

TOWN OF CAMBRIA FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER www.townofcambria.com

From the Desk of Wright H. Ellis, Supervisor

The wonderful summer of 2010 is drawing to a close. Our weather was so uniformly perfect, that every type of outdoor activity could be enjoyed. Even the rain storms seemed to come during the night and leave our weekends relatively dry.

Sally Marotta-Reed, our Recreation Director, and Rodney Hogg, Baseball Director, succeeded in providing interesting and challenging programs for our children. The Day Program continues to attract increasing numbers of participants, requiring additional counselors and more resources. The size of our Baseball Program is going through a low phase, but we anticipate increased interest next year, as some games will be played on the new baseball diamond in our Town Park. Speaking of the Town Park, much has been accomplished this season. Town personnel, under the direction of Highway Superintendent, Jon MacSwan and Town Park Committee Chairman, George Bush, have worked hard on drainage and athletic fields. They have completed work on a regulation size baseball diamond and two soccer fields. The baseball and soccer fields have been seeded and, if the fall weather cooperates, it is expected they will be ready for play next year. A special "thank you" is extended to Fran Barone of Cambria Contracting, located on Lockport Road. Fran is a resident of our town and has been most generous with the loan of heavy earth-moving equipment and personnel to operate those machines. We greatly appreciate his support, which has enabled the work to progress much faster than originally planned. Scott Lawn and Garden of Cambria-Lewiston Townline Road, provided invaluable assistance with the loan of their hydroseeder and dryseeder and advice on the seeding process. We wish to also extend our thanks to them.

On another matter, we need volunteers for the Cambria Historical Society. As we move forward in the 21st Century, it is important to document and recognize the efforts of those who founded this Town and this County. We generated much interest in things historical during the celebration of our Bicentennial year in 2008 and need to rekindle that spirit. Cambria is the oldest town in Niagara County and we should be taking the lead in remembering and recognizing our interesting past. It would be nice if there were sufficient volunteers available to have the Town of Cambria Museum open for visitors on a regular schedule. Please contact the Town Clerk or myself for information on the Historical Society. Additionally, our Town Historian, Deborah Jagow-Wynes, has found it necessary to resign her position due to the demands of her profession. We thank her for the work she has accomplished during the past few years and particularly, her participation in our Bicentennial activities. We wish her well. If interested in serving in this vital position, please contact my office at the Town Hall. There is much to do at the Cambria Museum, sorting and cataloging the many artifacts and collections. It would be a challenging and educational assignment for the right person.

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

Wright H. Ellis, Supervisor
433-8523

Robert E. Blackman, Councilman
434-7116

George J. Bush, Councilman
731-9352

Randy M. Roberts, Councilman
433-0183

Joseph Ohol, Councilman
433-8243

Town Hall Office Hours

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

Planning Board
3rd Monday at 8 pm

Recreation Committee
1st Wednesday - 6:30 pm

Town Board
2nd Thursday at 8 pm

Zoning Board
4th Monday at 8 pm



*Character may be manifested
in the great moments, but it is
made in the small ones.*
-- Phillips Brooks

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE ~ *Janelle L. Kroening*

In June, the Assessor's office mailed out property description reports. I would like to thank our town residents for reviewing their inventory and promptly returning them with the necessary changes. In order to have fair and accurate assessments, it is important to have correct property information.

Your 2010-11 school tax bill reflects the Uniform Percentage of Value in Cambria, which is now 98%. After tracking sales, it has been determined that an adjustment is necessary to reflect increases and/or decreases in the market. As New York State law requires that assessments be fair, all properties are to be assessed at a uniform percent of market value. Appreciation in the local real estate market since the 2006 assessment update has caused our assessments to reflect a value inconsistent with the true value of our properties. Market values change and if the assessments do not reflect these changes, some property owners could pay more than their fair share of taxes, while others may pay less than their fair share. Assessment updates are intended to restore fairness throughout the community. Be assured, that an assessment update is **not** another way for the Town to raise more taxes. Increases in the tax levy occur when taxing jurisdictions (i.e. schools, towns or counties) increase their budgets to provide essential services. Assessments are not a mechanism by which to increase Town revenue.

Enhanced Star **renewal** applications have been mailed for age 65 and over resident homeowners who chose not to or cannot use the Optional Income Verification Program. If you or your spouse were born in 1946 or before, you are eligible for the Enhanced Star exemption for the 2011 school tax, provided you meet the 2009 income and residency requirement. Contact our office for the application.

The agricultural and low-income senior and low-income disabled renewal exemptions will be mailed before the end of the year. The due date for all exemption applications is March 1, 2011.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT ~ *Jon T. MacSwan*

What a summer we have had! As quickly as it came, we are preparing ourselves for the upcoming autumn and winter.

