



# Town of Cambria 2023 Fall Newsletter

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From the Desk of Wright H. Ellis,  
Town Supervisor

## TOWN BOARD

### Wright H. Ellis

Supervisor  
716 - 433-8523

### Matthew P. Foe

Councilman  
716 - 433-3370

### Jeffrey S. Hurtgam

Councilman  
716 - 791-4146

### Benjamin D. Musall

Councilman  
716 - 277-5390

### Randy M. Roberts

Councilman  
716 - 433-0183

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## Monthly Meetings ~ 7PM

Town Bd. ~ 2nd Thursday  
Planning Bd. ~ 3rd Monday  
Zoning Bd. ~ 4th Monday

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## DEPARTMENT HEADS

### Debra A. Littere

Assessor  
Tax Collector  
716 - 433-8161 x122

### James P. McCann

Building Inspector  
716 - 433-8161 x126

### Steven M. Kroening

Highway Superintendent  
716 - 433-8829 x127

### Tamara J. Cooper

Town Clerk  
716 - 433-7664 x136

The Town Hall hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8:00 am-4:00 pm  
*Office Hours Vary*

Greetings from the pages of our Fall 2023 Newsletter. This is my *last* newsletter as I am retiring at the end of this term, December 31, 2023. It has been a privilege and honor that you have allowed me to serve as your *Supervisor* for the past 32 years (1992-2023). The experience has been thoroughly enjoyable and challenging, almost easy, when assisted by dedicated and capable staff in the Town Hall and the Municipal Garage.

A primary responsibility of the Supervisor is serving as *Chief Financial Officer* of the town. I am not a very popular person around Town Hall during Budget season as I wear out a lot of pencils and erasers on budget requests. Our Tentative 2024 Budget is \$10,538.00 under the State-mandated Tax Cap, with a \$1.38/1000 decrease in the total Tax Rate, mostly a result of our recent town-wide revaluation. Going forward, we are committed to annual updates to the assessment rolls going forward to keep us at 100% valuation, resulting in the most fair and equitable status. That should be reflected in lower School and County tax rates as well. We have no long-term debt and there are strong reserves in each of our funds. That served us well during the recent COVID-19 pandemic when revenues were reduced and we were able to continue providing the necessary services to our residents. I leave the Town of Cambria with a very solid financial foundation for the future.

The Supervisor and Town Board has spent money judiciously, maintaining infrastructure and property, in many cases expanding them. Most of the following expenditures are covered by careful budgeting of our operating funds, augmented with reserve funds and, in some cases, short-term borrowing (5-year Bond anticipation Notes). In 1994/95, we financed a \$1.9M dollar project to expand and improve water service in the Town, including a Water Storage Tank and Pump Station to stabilize pressure fluctuations attributed to the Niagara Escarpment which bisects Cambria. We converted a Cold War era dining facility into our Community Building and Record Storage facility. Rapid town population growth justified the 2005 Town Hall Expansion as a larger facility was needed to provide increased services. Our rolling stock in the Municipal Garage is in excellent shape, as is our sewer and water infrastructure throughout the Town. In 1999 the Town Board purchased 105 acres near Town Hall for development as a Town Park. The Park is well-developed on the western side and the Nature Trail to the South. It is family friendly, including the amenities of a Comfort Station, a playground, picnic pavilions, sport fields, an enlarged ice skating rink, basketball and volleyball courts, horseshoe pits and yes, a *second* pickleball court, open next spring! The Park seems to be the right size for our current population. The remaining 30 acres are under lease for farming, saving the Town the expense of mowing it and to keep the brush from taking over. In the meantime we continue to adjust to increased labor and equipment costs necessary to keep the Park welcoming and in good shape for the steady increase we are experiencing in usage.

*This brings us up to the present. Thanks again for the experience and as Bob Hope used to say, "Thanks for the memories."*

## **Cambria Town Court**

Call for an appointment ~ 716 - 433-3088 ~ Court is held on Tuesdays  
Justice Amel S. Jowdy, Jr x113 & x139      Justice Amel S. Jowdy, III x117 & x144

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town Board will conduct a public hearing on November 9, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Town of Cambria Town Hall, 4160 Upper Mountain Road, to hear and consider any objections to the assessment roll in any of the following districts: Cambria Drainage District, Cambria Refuse 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 December 31, 2023.

