



## Town of Cambria Spring - 2010 Newsletter

### From the Desk of Wright H. Ellis, Supervisor

It has been a challenging winter with several long periods of below average temperatures and our share of snow. We continue to take pride in the fact that the roadways in Cambria are among the cleanest, if not the best maintained, for winter driving in Niagara County. We wouldn't want you to be late for work in the morning rush hour!

The Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer and I share concerns about the condition of some properties in our Town. Most of our residents maintain their properties in an acceptable manner, recognizing that a well-maintained property is the first step toward being a good neighbor. However, we often receive telephone calls and letters from citizens complaining about the poor condition of their neighbor's property. Their concern generally centers on the perceived loss of value for their own property and the adverse impact of the unkempt property on the neighborhood. The Town Board acknowledges that unkempt properties reflect adversely on the entire Town population. We need to strike a balance between that individual freedom to live as we desire and the common good supported by a neat and clean community. Our Code Enforcement personnel are not vindictive and they are not trying to harass individual homeowners. They are enforcing our Zoning Ordinances, as set forth by the Town Board, to benefit us all. In a few instances, property owners have found themselves in Town Court after ignoring repeated verbal and written warnings. Please support this effort to keep our Town attractive and a nice place to live for your friends and neighbors by keeping your property adequately maintained. Thank you.

Spring brings the transition from snowmobiles to ATV's as the off-road recreational vehicle of choice. With the attraction of the vast amount of open ground in our Town, riders should be aware that many of the open fields are used for agricultural crops and the potential for damage to fields of winter wheat and hay increases as the ground softens. Excessive noise in the middle of the night when operating too close to residential areas is an additional problem. Again, we must strike a balance between individual property rights and the pleasure of operating off-road vehicles. Local Law No. 1 of 2002 regulating the operation of off-road vehicles within the Town of Cambria contains the following provisions:

*"It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any Off-Road Vehicle on private lands of another person within the Town of Cambria without written permission of the owners or occupants of said property. The written permission must be in possession of the persons operating the Off-Road Vehicle and must be presented upon demand to any peace officer or police officer so demanding. The operation of any Off-Road Vehicle in such a manner as to disturb or interfere with the peace and tranquility of persons by creating loud, unnecessary or unusual noise or dust is prohibited at all times."*

I apologize for the negative tone of so much of the above, but sometimes, *"That's the way it is."* As always, enjoy the articles herein and remember that our purpose is to serve the people of our Town. We are always ready to address your concerns and provide assistance.

### Cambria Town Board

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Wright H. Ellis, Supervisor  
433-8523

Robert E. Blackman, Councilman  
434-7116

George J. Bush, Councilman  
731-9352

Joseph Ohol, Councilman  
433-8243

Randy M. Roberts, Councilman  
433-0183

### Town Hall Office Hours

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#### Town Hall

Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 4 pm

#### Town Clerk

Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 4 pm

#### Assessor

Mon. - Fri.,  
8:30 am - 2:30 pm

#### Building Inspector

Mon., Wed., Thurs.  
8 am - 4 pm

#### Highway Department

Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 3:30 pm

### Monthly Meetings

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#### Planning Board

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 8 pm

#### Recreation Committee

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday - time varies

#### Town Board

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 8 pm

#### Zoning Board

4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 8 pm



*A laugh is a smile that bursts.*

*~ Mary H. Waldrip~*

~ **COMMUNITY ROOM RENTAL** ~

The Town Community Room is available to Town residents for the nominal rental fee of \$75.00. If interested, contact the Town Clerk's office for available dates and additional details.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *To ensure the uninterrupted enjoyment of our summer Recreation Day Program, the Community Room will not be available for rent from June 28th through August 6th.*

**FREE RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINICS**



The Niagara County Department of Health will offer free rabies immunization clinics on the following dates:

**Saturday, May 22 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Cornell Cooperative Extension (“County Fairgrounds”)  
4487 Lake Avenue, Town of Lockport

**Saturday, June 5 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Hyde Park- Oasis/ Centennial Pavilion  
911 Robbins Drive, City of Niagara Falls

**Tuesday, August 10 from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

Veterans Park, Village of Youngstown  
Corner of Nancy Price Way & Church Street

**Saturday, September 18 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

Cornell Cooperative Extension (“County Fairgrounds”)  
4487 Lake Avenue, Town of Lockport

**CHANGE IN DOG LICENSE FEES  
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2010**

As of April 1, 2010 dog license fees will increase by \$3.00. License fees will be as follows:

**Unspayed/unneutered dogs - \$18.00**

**Spayed/neutered \$10.00**

**Purebred licenses (up to ten dogs) \$45.00**

**Up to 25 dogs - \$70.00.**

NYS law requires all dogs over the age of four months to be licensed. We will be conducting a town-wide dog census in the spring/summer months. If you are harboring an unlicensed dog and it is reported by the dog enumerator, you will be subject to an additional fee of \$5.00 per dog. This fee is **in addition** to the license fee. A valid rabies certificate is required to be presented at time of licensing, as well as proof of spaying and neutering.

