



# PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER



## Mechanic Safety Focus

### *Winter Driving Tips for Staying Safe This Season*

It's important to be aware of the hazards that the winter snow can pose on the roads. Here are several tips to ensure safe driving:

- Increase following distance to 8-10 seconds when driving on slippery surfaces.
- Turn on your headlights even during the rain
- Do not use cruise control
- Be cautious of the decreasing daylight
- Watch for children & wildlife
- Inspect your tires, oil, antifreeze, and windshield washer fluids

Stay safe as you navigate through this season!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Household Hazardous Waste in Manchester*

**February 7, 2026 - 8am-1pm**

An appointment is required. Please visit [somers.gov](http://somers.gov) and navigate to the Recycling Center page for more information.

## Message from the DPW Director

### *Important Winter Reminders for Somers Residents*

Dear Somers Residents,  
With winter weather upon us, the Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone of the importance of cooperation in keeping our streets and sidewalks safe and clear. Here are some reminders of the Town's regulations.



#### ON-STREET PARKING

Section 192-9, Winter Parking, of the Town of Somers Division 2 Ordinances, states "No vehicle shall be parked on the streets of Somers during a snow or ice storm which has been in progress three (3) hours. No vehicle shall be parked or left on the traveled portion of a street or highway so as to impede normal snow plowing operations and the free flow of traffic during snowstorms." Violations of this ordinance may result in fines, and vehicles could be towed and impounded at the owner's expense.

#### SIDEWALK CLEARING

As stated in 172-3, Duty of owners and occupant; time limit for removal, the Town of Somers Division 2 Ordinances, that the owner or occupant of any premises where there is a public sidewalk must remove the snow and/or ice from the sidewalk within 12 hours of the event causing said snow or ice event. Fines may be imposed for non-compliance with this ordinance.

#### ROAD RIGHT OF WAY

Prior to the winter season, please ensure that any items such as basketball hoops or soccer goals are removed from the road and tree belt. The Town's Right-of-Way for most roads is 40 to 50 feet. The Town cannot be held responsible for any damage to items located within the Right-of-Way.

#### TRASH PICKUP

If you have scheduled waste disposal, please avoid placing your trash receptacle on the road overnight if a storm is expected. Whenever possible, wait to put out your trash receptacle until after your road has been plowed. The Town is not liable for any damaged trash receptacles.

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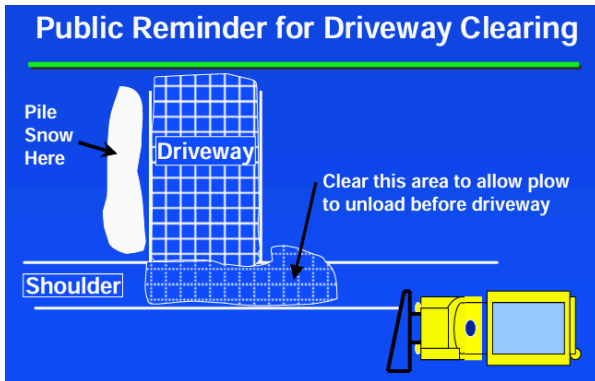
## Highway Department

*Winter advisory reminders.*

It is hard to believe how cold the temperatures have been lately showing us winter is here. The Somers Public Works Highway Department would like to share some helpful reminders.

### Somers Snow Clearing Tips

- Never plow, place, or allow your contractor to put snow on the roadway. It creates a hazard for the other drivers as well as school buses and emergency equipment.
- If you don't want the plows to deposit snow in front of your driveway, clear the shoulder before your driveway as pictured below.



### Mailboxes

It is the policy of the Somers Department of Public Works that if any mailbox or post is damaged as the result of snow removal operations, the responsibility for making repairs shall be borne by the property owner. The Department of Public Works is not responsible for mailbox damage as a result of snow being discharged from snow removal equipment. When a mailbox or post is damaged by direct contact with our snow removal equipment, the following will occur.

