



Town of Cambria 2021 Fall Newsletter

Visit our website www.townofcambria.com



TOWN BOARD

Wright H. Ellis

Supervisor
433-8523

Matthew P. Foe

Councilman
433-3370

Jeffrey S. Hurtgam

Councilman
791-4146

Benjamin Musall

Councilman
277-5390

Randy M. Roberts

Councilman
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
433-8161 x122

James P. McCann

Building Inspector
433-8161 x126

Jon T. MacSwan

Highway Supt.
433-8829 x127

Tamara J. Cooper

Town Clerk
433-7664 x136

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

From the Desk of Wright H. Ellis,
Town Supervisor

Greetings from the pages of the Fall 2021 edition of our semi-annual newsletter. There has definitely been a change in the weather, but the autumn season the season of Harvest, with its bright coloration in the foliage, cooler days and nights has a lot going for it. Get outside and enjoy it.

We continue to learn how to live with COVID-19, while understanding that it will impact our lives for the foreseeable future; the "New Normal." We have made several improvements at the Town Park to enhance that outdoor experience as a counter to COVID-19. We will leave the Town Park open through the winter as we did last winter enabling walking, snow shoeing and cross country skiing. The Comfort Station will be closed as the building is not heated and the facilities must be winterized to prevent damage. We built an ice skating rink at the north end of the Park as an alternative to skating on the fishing ponds, a dangerous practice and an accident waiting to happen. There will be a warming shed (winter) next to the rink, doubling as a storage shed for Town Park equipment during the warmer weather. We will clear snow from the parking area and the walking trail as time and equipment are available after the Town roads are plowed. We have had many requests for the above changes, so please take advantage of them. We just ask that you police yourselves and leave the Park in as good condition as you found it, so that those who follow you may also enjoy it as you did.

Certain aspects of our new Refuse/Recycling contract with Modern are causing repeated problems for our residents throughout the Town. We are challenged with short notice changes to the weekly schedule and the entire bulk collection arrangement is unsatisfactory. Changes to the schedules come to the Town, usually late on Wednesday, with the change impacting the next day's schedule. We immediately post the change on the Town website as the fastest way to spread the word. It is evident that Modern is failing to fulfill the terms of the contract and is not providing the level of service required in our contract. Other towns are experiencing similar problems. Working with the County Environmental/Solid Waste Coordinator, I am setting up a meeting with the other three towns in our Consortium and representatives from Modern to resolve these problems and ensure that Modern meets their obligations under the contract. Stay tuned.

Please enjoy the informative articles within our newsletter and remember that our purpose is to serve the people of our Town. We are always ready to address your questions and provide assistance.

*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.*

Cambria Town Court

Call for an appointment 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 4, 2021, 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, 2021.

DEBRA A. LITTERE, TAX COLLECTOR

The 2022 Town and County Tax collection season will begin on Monday, January 3, 2022. Collection days will be on Monday, Wednesday & Fridays (except holidays) until January 31, 2022 from 8:00 am-Noon & 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm, for payment without penalty. From February 3rd through March 24th, 2022, payments will be accepted on Thursdays ONLY from 8:00 am – NOON! The LAST DAY FOR COLLECTION is Thursday March 31, 2022, from 8:00 am – Noon & 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm. 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 send your request to dlittere@townofcambria.com, and we will be happy to email your tax receipt. 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 on your check or payment stub to facilitate communication regarding payment issues!** **Covid19** If, at the time of tax collection, we are still under pandemic restrictions, it is asked that you are mindful of hours of collection for proper sanitation. Although appointments are not necessary, it would be a good idea to call ahead of time.

The school district tax bills have been mailed to taxpayers. The following is a list of the School District Tax Collectors telephone numbers:

Starpoint	(716) 210-2313
Wilson	(716) 751-9341
Newfane	(716) 778-6858
Niagara Wheatfield	(716) 215-3027
Lockport	(716) 439-6744

Unpaid school tax bills will be re-levied onto the 2022 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.**

AGRICULTURAL PLASTIC DISPOSAL

Collection of agricultural plastics is scheduled between November 8th through November 12th.

A roll-off container will be located at:

4772 Ridge Rd., Lockport, NY (Haseley Farms)

3782 North Ridge Rd., Lockport, NY (Freatman Farms)

PASSENGER/SMALL TRUCK TIRE DISPOSAL

Town of Cambria residents only:



Tires may be dropped off on Saturday, October 30th, from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm at the

Town Municipal Building, enter at the west gate.

Limit of (4) oversize tractor tires per resident (proof of residency required). Tires on rims will not be accepted.

