move forward, accepting our circumstances, and we write our own unique page of history.

To honor you, the Class of 2020 and families, a community-wide tribute is planned and you are invited to participate. Saturday, May 30, 2020, will feature a "Senior Parade", similar to the teacher parades that you may have seen featured on the news. The parade will start at the Four Town Fairgrounds on Egypt Road at 10:00 am. Kids are encouraged to dress up their cars and show off their school spirit! Parts of the parade will be videotaped for future use, and who knows, you may even make the news! So, let's get out there and show our school spirit! The parade route will culminate with the Seniors entering the school grounds. Vision Boulevard will be lined with the portraits of each Senior. As they proceed to the high school roundabout, the Class of 2020 will be welcomed and cheered on by the Somers Faculty and Senior Advisors to wave and cheer on their students. This will be a tear jerker!

We hope to create an opportunity for family, friends, schoolmates, and neighbors to come out and wish the Class of 2020 well as they embark upon their next journey. Although this group will not walk the halls of Somers High as students again, we are creating new ways to pay tribute to the Class of 2020, to encourage them to pursue their dreams, and, in a way, to say goodbye -- all while being socially responsible.

Please note the following:

- The Senior Portraits on display will need to remain at the High School after the parade so that they can be used again for graduation. After graduation, the photos will be available for the Seniors to take pictures with, and to take home to keep.
- Caps & Gowns are not to be worn in the Parade. A special T-Shirt will be provided to each Senior to wear for this occasion.
- Social distancing is MANDATORY. Students must remain in their cars at all times. If there is a need to exit their cars while waiting for the parade to start, they MUST wear a mask and MUST remain a minimum of 6' apart.
- Masks are not needed while driving, but each Senior should have one available for use if needed.
- For safety reasons, we encourage a family member to drive their Senior in the parade. We understand that is not ideal for everyone. Distracted driving and being careless will not be tolerated. **PLEASE BE SAFE!** This may be an emotional time for your senior.
- **Please arrive at Four Town Fairgrounds no later than 9:45am - Saturday May 30th Parade will promptly begin at 10:00am**

PARADE ROUTE:

Start - Four Town Fairgrounds

Left - Sunshine Farms

Right - Billings Road

Left - Piper

Left - Haystack

Right - Partridge Run

Left - South Road (83)

Left - Jamestown Road

Right - Colonial Drive

Right - South Road (83)

Left - Mountain View Road

Left - Colorado Drive

Left - Main Street (190)

Right - Turnpike Road

Left - Battle Street

Right - Stebbins Road

Right - Isabella Drive

Left - Turnpike Road

Right - Hickory Hill Drive

Left - Mountain Road

Left - Long Hill Drive

Right - Amie Lane

Right - Hailie Lane

Left - Mountain Road

Left - Root Road

Left - Wood Road

Right - Whisperwoods Drive

Left - Twinbrook Drive

Left - Wood Road

Right - Rose Haven Road

Left - Turnpike Road

Right - Barn Swallow Road

Left - Bobolink Lane

Left - Grasshopper

Right - Florida Road

Left - Pond Circle

Right - Heron Drive

Right - Stebbins Road

Left - Springfield Road

Right - Michelle Drive

Left - Maple Ridge Drive

Right - Colton Road

Right - Parson Street

Left - Noah Chapin

Right - Sokol Road

Left - Four Bridges Road

Right - Watchaug Road

Left - Carriage Drive

Left - Hall Hill Road

Right - Blue Ridge Drive

Left - McCulloch Drive

Right - George Wood Road

Right - White Birch Road

Left - Wrights Brook Drive

Right - Rye Hill

Left - George Wood Road

Right - Brace Road

Right - Hall Hill

Right - Winwood Circle

Cross - Fox Hollow

Left - Highland View

Right - Main Street

Left - School Street

Left - Pinney Road

Left - Billings Road

Left - Somers Hill Circle

Left - Billings Road

Left - 9th District Road

Right - Vision Blvd.



*The Clinic will be a 'Drive-Thru Rabies Only Vaccination Clinic on **Saturday, June 06, 2020.***

The Clinic will be held at the Public Works Facility 93 Egypt Road beginning at 10:00 am – Noon.

The fee will be \$10.00 Cash.

UNITED STATES 2020 CENSUS

Your response matters.

