

Webster Today

Where Life is Worth Living!

July 2024 • Vol. 37 No. 3

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Visit the Town of Webster's
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<https://ci.webster.ny.us>



WEBSTER TOWN BOARD



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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



911 for Police, Ambulance or Fire Department

Code Enforcement

Fire Marshal - Andrew Vorndran

Phone: (585) 872-7035

Phone: (585) 872-7040



Thomas J. Flaherty
Town Supervisor

My Webster Friends,

Summer is such a great time to be in Webster! There is so much to see and do outside as a resident of this wonderful town we call home. Your Webster Town government is busy trying to add to the quality of life we all enjoy living in this community.

Projects like Sandbar Park and the West Webster Hamlet that are highlighted in this edition reflect that. Other projects like

the new Highway Department facility and updated wastewater recovery facility (sanitary sewer plant) may not be destinations for Webster citizens, but their value and impact on life in this town for all of us for the next 50+ years is irrefutable.

Adding to that quality of life is the new fairlife® facility - the Town celebrated its groundbreaking on April 18. That project, along with other redevelopment in the industrial zone of Webster on or around the Xerox campus, will bring long-term

benefits to **ALL** who live and work in Webster!

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



Phase II update

By Chris Bilow, Commissioner of Parks & Recreation

Phase I of Sandbar Park was completed in the fall of 2023, and we are excited to have a Town Park destination that provides great recreational opportunities to the community. We have seen tremendous usage of the park since its re-opening, and we are now looking forward to moving into Phase II of the Sandbar Park Improvement project.

Phase II: Educational area and fishing platform

Phase II improvements to the park will include features such as a fishing platform as well as an educational area on the east end of Irondequoit Bay. These features will greatly enhance the view and access to the bay for various recreational activities. The Town has been in communication with numerous Webster organizations on the planning and vision of the features of Phase II. We are fortunate to have partners such as Webster School District, Webster Library, and Friends of Webster Trails to assist the Town in determining how we can most effectively have a positive impact with this phase of the project. These collaborations ensure that the recreational and educational opportunities created in Phase II will be available to current and future Webster residents.

Grant funding for Sandbar Park

The Town was fortunate to obtain several grants to offset various costs of Phase I and we are actively pursuing grants to offset Phase II of the project. The Town is applying for a New York State CFA grant



Pictured: Artist's rendering of Phase II Education Center

(Consolidated Funding Application) with the intention to reduce the actual cost to the taxpayer by limiting the amount of bond debt for Phase II. Applying for grants is something that is never a “given” however, when you have a project that is this impactful and exciting for a community and its residents along with the continued cooperation from other Webster partners, we feel confident in our ability to secure funding through this application.

Phase I was recognized by several New York State agencies for its design and impact on the community, receiving regional and state level organizational awards. With the start of Phase II Sandbar Park will surely become even more recognized for its positive impact on the community. It is an exciting time for Webster and something that the entire community can enjoy.

Summer in the Village Event Schedule

Friday, July 19 ➡ Concert

Performance by **Eight Days a Week**, 7 - 9 PM
Our favorite Beatles Band returns for the 60th Anniversary of the Beatles 1964 American Tour.

Friday, July 26 ➡ Concert

Performance by **Red, Hot and Blue Band**, 7 - 9 PM
Upstate NY's Paul Thorn Tribute Band!

Saturday, July 27 ➡ Game Night

Family Game Night & Beer Garden on Main Street, 4 - 7 PM
Games for all ages & great food and drink from local businesses!

Friday, August 2 ➡ Concert

Performance by **Escape Terrain**, 7 - 9 PM
Featuring jazz guitarist Ryan Johnson.

Brought to you
by our
Village Businesses!

Friday Night Concerts:

Veterans Park

22 North Ave.

Bring your chairs or blankets and
enjoy an evening of free music
under the stars!

Friday, August 9 ➡ Jazz Festival

Kick off our 18th year with **Jazz in the Pubs** - Enjoy music in the local pubs and shopping at the vendor fair along Main Street.
Details at websterbid.com/jazz 6:15 - 10 PM

Saturday, August 10 ➡ Jazz Festival

Jazz on the Street - Enjoy free concerts on Main St., 4 - 10 PM, with New Prime Time Funk, Judah Sealy and more! websterbid.com/jazz

Friday, August 16 ➡ Concert

Performance by **Ayers Brothers**, 7 - 9 PM
Brothers Brian and Chad Ayers...Simple acoustic perfection!