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

DEBRA A. LITTERE, ASSESSOR

Since the 2017 revaluation project, homes in the Town of Cambria have been selling for **more** than their assessed values, decreasing our 100% Equalization Rate by almost 20%. **Great News ...IF** you are in the market to sell, but for those of us who are not, well ... even though we are not improving our houses, the decrease in the Equalization Rate results in a higher tax rate across the board, unless or until a Revaluation Project is done. Please visit the Assessor's page on the Town of Cambria Website for informational topics for assessments. As New York State continues to make changes to the STAR program, we are often asked questions about the check/credit program vs. the existing exemption. If you are a new homeowner, please visit www.ny.tax.gov/star to register for the credit program. Ultimately, the desire of the State is to do away with the exemption program, and transfer everyone on to the check or credit program. When that happens, the homeowner will be responsible for the entire school tax bill, and will receive a check or income tax credit for the amount that the exemption previously reduced your school tax. We are trying our best to bring you the most up to date information possible. Our office still maintains the exemptions for low income seniors, Veterans, and Agriculture. If you, or your spouse, were born in 1957 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, 2022** – Taxable Status Date.

REFUSE INFORMATION: Modern will ONLY pick up Garbage and 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 additional capacity stickers for \$5 per tag at the Town Hall. These tags will be sold per sheet for \$25.00. At this time we can only accept cash, (exact change only) or a money order. NO checks or credit cards will be accepted. If you need more consistent capacity, you may request an additional cart. The fee for an additional cart will be \$55, plus an annual fee of \$30 on your water bill to pay Modern for handling the extra cart.

HAZARDOUS WASTE : For disposal information contact Hazman USA, (716)998-8073 or www.hazmanusa.com.

WATER DEPARTMENT



Our water department continues to practice procedures that ensure the public safety of our customers. The Town of Cambria Water District Rules & Regulations state 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. This inspection must be completed before the home is sold. **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. Accidents involving hydrants sometimes go unreported especially in the winter months. For everyone's safety, it is critical that these damaged hydrants be repaired as soon as possible. If you notice a fire hydrant that needs repair, please contact us immediately. Office hours for the Water Department are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, we are always happy to help you. We can be reached at 433-2468 ext. 114.

At this time we do not accept credit cards for water payments.

GAIL REINBIRD, TOWN HISTORIAN



While looking for information on a train crash that was supposed to have taken place in the 1940s near Comstock Road, I came across some other train history that took place in Cambria. On December 18, 1835 the Lockport and Niagara Falls Railroad Company was founded. It was also called the "Strap Railroad" and featured open cars pulled by horses along a wooden track. Many of its passengers arrived in Lockport on Erie Canal barge boats, and would board the train for a trip to see Niagara Falls. The 1st trip took place in May of 1839. The track started on Elmwood Avenue and the station was on Junction Road. The route then went north onto Upper Mountain Road. It was said that trees were planted on the south side of the road to shade the passengers. Being mid-point on the line, Pekin had a station. It was located near the north end of Carney Drive (near Cambria-Lewiston Town Line Road). Businesses sprang up there to service the tourists that got off at the rest stop. The line continued through the Tuscarora Reservation and ended near the Cataract Hotel by the Niagara Falls. On September 4, 1839 President Martin Van Buren traveled on the train during his reelection campaign. The engine went off the track and the President's car was overturned. He and the other passengers managed to get the car upright and back on the tracks. He did get a lot of good publicity from the event though. In 1851 a newer and much more efficient line opened a few miles south in Sanborn. The "Strap Line" ceased to run and Pekin lost most of its commercial standing. I've been told that traces of the tracks can still be seen in a few places. If anyone knows about that 1940s crash, we would like to hear about it from you. To contact us, email at... historian@townofcambria.com.

ARE YOU NEW IN TOWN? WELCOME!!!

If you are adopting a new dog into your family, regardless of size or age, **NYS requires** it must be properly licensed with the Town. The forms are available in the Town Clerk's office and you must provide a valid rabies certificate and proof of spay/neuter at the time of licensing. **Online dog license for renewals with a valid rabies vaccination is available on the Town website! Click on the Home drop down tab, click on Animal Control then click on Online Dog Licensing. There is a service fee of \$1.75.** As a reminder you may use a credit card *—there is a small service fee—* to pay for your dog license, hunting/fishing license, recreation fees and vital records requests.



