

WINTER ISSUE

Webster Today

Where Life is Worth Living!

January 2024

News From Your Town Government

Vol. 37 No. 1



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<https://ci.webster.ny.us>

Webster Today

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**The Highway Department has a deep history of
keeping Webster's roads clear of snow!**



911 for Police, Ambulance or Fire Department
Code Enforcement Phone: (585) 872-7035
Fire Marshal - Andrew Vorndran Phone: (585) 872-7040

WEBSTER TOWN SUPERVISOR



Thomas J. Flaherty
Town Supervisor

My Webster Friends,

On behalf of the nearly 400 full-time and part-time employees of the Town of Webster government, I would like to wish each of you a Happy New Year!

2024 looks to be an exciting year for the Webster community as we continue the progress made in 2023 and before. The new year is a time for change and as we enter 2024 we see that change with the retirement of Bill Abbott as a member of the Town Board. I personally cannot thank Bill enough for his sage wisdom the past few years as we navigated the New Highway Garage project.

We also say hello and welcome our newest Town Board member, Jennifer Wright. Jennifer's professional experience, academic background, and enthusiasm make her an excellent addition to Town government.

The centerfold of this issue of *Webster Today* recaps many of the Town's highlights from 2023. So much has been accomplished, but there is still more to do to continue to make Webster the place "where life is worth living," today and for generations to come.

As always, I would love to hear from you!

Feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Flaherty
Webster Town Supervisor
Phone: 585-872-7068

Email: supervisor@ci.webster.ny.us



WEBSTER TOWN BOARD



Patricia Cataldi
Town Councilwoman
Deputy Supervisor
14 Years of Service



John Cahill
Town Councilman
4 Years of Service



Ginny Nguyen
Town Councilwoman
2 Years of Service



Jennifer Wright
Town Councilwoman
Elected in 2023

Webster Today

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SANDBAR PARK

Now Open to Public

On October 24, 2023, the Town of Webster celebrated the opening of the revitalized Sandbar Park with a ribbon cutting and tour of the property.



Phase 1 was completed on schedule within the two-year construction project which included the following improvements; raising and shifting of Lake Road through the park, installation of the flood wall along Irondequoit Bay, dedicated walking paths on both the North and South side of Lake Rd, installation of a seasonal restroom facility, installation of a kayak/canoes launch, replacement of boat dock on Irondequoit Bay, installation of natural play area, installation of shade structure, and benches and seating areas on both Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay.

The Town submitted the required permitting for a restaurant facility in the late fall of 2023. The site work has been completed including the running of all utilities to the future restaurant. As approvals are received, additional information will be made available to the public on the restaurant operator. Preliminary designs for the location have been discussed and meet the vision as set forth by the community committee on a potential restaurant operator.



Phase 2 of the location includes a boardwalk, fishing access point and an educational area on the Irondequoit and is underway. Phase 2 includes the design and permitting process for the features above. The funds for this phase (as well as phase 3, which includes installation of a trail along the North side of Lake Road heading West along the old railroad bed) were included in the original bond. In the Spring of 2024, the Parks and Recreation Department will hold a grand opening to highlight all features at this awesome Town park.



Welcome! Meet Webster's New Director of Communications

Town Supervisor Tom Flaherty announces the hiring of Bridget Harvey as the Town of Webster's new Director of Communications. Harvey began in her new role in late October.

After attending Canisius University, majoring in Political Science, Harvey worked for several years in Monroe County government, with a focus on local government communications. She has been active professionally in the Greater Rochester community, most recently working for a local non-profit art institution and national historic landmark, the George Eastman Museum. Harvey has a sincere passion for community outreach and the promotion of essential government services that residents rely upon.

