

Cynthia (Cindi) Somers
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City of Richland
Permit Expeditor
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[ICC Region II](#)
[PermitTechNation](#)
[WSAPT](#)



My name is Cindi Somers, and I am humbled to have been nominated as PTNs Permit Technician of the Year as the membership body of PTN is comprised of dedicated, over-achieving and AWESOME PTs! My sincerest thanks to whoever nominated me.

Have you heard the saying ‘do what you love and you never work a day’? I wholeheartedly love what I do and have not worked a day (well....almost never!) since I began my PT career in March 1991 as a Clerk II for the Benton County Building Dept. I remember the excitement I felt in May 1995, when the City of Bothell PTs sent a request to Washington State front counter staff for letters of support in favor of creating an ICC Permit Technician Chapter and for the creation of an ICC Permit Technician certification. Then in Nov. 1995, the Bothell PTs hosted the first meeting of the Washington State Association of Permit Technicians (WSAPT), and of course, I attended! This meeting proved to be the beginning of my ICC Chapter journey, providing an outlet for my passion for education specific to the front counter and a long career path in professional development. At this meeting, I signed up for the Education Committee and have continued to work on educational opportunities for WSAPT PTs to this day. In addition to the Education Committee, I have sat on several WSAPT committees, as well as being elected to various executive board positions (2015-2018 Past President; 2014-2015 President; 2013-2014 1st VP; 2004-2006 President; 2003-2004 1st VP; 1997-1998 & 2000-2002 Recorder).

Career highlights as a WSAPT member:

- Dec 2000 – obtained Certified Permit Technician status;
- Attending the 2004 ICC Salt Lake City ABM for the first time with my mentor, Paula Strutzel, and presenting the 1st ever Permit Tech Cracker Barrel Session;
- Establishing the Paula K. Strutzel Education Scholarship;
- Coordinating several ICC Onsite Paper/Pen Exam sessions during educational conferences;
- A personal highlight, to be honored as 2014 Member of the Year.

As a Charter Member of this Chapter, it has been an honor to work beside my peers, to grow the Chapter and provide professional development opportunities to our members. My reward has been enjoying the mentorship given and received for a profession I love.

Over the course of my career, I have not only been involved with WSAPT, but am also a founding member of the ICC Professional Chapter, PermitTechNation, and have held the offices of Vice President, President, 2018-2109 Past President and 2019 Board of Directors member. As a member of PTN, I have had the opportunity to work with Dawn Neil (NJ), Steve Burger (AZ), Alfred DeCorte (RI) and Wayne Pimentel (RI) to organize the first Rhode Island PT training. I am also involved with ICC Region II, having

served as 2018 Vice President. Currently, I am Education Co-Chair for organizing a 3-day Code Official Institute conference in Richland on Nov. 4-6, 2019. This is significant as it will be the first 3-day conference dedicated to Code Officials my local area will offer!

Additional professional endeavors have included:

- In 2001, I was asked by the City of Richland Building Official to come to work at the City, and have been here for 18 years as lead counter staff;
- Number of years in this profession: 29.5;
- Overall service through ICC Chapters: 24;
- Since 2009, I have represented the City of Richland in teaching [Junior Achievement USA](#) course 'Our Community' to elementary students in Kennewick. This curriculum introduces students to careers that are available in a community (with a biased emphasis placed on highlighting a career as a Code Official!). In addition to regular JA curriculum, I present ICC *Building Safety Month* which is always a hit (what Little Person doesn't want an activity book, a hard hat and to learn about exiting!);
- Established an annual ICC *Building Safety Month (BSM)* event at the Richland Library, promoting *BMS* to 3-5 year olds;
- Appointed to the 2015 and 2018 ICC Permit Technician Exam Development Committee, serving as 2018 Chair and 2015 Co-Chair;
- Partnered with Dawn Neil to work with Colleen Mansmith (ICC) to create the ICC webinar, *Building Department Processes*, and co-presented this seminar with Dawn (and will continue to do so post-retirement);
- In 2013, worked with John Darnall, my mentor and dear friend, on a grass roots campaign to again broach the subject with ICC for the possibility a PT II certification. In 2015, because of efforts nationwide, the combination title of certified Permit Specialist was approved.