Friday, August 23 ➡ Concert

Performance by **Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Band**, 7 - 9 PM
Our favorite twenty-piece orchestra returns with more big band jazz!

Coming This Fall:

- Health Fair & Shredding Event - Saturday, October 12th
- Trick or Treat Trail - Saturday, October 26th
- Bourbon Bash - Saturday, November 2nd
- Winter Wonderland - Saturday, December 7th



Webster Gets Ready for a Stinkin' Good Time!



by Cherie Wood

The aroma of Garlic will definitely be in the air September 7-8, as the 2024 Webster Garlic Fest stinks up our town. Held at the Webster Rec Center, over 135 vendors from all over New York and neighboring states, and thousands of attendees will be in Webster for a weekend of Garlicious Fun.

You'll find garlic growers, sauces & rubs, wineries, distilleries, chocolate, cheese, spices, infused oils, sea glass, craft items, jewelry, and everything in between. Oh, and lots of food trucks and music. In other words, come hungry. Many booths have samples to taste. The Webster Garlic Fest is a real foodie/craft festival. Pick up one-of-a-kind items not seen anywhere else.

Bring the family and feed alpacas Gretta and Napoleon from Lazy Acre Alpacas, pet baby goats (in pajamas) from Clover Meadow Creamery. You might even meet a huge

70-year-old tortoise named Big Guy. These critters love posing for selfies, and aren't shy about making funny faces for the camera. Mr. Wally the Balloon Man will be there, twisting creations. Don't miss the crowning of the 2024 Webster Garlic Fest King and Queen.

Admission is \$5 and benefits Wreaths Across America here in Webster. Their goal is to place a Veteran's Wreath on the graves of 2,200 veteran heroes resting in four Webster cemeteries. The festival also benefits Blue Star Mothers ROC NY8 (military families), as they build Care Packages for locally deployed service members, and Gold Star Mothers of Rochester (immediate family lost in active duty) as they care for hurting veterans in our community.

See you September 7-8 for a Stinkin' Good weekend.

More information and advance tickets can be found at WebsterGarlicFest.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
T Town of Webster P Parks & Recreation L Library H Holiday/Other S Webster Schools	J U L Y P 1:00pm Magic Camp Begins	2 T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting	3 T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	4 H Independence Day All Town Offices CLOSED P NO SUMMER CAMP	5	6
7	8 P 8:00am: 6-8 Trip, Playground & Pre-K camp begin L 6:00pm: Make it Monday: Olympics (Youth Program)	9 P 9:00am: Youth & Adult Tennis Lessons begin P 6:30pm Volleyball Clinics Begin T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting	10 L 11:00am Diverse Abilities Dialogue: Autism Up & GAC L 2:00pm Adventure Camp (Youth Program)	11 T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop	12	13 L 10:00am - 1:00pm Vintage Book Sale
14	15 P 8:00am Horseback Riding Camp Begins P 1:00pm Youth B-Ball Camp Begins P 3:00pm BUC Soccer Camps Begins	16 L 2:00pm Fun with Maps (Youth Program) L 6:00pm Webster Arboretum Tours	17 L 2:00pm Adventure Camp (Youth Program)	18 P 11:45am 55+ Summer Sizzler P 6:30-8:00pm Music at the Arb T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	19 L 10:00am - 4pm Fridays at the Movies (Youth Program)	20 P 3:00-5:00pm Summer Splash
21	22 L 1:30pm Go on an Adventure! Learn about VRBO, Airbnb, Uber and Lyft	23 L 10am Chalk and Bubble Fun! (Youth Program)	24 L 2:00pm Adventure Camp (Youth Program)	25 T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop	26 L 10:00am Yoga Storytime (Youth Program)	27
28	29	30	31 P 1:00pm: 55+ @ Red Wings Game P 5:00-7:00pm Sandbar Splendor	1 A 8:00am Fall Program Registration Opens U G 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	2 L 10:00am Yoga Storytime (Youth Program) L 1:00pm T(w)een Olympics (Youth Program)	3
4	5 P 8:00am Horseback Riding Camp Begins P 3:00pm Boy&Girl Lacrosse Camps Begin	6 L 1:00pm T(w)een Taste Off! (Youth Program) T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting	7 L 11:00am Diverse Abilities Dialogue: Adults and Adults in Transition	8 T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop	9 L 10:00am - 4pm Fridays at the Movies (Youth Program)	10
11	12 P 9:00am Ecology Camp Begins P 1:00pm Magic Camp Begins	13 T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting	14 L 6:00pm Webster Arboretum Tours	15 T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	16 T 6:45pm Red Wings Game for Webster Community Night	17