Just a reminder ~ **dogs are not permitted to run at large** within the Town of Cambria. Please do your part in being a responsible dog owner by licensing your dog and abiding by our Dog Control Local Law.

The Town of Cambria will serve as a Census information site. U.S. Census Bureau representatives will be available to assist residents with completion of the census questionnaire. They are scheduled to be available at the Town Hall from March 19th ~ April 19th. Their hours on Mon-Wed-Fri will be from 10 am - 1 pm and on Tues and Thurs from 1 pm - 4 pm.

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERY RESIDENT IN CAMBRIA IS COUNTED ~ PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO COMPLETE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE!**

**TAX COLLECTOR ~ *Debra A. Littere***

Well, my first official season as Tax Collector is coming to a close. I have enjoyed seeing everyone who came in to personally pay their taxes.

Our online tax system now offers a new feature ~ all bills and receipts can be viewed and printed online. Just go the Town of Cambria website, [www.townofcambria.com](http://www.townofcambria.com), and click on the Tax Collector tab. In the middle of the page there is a link to the tax bills online.

As a reminder, the last day to pay taxes at the Town Hall is March 31<sup>st</sup> from 8 am – Noon and 1 pm – 3:30 pm.

**ASSESSOR'S OFFICE ~ *Janelle L. Kroening***

I would like to thank those of you who submitted your exemptions in a timely fashion for the March 1, 2010 taxable status date. Our job is made easier when the applications are submitted with the required documentation.

The change of assessment notices, based on new construction from building permits and changes in inventory as of March 1, 2010, will be mailed in early April. You are welcome to come in for an informal hearing with the Assessor. You may also present your case to the Board of Assessment Review, with documentation, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in May. Information and forms will be available after May 1, 2010.

We are fortunate that here, in Cambria, we have not experienced the downturn in the market, as experienced in other areas of the country. Most properties are continuing to sell above the assessed value, they just may take longer to sell. We use sales of similar homes in our area as the basis of determining assessed value. Accurate information is necessary to determine accurate assessments. In order to continue with fair and equitable assessments, we need to have correct inventory information on all properties. A property description report will be mailed to all property owners this spring. Please make any necessary corrections and return the signed report by June 30, 2010. If all data is correct, it is not necessary to return the report.

The Niagara County Assessors' Association is sponsoring a \$1,000 scholarship for any Niagara County resident who is a graduating senior from one of the Niagara County high schools and plans to attend college within New York State in the fall of 2010. The scholarship is based on citizenship, scholastic achievement, and career goals. Further information and applications are available at the Assessor's office or from your high school guidance office.

## RECREATION DAY PROGRAM

*Sally Marotta-Reed*

The Town of Cambria Day Recreation Program is gearing up for another exciting season. This year the program will begin Tuesday, June 29th and end Friday August 6th, 2010.

There are two locations for your convenience ~ the Cambria Town Hall (Community Room ) site and the Pekin Fire Hall (Pavilion) site. Both locations will have trained counselors experienced with the children's needs and willing to do their personal best to give your child a summer to remember. For children ages 5-15 (children must be 5 years old by June 1st), daily arts, crafts, sporting activities, and other games, along with scheduled field trips and swim days will be available. Although there is no cost to attend the on-site program, there will be a cost to attend swim days/field trips.

A note to all families participating in our program ~ there will be some special requirements from you this season. To further ensure your child's safety and comply with health regulations, we require immunization forms on file. Also, if your child is in need of an inhaler, epi-pen, or has other health issues, we will need forms completed and a script from the child's physician stating the child's condition and if he/she is self-medicating. As forms become available, we will have them posted on the Town of Cambria website, as well as being available at the Town Hall.