Health clinics. Fire departments. Schools. Even roads and highways. The census can shape many different aspects of your community. Census results help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year. Visit: <https://2020census.gov/>



DRIVE-THRU RABIES VACCINATION ONLY

Animal Control understands the difficulties residents are experiencing in obtaining a Rabies Vaccination for their pets in order to fulfill their dog licensing requirements during the month of June. Therefore, Eric Boucher, our Animal Control Officer, contacted and scheduled with Fenton Veterinarian a Rabies Only Vaccination Clinic with no residency requirements. Again, there is no residency requirement – everyone is welcome! A Rabies Certificate will be issued to each participant. Dog Licensing will not be immediately available, but the Town Clerk will accept all the necessary documentation and fees in order to license. All paperwork will be processed in the Town Clerk Office and documents returned along with a receipt, the dog license and tag.

Please Note: All required safety precautions will be adhered to i.e. face masks, gloves and distancing. Just as if you were going into your vet's office, the Veterinarian or Veterinarian Tech will be handling your pet with you present. Please make sure your pet has a collar and lead for handling.



SOMERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Even though our doors aren't open, our online library is available 24/7. Scroll through our website to discover Tumblebooks (ebooks for kids), popular magazines and downloadable ebooks and audiobooks. We'll also begin providing curbside pickup of materials beginning on Monday, May 11th. Please call the Library at 860-763-3501 on **Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** to request materials and set up a pickup time. PLUS, you can visit our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SomersPublicLibraryCT>) to find museum links, author read-alouds, virtual book clubs, and the question of the day. Miss Marie, our Children's Librarian, is also sharing online story times and activities you can do at home! All fines will be waived during this closure and we ask that, if possible, you hold all items you currently have checked out until we reopen. Please don't hesitate to contact our Director, Jessica Miller, by email at jmiller@biblio.org or by phone 860-840-4194 with any additional questions or concerns you may have while our doors are temporarily closed. We'll be seeing you again soon!!

TAX OFFICE

As a reminder, tax bills will be mailed in the beginning of June. These bills will be due July 1st, and may be paid without penalty until October 1, 2020 (escrowed accounts are due August 1st). The Town of Somers is participating in the Tax Deferment Program allowed by Connecticut's Executive Orders 7S & 7W. If you do not receive a bill, please contact our office at 860-763-8210 or email me at lmadden@somersct.gov.

Please note, that per §12-130 "Failure to send out or receive any such bill or statement shall not invalidate the tax." Or in simpler terms, failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the tax payer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. So please make sure to reach out to our office if you do not receive an expected bill.

What am I being Taxed on?

You are being taxed on Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles as of October 1, 2019.

Real Estate – All real property listed on the Grand List.

Personal Property – In the most general terms, personal property is everything subject to ownership, excluding land, any interest in land or any permanent improvement thereon. It is property that is not permanently affixed to or part of real estate. By its very nature then, personal property is moveable. This broad definition includes tangible items such as airplanes, campers, unregistered vehicles, items for business as furniture, fixtures, equipment, and animals.

Registered Motor Vehicles – Vehicles listed with the Department of Motor Vehicles are coded by tax town, and the Assessor is provided a list of registered vehicles annually. Somers's Town Code is 129. The Tax Town is located on the bottom right of your vehicle's registration.

All tax bills are mailed directly to property owners unless the Tax Collector receives specific instructions to send the bill to your bank or financial institution. Real Estate totaling \$100 or more is due in two installments; July and January. Please note, we do not send out bills for the second installment in January. There is a stub on the July bills for the January payment. You can pay both installments in July.

How can I pay my bill? The Tax Office is closed to the Public.

The Revenue Office is practicing social distancing and requests that all payments be mailed, paid on line, or left in the Drop Box in the front of Town Hall. The Tax Office will remain closed to the public until a date to be determined. Please consult our webpage if you want to check on the status of opening to the public.

To pay on line, please visit at www.somersct.gov and click on the button that says "Pay Taxes". There is a convenience fee of 95 cents for electronic checks, and 2.95% for Credit Cards (minimum charge of \$2). Please note, we do not accept payments over the phone.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous summer. Stay Safe!



Lisa A. Madden, CCMC
Revenue Collector
860-763-8210
lmadden@somersct.gov



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Since the inception of the Somers Department of Veterans Affairs only a few months ago, we have had the privilege of assisting our town's veterans at a level far greater than we imagined. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing, our office has been swamped with calls for information and assistance with a myriad of types of benefits, financial assistance, and requests for military document processing/corrections, etc. At present, we have nearly 50 cases with each case (veteran) having 2 or more actions per case.