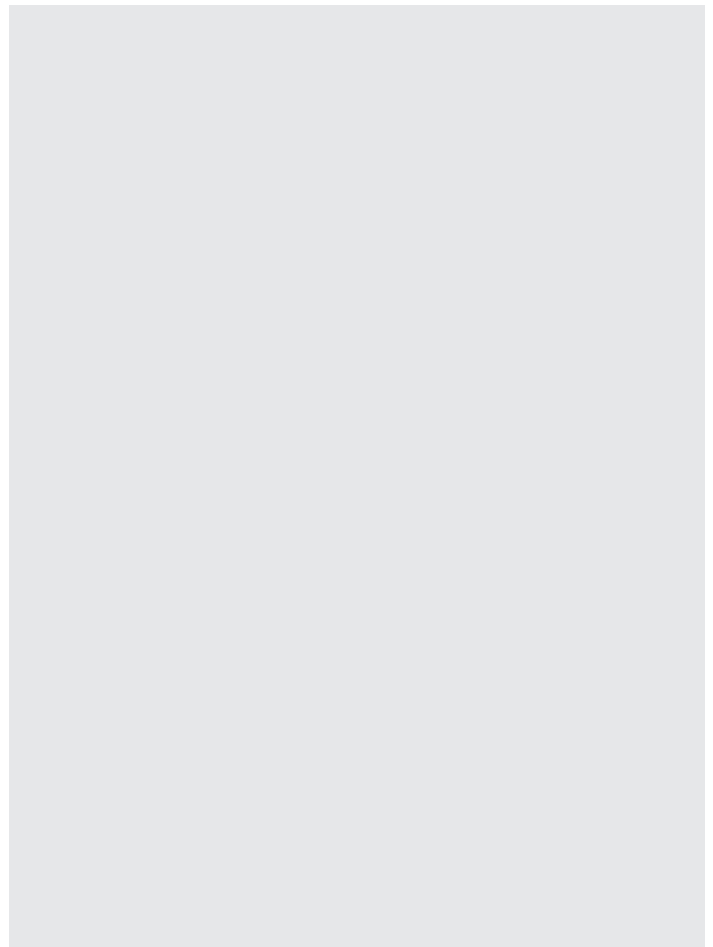
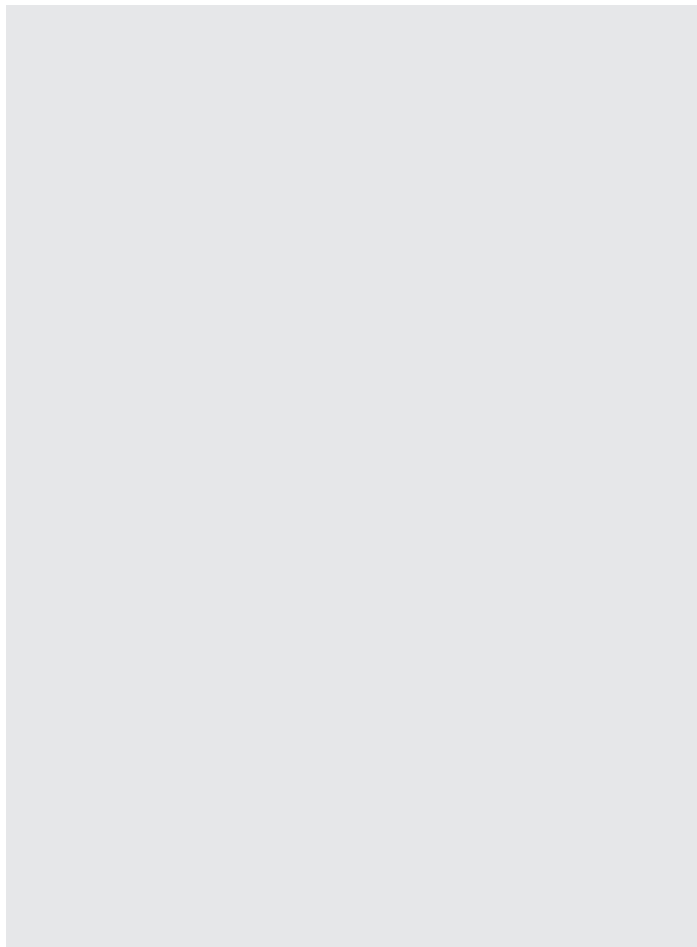
The Communications Department is newly created and will serve the Town of Webster by ensuring information is effectively disseminated to the Webster community through accessible channels.