### DEBRA A. LITTERE, ASSESSOR

**DID YOU KNOW...** if you reside in Cambria, are 65 years of age or older, and your total household income is less than \$33,700 (2022 Income tax return needed), you may be eligible for an additional exemption on county, town, or school taxes. Please contact our office for more information. **As the State of New York continues to make changes to the STAR program,** we are often getting questions about the check program vs. the existing exemption. Ultimately, the desire of the State is to do away with the exemption program, and transfer everyone on to the check program. We are trying our best to bring you the most up to date information possible. If you purchased a house after 2015, you should be registered with the STAR check/credit program. If you, or your spouse, were born in 1959 or earlier, you may be eligible for the Enhanced Star. Please call the Assessor's Office at 433-8161 ext 122 for details. The deadline for **all** exemptions is **March 1, 2024** – Taxable Status Date. As we conclude the Assessment Equity Project for 2023, we are appreciative of the understanding along with the recognition of a fair and equitable assessment roll from the residents of the town. The obtaining of a 100% equalization rate, which results in reducing the tax rates, increasing exemption values, and reflection of equity in your property are meant to ensure that our residents are well represented. As sales in the market are above the newly assessed values, our goal is to keep a close eye on those sales to maintain equity, as well as continuing to update pictures and collect data for inventory.

### AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC DISPOSAL


Collection of agricultural plastics is scheduled between November 6th through November 10th.

A roll-off container will be located at:

4772 Ridge Rd., Lockport, NY (Haseley Farms)  
3216 Ridge Rd., Ransomville, NY (Hurtgam Farms)

### PASSENGER/SMALL TRUCK TIRE DISPOSAL

#### **Town of Cambria residents only:**

 Tires may be dropped off on Saturday, October 21st, from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm at the Town Municipal Building, enter at the west gate. We will accept car and truck tires only. **We will not accept tractor trailer tires, oversized tires or tires on rims. Proof of residency will be required.**

**\*\*\*Electronics will be collected at the Recycling Building behind the Municipal Building as well.\*\*\***

**REFUSE INFORMATION:** If you sell your home, the Garbage and Recycle Cart is to remain with the property. The Town's policy is one (1) garbage and recycle cart per household.

\*Garbage pick-up is on Thursdays. Recycling pick up is every other Thursday. Modern Corporation picks up the trash & recycling. \*All items (garbage, recycling & large item) **must be curbside by 6:30 am.** \*Modern will **ONLY** pick up Garbage & Recycling Carts that have the Town Logo and Numbering System on them. \* If you have more waste than what will fit inside your cart there are options. You may purchase sticker tags at the Town Hall, these tags will be sold per sheet for \$25.00. At this time we can only accept exact change CASH. NO checks or credit cards will be accepted. If you need more consistent capacity, you may request an additional cart for \$85, plus an annual fee of \$30 on your water bill to pay Modern for handling the extra cart. Please see the town website for details on the New Refuse and Recycling Info as well as the current Recycling Map and pick up schedule or call 433-2468 ext. 114.

### DEBRA A. LITTERE, TAX COLLECTOR

The 2024 Town and County Tax collection season will begin on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Collection days will be Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (excepting holidays) until Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, from 8:00-Noon & 1:00 – 3:30pm, for payment without penalty. From February 5<sup>th</sup> - March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, payments will be accepted on Mondays **ONLY** from 8:00 – NOON! The **LAST DAY FOR COLLECTION** is Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, from 8:00 – Noon & 1:00 – 3:30pm. For your convenience, there is a drop box at the front door of the town hall that is checked every day, and at the close of collections on deadlines. If paying through your bank, please ensure enough processing time, as most banks send out payments on a weekly basis, and regardless of the date on the check, it is the postmark or date received that is valid. **Receipts** if you would like your receipts emailed to you please email your request to [dlittere@townofcambria.com](mailto:dlittere@townofcambria.com), this will provide ease of retrieval at tax time, especially for escrow accounts! Otherwise, you may look up and print your Town and County tax receipts online: <http://egov.basny.com/cambria>. **Please consider adding a current phone number to your check or payment stub to facilitate communication regarding payment issues!** Unpaid school tax bills will be re-levied onto the 2024 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. 122. **It is the responsibility of all landowners, including those who own vacant land, to advise the Assessor's office, in writing, of any changes of address.**