We were especially pleased to be able to forge contacts with various veteran organizations in Massachusetts which have afforded our veterans no cost meal boxes – each Shelter-in-Place food box had food for two people for 2 weeks. Because of the opportunity to use the Somers vehicle, the boxes were picked up and delivered to mostly elderly veterans who were not able to leave their homes or had no means of transportation to pick up the food.

We have also picked up another 13 boxes of food from Foxborough, MA which varies from the boxes we delivered a few weeks ago. We were extremely excited about delivering these food boxes to more of our town's veterans or family members and our veterans were so appreciative.

Distributing Free Cloth Masks. We have acquired donated materials and have advertised for volunteer mask makers. We now have a loving team of cloth face mask makers who have made it possible for the Town of Somers, Dept. of Veterans Affairs to provide free masks to our community residents. Please give a shout out or ghost/virtual hug to our mask-making HEROES Carol Morotto of Newington; Beth Caravella, Ann Levesque, Jennifer Roy, Ann Logan, and Pauline McCalligett of Somers; Cherie Sachiel-Flint of Ellington; Gold Star Mother, Jan Zeigler of East Longmeadow, and Jennifer Huck of Melbourne, FL. These caring, generous women have volunteered their time, skills, and resources to help our community protect itself from the COVID-19 virus and are helping us to abide by Governor. Ned Lamont's Executive Order requiring that all CT residents wear face coverings in public when social distancing is not possible.

Any Somers resident needing a mask (children's masks are also available), please contact our office via email at Veterans@SomersCT.gov and arrange for free mask pick-up and free smiles. One mask per person while our supplies last. If you would like to donate materials (fabric, elastic, interfacing, thread, etc.) for the masks please also contact us via email. If you would like to donate, you can make a check payable to the Town of Somers (Note: Dept of Veterans Affairs).

*We have purchased a UV sanitizer to use on all the masks prior to distribution.

One of our most important priorities is to work together with the community for the better good. In the spirit of community, we have been engaged in several projects.

Somers Fights Back Against COVID-19 with Powerful Projects of UNITY and HOPE



Reacting to the Coronavirus pandemic with generosity, kindness, and selflessness are powerful weapons against the COVID-19 enemy. Through the collaboration and teaming of organizations and residents in our town, the following projects are helping our community fight back against this pandemic. We ask that all our residents participate in at least one of the following projects:

Hunting Happy Hearts in Somers.

Break out the happy hearts in support of all who are on the frontline of this virus. Keep showing your support by putting up your happy hearts in your windows/yards. The Dept. of Veterans Affairs has been taking trips around the town and taking pictures of the happy hearts on lawns, but we do not want to invade privacy by taking pictures of window/doors at homes. We are creating a video to post on social media of our town's loving spirit and would like to include all your contributions. Please send a photo of your happy hearts to Veterans@SomersCT.gov. If you need a paper happy heart, give us a call and we will arrange to get you one.

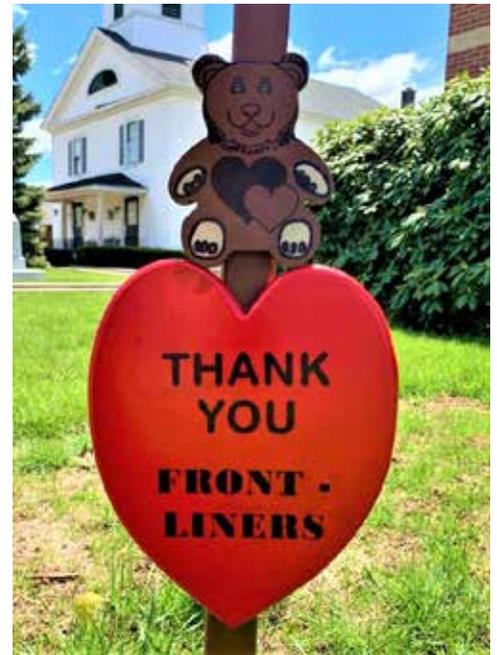
Bear Sightings have increased dramatically and rising rapidly in Somers.