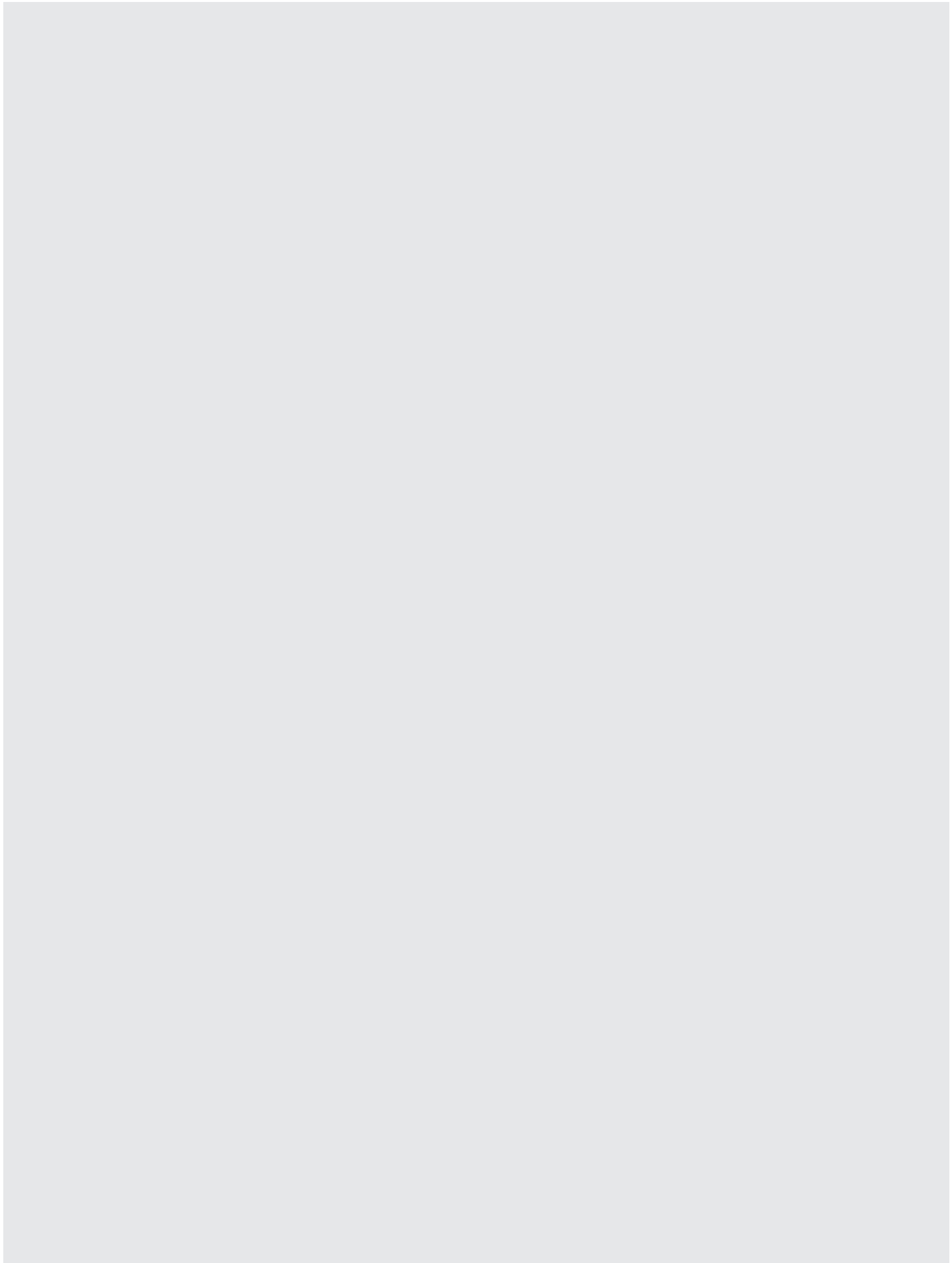
"Local government has a significant impact on the everyday lives of town residents. I am excited for the opportunity to enhance communications in the Town of Webster by expanding our reach and sharing information about the great services the town provides."

- Bridget Harvey



Bridget Harvey, Director of Communications:





Thanks Bill!

THE RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM ABBOTT

After more than twenty years of service to the Town of Webster, Bill Abbott retired in December.

Bill began working for the Town in December of 1987 as a part-time Seasonal Laborer and dispatcher in the Highway Department. In March 1988 he went to work at MRB Group. In March of 1996 Bill was appointed to the Planning Board in Webster and remained a member of this Board until January 2006.

In 2000, Bill went to work as the Deputy Commissioner for the Public Works Department in Irondequoit. He then used his skills to work at East Irondequoit Central School District as Superintendent of Grounds from 2006 through December 2017, when he first retired.

Bill wasn't through using his abilities for the Town of Webster. In 2006, he was appointed for a one-year term as a Councilman on the Town Board. He was re-elected many times as a Town Board Councilman and served in this capacity from 2006 to his recent retirement.

Bill was very proud of the Town of Webster throughout his years on the Town Board. He was thrilled to

see many new projects begin and enjoyed sharing his knowledge and insight into new and exciting ventures the Town was immersed in. Some of the projects he was most proud of were the new sidewalks on Ridge Road, Sandbar Park, the acquisition of land for Open Space and of course the new Highway facility. Bill mentioned numerous times that building a new Highway facility was extremely important to him and he wanted to stay on the Town Board until that was accomplished!

Bill will no doubt be spending all his free time with his wife Dena, his two daughters Kristin and Katelyn and his two sons-in-law. Bill is a grandfather of four - a new grandchild recently arrived to join the family! Family is everything to Bill!

The Town of Webster owes Bill Abbott for all his time, talents and progressive thinking. The vision he has brought to so many projects has made the Town grow and become the Webster we know today!

Bill often told Dena that he wanted to make a difference in the Town of Webster.

Bill, you have done just that, and your efforts will be appreciated for many years to come!

