

# Somers 9-1-1 News

FALL  
2003



A publication of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department

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Thank you for reading the 2nd Special Edition of the Somers 9-1-1 Newsletter in the North Central News. Although we have been sending this letter to all residents in Somers for over 10 years, we hope that this media will be able to reach more people and benefit everyone who reads it. Your feedback is always appreciated. Email the Newsletter Editor with comments or questions at: Fire\_Eyes46@msn.com



Visit our website: <http://www.somersnow.com/fire>

- Read about upcoming events at the Fire Department
- View pictures and live videos of the volunteer fire fighters at work
- Apply for the Craig Michael Arnone Scholarship Fund.
- Fill out an on-line application to volunteer on the Fire or Ambulance. The training is paid for — and the friends and memories you will gain are priceless!

## PUBLIC SAFETY & TOWN NEWS

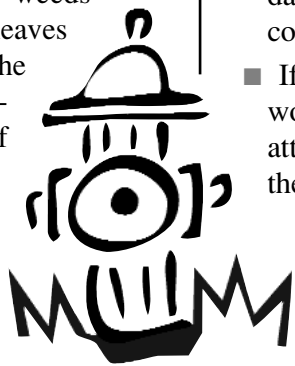
### The Somers Fire Department needs your help:

#### House Numbers

The Somers Fire Department is dedicated to helping those in need. However, there are times when we need your help. As you know, time is the most critical issue on any call we go to. Any time spent searching for the correct house number is critical time we could have been using to save life or property. In Somers, there is an ordinance which states that your house number must be at least 3" in height, in contrasting color to the building, and visible from the street (preferably from all directions). Please help us help you, and be sure that your house number meets the above requirements.

#### Fire Hydrants

Some of you may have noticed, there are several new fire hydrants around town which will help us obtain a good water supply in the event of a fire in your neighborhood. It is critical that these fire hydrants be kept clear of anything that might prohibit a fire fighter from quickly locating the hydrant and hooking into it. This includes flowers, any type of decorations, overgrown weeds and grass in the summer, leaves in the fall, and snow in the winter. Your help in keeping them free and clear of any obstructions throughout the year is critical for the quick extinguishing of a fire.



#### Electrical Safety for Everyone

We all know the importance of electricity. In our every day lives, electricity is the lifeblood for our homes, where we work and even at play. We all must be aware of the dangers and what we can do to be safe around this important and necessary commodity.

##### *Around the Home:*

- Check all electric cords for cuts, and abrasions. Make sure all cords are being used for what they are intended for. **Do not** over load electric plugs in your home. **Do not** run electric cords under rugs or in high traffic areas.
- In an electrical storm, turn off the television.
- **Do not** use the telephone during an electrical storm.
- Use surge protectors on your appliances, computers, televisions, and all other appliances where lightning could cause damage to electrical components.
- If you are not qualified to work on electricity **do not** attempt to do so. Leave it to the professionals.

- When trimming trees and bushes near the power lines **be careful**. Ladders and branches are good conductors of electricity. One small slip can cause severe injury or death.
- When working around power lines maintain a safe distance of ten feet from the lines.
- If your house is struck by lightning, leave the structure and call 911.
- If you get caught outside in an electrical storm, **do not** go under a tree. If you are caught in an open field, go to the lowest area, and lie down in the field. Remember lightning strikes the highest point even in an open field.

##### *Being Street Smart:*

When severe weather hits our area we are vulnerable to trees and electrical wires coming down and causing a real hazard to everyone. These few tips could be the difference between **life and death:**

- When stopping on the side of the road to wait out a severe storm, do not park your vehicle under a tree, or where wires could fall on your vehicle.

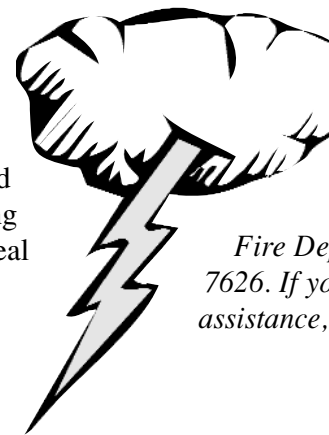
- If trees and wires come down on your vehicle, **stay in your vehicle**. This is the safest place to be until your fire department and emergency personnel arrive to help you.
- If you come across an accident where power lines are involved **do not** go near the vehicle. If the victim is conscious, yell to them to stay in their vehicle, and that help is on the way.
- **Do not touch** any downed power lines in the street. Assume that all lines on the ground are live.
- Keep a safe distance of at least two poles up or down from the downed wire. Electric

lines can snap and recoil.

