

2018 Somers Independence Day Parade & Ice Cream Social Report

The Somers Parade Committee chose "**Let Freedom Ring**" for the 2018 parade theme and Tony and Maureen Schauer as this year's Grand Marshalls. They are dedicated, long-time residents of Somers, serving on the Somers Volunteer Fire Department and Somers Parade Committee, and working the election polls to name a few examples of their commitment their community.

We were blessed with beautiful sunny skies. The Kenosha Running Club ran the route of the parade from Hwy. H & E to Somers Elementary at 1:15. At 1:35, Cub Scout Pack #436 handed out 6,800 flags to parade-goers this year, donated by David Leet Post #552. Ron Bailey of Silverspoon Entertainment deejayed at SLHS from 12:00-2:00, playing the "Star-Spangled Banner" to start the parade. As usual, at 2:00 PM, the sirens of units from Somers Fire & Rescue Department kicked off the parade along with several other local departments.

VFW Post #1865 drove their motorcycles ahead of American Legion Color Guard Post #522 and Bagpiper Mary. Several veterans from AL Post #552, VFW Post #7308, Navy Club Ship 40, Daughters of the Revolution, John Sorensen and Lot 31 Auto were honored. Our Grand Marshalls were driven by Al Ferber in a convertible borrowed from Lynch Chevrolet of Kenosha. Richard Kraus transported supporters of SLHS in his Mack truck before several state, county and local politicians drove or walked the route to thank their constituents.

This year's entertainment included the KR Bluegrass Band, Mike Schneider Polka Band, MG V Harmonia, Rambler, CYO Emerald Knights and River City Rhythm marching bands, a Mariachi Band, Crazy Charlie Rock Band, Arik the Wandering Juggler and Uncle Sam & Libby Stiltwalkers. General parade entries, many who also provided music, were Cub Scout Pack #422, Sam's Club, Kenosha News, Scott Barter of Kenosha Today, Burr Oaks Greenhouse, Jelly Belly, Somers Elementary, Festival Foods, Miss Kenosha County Fair Queen, Somers Chargers 4-H Club, Walmart, UW Parkside, Miss Bristol, Snap-On, Parkside Baptist Church, SE WI Paranormal Investigation Team, St. Peter's Church, Buell Construction, Pro/Dori's Towing, Branch at 1501 Café and Gold Wing Trikes. Due to the warm weather, fewer classic cars were able to participate, but our agricultural history was well-represented by tractors driven by Tom Samba, Stephanie Funk, Don Dinges, Jay Rhodes and Ben Harbach. Tradition followed with our parade ending with local horses-always a favorite! In all there were 74 entries and the parade ended at 3:15.

Bethany Lutheran Church volunteers served cake, ice cream, water and Gatorade to over 350 parade-goers after the parade ended at Leon Dreger Hall. Kids waited patiently for balloon art from The Big Balloon Tycoon and bluegrass music could be enjoyed in front of the hall performed by the KR Bluegrass Band. Somers Fire & Rescue Association sold food and beverages at Fire Station #1 and along the parade route prior to the parade. Shoreland Lutheran also provided food and refreshments during staging. Cake, ice cream and supplies were donated by Festival Foods and Gatorade and ice was donated by 7 Eleven.

We are extremely thankful to the generous support of the following sponsors: Walmart, Sam's Club, Festival Foods, Lakeside International, Davison Law, Market Square Apartments (Bear Realty), Huck Realty, Proko Funeral Home, Baxter & Woodman, Andrea & Orendorff, Ruekert-Mielke, Jerry Smith Farms, Riley Construction, Firestone, CJW Inc., Lee Plumbing, LifeQuest, Dejno's Trucking, Hastings Air, Dr. Abdul Durrani, First Industrial, Suburban Garden Center (Richard Lesko), Line X, Tri City National Bank, Stainless Products, 7 Eleven, Kenosha News, Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers Elementary, Gregg Sinnen, David Geertsen, George Stoner, Jack Aupperle, and Ben & Bette Harbach. This parade committee continues to follow the tradition of supporting the parade and ice cream social solely by donations of local and village-appointed businesses. The current parade committee members are Judy Schantek, Ben Harbach, Al Ferber, Vern Kotten and Margie Hannes. We meet 8-9 times from January to July, volunteering our time to hire entertainment, communicate with businesses, write grants, contact area institutions for publicity, contact veterans, etc.

The 2019 Somers Independence Day Parade and Ice Cream Social will be on July 4th at 2:00 PM. We welcome volunteers interested in committing to planning the parade next year. Volunteering on this committee requires time and dedication that is paid back two-fold when you see the excitement of Somers residents and parade-goers alike during the event!

Respectfully submitted,
Somers Parade Committee

Judy Schantek

Margie Hannes

Alan Ferber

Ben Harbach

Vern Kotten