FREE RABIES IMMUNIZATION CLINIC
Saturday, December 11, 2021 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
City of North Tonawanda Public Works:
758 Erie Ave., North Tonawanda, 695-8585

You must pre-register at www.niagaracounty.com/health

JON MACSWAN, HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

WOW!!! What a summer! Paving was completed on Blackman Road, Daniels Road, Joanne Drive, Shenk Road and Tyler Road. Ditching jobs were completed and mowing of brush in several areas of the Town. We ask for your patience as we diligently work on completing all of the ditch petitions, in order of priority. Brush chipping will resume in September and will continue until the first week in November. Please be reminded that we **DO NOT** pick up brush that has wires, roots, poison ivy, or dirt in it. Limbs should be stacked butt end towards the road and piled low and long along the roadside. Our chipper can only accommodate 8" in diameter. Please be reminded that beginning November 1st, the Town of Cambria's Winter Parking Ordinance will take effect and remain until April 1st, 2022. There is no parking permitted on Town roads between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. 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 recycling is for Town of Cambria residents ONLY on MONDAY'S FROM 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Please call 433-8829 x127 with questions and be ready to provide proof of residency.



ZELDA HILLMAN, RECREATION DIRECTOR

Due to Covid-19 the Day Recreation Program was a one week long camp for kids this summer with many fun activities.



HALLOWEEN TIME! Join us for the **2nd Annual "Trick or Treat drive -thru"** Saturday, October 30, 2021 at the Town of Cambria Town Park, 3986 Upper Mountain Road from 2:00pm -5:00 pm. Social Distancing will be adhered to and all those handing out candy will wear a mask. **VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY and the CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY :** please check the website www.townofcambria.com for more information or please contact Zelda Hillman at zhillman@townofcambria.com or call 433-7664 x129 or cell # 716-425-2434.



JAMES MCCANN, BUILDING INSPECTOR

As the autumn season starts and the leaves begin to turn, we often think of change. The Building Department is undergoing some changes of its own. Our new clerk, Krista joined us in July and has been a welcomed member of our staff. Be on the lookout for some exciting changes on our web page. We are in the process of creating a more esthetically pleasing and user friendly site. Our department will be adding more permits and application information as well. We hope this will allow residents more convenient access to permit and code information. As always, we are here to answer any questions you may have. If you are considering some re-modeling projects over the winter months please give us a call, stop by, or check the web page to see if a permit is required. Office hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Jim McCann, The Building Inspector is available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Appointments are encouraged as field inspections are also conducted during these hours.



PEKIN FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

3024 Upper Mountain Road ~ 731-4777

Annual Chowder Sale from 11am until it's gone!

Now accepting credit cards

Saturdays ~ Oct. 21, 2021, Nov. 13, 2021, Dec. 11, 2021,
Jan. 8, 2022, Feb. 12, 2022, Mar. 12, 2022, Apr. 9, 2022

Halloween Trunk or Treat (drive thru)

Sunday, Oct 31 2pm-4pm

"Don't forget to check the batteries in your Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Keep Your Family Safe"



CAMBRIA FIRE COMPANY EVENTS

4631 Cambria-Wilson Road ~ 434-8948

Check for more information about events, hall rental or membership at www.cambriavolunteerfire.com or like our Facebook page





Town of Cambria
4160 Upper Mountain Road
Sanborn, NY 14132



CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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



Lynn J. Schlemmer, Administrative Assistant to the Supervisor

Today we want to recognize Lynn Schlemmer upon her recent retirement from the Town of Cambria. She started working for the Town in November 1999 as Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor. In February of 2008, her position was upgraded to Administrative Assistant, recognizing the broad expansion of her duties and responsibilities. She was the friendly voice behind, "Hello, Town of Cambria Supervisor's Office." She worked tirelessly to maintain a professional relationship with Town residents and always went out of her way to resolve issues from Refuse to Personnel to Recreation, often taking on tasks outside of her job description in order that they be completed. She was an integral part of the annual Town-Wide Yard Sale from initial planning to the very creative brochure and map! Due to her personal interest in all things computer, she became the In-House IT guru, providing assistance to every member of the staff on innumerable occasions.

Thank you Lynn, for your years of loyal and dedicated service to the Town of Cambria and its citizens. Enjoy your well-earned retirement. We will miss you.

**ELECTION DAY ~
NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

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



**HOLIDAY-TOWN HALL CLOSED
2021**

Election Day	Tues., Nov 2
Veteran's Day	Thurs., Nov 11
Thanksgiving	Thurs., Nov 25
Day after Thanksgiving	Fri., Nov 26
Christmas Day (observed)	Fri., Dec 24
New Year's Day (observed)	Fri., Dec 31

2022

Martin Luther King Day	Mon., Jan 17
President's Day	Mon., Feb 21
Good Friday	Fri., Apr. 15

**HOLIDAY REFUSE
PICK-UP SCHEDULE**



*Thanksgiving Day ~ Collection will be on
Friday, Nov. 26, 2021*

*Christmas Day ~ Collection will be on
Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021*

*New Year's Day ~ Collection will be on
Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021*

Please note Recycling is every other week.
Please see the website or call 433-2468 ext.114
for the pick-up schedule.

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