**Somers**

In March 1835 Jacob Montgomery and his two sons built a house on the edge of the Pike River. In 1843 this settlement was named Pike. Later, in 1851, the land west of Highway 31 was changed to Somers. The Montgomerys were the first residents of Somers. They were **trappers**. Trappers worked by catching animals in traps and then selling or trading the animal’s fur. Due to the rich soil, Somers attracted many farmers, and much of the land is still used for farming.

The Somers Post Office opened in 1836. The first postmaster was Lute Charpenter. During this time mail carriers used horse and wagon to deliver the mail and received a **salary** of $20 a year. Today mail carriers enjoy the modern **conveniences** of trucks and automobiles to deliver the mail.
Universities and Colleges

We are fortunate to have several universities/colleges located in Kenosha. The University of Wisconsin--Parkside--is the largest one in Kenosha. This university provides a quality education for over 5,000 students a year. Parkside was founded in 1968 and is located just east of Petrified Springs Park. All universities and colleges offer different kinds of math, science, social studies, and English classes. Some of the other programs offered at Parkside include art, music, sports and fitness management, and business.

In 1847 Carthage College was established in Carthage, Illinois. In 1962 it opened in Kenosha, offering students an education in liberal arts and sciences. These include classes like psychology, education, and religion. This college is located on Lake Michigan and has a modern state-of-the-art library and recreation center.

Gateway Technical College has three campuses. One campus is located in Kenosha. This college offers students an education in business, nursing, horticulture, police science, and more. Gateway also has an aviation center located near the Kenosha Airport where students can learn to fly a plane.

Questions

1. What do you want to study after high school?
2. Why do we have different types of higher education?
Kenosha's Sister Cities

Kenosha is a friendly place with friendly people. From time to time our city creates lasting relationships with other cities around the world. These are called sister cities. Sister cities are located in such places as France, Germany, Italy, and the Philippines.

**Douai, France**

Plaza de Douai is located in Southport Marina. (Douai is pronounced “do-way.”) This area is named in honor of Kenosha’s sister city, Douai, France. The city of Douai has donated a decorative drinking fountain to the Plaza de Douai, located in Kenosha’s marina.

**Wolfenbüttel, Germany**

Wolfenbüttel, Germany, is also one of our sister cities. Wolfenbüttel Park, by Southport Marina, has been dedicated to the people of Wolfenbüttel.

**Question**

1. Why is it important to have a sister city?
Community Workers

Do you pay the trash collector to pick up your garbage? Do you plow the streets in the winter? Do you pay the librarian when you borrow a book or movie from the library? These services are often paid for by taxes. Almost everyone in our community pays some kind of tax. A tax is a fee that helps to pay community workers. You help to pay for these services every time you buy candy or soda at the store. Services are things that are done for us. Some community workers provide services that people need. Examples of these services are street cleaning and garbage pick up. Other community workers teach in schools and run our libraries. Firefighters and police officers are also community workers. These men and women enforce the laws, and they protect us and our homes. We are fortunate to have these services provided in our community.

The Board of Education

Your teacher makes many decisions in your classroom while the principal makes decisions in your school. Who do you think makes the decisions for all the schools in Kenosha Unified School District No. 1 (KUSD)?

The board of education works to give the students better schools. The people elect seven members to serve on the board of education from the community. These members must live in the Kenosha Unified School District No. 1 area and be at least 18 years old. The first board met on July 15, 1849.

The board members choose a superintendent who works with and advises them. The board also sets the policies for the district. Policies help plan and run the schools in the same way.

In 1967 the Kenosha schools were unified with those of Pleasant Prairie and Somers to become the Kenosha Unified School District No. 1.
Kenosha Fire Department

On March 8, 1851, the Kenosha Fire Department was formed. Most of these men were volunteer firefighters. By August 1851 the Hook and Ladder Company was formed with 33 members. During this time people were used to pull the fire-fighting equipment.

Peter Pirsch, a Kenosha firefighter, saw the need for motorized fire-fighting equipment. He formed a company that made motorized fire trucks. Although the company no longer exists, a few of their trucks are still used today. Largely due to Peter Pirsch’s efforts, Kenosha had the first motorized fire department in Wisconsin.

Today the Kenosha Fire Department employs almost 200 firefighters. The village of Pleasant Prairie and the town of Somers employ few full-time firefighters and rely largely on the help of local citizens. Today all three fire departments use many different kinds of rescue equipment.
Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department

For many years Kenoshans have depended upon the help of the sheriff, police, and fire departments of Kenosha. In 1836 Southport hired their first sheriff. His name was E. G. Hugunin. One hundred years later the Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department employed 15 deputy sheriffs. Most of these deputies rode motorcycles. The motorcycle patrol was a popular and inexpensive way to run the department. Motorcycles could also ride in areas where cars could not. Today the sheriff’s department has over 100 deputies using squad cars, bicycles, boats, armored vehicles, and motorcycles. The sheriff’s department is responsible for enforcing laws in the city and county of Kenosha. In addition to patrolling the city, their time is spent in the towns and villages of Bristol, Paddock Lake, Wilmot, Trevor, Salem, and others.