- Inspection of mailbox and post to determine the cause of damage.
- Determination of responsibility (improper installation of the mailbox, rotted mailbox post, or plow operator error).
- If the investigation determines it was an operator error, the mailbox or post will be repaired or replaced with a standard metal mailbox and/or standard wooden post of \$25.00 in value maximum. The DPW will only replace the mailbox or post if the plow equipment has made direct contact with the box or post.

A complete Winter Operation Guide can be found on the [Public Works Highway Department Page](#).

## Message from the DPW Director

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### WINTER REMINDERS

- Catch Basins: If possible, please clear the catch basin near your home. The Town has over 3,000 catch basins, and your help will greatly assist the DPW in ensuring that rain and snowmelt can reach the basins.
- Fire Hydrants: If you can, please shovel out the hydrants near your home. The Town has over 180 hydrants, and removing snow and ice will keep them accessible and ready for use if needed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Todd Rolland*

Todd Rolland

Director of Public Works

## Highway Department (continued)

*Elves in Somers!!*

A Big Shout-Out to Somers Human Services for showcasing our DPW workers in action! Who would have thought that the Department of Public Works had holiday elves lending a helping hand? Human Services were fortunate enough to capture this moment in a photograph! It seems that DPW also stands for Department of Present Workers!

These dedicated individuals are spreading holiday cheer to the children who need it the most! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the Stuff-a-Cruiser initiative.





[@SOMERSCT.GOV](https://www.somersct.gov)

12.23.2025



SOMERS PUBLIC WORKS



## Recycling Center

*Celebrate Earth Day every day!*

Although Earth Day, April 22, this year has passed, it is recognized as a dedicated day to raising awareness and advocating for solutions to the most pressing environmental issues affecting our planet, while simultaneously celebrating the beauty of our Earth.

With the significant change in our climate, we need to be motivated to take action to spread awareness, but also to recognize and celebrate the significant progress we have already achieved.



THE CHILD'S PLACE PRESCHOOL



I fondly recall my childhood in Manchester, where we sorted our recyclables into two small bins: green and blue. If I remember correctly, we only recycled paper, cardboard, metal, and glass back then. Now, we still recycle these same items plus more, but we can now place them all into a single container. This transition to single-stream recycling has greatly simplified the process for everyone, leading to increased participation and higher volumes of materials being recycled. It's truly remarkable to witness the progress we've made in our environmental efforts, reflecting the growing awareness and dedication of communities everywhere.

As we move forward, it's essential to remember that every small action contributes to a larger impact. Whether by using reusable bags, minimizing plastic waste, donating unwanted items, returning deposit cans/bottles, using reusable products that replace disposable items, or in local clean-up initiatives like ours, each effort matters. The spirit of Earth Day serves as a reminder that change is achievable when we unite for a common purpose: safeguarding our planet.

Let's take this opportunity to not only honor our accomplishments but also inspire future generations to carry on this important legacy. By working together, we can ensure that the beauty of our Earth is safeguarded for the years ahead, while our community serves as a brilliant model of environmental stewardship.

### Somers Recycling Center Partners with Somers Lions Club for eyeglass collection

The Somers Recycling Center is thrilled to share that we are collaborating with the Somers Lions Club to collect eyeglasses for those in need.



**Drop-off Locations:** Somers Senior Center & Somers Recycling Center Usable/Recyclable:

- Glasses that have both lenses intact and the bows are not broken, both plastic and metal frames.
- Children's glasses.
- Non-prescription sunglasses, including clip-on.
- Readers.
- Broken metal framed glasses.

**Not Usable/Recyclable:**

- Loose lenses, lenses not in frames.
- Broken plastic framed glasses.
- Contact lenses.
- Cases for eyeglasses.

### Closure Dates for the Somers Recycling

- New Years Day, Thursday, January 1, 2026
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 19, 2026
- Presidents Day, Monday, February 16, 2026
- Easter, Sunday, April 5, 2026
- Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026



860-763-8234



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