

Webster Today

Where Life is Worth Living!

April 2024 • Vol. 37 No. 2

The Man Behind The Miracle 14

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You can also read us online at <https://websternytoday.gov>

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<https://www.websterwasps.com>



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

Visit the Town of Webster's website:

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

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WEBSTER TOWN SUPERVISOR



Thomas J. Flaherty
Town Supervisor

My Webster Friends,

Spring in Webster is a great time of year.

2024's spring is even more special in Webster due to it being the first year we will all see the magnificent foliage that is at Sandbar Park. It is also when the new 80,000 square foot Highway garage on Picture Parkway is starting to take shape. With an anticipated completion and move-in in the Spring of 2025, it is exciting to think of the increased service this will allow the Highway Department to give to our citizens. Spring 2024 is also when the state-of-the-art Phase II of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project on Phillips Road shows progress.

Sandbar Park, the new Highway facility and the Wastewater Treatment Plant

project are tangible examples of how the town government is moving Webster into the 21st Century for its 45,000 citizens. These updates prioritize the full scope of the town's socio-economic makeup, while maintaining the great traditions Webster was born from in 1840 that makes it "where life is worth living!"

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



SPRINGTIME

through Webster Parks and Recreation

By Katie Kovar, Recreation Director



Above: Preschool Camp kids dance and twirl with Denise!

Springtime is an exciting time at Webster Parks and Recreation. With the nice weather arriving, we are able to provide opportunities for people to get out and about in Webster! Playgrounds, outdoor pickleball courts, hiking trails, and ball fields are all ready for the busy months ahead. If you are looking for programs or special events, the Webster Recreation staff have you covered. We have a wide range of programs to choose from with great special events!

Additionally, our **summer camps** are in full registration swing! We are offering everything for preschoolers, through eighth graders. It will be another amazing year, but we can't do it alone: Camp counselors and directors are the backbone to our summer camp success! If you are interested in applying for a position email us at parksandrec@websterny.gov or visit our website for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, May 17 from 6-8pm
Challenger Miracle Field, 1000 Ridge Road

SUMMER CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 8 from 4-10pm
Webster Recreation Center, 1350 Chiyoda Drive

FAMILY SUMMER SPLASH

Saturday, July 10 from 3-5pm
First Responders Spray Park, 1350 Chiyoda Drive

SANDBAR SPLENDOR

Wednesday, July 31 from 5-7pm
Sandbar Park, 302 Lake Road

RED WINGS WEBSTER COMMUNITY NIGHT

Friday, August 16 - Game time, 6:45pm.
Discounted tickets available online at:
tinyurl.com/redwingswebster

MUSIC AT THE ARBORETUM

6/20, 6:30pm: Jazz Generation
7/18, 6:30pm: Doctors Orders
8/22, 6:30pm: Sarah DeVallière
Arboretum Gazebo Lawn, 1700 Schlegel Road

Parks Department staff are busy with the reopening of Webster Town parks, and we are fortunate to have so many wonderful locations for the residents to enjoy. We are excited to have **Sandbar Park** open to the public and look forward to seeing the community visit this special location this season.

We have received positive feedback from park goers who were able to visit Sandbar Park this past fall and winter and the spring and summer seasons will provide an even greater opportunity for the park to be utilized for our community. Grab a blanket and enjoy a picnic, take your dog for a walk, visit the playground, bring your canoe to our launch for a calm day on the bay. Be sure to come to the first splendor on July 31st celebrate and check out the park! More details coming.

To view all program and event information about Webster Parks and Recreation Visit our website at: websterny.gov/702/Parks-Recreation or call us directly at **585-872-7103 option 0!**

We can't wait to see you!





CURBING SPEED:

Webster Police is keeping our neighborhoods safe

By Captain Mark Reed, Webster Police Department

Speeding vehicles continue to be an issue residents reach out to the Town of Webster and Webster Police Department to address frequently.

The Webster Police Department recognizes the importance of reducing instances of speeding and creating safer roads for residents and visitors of the Town of Webster and is taking preventative measures. Webster Police has recently updated its speed trailer. With the updates to this equipment, the police

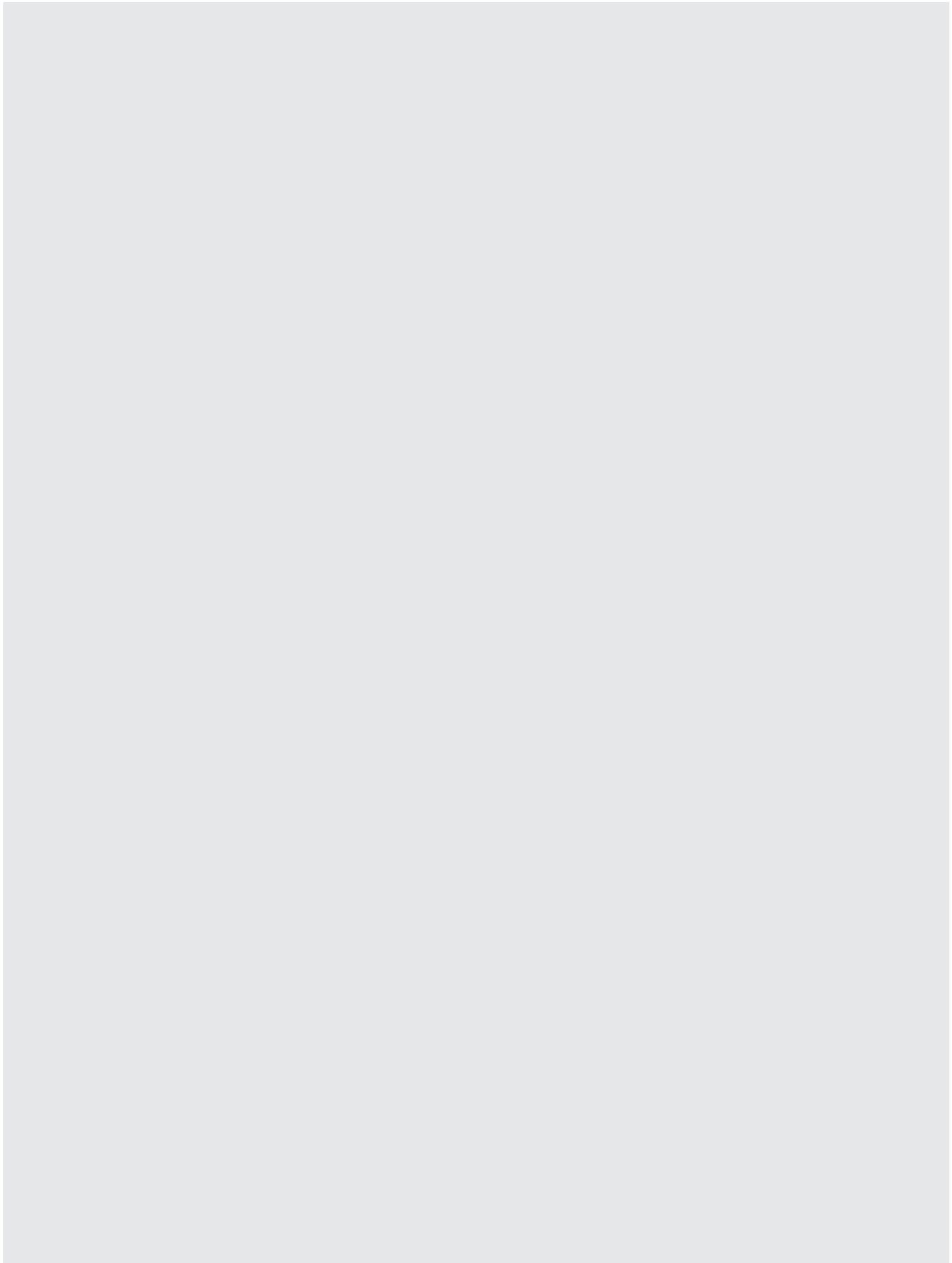
department is now able to conduct an extensive speed study to assist with targeted enforcement to address concerns.