Many Somers residents are seeing bears in the windows of neighbors and businesses. No need to be fearful! These "wooden" bears are an idea borne by Somers resident Tim Percoski. His vision of showing gratitude for the courage, sacrifice, and kindness to all our Front-Liners emanates from each bear displayed throughout the town. Tim has made over 600 bears to date and is still offering the bears to residents so they can personally design their unique bear to display in a window. Going on "bear hunts" gets us out of the house while still practicing social distancing. The bears are available for pick-up in a box located at the end of his driveway at 55 Manse Hill Drive, Somers, CT. See some of the bears already created at this website: [Facebook.com/bearsforsomers](https://www.facebook.com/bearsforsomers)

The American Legion Sign Language – Gratitude Project. Somers Community -- please join Buck-Dubiel Post 101 in showing gratitude and appreciation for all who are on the frontlines of this virus. Post 101 is asking residents to take the time to make or buy a sign or just tie a ribbon on a stick and place it at either or both special locations in town: Kibbe Fuller School on Main Street or on the Green in Somersville. Now is your chance to show everyone who rides/walks through our town how much Somers appreciates our Front- Liners. All signs or hearts must be no larger than 12x18. Make your sign personal and special by including the name of a person or organization to be thanked. For more information on how to participate, contact Post 101 Commander Mike Craddy at MTC@SomersPost101.org or 888-240-8188.

USAF Memorial Day Flyover in Somers – Monday, 25 May 2020. The 103rd Airlift Wing (103 AW), a unit of the Connecticut Air National Guard stationed at Bradley Air National Guard Base at Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, Connecticut will conduct a flyover across our town on Memorial Day in memory of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service to our great nation. Please stay-tuned for approximate time and details of the event.

Our office also is starting a Veterans Coffeehouse, Roastmaster's Red-Eye Reveille (R3). The Coffeehouse will be held on the last Saturday of every month from 0730 – 0930. Guest speakers are being scheduled. Stay tuned for more information on when the coffeehouse will start.





We also have plans to start a local veterans support group once the environment is safer to do so. If you are interested, please send an email to Veterans@SomersCT.gov.

Honor our military year-round. Green Light a Vet. It takes a lot to be a veteran of the United States Armed Forces. Not only do these brave men and women risk their lives overseas, but they miss countless life events back home. Although some veterans come back from tours of duty unscathed, many return with physical injuries and mental illnesses. May's National Military Appreciation Month is an ideal time to start participating in the "GREENLIGHT-A-VET project." Green is the color of hope, renewal, and well-being. World-wide, we all need the green light! Shining a green light on your porch or in your driveway also honors COVID-19 victims. Year round, green-lighting is a way to show your support for our armed forces and now, it is a way to remember those we have lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. You may find green bulbs at local hardware stores or online.



SOMERS CULTURAL COMMISSION

You may wonder what's happening with the events during these challenging times. Our indoor events like the Photography Show in May and our Art Show in September, unfortunately, have been/will be canceled because of close proximity of the public, to return in 2021. In all likelihood, the Piedmont Coffeehouse from October, 2020 through April, 2021 will be canceled for the same reason. However, we are trying (step by step) to make the (outdoor only) summer concerts happen, beginning Thursday, June 25 on the green at the gazebo on Battle Street and nearby areas. With the audience strictly following the CDC and State guidelines this can happen safely for those who wish to come to hear the Power and Food for the Soul of music during these trying times.

These guidelines are

1. **Everyone must wear a face mask, except for entertainers**
2. **Maximum groups of five, practicing 6' social distancing**
3. **No bathrooms available**
4. **No food truck or food served**
5. **No alcohol allowed**
6. **Play ground is closed**

SAFELY ENJOYING REAL LIVE MUSIC *(with next day, Friday, as a bad weather alternate date)!!*

Of course, if anything changes with these guidelines, they will be updated as well on our Facebook, town website, Patch, and other social media. If you have any questions or comments, please call me at **860-749-2630** or email at alevesque11@cox.net.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Recycling Center is open normal hours; Monday, Thursday, Saturday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM and Sunday 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Operations are running normally with the exception that the sharing building is closed and staff has been instructed to use social distancing as much as possible.

The Board of Selectmen have moved the renewal date for existing permit holders from July 1 to October 1 for this year. Anyone needing a permit or wishing to renew their permit can do so at the Recycling Center or through the Town Clerks office: <https://www.somersct.gov/recycling-center-permits-new-and-renewals/>

For more Recycling Center information: <https://www.somersct.gov/download/Town%20Departments/Public%20Works/Recycling-Center/Trifold-Handout-Somers-Recycling-Center.pdf>

Our PaintCare Recycling has begun. This program is conducted at the Recycling Center the first Saturday of each month running from May thru October. Acceptable items are household interior and exterior paints and stains, deck coatings, floors paints, and lacquers. No commercial coating or vendors please.