We are very proud of our program and we continue to strive to do more for the children and their families. To further ensure a safe recreation season, there will be updated procedures implemented. Along with CPR/First Aid training for all counselors, there will be background checks and, for selected workers, lifeguard training. Weekly fire / emergency drills will be conducted and our safety plan will be available on-site.

As always, our program is willing to accept donations, such as sporting equipment, board games, arts, crafts, etc., that are in good / safe condition. If any family should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Sally Marotta-Reed at 860-2680.

### NIAGARA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC. OFFERS HOME REPAIR GRANTS TO QUALIFIED HOMEOWNERS

If you live in Niagara County, own and occupy a single family home, have homeowner's insurance and your property taxes are paid and current, you may qualify for home repair grants. Home improvements include roofs, septic systems, doors, windows, furnaces, hot water tanks, ramps, and handicapped modification. Homeowners must meet certain income eligibility guidelines and other program criteria. For additional information contact the Niagara Community Action Program at 434-4679 or email them at: [ruralpreservation@verizon.net](mailto:ruralpreservation@verizon.net)

## SUMMER GAZEBO CONCERTS AT TOWN HALL



### Sunday, July 11

Tommie Dee ~ A Tribute to Roy Orbison and  
Billy Dee ~ A Tribute to Johnny Cash

### Sunday, July 18 ~ Then And Now

Sunday, July 25 ~ Bar Room Buzzards

Sunday, August 1 ~ East of Eden

Sunday, August 8 ~ 90 West

Sunday, August 15 ~ 50's & 60's group (to be announced)  
Car Cruise starts at 5:00 pm. Cars will arrive at 4 pm

**All concerts will begin at 6:00 pm and are held rain or shine ~ covered tent for spectators is provided. Be sure to bring a lawn chair, relax and enjoy!!**

### REPORT FROM THE TOWN PARK COMMITTEE

*George J. Bush, Park Planning Committee Chairman*



The nature trails are now complete with the addition of placards identifying plants and animals in the park. The placards were installed as part of an Eagle Scout Project completed by John McIntosh.

The excavation for the southwest road and parking areas, in addition to the retention basin, has been completed. The major drainage piping of 15", 18" and 24" lines have been installed. Hundreds of tons of clay and topsoil were used to raise the level of the soccer fields and baseball diamond. The crushed stone base for the southwest road and parking was completed in October 2009. The drainage grid of 6" pipe has been started on the baseball diamond. The plan is to have soccer fields and a baseball diamond finished by Spring 2010 and ready for use in 2011.

During the fall of 2009, 100 evergreen trees were planted at the park entrance, the north boundary line and around the retention basin.

We wish to express our appreciation to Highway Superintendent, Jon MacSwan and his employees for their hard work, which has greatly contributed to the park's developmental progress.

### MT. VIEW CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Procession march beginning at Pekin Fire Hall and leading to Mt. View Cemetery, Upper Mt. Rd., begins at 9:30 am. Memorial Day services immediately follows at the Cemetery.



## CAMBRIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

4631 Cambria-Wilson Road  
Lockport, NY 14094  
(716) 434-8948

**Lenten Fish Fry - Friday's Thru April 2nd - 4 pm - 7 pm**

**April 25th**- Jr. Firefighters Spaghetti Dinner- 11 am - 4 pm

**May 1st** - 25 Week Club Dinner - 6 pm

**July 24th** - Car Show / Chicken BBQ - 1 pm

**September 17th, 18th & 19th** - KCNF Annual Dog Show- 7 am - 5 pm daily

**Junior Firefighter information please contact: Kevin Schreder (716) 471-7217**  
**Boy Scout information please contact: Todd Fisher at (716) 439-8616**

## PEKIN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

3024 Upper Mountain Road  
Sanborn, NY 14132  
(716) 731-4777

**March 27th** - Ham Party- 7 pm

**April 3rd** -Kids Easter Egg Hunt - 11 am

**April 24th** - Spring Gun Raffle - 6:30 pm

**May 16th** - Ladies Annual Raffle - 1 pm

**September 26th** - Chicken/Rib &  
Basket Auction - 11 am/ Drawing - 3 pm



### **BUILDING INSPECTOR ~ Clifford E. Burch**

As spring approaches, several things come to mind that we feel are very important to ensure the safety of our families. For those of you that have swimming pools, be sure that all safety requirements, such as ladders for above ground pools and fences for in-ground pools, are in good condition and that pool alarms are installed and in proper working order.