Webster Police has added a section to their website that informs residents of the department's intent to address speeding concerns (outside of targeted enforcement) and describes the process for residents to submit a speed study request.

Once Webster Police Department

receives requests and compiles the data, they will determine the next location for the speed trailer. Each placement of the speed trailer would have a two-week duration. This process is subject to change. At the conclusion of the study, Webster Police will post the results of each location to the department's website.

The Webster Police Department is committed to working with Webster residents to make our community a safer place to live, work, and raise a family.





PROGRESS:

Webster's New Highway Facility



By Pat Stephens, Highway Superintendent

Construction continues on Picture Parkway as crews are hard at work building the Webster Highway Department's new facility. Our construction team has been working for over six months and their great progress is becoming more and more visible.

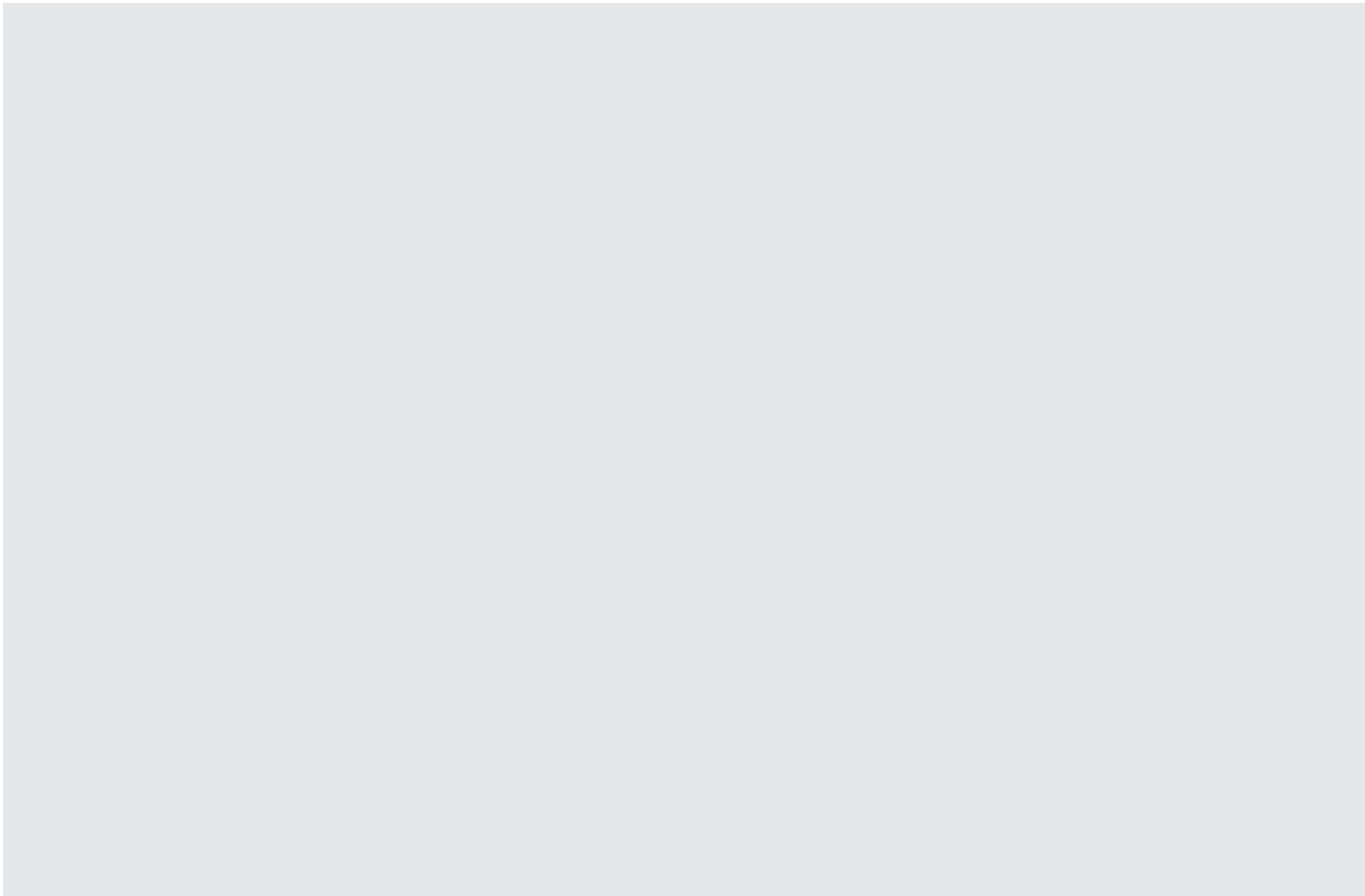
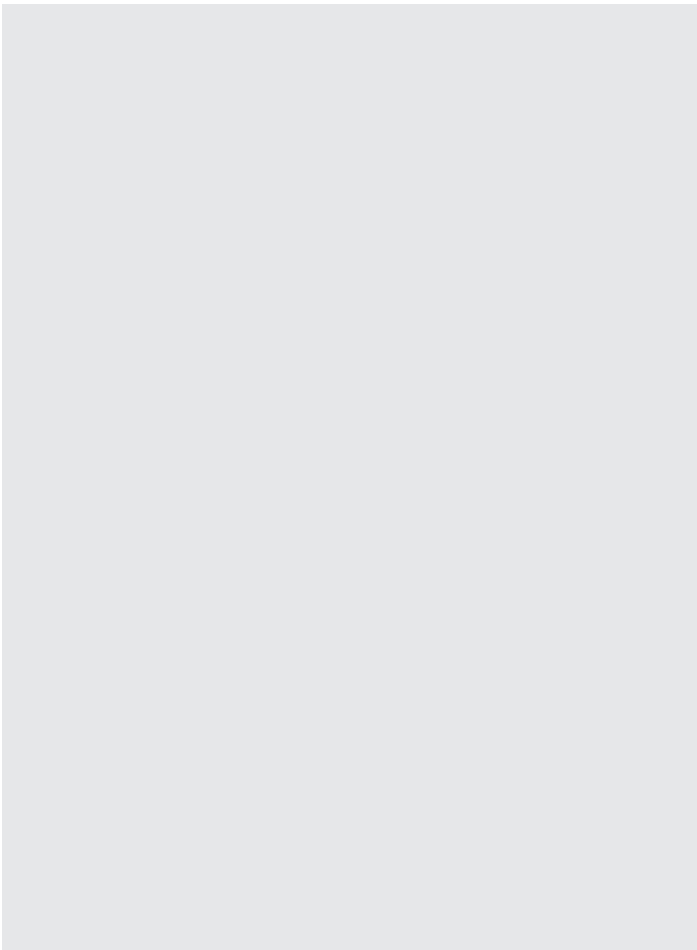
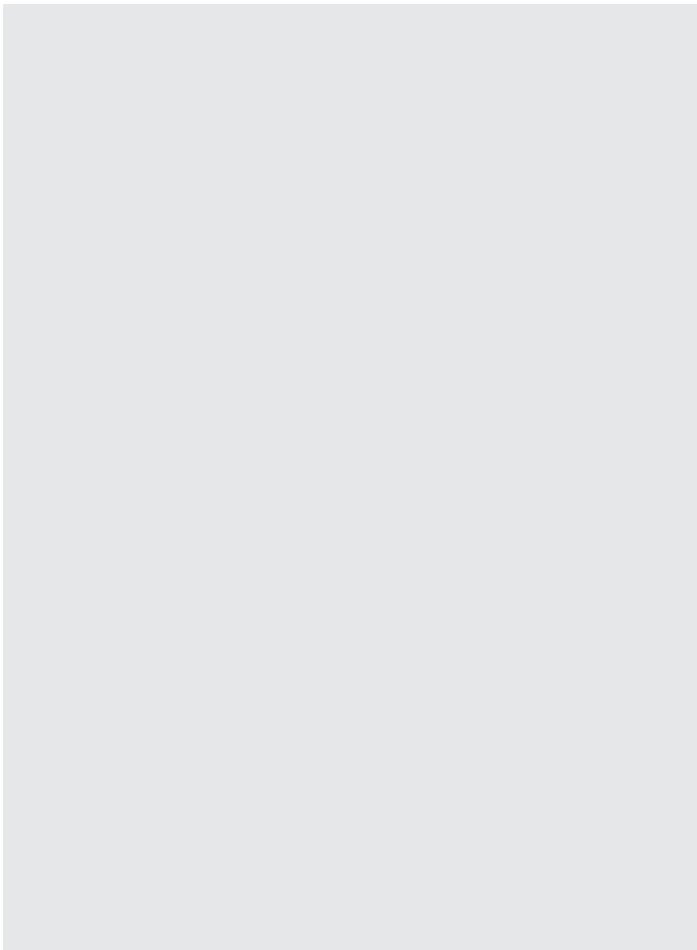
The first steel was erected in early February, setting the columns for the new mechanics bay. There is a large team of individuals working