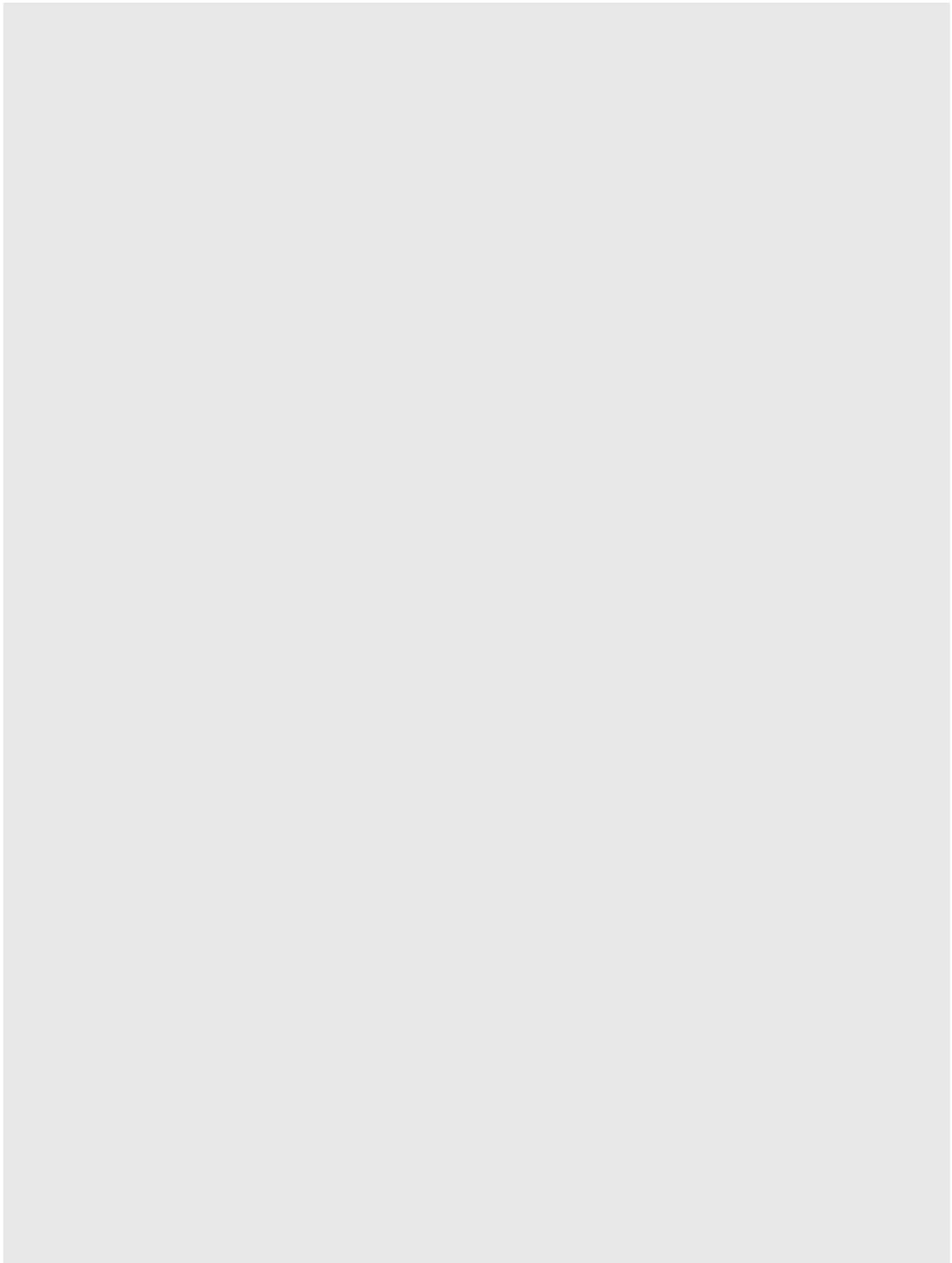
The Town of Webster cannot thank you enough!

During his ten years as a Planning Board member and fourteen years as a Town Board member Bill Abbott always spoke softly but took his responsibilities very seriously. He was co-chair of the past two Webster Comprehensive Plans leading the Town in a positive direction when it came to the development of Webster. He was also the voice of authority when it came to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) under my administration and the current administration with his vast background in Engineering. He will be missed as a voice of reason on the Town Board, and I wish him a long and prosperous retirement.

- Ron Nesbitt, former Webster Town Supervisor

Please join all of us in wishing Bill and his family the best on his well-deserved retirement.





Webster 2023: The Year in Review

With each New Year celebration we look back on our accomplishments, recognize those who have played a part in those efforts, say thank you and goodbye to those who are leaving town government and welcome those who are joining us!