In my personal life, I have been married to my darling (and oh so supportive of PT related activities) husband, Bruce, for 36 years (37 on Sept 18!) and we have a loving and quirky Tribe of four (yes, 4) FurGirls, Fern, Penny, Ruby and most recently adopted, Trudy. Retirement begins Sept 17, but this does not mean I will leave the industry. My post-retirement goals are to obtain a Permit Specialist certification and continue to promote education and mentorship for PTs, and hope they, too, love the front counter as much as I do.

Respectfully submitted,





August 27, 2019

PermitTechNation Members:

RE: Cindi Somers

Dear Committee Members:

I am pleased to learn that Cindi Somers has been nominated for Permit Technician of the Year. I have known and worked with Cindi for the past four years in my capacity as the Community Development Director for the City of Richland, Washington.

My background includes over thirty years of experience working in planning and building departments at the local government level with the past twenty-one years serving as department director in multiple jurisdictions. This experience has given me the opportunity to work with and supervise many Permit Technicians.

Cindi Somers has been employed with the City of Richland as a Permit Technician for the past eighteen years and worked in a similar capacity with the county for ten plus years. Cindi is a highly trained and knowledgeable employee who performs her work to perfection. Additionally, Cindi has been a Certified Permit Technician for the past nineteen years. Without exception, Cindi always carries forward and completes every assignment or task that she is given. Cindi has also invested time working with local grade school children teaching them about our community and career paths as part of the Junior Achievement program.

With all the positive impressions I have of Cindi for her technical expertise and knowledge, I believe her best quality is her customer service. Cindi is an extremely caring and courteous person and this is demonstrated with each interaction she has with the public. As an example, I have personally observed Cindi staying after hours multiple times in order to assist customers who have come in the doors just minutes before closing time.

It is with high regard that I recommend Cindi Somers be selected as Permit Technician of the Year.

Sincerely,

Kerwin Jensen
Community Development Director



WASHINGTON STATE
*Association of
Permit Technicians*
ESTABLISHED 1995

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Michele Miller
president@wsapt.org

1st Vice President

Jessie Lether
Vp1@wsapt.org

2nd Vice President

Sarah Skattum
Vp2@wsapt.org

Recorder

Kim Mason-Hatt
recorder@wsapt.org

Treasurer

Kim O'Hara
treasurer@wsapt.org

Past President

April Shrader
pastpresident@wsapt.org

September 3, 2019

PTN Executive Board:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Cindi Somers as PermitTechNation Permit Technician of the year. I've known Cindi for many years through the Washington State Association of Permit Technicians. However, it was in 2014, when Cindi encouraged me to attend the ICC Annual Business meeting, which I really got to know more about Cindi and her passion for increasing the visibility of Permit Technicians.

Cindi's tireless drive to propel the Permit Tech career path to the next level has made a significant impact and is one of the many reasons PTN reached Chapter status. One very simple, but super impactful way that she does this is in referring to Permit Tech's as Code Officials. This shows respect for the position and encourages PT's to see themselves in the same light as their co-workers. In seeing themselves this way, they are more likely to seek certifications and opportunities to grow.

When there's work to be done, Cindi always steps up to take on the challenge or offer help and guidance. Over the years, WSAPT has had its struggles with maintaining an Executive Board that is dedicated to the organization. Cindi has stepped up as President more than once and has chaired multiple committees over the years so that the organization would continue to thrive. Most recently, she has spent many hours documenting processes and historical data for WSAPT's Education Committee so that it will be left in good hands when she retires. This could have easily fallen by the way side, but Cindi is so committed to WSAPT's future that she made it a priority. It's this type of dedication that makes Cindi Somers my choice for PTN Permit Technician of the year!

Respectfully,

Michele Miller, CPT

WSAPT President

c/o Kim O'Hara, Treasurer
833 S. Spruce Street
Burlington WA 98233

Federal Tax ID: 11-3772713



August 29, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for Permit Tech Nation: Permit Tech of the Year 2019

Dear Ms. Miller,

On behalf of International Code Council Region II, representing Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming; we would like to formally issue our letter of recommendation for Cindi Somers as Permit Technician of the Year 2019.