**Question**

1. What would life be like without community workers such as police officers, deputy sheriffs, or firefighters?
Kenosha Police Department

In 1841 the village of Southport had a marshal. A marshal is an officer that performs duties similar to those of a sheriff. Our first marshal was Warters Townlee. By 1880 the city of Kenosha had two police officers. One officer worked days, and the other worked the night shift. In the early days policemen used a two-horse patrol wagon. By the time the first woman officer was hired in 1923, the Kenosha Police Department had a motorized patrol wagon, three police cars, and five motorcycles. Today Kenosha’s police department has over 180 officers working around the clock to keep our community safe. The police departments of Kenosha and Pleasant Prairie use vans, patrol cars, and Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Questions

1. How do you become a police officer?
2. What are an officer's duties?
Kenosha Public Library

In 1890 Zalmon Simmons' beloved son, Gilbert, died of pneumonia. He was considered to be the son who would take over his father's business someday. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons knew that the city needed a library. The Simmons volunteered to donate one in their son's memory. In 1900 the Simmons Library was opened.
Kenosha Regional Airport

The Kenosha Regional Airport was opened in 1958 on Highways 158 and H. The airport first opened with one asphalt runway and one grass runway. Today the airport has three paved runways, a terminal, and a control tower.

This airport is mainly used for transporting supplies and products to and from local businesses. However, some people own their own planes and can keep their airplane in one of the airport’s hangars. A hangar is a building where airplanes are kept and repaired. The airport is open 24 hours a day so that people can fly their planes whenever they want. Kenosha’s Regional Airport is also used for general aviation and flight training.

Ruth Harman Walraven

In the 1930s Ruth Harman Walraven took her first airplane ride and was hooked. She sold her toys, clothes, and even her bike to purchase a membership in the Glider Club at Kenosha Airport. In the 1930s the airport was located on 22nd Avenue where the present Anderson Park and Vernon Elementary School are located. In 1932 she earned her pilot’s license and performed aerial shows throughout Wisconsin. In 1940 she became the number one teacher for the Civilian Pilot Training Program at Kenosha’s airport. This was an important job as America was training young men and a few women to become pilots for
World War II. Ruth Harman Walraven was also one of a few women who trained Navy flight cadets. A few years later she became the manager of the Kenosha Regional Airport. At that time she was the first woman to run, maintain, and manage an airport. In recognition of her many accomplishments, Ruth Harman Walraven was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame in 1999. A road at the Kenosha Airport is named in her honor.

Question

1. Why is Ruth Harman Walraven considered a pioneer in the field of aviation?
From Lifeguards to the U.S. Coast Guard

Lifesaving has always been a concern of people living near water. The picture below is of a life-saving crew in 1902. The life-saving station was located near the present-day Simmons Island Bath House.

Today the United States Government provides lakeshore communities like Kenosha and Racine with services from the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard provides boaters with safety guidelines and rules which make them safe while cruising on Lake Michigan. If a boater should have an accident or need help, they call the U.S. Coast Guard for help.
Sports in Kenosha

Kenosha has had a long history of involvement in sports. Football and baseball are two of these sports that have been around for a long time.

At one time Kenosha had two baseball stadiums which hosted factory-worker baseball teams. In the 1920s Nash Motors (now Daimler-Chrysler) built the Nash Employee's Athletic Field. The team was called the Nash Motormen. In the same decade the Simmons Company, which made mattresses, built Simmons Field for their team, the Simmons Bedmakers. In 1925 because of outbursts of fan violence due to team rivalry, the two teams merged into one team called The Twin Sixes. Later on, a softball team called the KeNash-A Club Motormakers was formed and played at Nash Field. Eventually this stadium was torn down.

After a fire in 1930, Simmons Field was rebuilt. Seventeen years later the Simmons Company sold the baseball field to the city of Kenosha. It was rededicated to the Kenosha Comets women's baseball team a year later. After the women's baseball league disbanded, the stadium was used for exhibition, amateur, and Little League games. Many years later the Kenosha Twins, a minor-league baseball team occupied the stadium. This was followed by the Kenosha Indians, the Kenosha Kroakers, the Kenosha Kings, and the Kenosha Mammoths. Simmons Field continues to be an important part of the local sports scene.

Football also had a stadium dedicated to the sport. In the 1930s Lakefront Stadium was built as the home of Kenosha High School's (now Bradford High School) football and track teams. Later a semiprofessional team called the Cardinals played games there. Lakefront Stadium was located at the present site of Southport Marina and Wolfenbüttel Park.
Women were also involved in sports in Kenosha. As early as 1904 Kenosha High School girls had their own volleyball and basketball teams. Girls also became involved in baseball. From 1943 to 1951 a women's professional baseball team, the Comets, became a part of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. This league played during World War II when many male players went off to war. The movie, *A League of Their Own*, depicts some of this women’s sports history.

Kenosha high schools, as well as many of the middle schools, provide opportunities for students to participate in football, baseball, and other sports. The Christian Youth Council (CYC), Kenosha Youth Foundation (KYF), and Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) promote youth involvement in sports in Kenosha.
Washington Park Velodrome

The city of Kenosha has the honor of being home to the oldest operating velodrome in the United States. A velodrome is a track designed for cycling. The Kenosha velodrome is located on Washington Road and 18th Avenue east of Washington Bowl Swimming Pool. On July 11, 1927, Kenosha began its first track season at what is now known as the Washington Park Velodrome or “The Bowl.” In 1940 the city purchased lights used at the World’s Fair of 1939. They were installed at the velodrome to light up the track, allowing for evening races. The 333-meter asphalt track is home to races throughout the summer. People of all ages can test their own racing skills at the bowl. Spectators can enjoy free lawn seating on the Washington Road hillside.

Question

1. If the track is 333 meters, how many feet or yards is it?