*If you have any questions on these issues,*

*please contact the*

*Fire Department at 749-7626. If you need emergency assistance, dial 911.*



**Watch our new sign in front of the building for safety notices and other Fire Department Business**

# Somers 9•1•1 News (cont.)

## Upcoming Events

### Four Town Fair Bingo Booth

September 11th — 14th

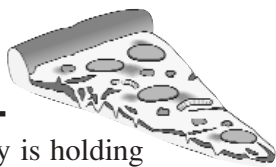
Don't forget to come and visit us at the Four Town Fair this September, and support your local volunteers by playing BINGO! This is typically our biggest fundraiser of the year and we look forward to seeing all of you again this year. Your donations help to pay for things such as uniforms, and department furniture (desks, chairs, TV's and computers) which are vital to the day to day operations and training of our members, and are not included in the town budget.

### Pancake Breakfast and Open House

Sunday, October 5th

Fire Prevention week is October 5th through the 11th. To recognize this important National Event, the Somers Volunteer Fire Department will be having an Open House & Pancake Breakfast on October 5th. The "All You Can Eat" breakfast will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and cost is \$5.00 per person. Children 5 thru 12 are \$3.00, under 5 are free. Includes: Pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea, and juice. Tours of the building, extrication & thermal imager demonstrations will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

### Pizza Sale



The Auxiliary is holding a Pizza sale fundraiser to benefit the Volunteer Fire Department. Flyers and order forms will be available at the Pancake Breakfast.

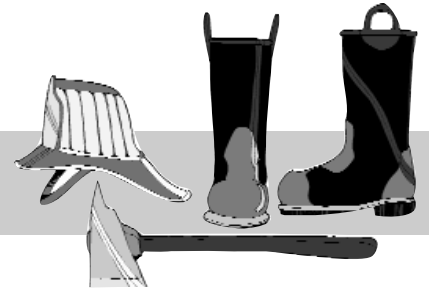
### Thanksgiving Pie Sale

November, 25th

9 a.m. – until sold out

Please stop by the Fire Department to make your purchase early, before they are gone!

## Department News



### Retirements

#### Bob McCulloch

Bob joined the Fire Department while in High School in 1964. He left in 1965 to serve 4 years in the Navy and returned to the Department in 1970, where he served until 1991. Bob was Chief from 1988–1990, where he mandated that all Fire Fighters be certified as Fire Fighter I, and watched the Department expand in number of volunteers and services. From 1991 to the present, he served on the Fire Commission, and served as Chairman for the last 2 years. Bob also served on the Building Committee for the New Fire House. Bob's resignation from the Fire Commission has left a huge void and he will be missed. We thank him for his many years of dedicated service, and wish him well in his retirement.

#### Bob Sciarretta

Thirty years ago, Bob moved to town, joined the Somers Volunteer Fire Department and opened The His and Hers Barber and Styling Shop in Somersville. Bob spent several years as an Engineer assuring that the apparatus and equipment was in good working order and spent many years responding on the Fire Department Ambulance as an Emergency Medical Technician. Bob held various line officer positions in the Fire Department and was Fire Chief in 1999 and 2000. In 1989, Bob became a member of the small career staff that provides fire and medical service to the town during the workweek while most of the volunteers are out of town. He has spent a number of years as the supervisor of the career staff, retiring from that position in mid August. Despite working at the firehouse five days a week, Bob continued as a member of the Volunteers and plans to remain



Bob and Pauline Sciarretta

doing so until he moves in September to enjoy his retirement. Pauline Sciarretta, Bob's wife, was an active member of the fire department auxiliary for over 20 years. She also volunteered many years as the liaison for the red Cross. Thank you Bob and Pauline for your many years of service to this Fire Department, and the community. Best wishes in your retirement.

## Welcome! New Members of the Somers Fire Department

### New Career Staff:

(P/T employees)

Brian Blotniski  
*Firefighter/EMT*

Brian comes from the Ellington Volunteer Fire Dept. and Pratt & Whitney Fire Dept.

Jamie Kreller  
*Firefighter/EMT*

Jamie comes from North Thompsonville Fire Dept.

### New Volunteers:

Steve Austin  
*Firefighter/EMT*

Sarah Carlson  
*Firefighter/EMT*

Brittany Conklin  
*EMS Squad 2*

Dan Corbett  
*Firefighter*

Kerri Meier  
*Firefighter — EMS Squad 2*

Lindsey Vallee  
*EMS Squad 2*

### Fire Commission:

Welcome aboard to Carl Rohrbach as new Fire Commission Chairman!

## Congratulations!

The following members have recently completed the EMT Course:

Dave Govine, Sarah Carlson, Chris Labonte, Rob Edwards, and Cathy Cabral.

The following members have completed the 2QR License at NETTS and are able to drive all Fire Department Apparatus:

Dave Govine, Billy Meier III, Matt Meier, Rob Edwards and Brandon Thibideau.



Early Saturday morning (8/2), the Somers Fire Department responded to a fire at Lord Somers Center. The fire was quickly contained and no businesses were lost. Dan Roulier and Associates, along with the law firm of Devlin & Peters, held a BBQ picnic for the fire department members and their families at Worthington Pond in Somers on 8/16. Pictured here, Attorney Peters presented a beautifully framed firefighter picture to Chief Meier, as a thank you and for a job well done.