## WATER DEPARTMENT



The Town of Cambria Water Department is still working on the Automatic Meter Reader [AMR] replacement program. Our goal is to update the meters starting with the AMR's installed in 2007, replacements will be installed at no cost to the homeowner. Please call the water department to see if your meter is due to be changed out and set up an appointment so we can have access to the meter in the home. Please contact our office to update phone numbers so we may contact you regarding water service issues **SELLING YOUR HOME:** The Town of Cambria Water District Rules & Regulations

states that all water services must be equipped with a double check valve. If you are planning to sell your home, call the water district office to schedule a compliance inspection. **Failure to schedule this appointment can affect your closing date.** Final readings are scheduled close to your closing date. We will need the name and address of the individual responsible for payment of the final bill and the name of the new owner. Fire Hydrant damage is a common problem for all seasons. For everyone's safety, if you notice a fire hydrant that needs repair, please contact us immediately. Office hours for the Water Department are Monday - Friday from 8am - 4pm. We can be reached at 433-2468. Ext 114.



### GAIL REINBIRD, TOWN HISTORIAN

The Town of Cambria Historical Society located at 4153 Lower Mountain Road, Lockport, NY 14094 has monthly meetings and is always welcoming new members. Please checkout their website [www.cambriahs.org](http://www.cambriahs.org) or the Facebook page for "Cambria Historical Society & Museum" for information on upcoming events and meetings. If you have an inquiry for the Town Historian please email [historian@townofcambria.com](mailto:historian@townofcambria.com) or call the Historical Museum at 716-433-0387.

### **\*\*\* ATTENTION DOG OWNERS \*\*\***

According to Article 7 of the New York State Agriculture and Market Law- ALL dogs older than 4 months of age must be licensed within the town they reside. Licensing ensures that all dogs have been properly vaccinated against rabies; this is for the protection of both you and your neighbors. Please visit the Town Clerk's office with your dogs current rabies vaccination and spay/neuter certificate if your dog is currently unlicensed. Our final enumeration notices will be going out soon, failure to license your dogs will result in a visit from the Dog Control Officer. **Our office has received numerous complaints this past year regarding restrictions and control of dogs; section 9 of the Town's Dog Control Local Law states it shall be unlawful for any owner to permit or allow a dog to run at large, engage in habitual loud barking, cause damage or destruction to property, chase, harass or intimidate any person or chase or run alongside vehicles or bicycles. Please be a courteous neighbor and keep control over your dogs for everyone's safety. FREE RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINIC, Saturday, December 9, 2023 9am - 12 pm, City of North Tonawanda Public Works: 758 Erie Ave., North Tonawanda. You must pre-register at [www.niagaracounty.com/health](http://www.niagaracounty.com/health)**



### JAMES MCCANN, BUILDING INSPECTOR MATTHEW COOPER, DEPUTY



If you are planning any projects this season, we welcome you to check with our office to see if a Building Permit is required. Building Department hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Appointments are encouraged as field inspections are also conducted during these hours. Please check our webpage as it contains helpful information and application forms. If you are thinking of getting chickens, you must acquire a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Residents who have Special Use Permits for Animal Husbandry (chickens) are reminded that **roosters are NOT permitted**. If your project requires an electrical inspection, please make sure that our office gets a copy of the *Electrical Certificate* as it is important to our records to finalize the file. Electrical inspections are important for safety and ensuring everything is done correctly. We would also like to remind everyone that Roofing Permits are now required. The NYS Building Code requires smoke/carbon monoxide detectors in all bedrooms and corridors of your home. This helps to ensure the safety of your loved ones and it's a good idea to periodically ensure they are in good working condition. We look forward to assisting you with this season's projects and hope you have a wonderful Fall!

### STEVEN KROENING HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

As the summer wraps up we have completed the resurfacing of Raymond and Human Road. Green Road was oil sealed and if funds permit we will resurface Plank Road before winter. We are currently working on cleaning road drainage as well as some main field ditches. We had a very wet July and August so please be patient. Brush pickup resumed in September and will continue until the first week in November. Please be reminded that we **DO NOT** pick-up brush that has wires, rocks, roots, concrete, poison ivy, or dirt in it. Limbs should be stacked **butt end towards the road** and piled low on road right of way. Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town of Cambria's Winter Parking Ordinance will take effect and remain until April 1, 2024. There is no parking permitted on Town roads between the hours of 1am and 7am. Please be sure to keep vehicles off the roadway during these hours so we can plow for the morning commute. This will be especially important in any subdivision where plowing is already a challenge. Electronic Drop Off is on Monday's from 9am – 1pm. Items that contain freon are **not** acceptable. The list of acceptable items can be found on our website. We are here to assist you in any way that we can. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the office. (716) 433-8829 ext. 124



### CAMBRIA FIRE COMPANY EVENTS 4631 Cambria-Wilson Road ~ 716-434-8948

### PEKIN FIRE COMPANY EVENTS 3024 Upper Mountain Road ~ 716-731-4777

Check their websites or Facebook for more information about events, hall rental or membership.

