

Town of Cambria Newsletter

Spring 2011

From the Desk of Wright H. Ellis, Supervisor

The long “*Winter of Our Discontent*” is drawing to a close, as we exit the month of February. Since December 1st of last year, we have had just a few days when temperatures inched above the freezing mark. The abundance of snow has been good for those of us who enjoy winter sports...not so good for those who don't! Our employees in the Municipal Garage have done a tremendous job of keeping our roads safe and our utilities operational, providing the service that you expect.

Your 2011 tax bill showed a large increase in the Highway portion of the Town Tax; there is no Town Tax for the General Fund. CHIPs (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) funding has been deleted by New York State in the 2011 budget. That annual funding was approximately \$55,000, dedicated to the repair and maintenance of Town roads and representing 24% of the repair portion of the Highway budget. The overall Highway budget was reduced by \$17,375, which included accommodating an unanticipated \$20,000 increase in funding for the NYS Retirement System (NYSRS), mandated by New York State for all full-time employees. The NYSRS sets an annual rate schedule for employer funding of the System and also the rates paid by the employees. The employer rate increased by 59.8% during 2010, an amount difficult to accommodate with any system of accounting. A large portion of the Fund's revenue is generated by interest on fund investments made by NYSRS. The large rate increase was an attempt by New York State to recover some of the revenue lost by interest on fund investments, which suffered a considerable loss in 2008. Additionally, we had absorbed most of the cost spike in petroleum and petroleum products two years ago by using reserve funds with a small tax increase. The Highway reserve funds are now depleted, except for capital equipment (reserve for major equipment purchases). There was no other alternative besides increasing the Highway tax if we wanted to maintain our Town roads in an acceptable condition. Tapping into the snow removal portion of the Highway budget would have invited disaster with the difficult winter that we just experienced.

After discussions with Modern Corporation and due to the lack of increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), we were able to reduce the Refuse District charge on your 2011 tax bill by \$15 per household, down from \$180 to \$165. It is not a lot, but partially offsets the \$40 increase for the average household in the Highway Tax. All other tax rates were held at the 2010 rates.

As recommended by the Recreation Committee, the Town Board approved that a fee be charged commencing in 2011 for the six-week Recreation Day Program. The fee structure will be the same as it is for the Baseball Program. State Aid for Recreation has been drastically reduced in recent years as to be almost non-existent. Our Day Program has become more costly with State mandates for increased ratios of counselors to children, lifeguard training and meeting new Health Department standards. Charging a modest fee for the people who actually use the program is preferable, in this case, than to spread the costs among all taxpayers and will allow the Recreation Committee to continue to provide a quality program for the children of our community.

Work on the Town Park will continue this year. We are able to stay well within budget on this project, utilizing Town forces and some donated equipment. It appears that the baseball and soccer fields need another season to allow the turf to become “well established”. Using the fields too soon can damage the playing surface and require years to recover. The final product will be well worth the wait and our patience will be rewarded.

As always, enjoy the articles herein and remember that our purpose is to serve the citizens 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

Joseph Ohol
Councilman
433-8243

Randy M. Roberts
Councilman
433-0183

Town Hall 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

Historical Society
3rd Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Planning Board
3rd Monday at 8 pm

Recreation Committee
1st Wednesday - time
varies

Town Board
2nd Thursday at 8 pm
Work meetings at 7:15 pm

Zoning Board
4th Monday at 8 pm

BUILDING INSPECTOR ~ *Clifford E. Burch*



It's that time of year again to start thinking about spring clean-up. Painting is always a good tool for sprucing up our homes. Keep in mind that lead paint might be an issue for older homes. Homes built prior to 1978 are likely to have some lead-based paint. To determine if lead based paint is present, you must have the area tested. If you have concerns, you can check the EPA website at www.epa.gov/lead. This site will provide you with valuable information on EPA recognized test kits and how to use them.

A reminder that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are a "must have" in all homes. Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas that can go unnoticed without a detector. High efficiency furnaces that vent outside a wall should be checked to be sure the vent is kept free of snow and debris to allow for proper ventilation of the furnace.