Over the many years of Ms. Somers' career, she has been instrumental to developing, implementing successful ideas, and leading her jurisdiction, State of Washington and Region 2 in the advancement of Permit Technicians. Ms. Somers' active participation in creating educational opportunities for Region 2, collaborating with cities, states, and other Permit Technician Chapters throughout the country, has been pivotal in shining the spotlight on what an important role Permit Technicians play within the Building Department.

Cindi has been heavily involved in Region 2 as former officer on our Board of Directors, and currently chairs our Spotlight the Permit Technician initiative. This duty has not simply been helping at the front counter with customer service, she has led the charge and taken seriously her role as mentor, encouraging and supporting permit technicians in this industry for many years. Cindi Somers' impact is felt across the nation.

We hope your consider Cindi Somer's as a fitting recipient of this national honor. Thank you for your consideration and please keep up the amazing work you all do.

Sincerely,

Jack Applegate
Executive Board, President, ICC Region 2
Jacka@nwcodepros.com
541-729-7791





TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

277 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07920-1441

908-204-3173 • 908-204-2515 FAX

August 26, 2019

RE: Permit Technician of the Year

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to provide a recommendation for Cynthia (Cindi) Somers for the 2019 Permit Technician of the Year. I had the pleasure of meeting Cindi in 2005 during a Chapter swap between WSAPT and NJATA. Over the years I have been lucky enough to not only work with Cindi towards establishing a national chapter but becoming dear friends. Cindi possesses a wealth of knowledge about our industry that can't be matched. She has an incredible skill for reading people, she has a calming demeanor and an eloquent manner of speaking and writing.

Cindi is the mentor of all Permit Tech mentors. Cindi doesn't let the opportunity to mentor slip away. She will send an email or place a call to reach out to see how she can help them towards becoming Certified or walking them down the path to create a Chapter. She has worked closely with our ICC GR Rep. Rick Hauffe as well as others to inspire building department staff to pursue certification and chapter creation such as Idaho & Wyoming.

She participates at every level whether its working through Junior Achievement introducing children to the world of Building Safety, locally in her own jurisdiction, statewide with the Washington Association of Permit Technicians (WSAPT), regionally with ICC Region II, nationally with International Code Council (ICC) on the Permit Technician Exam Development Committee, as a Founding Member/Past President of PermitTechNation and countless other committees within and outside of our industry.

I personally have learned so much from Cindi, I am proud to call her my friend and I couldn't be more honored to provide a recommendation for her to receive the 2019 Permit Technician of the Year Award. Cindi will retire from the City of Richland in September of 2019 with 30 years experience. Experience and wisdom that can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Neil, CPS
Technical Assistant

August 27, 2019

Ms. Michele Miller, President

PermitTechNation

I have known Ms. Somers since 2004 when she attended her first ICC Annual Business Meeting in Salt Lake City. She was a wide-eyed, first-time attendee and amazed at the event itself, those in attendance and the overall impact our profession has in providing a safe-built environment for the public. Since that time, I have seen her dive deep into the involvement of advancing Permit Technicians and their importance to our profession.

She has been a long-time member of the Washington State Association of Permit Technicians (WSAPT) and her involvement included being elected to multiple positions on the WSAPT Board including the position of President. Professionalism and education were her primary platforms and she let nothing stand in her way of achieving these goals. Because of her, and others she motivated and mentored, many Permit Technicians have received ICC certification and advanced in their careers.

She further became involved in the formation and formalization of the nationwide ICC PermitTechNation. Initially, she coordinated an extensive email list of Permit Technicians that was used to communicate with Permit Technicians nationwide. This, in itself, was a herculean effort. She and several other highly motivated individuals then organized and championed this organization until the ICC Board of Directors granted it national status as a formal ICC Chapter.

In addition, she has been a presenter of multiple on-site educational classes as well as ICC webinars focused on the Permit Technician. All of which received rave reviews.

On a personal note, whenever I needed assistance, information or just an honest sounding board, Ms. Somers, without fail, always helped and got me where I needed to go. And I know she did this for countless others also.