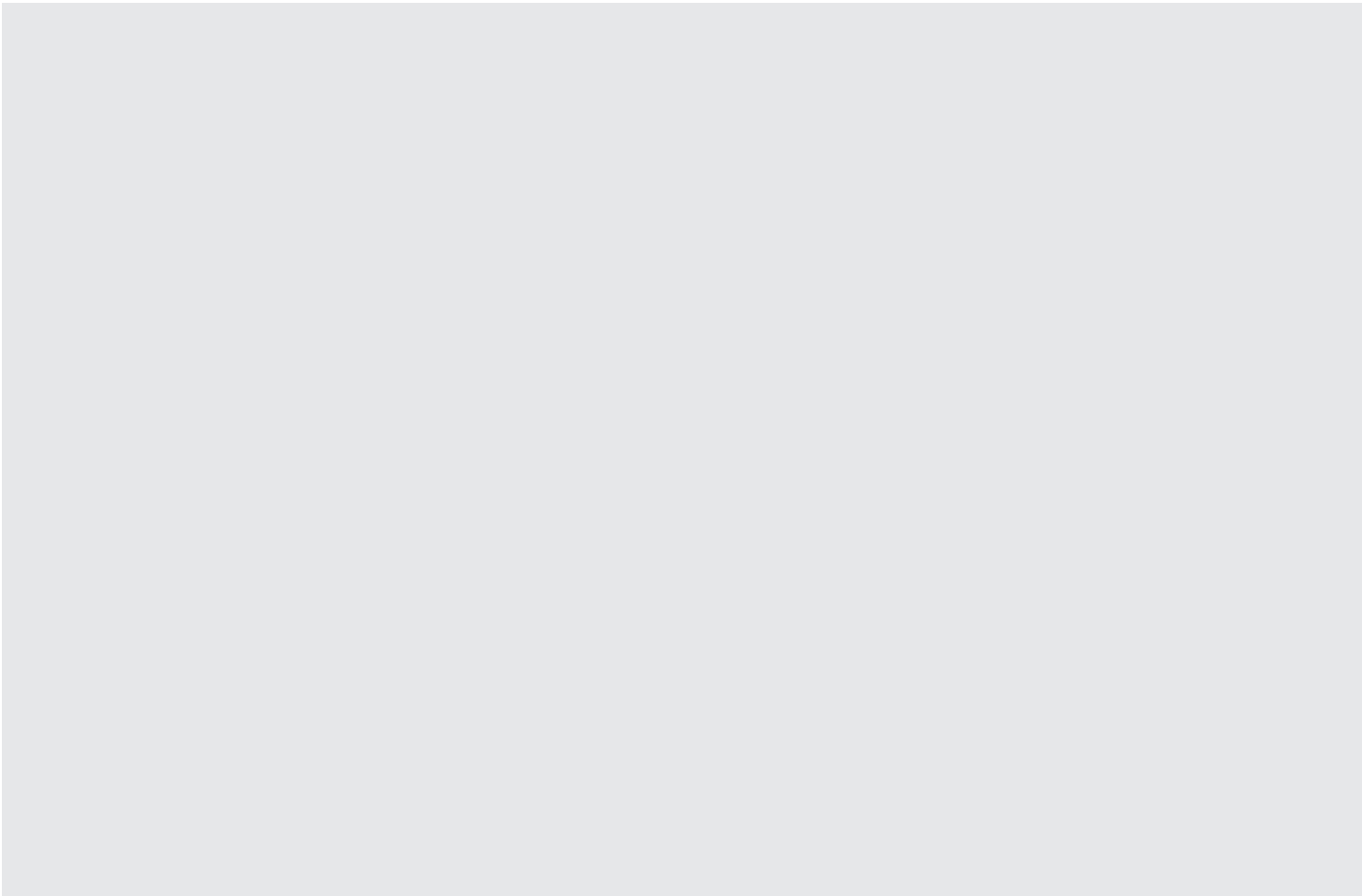
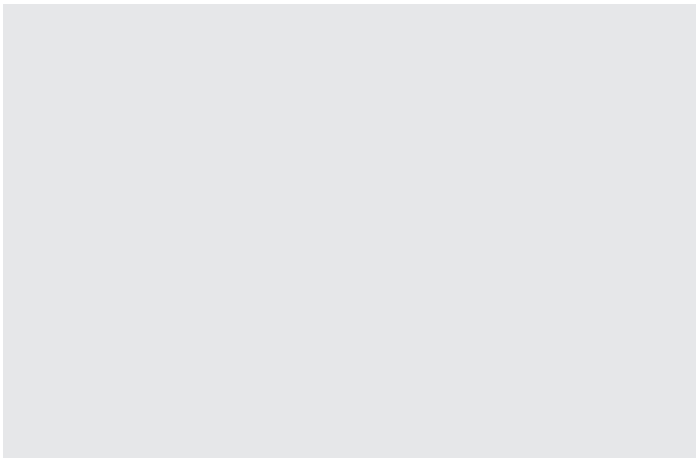
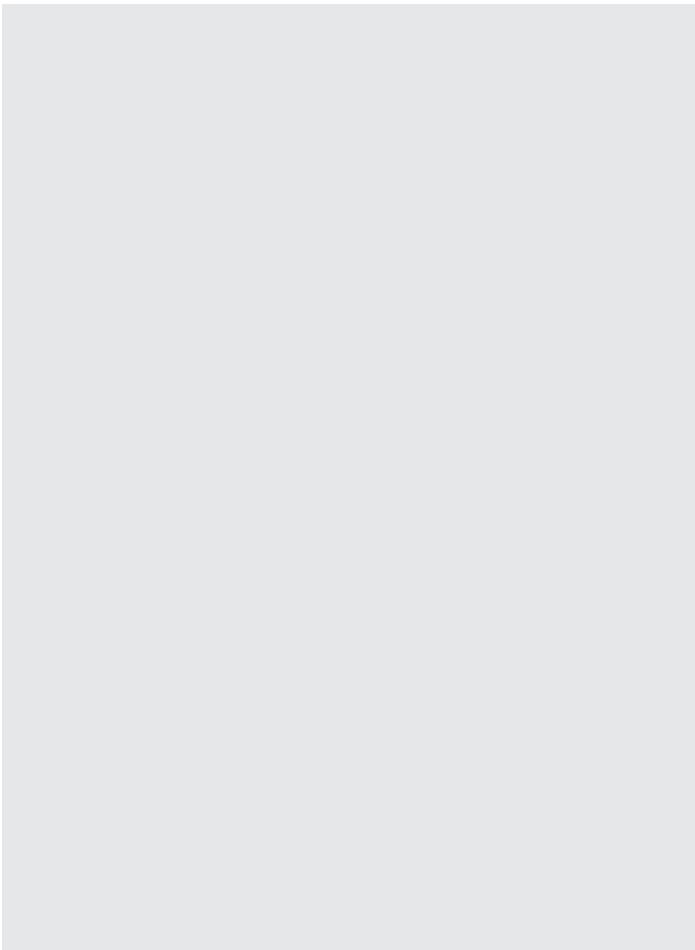
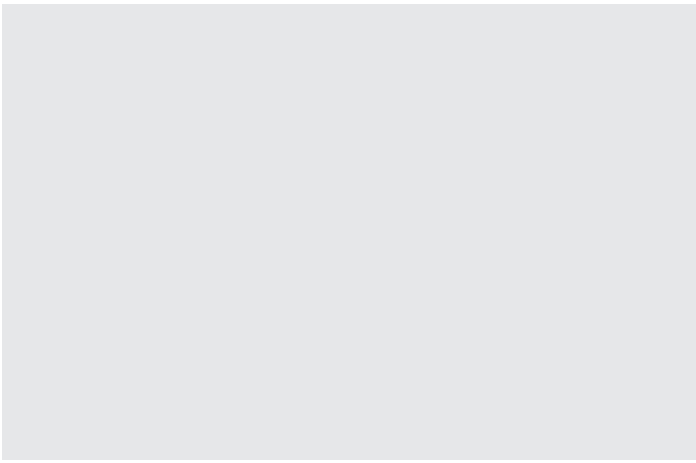
diligently to ensure the construction of this 80,000-square-foot facility is completed efficiently and cost-effectively.