### RYLEIGH MCCOY, RECREATION DIRECTOR

After a successful season, we would like to thank all the campers that participated in our program! The summer of 2023 was a blast! Stay tuned for information regarding recreation 2024 on our website.

### TOWN OF CAMBRIA TOWN PARK

The Town of Cambria park is open year-round. The walking and bike paths will be cleared of snow. Ice patches will be treated with pet friendly ice melt but always watch for trouble spots. The ice rink will be available for skating when weather permits (please share ice time). The comfort station will be open only during daylight hours when the park is open. We have started another pickle ball court to be ready sometime spring of 2024, we have also added electric to the shelters for added convenience. The shelter reservations for 2024 will be accepted beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. **Dog owners: Please remember there is a NYS leash law, you MUST have your dog on a leash at all times when walking them inside town park grounds and be in total control of your pet. It is also the pet owner's responsibility to pick up after them and dispose in the dog stations.** Signs are posted and the park is regularly patrolled. Please remember park hours are from dawn to dusk.

*As a reminder the Town of Cambria **DOES NOT** utilize any social media platforms. Please check our website for accurate updates and information about happenings within the Town and delays with Refuse and Recycling.*

### COMMUNITY ROOM RENTALS

The Town of Cambria Community Room is available for Town resident's to rent: please note the room is for non-profit use only. Please contact the Town Clerk's office for available dates. The cost is \$75.00 per date, residents only can apply, payment and application must be received within 2 weeks of booking the room to keep your reservation.





Town of Cambria  
4160 Upper Mountain Road  
Sanborn, NY 14132

**PRESORTED STD.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #21  
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14304**

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**HOLIDAY REFUSE  
PICK-UP SCHEDULE**

*Thanksgiving Day ~ Collection will  
be on Friday, Nov. 24, 2023*

*Christmas ~ Collection will be on  
Friday, Dec. 29, 2023*

**Please note Recycling is  
every other week.**

Please see the website or call 716-433-  
2468 ext.114 for the pick-up schedule.

**Problems with pick up? Call  
Modern at 1-800-330-7107.**

**ELECTRONIC RECYCLING**

The Town of Cambria offers electron-  
ic recycling for Town residents  
ONLY. Drop off of equipment is  
**MONDAY'S ONLY FROM 9:00  
am-1:-00 pm.** Please call 716-433-  
8829 x127 with any questions and be  
ready to provide proof of residency.



**ELECTION DAY ~  
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

Polls are open from 6:00 am  
to 9:00 pm, all voting will  
take place at the Cambria  
Fire Hall, 4631 Cambria-  
Wilson Rd. Please contact  
the Board of Elections (716-  
438-4041) for an absentee  
ballot and for early polling  
location dates and  
times.

Thank you!



**HOLIDAY-TOWN HALL CLOSED  
2023**

Veteran's Day (observed)	Fri., Nov 10
Thanksgiving	Thurs., Nov 23
Day after Thanksgiving	Fri., Nov 24
Christmas Day	Mon., Dec 25
New Year's Day	Mon., Jan 1

**2024**

Martin Luther King Day	Mon., Jan 15
President's Day	Mon., Feb 19
Good Friday	Fri., Mar. 29

**Town of Cambria Trunk - or - Treat**



Sunday, October 29, 2023

1:00 pm-3:00 pm at the Cambria Town Park

Join us for some trick or treating! There will  
be local first responder and law enforcement  
meet and greets! Our haunted nature trails will  
also be returning this year.

If you own a business and would like to ad-  
vertise, we are allowing vendors to line the  
trunk-or-treat path! To ensure we have a spot  
for you, please register your trunk with  
Ryleigh McCoy at 433-7664 ext. 129 or  
Recreation@townofcambria.com.

Come out and have a scary good time with us!