I have been teaching Permit Technicians since 1998 and I know a LOT of outstanding contributors to the Permit Technician profession but if I had to pick one that has continually carried the torch for local and national Permit Technicians, only one person comes to mind; that person is Cindi Somers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Burger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Burger, CBO, LEED AP

KEVIN K. REX
17430 SW Florence St
Beaverton, OR 97078
(509) 578-9424 cell
kevinrex@juno.com (e-mail)

August 22, 2019

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Cynthia Somers

To Whom It May Concern:

In the world of building and construction-related permits and processes, I have known and worked closely with Cindi Somers for so many years that I can't remember how many actual years it's been; it may even be decades now. During all that time, I have witnessed in Cindi a person who is not only very dutiful in her personal work habits, but who is so devoted to the betterment of the Permit Technician profession that she has dedicated much extra-curricular time and personal resources to it. Cindi is the consummate professional in her work life, and the passion with which she takes on the extra work to learn and grow in the profession is admirable, to say the least.

Because the Permit Technician profession now involves so many varied aspects of technology, building and building-related code knowledge, and an infinite amount of other development, planning, zoning, and civil engineering laws and processes, it is no longer just a "clerical" occupation. Cindi has not only realized this expansion of duties and responsibilities in today's construction industry, she has acquired the additional knowledge and experience to perform superbly those duties, and has, for many years now, helped others gain that same ever-broadening knowledge needed to improve the Permit Technician profession.

To all within the reach of her compassionate sharing of this professional knowledge I say, take advantage of the opportunities Cindi has created, follow her example of learning and growing and being better at what you do as a Permit Technician. I recommend her for any task related to permits and permit processes. I honor her for her devotion to the professions in the building codes. Thank you, Cindi, for all you've done and continue to do in the building code realm.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Rex, PA, CBO
Plans Examiner/Building Inspector
City of Tualatin, Oregon



August 29, 2019

Subject: Letter of Recommendation
Cindi Somers, City of Richland

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation as a testament to the positive experience that our firm has experienced working with all the City of Richland Permit Technicians and specifically, Cindi Somers. We recently completed the permitting process and are currently constructing a 276 unit apartment complex in Richland, Washington. I have had the opportunity and pleasure to work directly with Cindi throughout this process.

As a developer that designs, constructs, and operates a large volume of multi-family projects throughout the Western United States, we work with many municipalities. With that, I believe we have good perspective and appreciation when we experience an efficient municipal process that is led by professional individuals that are good at their jobs and care about what they are doing. This has certainly been the case while working with Cindi.

From the time of our initial pre-development meetings with the City of Richland through our first building occupancies, Cindi has been a tremendous resource in guiding us through the City's process. Cindi is exceptionally knowledgeable of and responsive to her duties. I appreciate the fact that I (or any person on our staff) can pick up the phone and get in touch with Cindi for guidance, which in today's day and age seems to be becoming more and more uncommon. She has been a pleasure to work with and I have no doubt that she will be greatly missed by the City of Richland and developers such as our company upon her retirement.

Should you have any questions regarding my experience working with Cindi and the City of Richland staff, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509.321.3210 or toddw@inlandconstruction.com.

Sincerely,

Todd Walton
Development Manager



Engineering | Planning | Development

August 29, 2019

PermitTechNation
Attn: Michele Miller

Subject: Permit Tech of the Year Award

Dear Michele:

I would like to recommend Ms. Cindi Somers as Permit Tech of the Year. I have had the privilege of working regularly with Cindi for more than 15 years in my work with the City of Richland. As a professional engineer, my interaction with Cindi has been on a variety of development projects with the City including processing permits, addressing resolution, resolving building requirements, and issuing certificates of occupancy to name a few.

Cindi always has a cooperative attitude and is committed to finding a way to get things accomplished rather than focusing on the reasons it can't be done. She is always proactive on projects in order to keep them on or ahead of schedule rather than waiting until they are urgent situations.

I have very much appreciated this from Cindi and am very sorry to see her retire from the City of Richland. It will be a significant loss to me and my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roger G. Wright'.

Roger G. Wright, P.E.
RGW Enterprises, PC