The Public Works office is closed to the public. If you need assistance or to report a road or facility issue, please contact us at (860)763-8238 or PublicWorks@somersct.gov



ASSESSORS OFFICE

Revaluation – The Town of Somers is conducting a town wide revaluation for the October 1, 2020 Grand List. As part of this process Vision Government Solutions, Inc. is conducting inspections of certain homes. VGSI will knock on your door and verbally verify information from you and then request to inspect your property from the exterior. Additionally, if you are a new home owner in Town the Assessor's Office will be mailing out a sales verification form. Please complete the form and return to the Assessor's Office. VGSI will then follow up with an inspection as described previously. The Assessor's Office appreciates everyone's cooperation as we complete this project during these extraordinary times.

The Renter's Rebate program will be delayed this year. As of right now, due to the Corona Virus restrictions, our office is unable to accept in person applications at this time. Please check the Town of Somers website for any updates.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns.



The Public Works office is closed to the public. If you need assistance or to report a road or facility issue, please contact us.

Todd Rolland
Director of Public Works
Tree Warden
Town of Somers
860-763-8238
PublicWorks@somersct.gov

Karen Neal
860-763-8202
kneal@somersct.gov

Walter Topliff
860-763-8203
wtopliff@somersct.gov



SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT

We are here for you!

The Somers Fire Department has been and will continue to be ready to respond 24x7, to any emergency that might arise. While the current pandemic has brought about some changes to our operations, all of our members are well trained and prepared to handle this.

Safety for our responders and our patients is paramount, and we are fortunate that we have the appropriate personal protective equipment on hand. Thank you to those local residents and businesses that have helped us find and obtain the items we needed. Our crews are also taking extraordinary measures to constantly clean and disinfect all of our equipment.

We hope you will not need our services anytime soon, but we do want to stress that if you start to experience any medical issues, especially chest pain or shortness of breath, please don't hesitate to call your doctor, or if necessary, 911. Regionally, we are seeing an increase in calls for serious medical conditions that waited too long before getting help.



Somers Fire Department provides both Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support services. Our department is staffed by a combination of paid and volunteer members that work together to ensure our community is well protected.

You might notice in the picture above that one of the trucks is not the same color as the rest. It is not a

mistake. There is in fact a grey ambulance from Enfield EMS in the picture. Due to the town's growing call volume over the years, Somers obtained permission from the state to operate a third ambulance last fall. Unfortunately, new ambulances take a while to order and build, and our newest ambulance did not come in until May 19th. As our 911 call volume surged by about 30% these past few weeks, we needed something to help fill the gap. With the help of our partners at Enfield EMS, we were able to borrow one of their ambulance for a few weeks until our new one arrived. In these unusual times, it is all about neighbors helping neighbors.

Finally, we wanted to thank everyone in Somers for all the outreach and support we have received these past few months.



Office of the First Selectman

Proclamation

Somers, Connecticut

FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DAY

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Board of Selectmen to focus attention on noteworthy occasions and individuals; and

WHEREAS today, First responders include 911 dispatchers, law-enforcement officers professional and volunteer firefighters, professional and volunteer medical services personnel, emergency management professionals, to protect and aid the public in the event of an Emergency; and

WHEREAS, every day first responders risk their own safety and personal property in the performance of their duties to protect our citizens; and

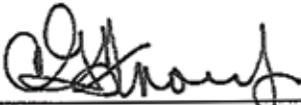
WHEREAS, first responders are our first and best defense against all emergencies that may threaten our communities, whatever their nature, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, first responders undergo extensive education and training in order to achieve the expertise required to respond to emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, On First Responders Appreciation Day and throughout the year, Somers residents are encouraged to celebrate the service and sacrifice of the first responders who make our community the best in which to live, work and raise a family; now

THEREFORE, I, C.G. BUD KNORR, JR., by virtue of the authority vested in me as First Selectman of the Town of Somers, County of Tolland, State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim May 24th as

FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DAY


C.G. Bud Knorr, JR. First Selectman

TOWN HALL DIRECTORY

600 MAIN STREET, SOMERS, CT 06071

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday 8:00am – 6:30pm | Closed Fridays

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

Somersct.gov, [Facebook](#),
[Twitter](#) or our [Mobile APP](#)



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