18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop P 6:30-8:00pm Music at the Arb <i>Sarah DeValiere</i>	P 10:00am: 55+ Salute to Seniors	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		P 2:00pm Girls Basketball Camp Begins				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
P Fall Programs Begin S E P T	H Labor Day All Town Offices CLOSED	S First Day School! P 6:15pm Adult Fall Softball Begins T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting		T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting		T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop	P 8:00am Deer Hunting Registration Deadline	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		P 4:50pm Deer Hunting Qualifying Shoot				P 10:00am-12:00pm Mud Run
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		P 7:00pm Deer Hunting Mandatory Meeting		T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop		
29	30					

Having fun in the Webster sun!



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.



WELCOMING

fairlife® to our community

by Tom Flaherty, Town Supervisor

On Thursday, April 18, Town of Webster representatives joined leaders from Monroe County, New York State, and Webster Economic Development Alliance to welcome fairlife® to Webster at their official groundbreaking ceremony on Tebor Road.

fairlife® was founded in 2012 and became a subsidiary of the Coca-Cola Company in 2020. fairlife® is known for its design and development of dairy products that are made through an ultra-filtration process, which removes lactose and much of the sugar, leaving behind more calcium and protein.

In 2023, the company selected Webster as the site of their newest dairy processing facility. The facility is being constructed on the east end of Tebor Road and is comprised of multiple parcels. On this site, fairlife® is constructing approximately 745,000 square feet of milk processing area, a warehouse, and support services buildings.

An investment in Webster

Welcoming fairlife® to Webster is a win for economic growth in our town, county, and the Finger Lakes region. The fairlife® plant on Tebor Road is making history as it is the largest economic development project in Monroe County history. The plant represents a tremendous \$650 million investment in the Webster community, which will have a real impact on local residents, businesses, and our entire region.

This project will continue generating good-paying jobs in our area, which will support residents and families in Webster. In the construction phase alone, this project has created hundreds of construction jobs. Once built, the facility was initially projected to create 250 local jobs, however this number is expected to grow once the facility is operational.

The facility is anticipated to process approximately 5 million pounds of raw milk per day. This represents

the Town of Webster's commitment to progress, coupled with a strong connection to Webster's agricultural roots. We are proud that Webster will be home to the largest dairy processing plant in the northeast that will support local farmers by sourcing raw milk from their dairy farms.

Preparing for infrastructure updates

As Webster prepares for a facility of this magnitude, the town is making substantial upgrades and updates to existing wastewater treatment infrastructure. In April, New York State announced that Webster would receive \$20 million in grant funding from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation to assist with these upgrades.

The upgrades will assist in increasing capacity for flow and for future users of the collection system and treatment at the plant.



Above: Supervisor Tom Flaherty joined (L to R) fairlife® CEO Tim Doelman, Governor Kathy Hochul, Coca-Cola EVP and President North America Operating Unit Jennifer Mann, and County Executive Adam Bello as fairlife® officially broke ground on Thursday, April 18.

The construction process

Construction has steadily continued on the Tebor Road site since the April 18 groundbreaking celebration. fairlife® has informed the town, neighbors, and other Webster residents and business owners that an increase in construction workers on site is expected. With this, there will also be increased traffic at the Boulter Road and State Route 104 intersection. fairlife® has indicated they are working with New York State and Monroe County to build a dedicated right turn lane with a southbound green arrow to help ease traffic flow.

.....

“This facility represents our commitment to progress, coupled with a strong connection to Webster's agricultural roots.”