This project is on track to be completed in spring of 2025 and will allow for the appropriate amount of space for safe storage and maintenance of the Highway Department's fleet, as well as updated administrative areas and staff facilities.

Webster Highway Department has long been highly regarded in Webster and throughout New York State. The facility will bring new innovation to the Town of Webster and will assist as we continue to recruit high-quality candidates for careers in the Highway Department.

We look forward to continuing to **share our progress** with our community.





<div>T Town of Webster</div> <div>P Parks & Recreation</div> <div>L Library</div> <div>H Holiday/Other</div> <div>S Webster Schools</div>	<div>A P R I L</div> <div>P 8:00am Summer Program Registration Opens</div>	<div>H Presidential Primary Day</div>	3	<div>T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting</div>	5	6
7	<div>L 1:00 - 5:00pm Total Solar Eclipse Event at Rec Center</div> <div>☀️🌑</div>	<div>T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting</div>	10	<div>T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop</div>	12	13
14	15	<div>T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting</div>	17	<div>T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting</div>	<div>L 10:00am - 4:00pm Earth Day Celebration</div>	<div>L 10:00am - 12:00pm Special Needs Parent Resource Fair</div> <div>L 10:00am - 4:00pm Earth Day Celebration</div>
21	22 <div>H Earth Day</div>	<div>P 10:30am: Talks on Tuesday with Brian Freeman from WCSD</div>	24	<div>T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop</div>	26	27 <div>L 10:00am - 2:00pm Author Day</div>
28	29	<div>T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting</div>	<div>M A Y</div> <div>P Summer Programs Begin</div> <div>L 11:00am Diverse Abilities Dialogues</div>	2	3	4 <div>May the 4th be With You: FITNESS EVENT</div>
5	6	<div>T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting</div>	8	<div>L Tending to Life: Comparative Religions: Different Customs and Rituals</div> <div>T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop</div>	10	11 <div>L 9:00 - 11:00am Let's Go Hiking: Gosnell Big Woods</div> <div>L 10:00am - 12:00pm Volunteer Fair</div>
12	13	<div>H Mother's Day</div>	15	<div>T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting</div>	17	18
19	20 <div>S 7:30-9:00pm WCSD Luminary Walk</div>	<div>P 10:30am: Talks on Tuesday: Bone Health</div> <div>L 2:00 - 3:00pm Tuesday Travelogue: Columbia</div> <div>T 7:00pm: Zoning Board Meeting</div>	22	<div>T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop</div>	24	25
26	27 <div>H Memorial Day All Town Offices CLOSED</div> <div>S No School</div>	<div>P 10:30am: Talks on Tuesday: Medicare</div> <div>S Annual Budget Vote</div>	29	<div>P 55+ Trip to Red Wings 11:05 am Game</div>	31	1 <div>J U N E</div>
2	3	<div>T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting</div>	5 <div>L 11:00am Diverse Abilities Dialogues</div> <div>P 6:00pm Pixie in the Park</div>	6	7	8 <div>P 4:00-10:00pm Summer Celebration</div>
9	10	<div>T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting</div>	12	<div>T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop</div>	14	15
16	17	<div>H Father's Day</div>	19 <div>H Juneteenth All Town Offices CLOSED</div> <div>S No School</div>	20 <div>P 6:30-8:00pm Music at the Arb Jazz Generation</div> <div>T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting</div>	21 <div>L 5:30 - 7:00pm Summer Kick-off at Charles E. Sexton Memorial Park</div>	22 <div>S Webster Schroeder High School Graduation</div>
23	24 <div>P 7:30am Summer Camp Begins</div>	<div>H June Primary Day</div>	26	<div>T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop</div>	28	29

Spend Spring with Webster!

Event dates and times may be subject to change and/or cancellation. Parks and Recreation as well as Library Events MAY REQUIRE REGISTRATION. Visit websterny.gov and websterlibrary.org for registration requirements and updated event information.





WHO IS...



Ron Kampff

The man behind the miracle

By Katie Kovar, Recreation Director and Beth Cunico, Challenger Miracle Field Director

It started simply, as most things do. Create a space for kids with disabilities to play baseball.

However, anyone who knows Ron Kampff knows he is not a simple man. It didn't take long for that simple idea to transform into a non-profit organization. With a multi-million-dollar facility. Catering to hundreds of kids and adults with physical and mental challenges. Hosting events and athletics all year round. Introducing, Challenger Miracle Field of Greater Rochester.

Despite many physical setbacks over the years, including a major bicycle accident in 2019, Ron has continued to give of himself to the space, the families, and the players. This, all in addition, to being an enormous family man to his wife, two sons, and grandkids. He then extends himself to the players who consider Coach Ron, himself, family. He is notorious for remembering minor details about

their lives, making them feel valued and important. Ron has won countless awards over the years, including most recently being named Citizen of the Year for the 2024 Rochester St. Patrick's Day Parade.

.....

**“It's all about
the kids.”
Coach Ron**

.....