A good deal of our Department's time is devoted to enforcing a section of the Zoning Ordinance that deals with "junkyards". We routinely patrol our town noting violations and attempting to have them corrected in a timely manner. You can help make our Town an even more beautiful place to live by disposing of "junk" and "litter" around your property. If you need information on what constitutes a "junkyard", you can contact our office for a copy of the ordinance.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE ~ *Lou Ann Murawski*

*** CHANGE IN DOG LICENSE FEES ***



As of January 1, 2011, dog license renewals are mailed directly to residents from the Town Clerk's Office. Due to budget cuts, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has relinquished their role in providing renewal forms and dog tags to dog owners. As your dog license comes due for renewal, you will be issued a new dog tag from the Town. License fees are as follows:

Unspayed/unneutered dogs - \$18.00
Spayed/neutered \$11.00

Fees for Purebred licenses have also increased and all licenses for spayed/neutered dogs now include a newly imposed NYS surcharge for Animal Population Control.

Dog owners are encouraged to review the Town of Cambria's Dog Control Local Law which is available on our website at www.townofcambria.com. If you prefer to have a copy mailed to you, please contact our office at 433-7664.

~ 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 27th through August 5th.

TAX COLLECTOR ~ *Debra A. Littere*

Copies of tax bills/receipts are available online on the Town of Cambria website, www.townofcambria.com, under the Tax Collector tab. The link <http://www.basny.com/cambria> will give you information on your taxes that you can view or print out from your own computer.

The last day to pay taxes is **Thursday, March 31st, 2011** from 8:00 am – 12:00 Noon and 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm. If you cannot personally stop in to make your payment by that date, please drop your payment at the post office, as it must be postmarked no later than March 31st, 2011. There is also a drop box outside the front doors to the Town Hall that is checked daily. Payments deposited in the drop box must be deposited no later than 3:30 pm on March 31st.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Jon T. MacSwan

The 2010-2011 winter season has been a constant one. We never really got the opportunity to take refuge from "Old Man Winter" and he has kept us busy plowing and salting for about three months straight. As the snow lets up, we will be busy servicing mowers and summer equipment in preparation for spring.

New York State has given us forewarning that they cannot guarantee CHIPS (Capital Highway Improvement Project) funding for local governments this year. The loss of this capital will have an impact on the way we preserve roads this season. The price of petroleum products continues to rise and all small towns will feel the restraints.

In April we will begin chipping brush again. We can accommodate limbs up to 8" in diameter. Please be sure that they are stacked neatly, butt ends toward the road and a pile spread out low is preferable to piled high. We **WILL NOT** pick up any piles that have wire, rope, stakes, roots, root balls, vines, dirt, thorns or poison ivy in them. We have the ability to pick up stumps and root balls with a machine. This will be done at our convenience, so please be sure to notify us in advance. We **DO NOT** chip brush in July and August. We have to utilize the warm summer months to repair our roads. We will resume chipping brush September 1st and continue until the snow flies.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time and we will be glad to help you in any way that we can!



The Assessor's office has been hard at work at the task of updating values of all 2,500+ properties located in the Town of Cambria. This project, slated for completion with the 2011 assessment roll, will return all real property assessments to their current fair market value levels. This update is being done to ensure that all property owners are assessed in a fair and equitable manner.

A new Assessment Disclosure/Impact Notice has been mailed to all property owners. If you are satisfied with your preliminary assessment, you **do not** need to take any further action. Please call the Assessor's office during regular office hours if you have general questions.

If you have specific questions or do not agree with your assessment, you may call our office to schedule an informal hearing with the Assessor. You may also mail information for a non-hearing review to the Assessor's office by April 1st. Please include comparison information, appraisals, etc., along with your request for review. Your last option would be to submit a formal grievance to the Board of Assessment Review on Grievance Day, Tuesday May 24th. The form will be available at the Town Hall or online @ www.orpts.state.ny.us.

Sales that have been used in the comparison process are available for your review at the Town Hall or on the internet www.townofcambria.com

If you have an outstanding building permit, your impact notice may not reflect the value of that permit. A change of assessment notice will be mailed by May 1st for your review.

The Niagara County Assessor's Association is again sponsoring a scholarship for any graduating senior of a Niagara County high school. The student has to be a Niagara County resident and plan on attending a college within New York State in the fall of 2011. Further information and applications are available from your high school guidance office or from the Assessor's Office.



WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS



Work on the Thrall Road and Green Road pressure regulating pits has been completed. These pits reduce and regulate the water pressure as the water flows from one zone to another zone throughout our town.

As spring arrives, we will focus on our spring clean up, targeting any Water Department construction projects from last year that may need additional grading. Please call our office (433-2468) if you have grading issues caused by Water Department construction that need attention.

Approximately 70% of our households have had their water meter changed out to the new "Automatic Read Meter". Letters have been sent to residents that have outside readers attached to their water meter to generate meter readings, asking them to call our office to schedule an appointment for this meter change.