Effective February 22, 2010, "Amanda's Law" requires carbon monoxide alarms in, essentially, all residences, both new and existing. Further information can be obtained at [www.dos.state.ny.us/code/coalarm.htm](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/code/coalarm.htm). Smoke alarms should also be checked at least twice a year. 84% of all fire deaths occur in residences without operable smoke alarms.

Another item that you should keep in mind is that, in addition to cleaning the lint filter on your clothes dryer after each load of laundry, you should also check the vent from the dryer to the outside periodically to be sure it is clear of built up lint.

The Supervisor's message addresses a subject that we have mentioned on several previous occasions, that of "unkempt" property. It is our intention to routinely patrol town roads, noting violations and then attempting to have them corrected in a timely manner. We ask your cooperation in maintaining Cambria's reputation as being one of the most attractive areas within Niagara County.

***Please be aware ~ the cost of a required building permit increases by 50% if the permit is not obtained in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance.***

### **NYSDEC Adopts Open Burning Regulations**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation recently approved a statewide ban on open burning, intended to reduce the impacts of pollutants such as dioxins, particulate matter and carbon monoxide, resulting from open burning of residential waste, which is strictly prohibited.

Listed below are some exceptions to the ban, allowing restricted burning within towns having a total population less than 20,000:

-On site burning of downed limbs and branches (including branches with attached leaves or needles) less than 6 inches wide between May 15 and March 15;

-Barbecue grills and similar outdoor cooking devices when actually used for cooking or processing food

-Small fires used for cooking and camp fires provided that only charcoal or untreated wood is used as fuel and the fire is not left unattended until extinguished

There are also specific exceptions relating to agricultural operations, ceremonial or celebratory bonfires, burning by police or public safety organizations, fire training and fire-fighting, etc.

The NYSDEC is the responsible agency for enforcement of the new regulation. Specific questions should be directed to their office at (716) 851-7000 or 1-877-457-5680 (after 4:45 pm).

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## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

*Jon T. MacSwan*



As another winter comes to a close, we look forward to the warm weather and sunshine. As the snow begins to melt, we will be faced with the threat of flooding issues. Please be sure that you clean out the ditches on your property and clear any debris that may be blocking the driveway culverts or any other cross culverts on your property.

The Highway Department will continue to work on the Town Park, alternating between road repairs, ditching, brush chipping and other warm weather duties. Drainage for baseball diamonds and finishing the pond landscape will be our top priority. The Park is progressing nicely. If you haven't had a chance to stop over there, please do so.

For those homeowners who aren't aware, the Highway Department chips brush for our residents in specific months. We usually begin chipping April 1<sup>st</sup> and continue until July 1<sup>st</sup>. **During the months of July and August we DO NOT chip brush.** We have to take advantage of the warm summer weather to do our hot road resurfacing. We will resume brush pickup September 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue to chip until the snow falls. When we chip brush we cover the entire town and, unless you feel you have been inadvertently overlooked, there is no reason to call the office .

Yard repair will begin as soon as the weather permits. Please understand that lawn damage is never intentional; however, we will make every effort to repair major plow damage. Please only call us if the damage is something that you cannot repair on your own. We appreciate any assistance from homeowners who are able to make repairs on their own accord.

As always, we are here to assist you in any way that we can. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us by phone or email anytime!



### BASEBALL/SOFTBALL PROGRAM

*Rodney Hogg, Director*

#### BASEBALL REGISTRATION EXTENDED

Did you miss baseball / softball sign-ups? Don't worry, it's not too late! Registration & Health forms are still available in the Town Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday from 8 am until 4 pm. The deadline to sign up is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Games are scheduled to begin in May.

Interested in coaching or umpiring? Please contact Rodney at (716) 990-0321.

**For those already signed up, you will hear from the coaches sometime in April to set up practice dates and times.**

## WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Water Department will soon be working on repairing the effects of the winter season. If we installed new water service or repaired a water break on your property, and final grading was not completed, please contact our office to be sure you are on our restoration list.

To date, we have installed 1,230 "Automated Meter Read" water meters. The program continues to move along well and will continue throughout the year. Many residents have benefited from the leak detection device that is built into these meters. The device alerts the meter reader that water has been running for a twenty-four hour period. When the information is downloaded to our billing program, our office personnel can contact the homeowner and make them aware of a possible water leak. Something as small as a dripping faucet or a toilet that continues to run can waste a large amount of water over a billing quarter, costing you money and a waste of one of our natural resources.