Ron Kampff's unwavering passion for making a positive impact has transformed the lives of countless families through his vision. This dedication and commitment to the special needs community has propelled a movement into a year-round program where those in the special needs community can experience play without limitations. The health benefits derived from the program extend

beyond physical activity. Participants experience increased self-esteem, improved social skills, and a sense of belonging. The program has become a lifeline for special needs families and caretakers, offering a supportive community that understands and embraces everyone's unique abilities.

Challenger Miracle Field now serves as a model for other programs nationwide, showcasing the positive impact that dedicated people like Ron can have on their communities. Ron's hands-on approach and genuine connection with the participants have been instrumental in the program's success. His tireless devotion has been instrumental in the continued success and growth of the program.

The transformative power of inclusivity is the strength behind Challenger Miracle Field ...the real “miracle,” we suppose.



Challenger Athletics offered at Miracle Field continues to expand with the most recent addition of Challenger Lacrosse coming this spring. This new program was made possible by the network of special needs organizations and families intertwined with both the Webster community and Challenger Miracle Field family. Through the support of the “Kids Miracle Making Club” with Steve Pellow and the generous donations from the Webster lacrosse teams, the pilot program is ready to launch.

Throughout the year, Challenger Miracle Field hosts several events at the field and in the community to allow participants and their supporters chances to connect and experience milestones together. Valentine’s Day Dance, Disability Dream and Do Clinic, Halloween Trick or Treating, and Heroes Helping Heroes Day are some events, to name a few. Ron rarely says no to any idea and is known for saying, “It’s all about the kids,” no matter what age they are – Ron is a kid at heart, himself.

Ron's extraordinary efforts have not only created a haven for special needs families but have also ignited a spark for change in communities across the country. Challenger Miracle Field stands as a shining example of the positive impact one person's vision and dedication can have on the lives of many. His creativity, devotion, and compassion have taken that very simple idea and turned it into a **true miracle**.



Above: Aerial view of the Challenger Miracle Field complex at Ridge Park in Webster, NY

Header image: Coach Ron at Challenger Baseball, 2023



For more information on Challenger Miracle Field of Greater Rochester, its programs or activities visit:

rochestermiraclefield.org





DOG LICENSING

in the Town of Webster

By Dorothy Maguire, Town Clerk and
Barbara Hollands, Animal Control Officer

All dogs residing in the Town of Webster for 30 days or more must be licensed, as required by New York State law and Town of Webster ordinance.

Webster residents can apply for a dog license at the Webster Town Clerk's Office by bringing in the proper paperwork from the dog's veterinarian.

After the application and appropriate certificates are filed and the license fee has been paid, the license will be valid for one year from the date of issue. Each dog is issued a permanent official identification (ID) number and ID tag, which is to be worn at all times.

The annual fee for licensing an unaltered dog is \$20 and \$10 for a spayed or neutered dog, payable with cash or check. Existing dog licenses may be renewed online. Registrations

must be renewed annually to remain compliant.

Why license your dog?

It's the law. New York State Agriculture and Markets Law requires dogs in New York State be licensed and wear their dog tag.

Easy identification. When wearing a license tag, dogs are easier to identify, enabling them to be reunited with their owner faster.

Health and safety. By requiring that a dog have valid rabies vaccination prior to licensing, a dog license helps to control and prevent the spread of rabies.

What paperwork is needed?

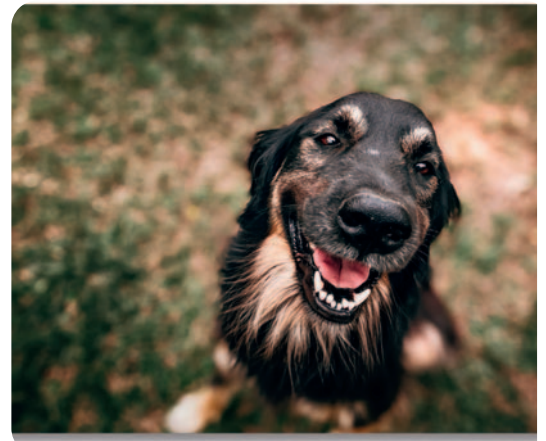
Proof of rabies vaccination: All dogs four months or older must have proof of a rabies vaccination showing the date of vaccination

and whether it is a 1-year or 3-year vaccine or a certificate from a licensed veterinarian stating why the life of the dog would be endangered by the vaccination.

Rabies vaccination clinics are held throughout Monroe County. The updated 2024 schedule is at the end of this article.

Spay/neuter certificate (if applicable): If a dog is spayed or neutered, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian must be presented at the time of licensing. Spay/neuter is not required however it does reduce the cost of the license.

If you have any questions concerning dog licensing, **please call the Webster Town Clerk's Office at 585-872-7057.** The Town of Webster loves pets and thanks you for licensing your dogs!



Does your dog need a rabies vaccination?

Check out the 2024 Monroe County Rabies Clinic Schedule (as of March 13, 2024)