We will continue to remind our customers that receive a postcard for meter reading purposes, to call and schedule an appointment for the meter change. Our installers arrive promptly and the meter change out only takes about 20 minutes. These meters will benefit the homeowner with leak detection information and eliminate estimated bills that are costly to the homeowner, as well as the town. Although the cost of the meters continues to rise, 70% of the cost of these meters is absorbed in the Water District budget. The charge to our current customers remains at \$50. This charge can be billed once or spread across two or five water billings.

Our water rates increased slightly as of January 1st by \$.15 per thousand gallons; however, in consideration of our senior citizens, the minimum bill remains the same – 5,000 gallons at \$10.75. The last rate increase was in 2005.

First of all, I would like to state that I am honored to be the new Town of Cambria Historian! In the future I would like to provide historical articles pertaining to the town for publication in the newsletter; but, for now I would just like to let everyone know what I have been up to since I started in January and clue everyone in on what I have up my sleeve.

A new year brings a fresh start and usually leads to a good spring cleaning. With that said, a lot of sprucing up at the Old Town Hall / Historical Society Museum has been taking place. After a period of dormancy, the Historical Society is ready for a revival and already has a small group of community members full of fresh ideas. Now that most of the brunt work has been taken care of, we are inviting anyone who is interested to feel free to stop in and join us at one of our monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Old Town Hall located at 4157 Lower Mountain Road at the corner of Wilson-Cambria Road (Route 425). We have a lot of work to do and would love to see the historical museum at the Old Town Hall open on a regular basis by harvest time.

Since taking office, I have answered requests regarding historic preservation, family history, geography and even a Cambria meteorite! If you have a request for historical information, I encourage you to contact me and I will do my best to answer your requests, or point you in the right direction.

Call for papers! If anyone, while doing a little of their own spring cleaning, comes across photographs, maps, records, family research or artifacts of local historical significance that they would like to donate, share or loan to the historian, please call me at 433-0387 or email me at historian@townofcambria.com.



PEKIN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

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

- April 2nd - 11:00 am** - Wine & Cheese Festival - (Wine, Cheese, Chocolate, Shopping)
- April 16th - 7:00 pm** - Ham Party (Raffle of hams, turkeys, chocolate & baskets)
- April 23rd - 10:00 am** - Easter Egg Hunt for kids 12 & under
- April 30th - 6:30 pm** - Spring Raffle (Guns, Fishing, Golf)
- May 15th - 1:00 pm** - Ladies Annual Raffle

The Pekin Fire Company is looking for your help - members are needed! Please stop at the fire hall on Thursday evenings or call 716-731-4777.

CAMBRIA VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

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



- Lenten Fish Fry - Friday's Thru April 22nd - 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**
- April 16th - 6:00 pm** - Ham Party
- May 7th - 25 Week Club Dinner**

MT. VIEW CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



You are cordially invited to participate in the annual Memorial Day service on Monday, May 30, 2011. A processional march beginning at the Pekin Fire Hall and leading to Mt. View Cemetery, Upper Mountain Road, commences at 9:30 am, with services immediately following at the Mt. View Cemetery.



2011 FREE RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINIC DATES



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

Saturday, April 9 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Town of Somerset Highway Garage
8700 Haight Road, Town of Somerset
Phone: 795-3575

Wednesday, August 3 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Niagara County SPCA
2100 Lockport Road, Town of Niagara
Phone: 731-4368

Saturday, May 21 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Town of Lockport Highway Department
6560 Dysinger Road, Town of Lockport
Phone: 439-9524

Saturday, September 24 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Altro Park (warming shelter)
21 Willow Street, City of Lockport
Phone: 439-6676

Saturday, June 4 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Hyde Park Pavilion (behind Ice Arena)
911 Robbins Drive, City of Niagara Falls
Phone: 286-4940

Tuesday, October 4 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Town of Wilson Highway Garage
3356 Wilson-Cambria Road, Town of Wilson
Phone: 751-6704

FOR DIRECTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE SPECIFIC CLINIC SITE . FOR ANY OTHER CLINIC RELATED QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE NIAGARA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT 439-7511

RECREATION DAY PROGRAM

Sally Marotta-Reed



As the daylight hours grow longer and winter winds down, I have been busy preparing for another fun-filled summer program. Once again my staff and I are looking forward to providing a fun, safe and enriching experience for every child enrolled in the summer day program.

This year, there have been developments for new daily activities, interesting trips and exciting adventures. Children ages 5-15 will have the opportunity to participate in different and unique games, physical activities, arts and crafts and explore nature. Your child will have also have the opportunity to learn and grow socially by meeting new friends or getting re-acquainted with old ones!