The Town Park is still progressing. The pond is almost complete and the baseball and soccer fields have been leveled and seeded. We hope to host athletic activity starting in the spring.

We have resumed chipping brush and will continue until the snow begins to fly. We have had many calls this year from residents about brush. As a reminder, we **DO NOT** chip brush during July and August when we are paving roads. We began chipping September 1st and encompass the entire town.

Beginning November 1st through April 1st, the Town of Cambria's Winter Parking Ordinance will be in effect. No parking is permitted on town roads between the hours of 1 am and 7 am. Be sure to keep vehicles off the roadway during these hours so we can plow for the morning commute.

Do you have any questions about a driveway culvert or roadside mowing? We are here to assist you in any way that we can. Please call our office at 433-8829.

BUILDING INSPECTOR ~ *Clifford E. Burch*

Prior to starting any new or renovation projects around your home or property, you should check with our office to see what, if any, permits are required. For additional information relating to building permits and regulations, visit the town's website at www.townofcambria.com.

Residents that need to appear before our Planning or Zoning Boards for variances, special permits or subdivisions must have their application into my office by the first Friday of the month that they wish to have their application acted upon.

With fall approaching, the time change will go into effect ~ a good time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

TAX COLLECTOR NEWS ~ *Debra L. Littere*

The school district tax bills have been mailed to taxpayers. Please contact your school district should you have any questions. All unpaid school tax bills will be relieved onto the 2011 Town and County tax bill.

If your taxes were in escrow, and you have paid off your mortgage, please notify the Assessor's office at 433-8161 ext 22. It is the responsibility of **all** property owners, including those who own vacant land, to advise the Assessor's office, in writing, of any changes of address.

New Feature: For your convenience, you may look up your Town and County tax receipts online: <http://egov.basny.com/cambria>.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

~ *Tamara J. Cooper, Chairperson* ~



Hello Cambria Families! As Chairperson for the Recreation Committee, I want to thank everyone who participated in the Baseball and Summer Recreation Programs this summer... it was a very successful year! Of course, we are always looking for feedback and this year I want to provide a way for you to do that. Any comments, concerns or suggestions, please, feel free to email those to me at cambria.recreation@yahoo.com. I am also wondering if there is any interest in the community to create a parents' group which would be organized to offer support to our Recreation Program. Now that the Town Park is progressing, I feel it is important that we develop more parent involvement in the recreational activities we provide to our families. Parent/child volunteer opportunities would help create that feeling of pride, whether it be working a small snack area, helping one day during the weekend to clean up, or just providing ideas for our growth! If you are interested please let me know at the above email address. Once I receive responses, I will contact those interested for an initial meeting sometime after the first of the year. Let's make Cambria a place where everyone wants to come and play, enjoying all that Cambria has to offer.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Water Meter Program - Our automated meter program continues with over 70% of our households having been changed over to the new meter. If you have not had your meter changed out, please call to arrange an appointment. Our installers arrive promptly for your appointment and the change out procedure takes about twenty minutes. Access to your water meter is all that is required. The current fee remains at \$50, although the cost of these meters continues to rise. This fee is billed on your quarterly water billing and can be set up as a one-time charge or billed over five billing quarters. Until your new water meter is installed, **PLEASE** continue to promptly send in your meter readings by mailing the meter cards, by phone, **433-2468** or via the internet, at www.townofcambria.com in the Water/Sewer tab.

Final Meter Reading & Compliance Inspection - A reminder to our residents that final meter readings and compliance inspections are required when homes are sold or when renters move out. Final meter readings are always taken from the physical water meter, not remotely. At that time, our personnel will check the plumbing related to the water service to be sure it complies with the Rules and Regulations of the Town of Cambria Water District as stated in the "Water Service Compliance" statement below.

When your home is being sold, the following steps should be taken to eliminate delays in the closing of your property.

- Make an appointment for a "Water Service Compliance" inspection in a timely manner. This will allow you time to make any repairs that may be needed to bring your water service into compliance with our regulations.
- If possible, provide our office with the name of the new owner and the name and address of the individual responsible for payment of the final bill.

Water Service Compliance - Our department continues to practice procedures that ensure the public safety of our customers and residences. Compliance inspections of water services are conducted for all new builds and when homes are sold. There is no charge for this inspection; however, it is a mandated procedure per the Town's Water Ordinance. Check valves are required on all water services. At the time of the compliance inspection, our personnel will verify that a proper check valve is installed and is in proper working order. This device prevents household water from returning into the public water system. In conjunction with the backflow (check valve) regulation, installation of an expansion tank is recommended. The expansion tank prevents pressure build-up that may cause the relief valve on your hot water heater to discharge or drip on the floor.