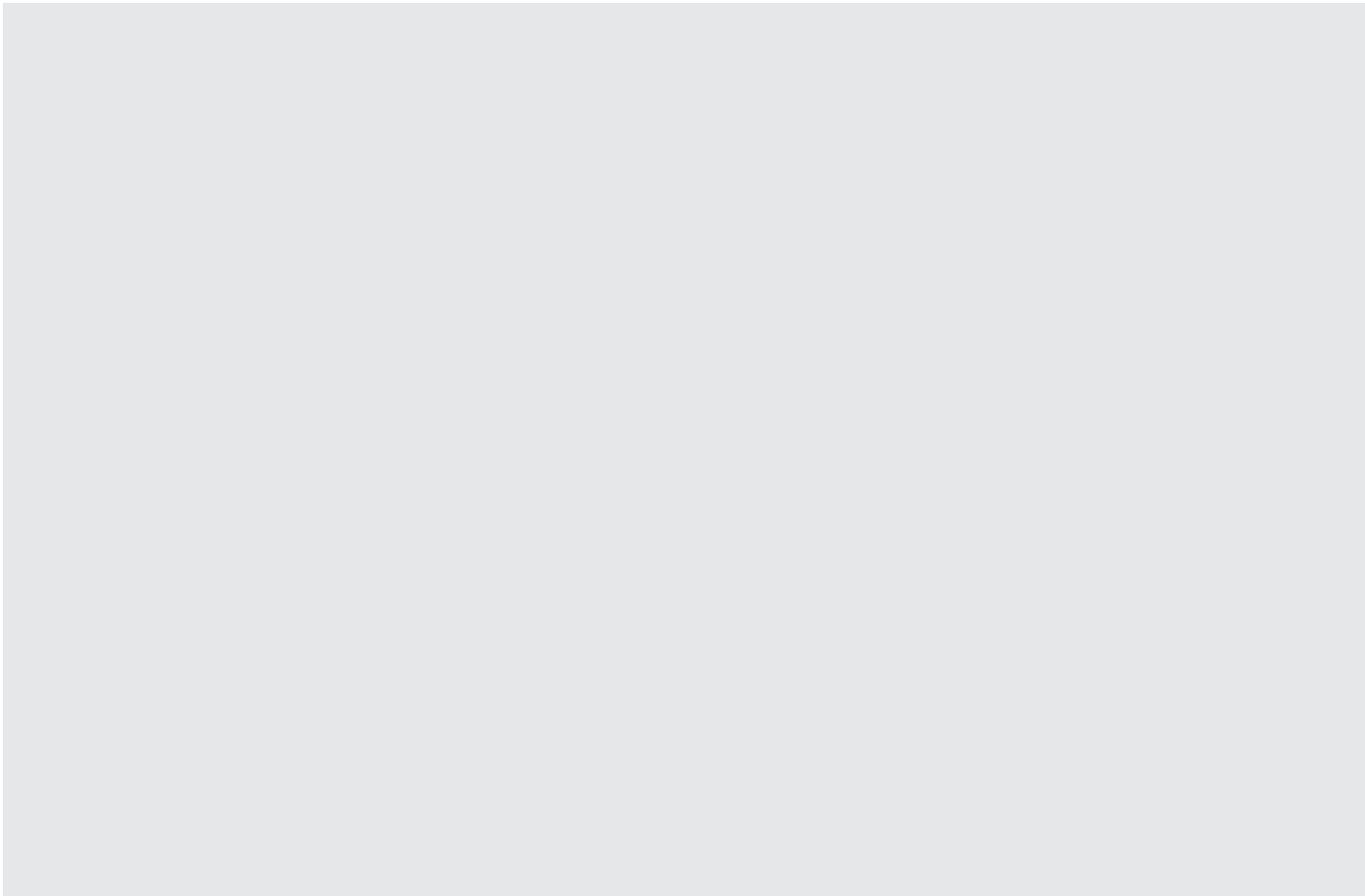
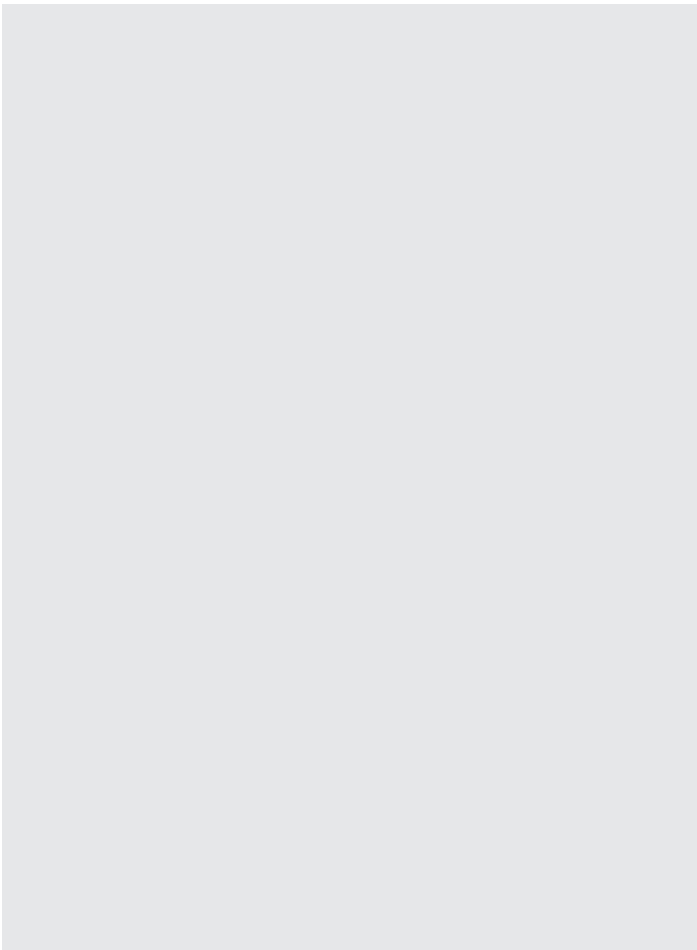
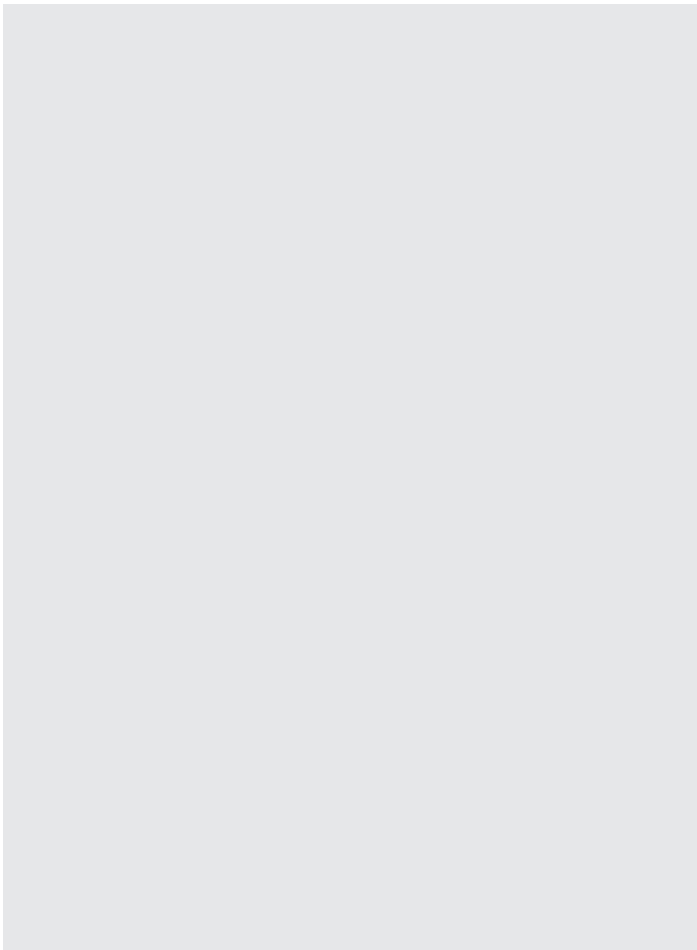


Norton Village Lodge
Clarkson/Hamlin*
Pittsford
East Rochester
Penfield
Genesee Valley Field House
Perinton*
Chili
Sweden*
Gates
Webster
Norton Village Lodge
Greece
Genesee Valley Field House
Mendon

Sat., 4/27, 10am - 1pm
Thu., 5/2, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Thu., 5/9, 4:30 - 7pm
Mon., 5/13, 5 - 7pm
Sat., 6/1, 10am - 12pm
Wed., 6/5, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Sat., 6/8, 9am - 12pm
Sat., 6/15, 10am - 1pm
Sat., 8/10, 9am - 1pm
Thu., 8/15, 5 - 7pm
Wed., 8/21, 5 - 7pm
Tue., 9/3, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Wed., 9/18, 4:30 - 7:30pm
Wed., 10/2, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Sat., 10/19, 10am - 12pm

Email rabies@monroecounty.gov for more information on rabies vaccine clinics or visit monroecounty.gov/eh-rabies.

*Pre-registration is required.



WEBSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY: *fine free!*



Webster Public Library eliminated late fines on all materials effective January 1, 2024. **Library Director Adam Traub** explains the myths and realities of this exciting change.

Why did we eliminate library fines?

There are four main reasons that motivated the Webster Public Library to eliminate daily late fines. The first is that fines generally affect only those who can't afford them; this is why you see some countries charging speeding tickets as a percentage of your income, rather than a fixed amount.

The second is that research has shown that libraries who eliminate fines increase the amount of overall items returned to the library, meaning books don't need to be repurchased to replace those lost items.

Third, the amount of revenue brought in by fines has been decreasing over the last two decades; a recent study showed that fine revenue has decreased by over 50% since 2017. Part of that is attributable to the shutdowns in 2020; however fine revenue was decreasing long before that and as more of our collection is electronic, there are fewer materials that would incur fines in the first place.