Highway staff at groundbreaking ceremony



Pumpkins galore for Pumpkins on Parade



Town and State officials at the Sandbar Park Ribbon Cutting ceremony



Newly renovated outdoor pickleball courts



The Coca-Cola Company/fairlife plant is being developed in Webster

JAN

TOWN JUSTICE RETIRES
Judge Corretore retires and Christine Seppler is appointed as a new Town Justice

HIGHWAY FACILITY TOURS
Highway facility tours for residents are offered to see firsthand the need for a new facility

FEB

PASSENGER VAN PURCHASED
Town purchased a 15-passenger van with funds from Monroe County, to be used by the Recreation Department for Senior transportation

MAR

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION RETURNS
Senior transportation to the Webster Recreation Department returned with the new van purchased with funds from Monroe County

APR

MORE PARKING
With the enlarging of the parking lot at Whiting Road Preserve, on street parking is no longer needed

UNION CONTRACT RATIFIED
The Blue Collar 2023-2026 union contract ratified

PHASE 2 COMPLETED
Environmental Phase 2 for 600 Ridge Road was completed

TOWN CODE REVISED
Town code for property setbacks was revised

MAY

WEBSTER SELECTED AS NEW SITE
The Coca-Cola Company announced plans to build a new fairlife manufacturing facility in Webster

EMS OPTIONS CONSIDERED
EMS short-term and long-term options were presented to the Town Board

JUN

TOWN WEBSITE UPDATED
The Town updated its website, making information for residents easier to locate

SUMMER CELEBRATION
Parks and Recreation annual Summer Celebration was held: 7,000 participants enjoyed food, music and fireworks

ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT
Town executed the energy performance contract with Navitas to move forward with the wastewater treatment plant construction project

UNION CONTRACT RATIFIED
White Collar union 2023-2026 contract ratified

EMS PUBLIC HEARING HELD
EMS public hearing held at Webster Thomas Auditorium

PROPERTY CODE REVISED
Property maintenance code revisions approved

JUL

NEW LIGHTS INSTALLED
New lights were installed for the turf field at Webster's Miracle Field of Greater Rochester

AUG

MUSIC SERIES RETURNED
Joe Obbie Farmers' Market series returned to Charles Sexton Park for Evening in the Park

BIDS OPENED
Bids were opened for the new highway facility

SENIORS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS
More than 150 Webster Seniors received Farmers Market coupons sponsored by Monroe County

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN
Construction began on the wastewater treatment plant construction project

BOND NOTE CLOSED
Town closed on a \$51,190,000 bond anticipation note to support the Sandbar Park, highway building and wastewater treatment plant capital projects

SEP

PICKLEBALL COURTS OPEN
Outdoor Pickleball courts at First Responders Park opened after renovation and upgrades

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT GROUNDBREAKING
Webster Highway Department broke ground on new Highway Garage

DEC GRANT PUT TO USE
Town took ownership of 28 acres on Hermann Road, "Hermann Road Forever Wild Forest" opened for hikers and trail users; funds acquired via DEC grant

OCT

SANDBAR PARK REOPENED
Sandbar Park reopened after Phase 1 projects were completed

DOG PARK OPENED
Dog Park in Webster Park opened - a joint effort with Monroe County Parks Department

PUMPKINS ON PARADE
Parks and Recreation Pumpkins on Parade returned with more than 600 pumpkins and 2,000 visitors

NEW HIRE
Town hired Bridget Harvey as new Communications Director

GRANT CONSULTANT HIRED
Town began contract with J. O'Connell & Associates for grant consulting

NOV

600 RIDGE ROAD
Town took ownership of 600 Ridge Road

SANDBAR PARK PHASE 2
Phase 2 of Sandbar Park approved for design and permitting

NEW TOWN BOARD MEMBER
Jennifer Wright elected to Town Board for term beginning in 2024

DEC

NEW WASTEWATER EQUIPMENT
Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant purchased a new flush truck

SAVE THE DATE

04

MONTH

08

DAY

24

YEAR

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
AT THE WEBSTER RECREATION CENTER
EVENT DETAILS FORTHCOMING



(culinary.net) Powering up for a successful game day starts with a pregame spread, and no tailgate or homegate is complete without a spicy dip that brings the heat.

This **Game Day Buffalo Chicken Dip** is a perfect solution for firing up your crowd as it requires little preparation so you save precious time before kickoff. Whether you bake shortly before the game begins or make it ahead of time for a parking lot party, simply keep it warm and serve with chips or veggie sticks for a quick, shareable appetizer.

Game Day Buffalo Chicken Dip		1/2	teaspoon garlic powder
Servings: 3-4		1	heavy pinch dried dill
2	cups shredded chicken	1/2	cup hot sauce
8	ounces cream cheese	2	green onions, chopped
1/2	cup sour cream		blue cheese crumbles
1 1/2	cups sharp cheddar cheese, plus additional for topping, divided		chips
1/2	teaspoon onion powder		vegetable sticks
		Heat oven to 400 F.	

In bowl, mix shredded chicken, cream cheese, sour cream, 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese, onion powder, garlic powder and dried dill until combined. Add hot sauce; mix until combined.

Transfer mixture from bowl to oven-safe dish. Top with additional shredded cheese, to taste.