VOTER REGISTRATION



Voter mail registration forms are available from the Town Clerk's office. You may also register in person at the Niagara County Board of Elections, 111 Main Street, Lockport, NY. Questions as to deadlines for registration or absentee ballots should be directed to the Board of Elections at 438-4041. **Polls are open on Election Day, November 2nd from 6:00 am - 9:00 pm.**

*****ALL VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CAMBRIA VOLUNTEER FIRE HALL, 4631 CAMBRIA-WILSON RD.**

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town Board will conduct a public hearing on November 4, 2010 at 8 pm at the Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mt. Rd., to hear and consider any objections to the assessment roll in any of the following districts: Cambria Drainage District, Cambria Refuse & Garbage District, Cambria Water District, Cambria Sewer District #1, Cambria Fire Protection District. The Town Board will consider those objections and reject, correct, amend or affirm the new assessment roll on or before Dec. 31, 2010.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION HOLIDAY PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving - Collection will be on Friday, November 26, 2010

Christmas - No Change in collection
Collection will be on December 23, 2010

New Year's Day - No Change in collection
Collection will be on December 30, 2010



All items must be at curbside by 7:00 am. Each household is allowed six containers or bags of trash and no container should exceed 60 pounds. One large item is allowed each week (appliance, furniture, mattress, etc.). Construction materials **ARE NOT** accepted at curbside. For disposal of these items and computer related equipment please contact Niagara County Landfill/Recycling at 434-6568.

AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC DISPOSAL

Collection of agricultural plastics is scheduled between **Monday, Nov. 15th - Friday, Nov. 19th**. A roll-off container will be located at Coulter Farms, 3871 North Ridge Road.

PASSENGER AND OVERSIZED TIRE DISPOSAL

Tires may be dropped off on **Saturday, Oct. 16th from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon** at the Town Municipal Building. Roll-off containers will be provided for passenger & truck tires, as well as oversized agricultural tires. A permit for oversized tires is required and is available at the Town Clerk's or Supervisor's office (limit of eight per year). There is no fee for this permit.

RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

The last free clinic for this year will be held on **Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm** at the **City of North Tonawanda Department of Public Works, 758 Erie Ave., North Tonawanda, 695-8585.**



HOLIDAYS-TOWN HALL CLOSED

2010

Columbus Day	Monday, Oct. 11
Election Day	Tuesday, Nov. 2
Veteran's Day	Thursday, Nov. 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, Nov. 25
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, Nov. 26
Christmas Day (observed)	Friday, Dec. 24

2011

New Year's Day (observed)	Friday, Dec. 31
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, Jan. 17
President's Day	Monday, Feb. 21

DEPARTMENT HEADS/OFFICIALS

Assessor ~ Janelle L. Kroening	433-8161
Building Inspector ~ Clifford E. Burch	433-8161
Highway Superintendent ~ Jon T. MacSwan	433-8829
Planning Board Chair ~ William Amacher	731-5277
Tax Collector ~ Debra L. 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

UPCOMING FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

Pekin Fire Company – Phone: (716) 731-4777

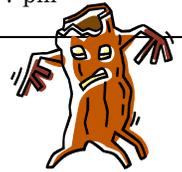
Oct. 16	Craft Show/Chowder Sale - 9 am
Oct. 30	Halloween Party (6:00 pm)
Nov. 06	Wine & Cheese Festival
Nov. 20	Turkey Party (7:00 pm)

“Thank you for supporting events sponsored by our Volunteer Fire Companies.”



Cambria Fire Company – Phone: (716) 434-8949

Oct. 10	Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ (12:00 Noon)
Oct. 23	Wine and Cheese
Oct. 30	Halloween Party (5:30 pm-8 pm)
Nov. 02	Chowder Sale-Take out only
Nov. 06	25-Week Club Dinner
Nov. 13	Turkey Party (6:00 pm)
Mar. 11	Lenten Fish Fry Begins 4 pm-7 pm



Please note the date and time of the children's Halloween parties.
The Town of Cambria Town Board does not designate a specific date for “trick or treating”.

VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY

Commemorating our 13th year, we encourage you to join us in honoring our Veterans at our annual Veterans' Day ceremony to be held at the Town Hall on **Thursday, November 11th at 11:00 am.**

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING/CAROLING

Our seventh annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling celebration will be held on **Saturday, November 27th, beginning at 3:00 pm** at the Town Community Room. This annual event offers horse-drawn carriage rides, crafts, caroling, refreshments and a visit from Old St. Nick himself! Join us as we usher in the holiday season with this memorable event.



Town of Cambria

4160 UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD
SANBORN, NY 14132

“Niagara's County's Oldest Town”
~Established March 11, 1808~

Fall 2010 ~ Newsletter

PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE PAID
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