Last and certainly not least, the amount of staff time (and therefore tax dollars) spent on collecting fines greatly outweighs the amount of fines collected as income. In fact, a recent study in the Monroe County Library System showed some libraries spent twice as much on staff time collecting the fines as compared to the amount of fines revenue collected. Why would we spend \$200 to collect \$100?

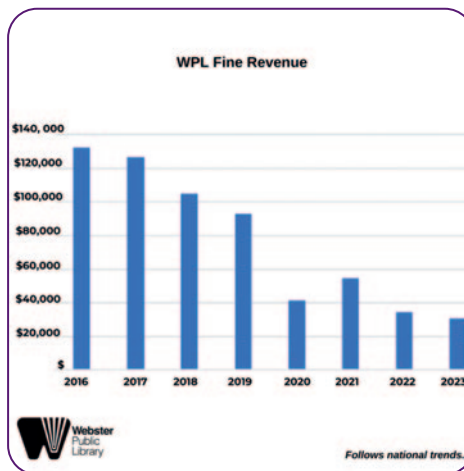
But aren't fines an incentive for people to return their items?

How does one measure personal responsibility as it relates to library

usage? I'd suggest the only way to quantify that would be to look at the number of on-time returns and the overall amount of material that gets borrowed and then returned to the library. Decades of research into the effectiveness of fines in relation to on-time returns has shown that eliminating fines does not significantly affect the proportion of on-time returns compared to late returns.

Fines only act as a disincentive to keeping books overdue for those who cannot afford those fines. If you have the money to afford \$0.25, is that fine really going to get you to return the book on time?

This library serves all residents of Webster equally. If a policy is in place that disadvantages one resident over another, it is the job of this library and the Library Board to investigate that policy so that we can serve Webster equitably.



A recent study shows that fine revenue has decreased by over 50% since 2017.

Won't folks just steal books if there are no fines?

There are people who don't return materials all the time, fines or not. That said, the library will still charge people who borrow materials and don't return them after a long overdue period. In case it isn't clear: if you lose, damage, or steal an item from this community, you will be charged for a replacement.

What are the effects and expectations now that fines have been eliminated?

The research suggests that we should see at least three things:

1. A small increase in the average number of days an item is overdue,
2. A reduction of staff time invested in collecting fines (which outweighed the income in some studies as high as 2-to-1), and
3. An increase in the proportion of materials returned, as compared to the number of items charged out.

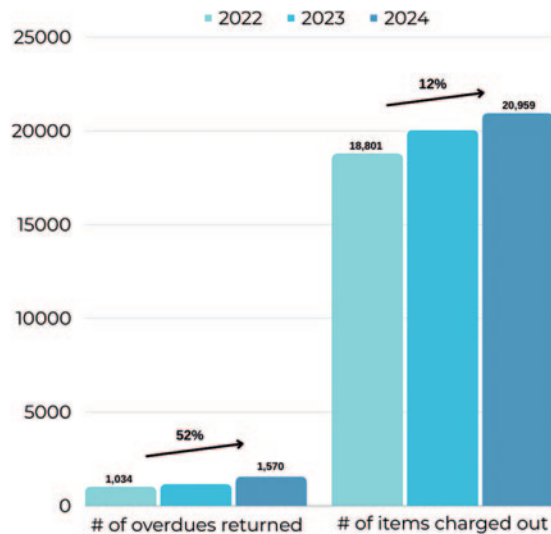
This article was written in late January and early February of 2024, which means we only have one full month of data so far. That said, here is a comparison of those data from January of 2022, 2023, and 2024:

In 2022, we saw that overdue items were returned 17 days after the due date, on average. While there was a slight decline in 2023 to 14 days, 2024 saw that average at 16 days. So, while we saw a slight increase from last year, it doesn't change dramatically from 2022.

2. Staff time on overdue items has certainly decreased, allowing us to focus on just those situations where staff attention is required.

3. In 2022, 1,034 overdue items were returned while 18,801 items were loaned. Compare that to 2024, where 1,570 overdue items were returned while 20,959 items were loaned. While we expected an increase in overdues returned, we did not expect that it would be so dramatic in comparison to our circulation changes: our number of items charged out increased 12% from 2022 to 2024, while our overdues returned increased by 52%.

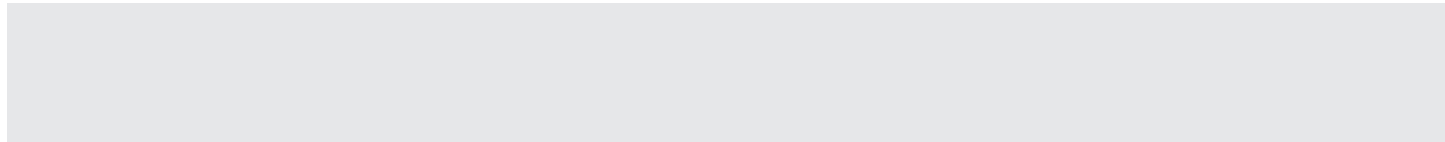
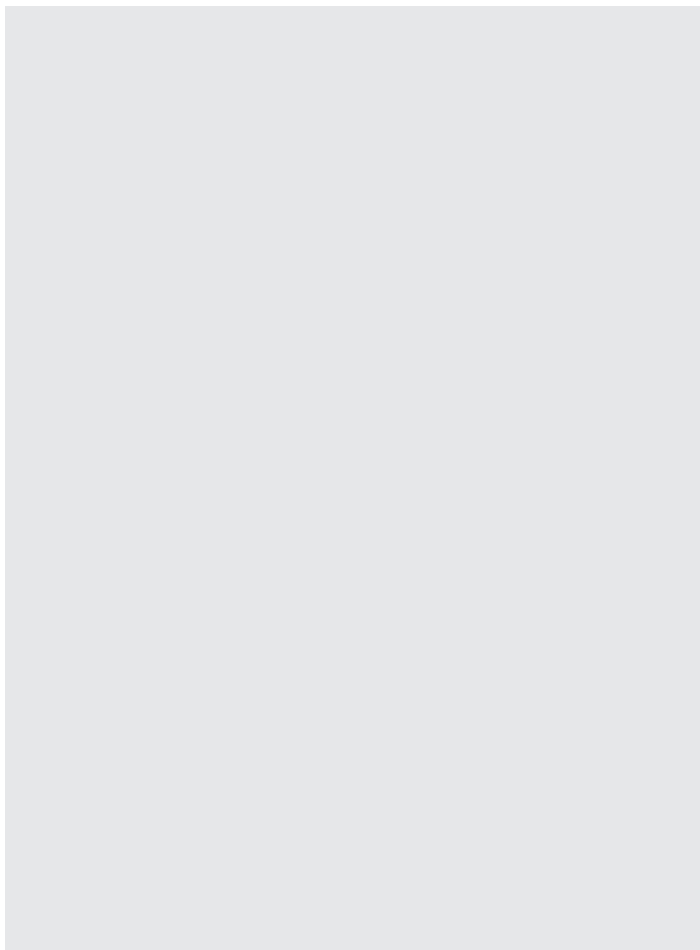
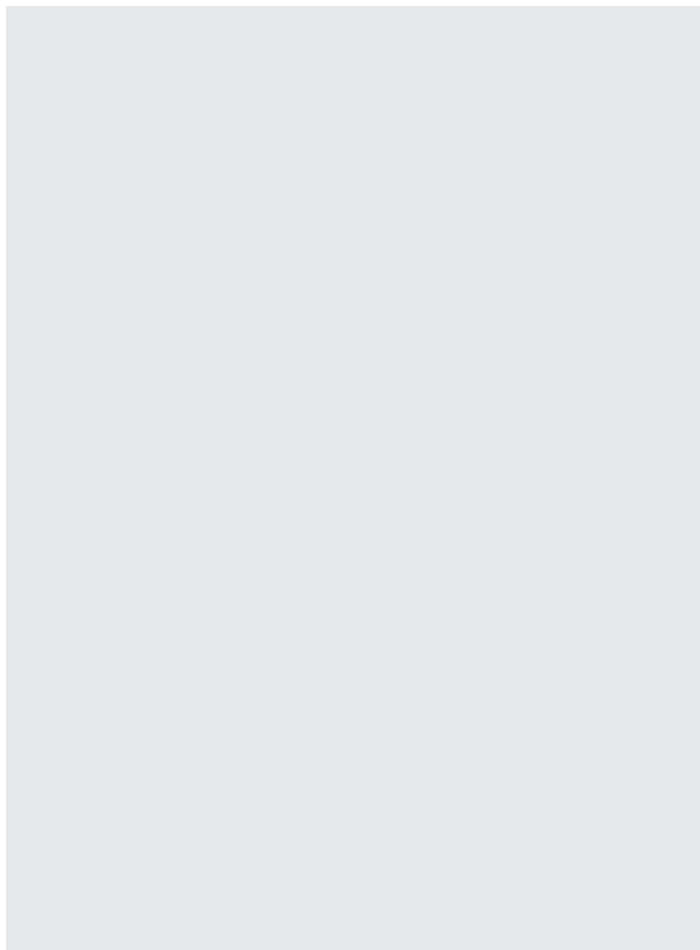
While the library is still in the early stages of measuring what impact this change in policy had, early indicators seem to suggest that we're more effective at getting library materials – Webster's investment in its own education, entertainment, and enrichment – back into the building and on the shelves.