Customers that have outside readers on their meters will benefit from the new meters, as well. The outside readers that are attached to meters do fail, often times running slower than the actual water meter. We may only notice this if the outside reader completely stops. This generally results in the customer getting a high water bill, as we will bill for water that goes through the actual water meter. The new meters collect accurate meter readings for all of our customers and result in better accounting for the water district.

If you have not yet had your new meter installed, please call 433-2468 to schedule an appointment. The cost to the homeowner is \$50. This charge can be billed on one water bill or spread over five billing quarters at \$10 each. The time involved in changing out the meter is approximately twenty minutes. Appointments are scheduled Monday thru Friday, from 8 am to 3 pm, at a specific time that is convenient for you. If these times are not convenient, please let us know and special arrangements can be made to accommodate your schedule.

## HANDICAPPED PARKING PERMITS



This is a friendly reminder to our residents that handicapped parking permits and forms are available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. Permanent permits are valid for five years and temporary permits are valid for six months. Please remember, when renewing your permit, to turn in your expired one. Also, if a deceased spouse or family member has a handicapped permit it must be returned to the Town Clerk's office, as the permit is only valid for the person it was issued for – they are not transferable. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our office.



## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! PARTICIPATE IN OUR TOWN WIDE YARD SALE...

*With the economy as it is, people will be shopping for bargains to stretch their budget. This is a good time to sell unwanted items that you haven't used in three or four years, thereby freeing up storage space in your home and garage!*

This year's yard sale will be held on the weekend of Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am until 3 pm. You can pick up your yard sale sign on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mountain Road.

Maps will be available at various locations in the town prior to the event and also on our website. Any individual who would like to be listed on our map should complete the registration form below or, if you prefer, register online at [www.townofcambria.com/yardsale.htm](http://www.townofcambria.com/yardsale.htm). There is no cost to register, **but we must have your information by Friday, June 11, 2010**, in order to include your listing in the brochure.

Cambria businesses and organizations will be contacted separately with an opportunity to advertise in our brochure. We also publicize this event in newspapers, on cable television, radio, on our town website, as well as utilizing posters and flyers throughout the town. For more information, contact George Bush at 716-731-9352.

After a long weekend of yard sales, come and unwind with us at the Town Hall Gazebo Concert featuring "THEN & NOW." Performances run from 6 pm to 8 pm and are held "rain or shine." Bring a lawn chair, relax and enjoy!

**REMEMBER THE DATE!**  
Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18, 2010  
9 am to 3 pm



***Complete and return to:***

TOWN OF CAMBRIA YARD SALE  
4160 UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD  
SANBORN NY 14132

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

## HOLIDAYS-TOWN HALL CLOSED

2010

Good Friday	Friday, April 2
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31
Independence Day	Monday, July 5
Labor Day	Monday, September 6
Columbus Day	Monday, October 11

## REFUSE/RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



**Memorial Day Monday, May 31**  
Delayed until Friday, June 4

**Independence Day Sunday, July 4**  
Delayed until Friday, July 9

**Labor Day Monday, September 6**  
Delayed until Friday, Sept. 10



## DEPARTMENT HEADS/ OFFICIALS

Assessor ~ Janelle L. Kroening	433-8161
Building Inspector ~ Clifford E. Burch	433-8161
Highway Superintendent ~ Jon T. MacSwan	433-8829
Historian ~ Deborah Jagow-Wynes	308-2751
Planning Board Chair ~ William Amacher	731-5277
Recreation Committee ~ Tamara J. Cooper	433-7664
Tax Collector ~ Debra A. Littere	433-8161
Town Clerk ~ Lou Ann Murawski	433-7664
Town Court ~ A. Jowdy / H. Peters	433-3088
Town Justice ~ Amel S. Jowdy, Jr.	434-8417
Town Justice ~ Henry G. Peters	731-3035
Zoning Board Chair ~ John Reardon	434-0414

## TOWN OF CAMBRIA COURT (716) 433-3088

**Justice Jowdy Court** - 1st Tuesday at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm  
2nd & 5th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

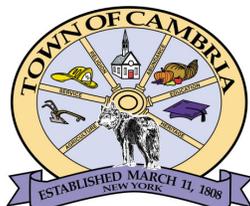
**Justice Peters Court** - 3rd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm

*www.townofcambria.com*

## Town of Cambria

4160 UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD  
SANBORN, NY 14132

“NIAGARA COUNTY’S FIRST TOWN”



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