Bake until cheese is melted, approximately 15 minutes.

Top with blue cheese crumbles and chopped green onion.

Serve warm with chips and vegetable sticks.



Go Bills!

NEW FITNESS EQUIPMENT COMING SOON!

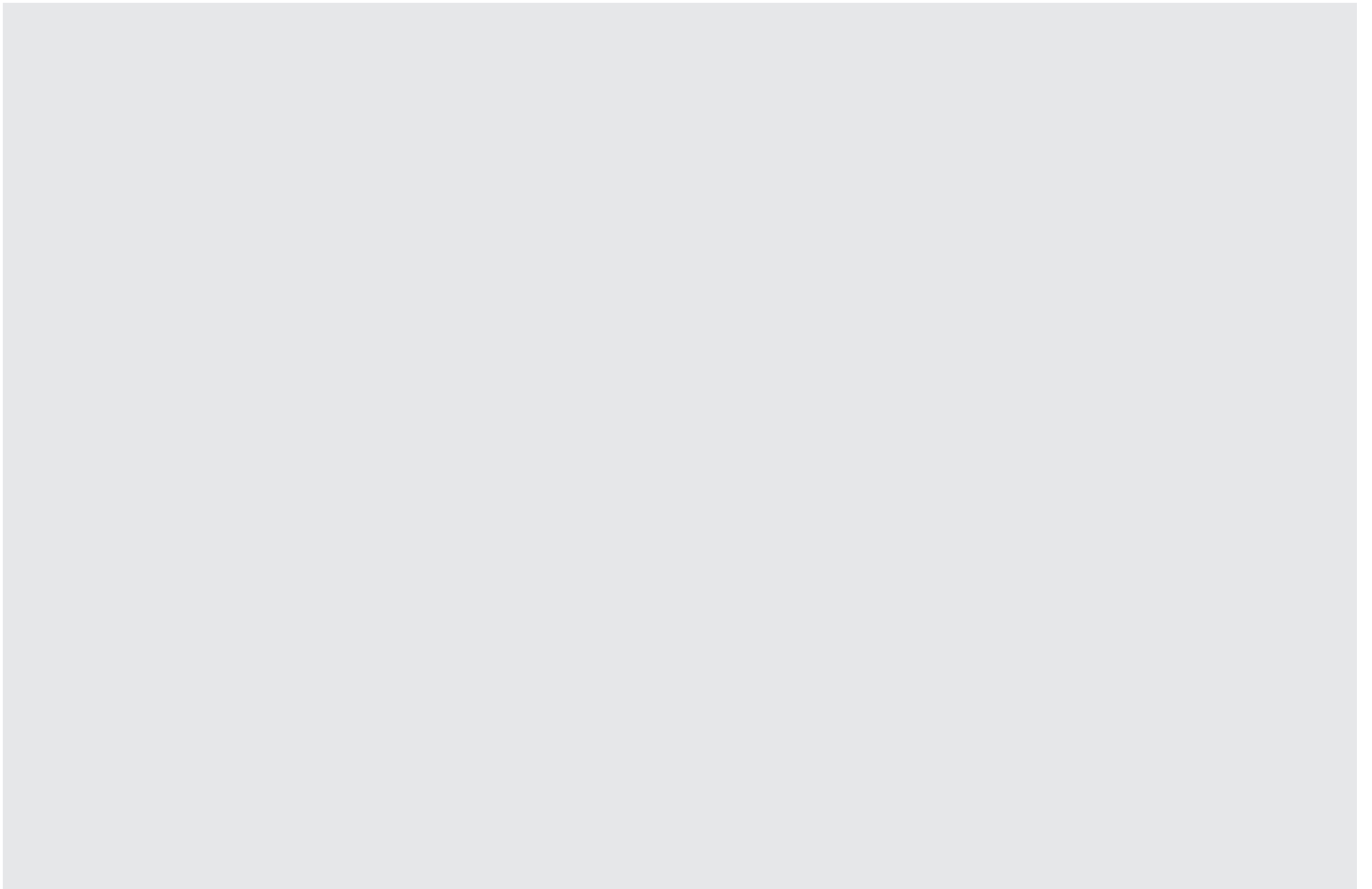
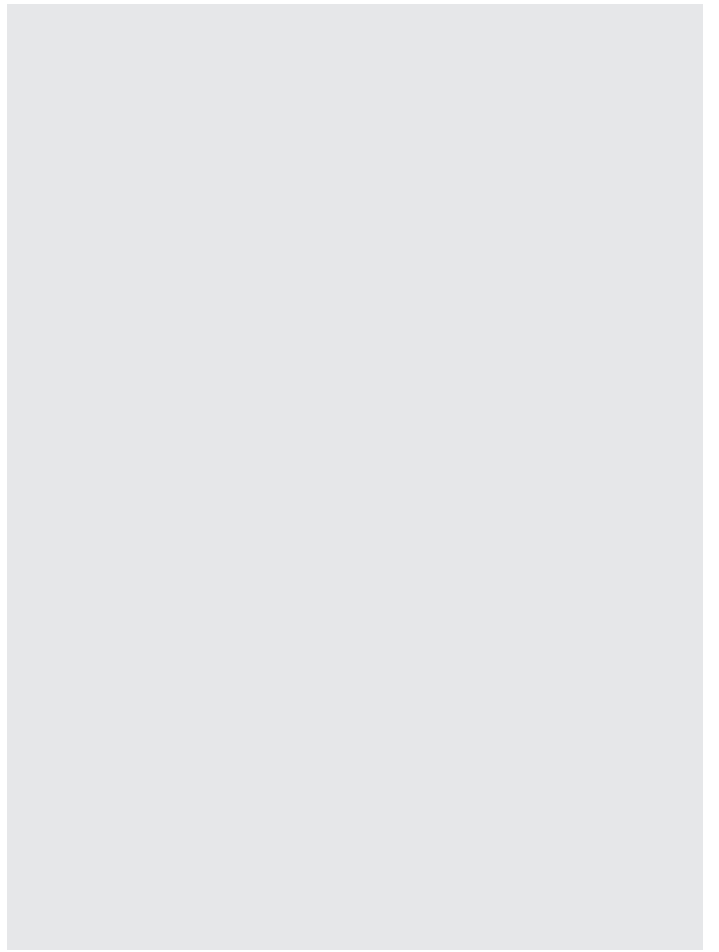
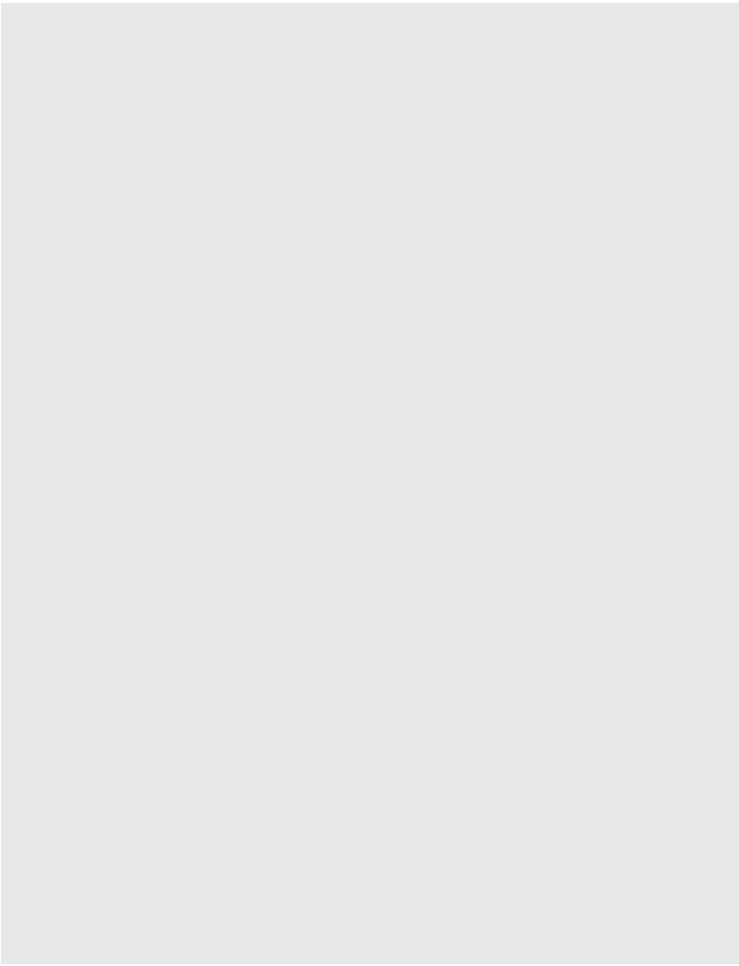


WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE
THE UPCOMING ARRIVAL OF
BRAND NEW
CARDIO EQUIPMENT
IN OUR FITNESS CENTER!

ARRIVING
IN JANUARY
2024



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO INQUIRE ABOUT MEMBERSHIPS CALL 585-872-7103
OR VISIT: [WEBSTERNY.GOV/702/PARKS-RECREATION](https://websterny.gov/702/parks-recreation)



2024



SUMMER CAMP

WEBSTER PARKS
& RECREATION

PRESCHOOL • PLAYGROUND • K-5 • TRIP

REGISTRATION
OPENS



JANUARY 2, 2024



FOR MORE INFO CALL 585-872-7103 OR VISIT: WEBSTERNY.GOV/212/SUMMER-CAMPS



Thank You!

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

During the height of COVID, I was diagnosed with diabetes. I had very little knowledge of the disease, but was eager to learn and feel better. My doctor was very clear; I had to change my eating habits and I had to stay active.

On a beautiful afternoon, while running errands, the litter along the Webster expressway was a concern. So, I took it upon myself to start cleaning. First, I needed bags. It didn't take long to realize that I needed a LOT of bags. The Town of Webster was very cooperative, but they can only spare so much. I complained to anyone that would listen that I needed more garbage bags. My step-daughter, Tiffany, wanted to help, so she expressed my need on the Webster Village Facebook page.

I was then approached by Katie Kovar, Recreation Director from Webster Parks and Recreation. She asked me if she could write an article of the work I was doing along the expressway. Honestly, I was a bit puzzled but also grateful. Since the article I have received thousands of garbage bags of all shapes and sizes. My diabetes is under control and the Webster roads are much cleaner.

Thank you to my step daughter, Tiffany Diamond, for putting my need request on Facebook.

Thank you to Katie Kovar for your beautiful and inspiring article.
Thank you to EVERYONE who generously donated SO many garbage bags.

Lastly, please continue the beeping of the your horn! It does not startle me, I hear it and it makes me feel appreciated.

It took a village.

Stephen Anderson
The Man in the Yellow Truck with the American Flag
December, 2023





YOUTH PROGRAMS

Preschool Open House

Monday, January 8 | 6:30 - 7:45 PM

Representatives from preschools and nursery schools in the Webster area will be available to chat with parents and provide information about their programs.

Preschool Drive-In*

Tuesday, January 30 at 10 AM

No licenses needed! We will start off the morning in the storyroom decorating our box cars, and then take a drive over to the community room to watch a short movie. Bring your car home to continue the fun! Open to ages 2-5.

Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Saturday, February 3

There will be crafts set up all day, activities and a library word search throughout the building! Storytimes will be offered at both 10:15 am and 2:00 pm.

Family Trivia!*

Friday, February 23 at 11 AM

Bring the whole family and join us for a morning of snacks, and trivia based on books, movies, music and more!

Don't forget our regular weekly storytimes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings!

**** Indicates registration is required***

ADULT PROGRAMS

Webster Comfort Care: Tending to Life*

Thursday, January 11 | 6:30 PM

The Write Advice-Partnering with you to Publish your Book*

Thursday, January 18 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Rhonda Penders from The Wild Rose Press will explain the various options in the publishing world today.

AARP Smart Driver Course*

Saturday, January 20 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Calvin Eaton-The Gluten-Free Chef*

Saturday, January 27 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

This is a live cooking demonstration.

Webster Spotlight Series: M.O. Pasta*

Monday, January 29 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Prismatic Gardens-Air Plant Terrariums*

Saturday, February 3 | 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join Sigriet Ferrer from Prismatic Gardens to make your own air plant terrarium. Must pay \$8 cash fee, one week prior to participate in class.

Webster Comfort Care: Tending to Life*

Saturday, February 10 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Tuesday Travelogues

2nd Tuesday of the month | 2:00-3:00 PM

February 13 - Come experience St. John with Brenda Levensgood

March 12 - Kaleidoscope of Alpine Switzerland with David Schuler

AARP Smart Driver Course*

Saturday, March 9 | 10:00 AM - 5 PM

Vintage Book Sale

Thursday, March 21 | 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

For more event information and registration, visit: <https://www.websterlibrary.org/events/calendar/>



Wildlife is All Around Us in Webster's Backyards This issue's photograph was taken in March 2022 by Bob DiMarco of Webster. Bob tells us the "mink was emerging from a rainwater drainage pipe located behind my townhome. I saw it go in with a meal (mouse), come out, pause, and lick its face before heading back into the brush area."

Please email your best backyard wildlife photo for possible publication in an upcoming issue of Webster Today to: webstertodayproduction@gmail.com



The front cover features one of the Webster Parks & Recreation Department's Kubotas with plow hard at work.

*Photo Credit:
Town of Webster
Parks & Recreation
Department*

Town of Webster
1000 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580



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ATTENTION WEBSTER HOMEOWNERS:

If you are 65 or older, or will be by December 31, 2024,

You May Be Eligible for a Senior Citizen Tax Exemption

Senior citizens have until **March 1, 2024** to apply for an exemption.

Exemption: A reduction of taxes found directly on your tax bill.

Basic Qualifications

Age: 65 by December 31, 2024
Residency: **ONLY** your Primary Residence is eligible
Income: Currently accepting 2022 income

Benefits are in addition to your STAR benefits!

**Don't Delay! Deadline is March 1, 2024
for September 2023-June 2024 tax bills!**

For more information contact the Assessor's Office at:

1000 Ridge Road, Webster • 585-872-7051

<http://www.ci.webster.ny.us/79/Exemptions>

Renew annually at the Webster Assessment Office

Forms and proof of qualifications required.