This year's field trips will include four swim days, a visit to the Buffalo Zoo, a multi-activity stopover at Page's Paradise Island, a day of relaxing fun at Tonawanda Bowl and the annual successful "family trip" to Fantasy Island. There will be more "surprises" at both sites this year. To promote growth and awareness in the summer program, activity "clinics" are being developed and speakers are being arranged to visit the parks. Your child will have the opportunity to cultivate his/her abilities, talents and interests to the next level.

As I mentioned at the end of last season, certain aspects of the summer program would possibly not be funded due to the fiscal situation in New York State. Unfortunately, the "cuts" have affected our summer program and, as a result, the Town Board made the decision to charge a small fee for participants in the summer program. For 2011, a Resident fee of \$30.00 each for the first and second child and \$15.00 for each additional child; Non-resident fee of \$35.00 each for the first and second child and \$17.50 for each additional child will be charged.

The first round of sign-ups will be held on Thursday, March 24th and Thursday, March 31st from 6 pm - 8 pm and Saturday, April 9th from 9 am -noon. Don't worry if you cannot make the above dates, registration will continue until Summer Recreation begins! Applications and health forms are available online and may be turned in to the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours. If paying by check, please make payable to the Town of Cambria.

During these tough economic times, my staff and I will continue to work hard to give your child a safe, fun-filled summer. Both sites will continue to have counselors trained in CPR, First Aid, and AED use. We will continue to have counselors with life-guard training, so they can provide a "second set" of eyes to assist the primary lifeguards at the Fort Niagara pool. All workers are experienced and willing to do their personal best to give your child a summer to remember.

Should you have any questions about the summer program, including the changes involving the fees, please do not hesitate to call me at 860-2680.



SUMMER GAZEBO CONCERTS

Sunday, July 10 ~ 90 West

Sunday, July 17

Tommie Dee ~ A Tribute to Roy Orbison and

Billy D. ~ A Tribute to Johnny Cash

Sunday, July 24 ~ Niagara Frontier Fiddle Club

Sunday, July 31 ~ Kids concert featuring Glenn Colton with movie to follow

Sunday, August 7 ~ East of Eden

Sunday, August 14 ~ Flat Tops ~ 50's & 60's group

Car Cruise starts at 5:00 pm. Cars will arrive at 4 pm

**Please note: pizza, soda and chips will be sold at all concerts.*

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!!



BASEBALL/SOFTBALL PROGRAM

Rodney Hogg, Director



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, (also available online), Monday through Friday from 8 am until 4 pm. The deadline to sign up has been extended to April 15th. Games are scheduled to begin in May.

Interested in coaching?

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.



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!
PARTICIPATE IN OUR 9th ANNUAL
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 16th and Sunday, July 17th, from 9 am until 3 pm. You can pick up your yard sale sign on Friday, July 15th 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 - under the events tab. There is no cost to register, **but we must have your information by Friday, June 10, 2011**, in order to include your listing in the brochure. There is no penalty for signing up and then not participating... it is better to sign up than to miss out!

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.

REMEMBER THE DATE!

Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17, 2011
9 am to 3 pm



Complete and return to:

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

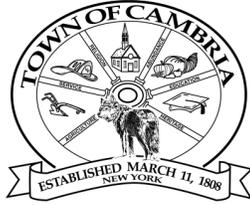
E-MAIL: _____

Town of Cambria

4160 UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD
SANBORN, NY 14132

PRESORTED STANDARD
PERMIT # 21
US POSTAGE PAID
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304

“NIAGARA COUNTY’S FIRST TOWN”



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

www.townofcambria.com

2011

HOLIDAYS-TOWN HALL CLOSED

Good Friday, Friday, April 22
Memorial Day, Monday, May 30
Independence Day, Monday, July 4
Labor Day, Monday, September 5
Columbus Day, Monday, October 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 ~ Brooke A. Genter | 433-0387 |
| Planning Board Chair ~ William Amacher | 731-5277 |
| 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 |

2011

REFUSE/RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Memorial Day Monday, May 30

Delayed until Friday, June 3

Independence Day Monday, July 4

Delayed until Friday, July 8

Labor Day Monday, September 5

Delayed until Friday, Sept. 9

TOWN OF CAMBRIA COURT

(716) 433-3088

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

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

**If your recycling bin resembles an advertisement for duct tape, feel free to pick up a new bin at no charge from the Water Department Office at Town Hall.