Early indicators of success: number of items charged out increased 12% from 2022 to 2024, while our overdues returned increased by 52%.



For more information or to visit the library contact:
980 Ridge Road | Webster, NY 14580 | 585.872.7075 | websterlibrary.org



ASK WEBSTER...



Question
*Are there updates
being made to
Webster Today?*



Answer...

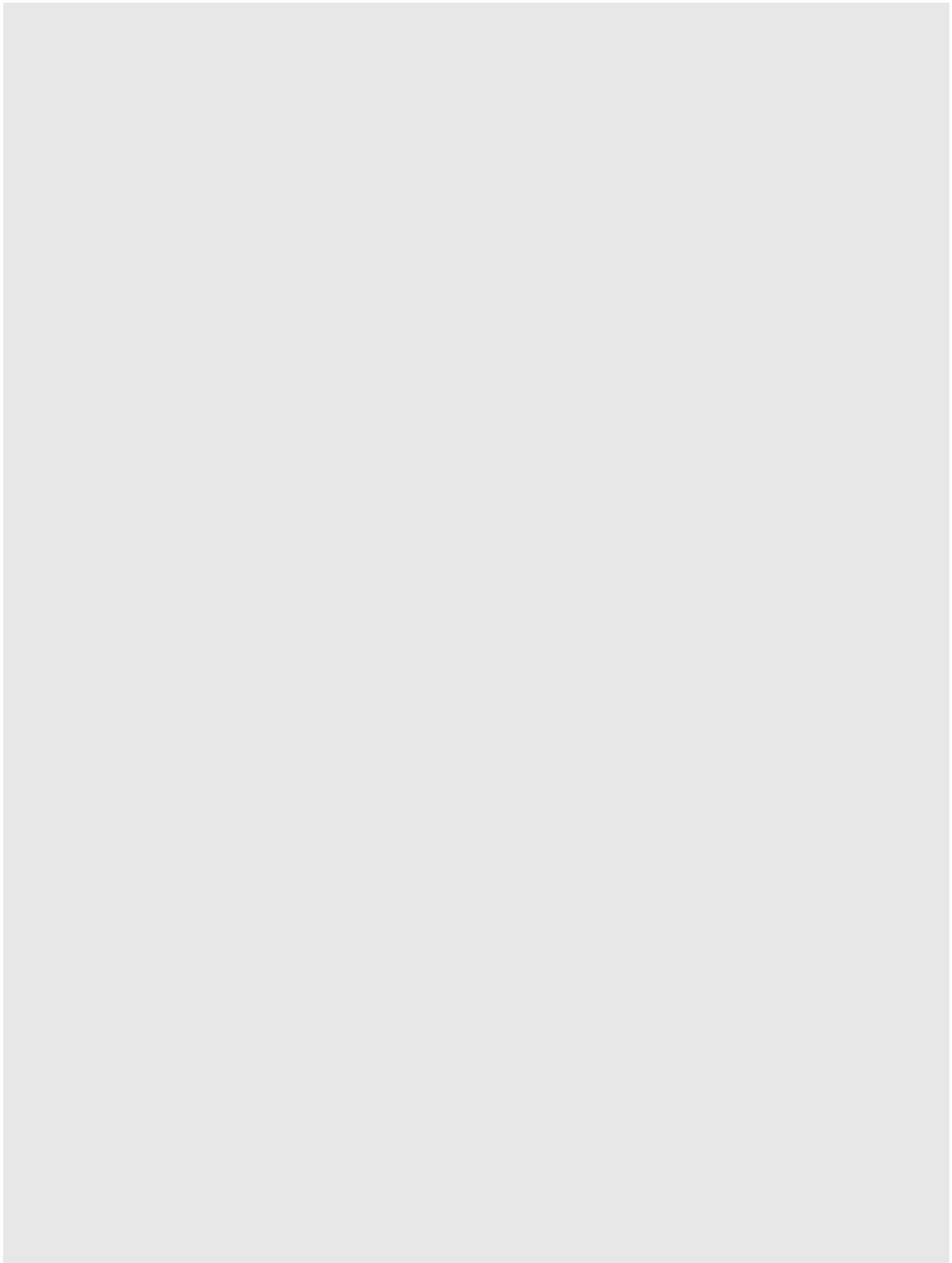
Yes! We hope you will notice some changes in this quarter's *Webster Today*.

Moving forward, we plan to incorporate more informational and narrative pieces from the Town of Webster to keep you in the know about what is going on in our community!

TO DO THIS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Let us know which town topics or elements you would like to see in future issues of the *Today* by emailing us at communications@websterny.gov.

Have a Webster-related question? Ask us!
Email it to: communications@websterny.gov





Summer CELEBRATION 2024

Free Family Fun all evening

Bounce Houses • Food Trucks • Live Music • Fireworks

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

4-10 PM

FIREWORKS AT 9:45

**Webster Recreation Center
1350 Chiyoda Drive, Webster NY**

For more information and updates visit:
websterny.gov/702/Parks-Recreation

BACKYARD WILDLIFE IN WEBSTER

This red fox was captured during a late afternoon walk through the thick backyard brush in June 2021.



Photograph provided by Bob DiMarco of Webster



The Front Cover:
Coach Ron Kampff and
Challenger player Chris Teich
signing autographs at
Challenger Miracle Field
after the Special Olympics
USA Games, Summer 2022

Town of Webster
1000 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580



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WE WANT YOUR BACKYARD ANIMAL PHOTOS

Wildlife abounds in Webster and
we would like to share a photo in an
upcoming edition of *Webster Today*.



Get out your camera and capture
(from a safe distance) your favorite
fox, pheasant, deer or bear, or any
other four-legged or
winged visitor to your yard.

Email your best photo to:
webstertodayproduction@gmail.com

See page 23 for this issue's photo from one of your neighbors