-Supervisor Tom Flaherty

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We will be adding periodic updates to our website as it pertains to the town. If interested, community members may opt-in to construction updates from fairlife® by emailing communications@fairlife.com.

With hundreds of new local jobs, a \$650 million investment in the area, and engagement with local agriculture, coupled with investments in local infrastructure, the arrival of fairlife® is just one of many exciting initiatives moving Webster forward. The Town of Webster is proud to be fostering economic innovation and growth that will have an incredible effect on our local community.

Webster Today

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Above: 600 Ridge Road is at the heart of the West Webster Hamlet.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

in the West Webster Hamlet?

By Josh Artuso, Director of Community Development

Changes are taking place in the West Webster Hamlet! In March 2024, the Town of Webster officially took ownership of the property at 600 Ridge Road, well-known as the former Webster Furniture Strippers. The property has been vacant for nearly 20 years and is currently in need of rehabilitation.

600 Ridge Road is a key component of the West Webster Hamlet revitalization project due to its location at the intersection of Ridge Road and Gravel Road. The main goal is to sell 600 Ridge Road to a buyer or developer in the private sector. To do so, the Town of Webster is taking steps to prepare the property to be desirable for a private buyer to purchase.

Progress is on its way

Early steps in this process have included the demolition of detached garage structure and tree removal on the site. These steps are integral to the continuation of necessary environmental investigations at the property to determine what remediation is needed. The town has also been working to evaluate the contents of the building to

decide how to best clear the space, as well as implementing temporary protective measures to preserve the structural components of the main building.

The Significance of 600 Ridge Road

600 Ridge Road is at the heart of the West Webster Hamlet, with the property situated at the northwest corner of the Ridge Road and Gravel Road intersection. It is important to note that the main building structure will not be demolished. Rehabilitation of the main structure is essential to the goal of economic revitalization of the West Webster Hamlet, as the presence of a structure at all four corners of the hamlet is critical to retaining the historic neighborhood character.

We look forward to sharing more updates on the progress being made at 600 Ridge Road, as well as the impact this will have on the revitalization of the West Webster Hamlet. Updates will be made on the town's website as work continues. Residents may also sign up to receive update emails in the event of any upcoming work at the property.



WELCOME TO WEBSTER

Town Supervisor Tom Flaherty announces Danene Marr's appointment as the Town of Webster's new Town Clerk and Receiver of Taxes. Danene's appointment was approved by the Webster Town Board on June 6, 2024. Her 1.5-year term began July 1, 2024.



Danene comes to the Town of Webster after two decades of service to Paychex. Throughout her career, she has developed extensive leadership and project management skills, overseen and worked within a team environment, and displayed discretion working with confidential financial records. Danene holds an Associate of Applied Science degree from Monroe Community College.

The Office of the Town Clerk and Receiver of Taxes oversees a number of vital functions for the Town of Webster. These responsibilities include but are not limited to the processing of handicap permits, fulfilling Freedom of Information requests (FOIL), issuing dog, marriage, fishing and hunting licenses, as well as peddler's permits, and tax collection.

"I am confident Ms. Marr will carry out the responsibilities and duties of this role with the honesty, integrity, and reliability the Webster community has come to expect."

-Tom Flaherty, Town Supervisor

WEBSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friends with a Capital F

By Adam Traub, Webster Public Library Director



Pictured (L to R): Library Director Adam Traub, Gail Dominik, Councilwoman Ginny Nguyen, Eileen Brookins, Richard Reed, and Peg Ehmann

Last summer, I wrote an article for Webster Today to share the story of a library lover who remembered the Webster Public Library as a beneficiary, which resulted in a substantial gift toward the Webster Library Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit. The Foundation's mission is to grow an investment that funds special projects that are not otherwise funded by public tax dollars.

However, there's another 501(c)3 whose mission is similar: The Friends of the Webster Public Library. We simply call them "The Friends." This incredible dedicated group of volunteers runs our lobby bookstore and the frequent big book sales which take over the library a few times a year, as well as volunteers at programs across the community. The Friends are independent from the library,

despite their residency here; they've got their own Board, interests, efforts, and expertise.

One of the primary ways the Friends support the library is through book donations made by wonderful members of our community. The Friends collect, sort, evaluate, and sell these donated books, movies, puzzles, and more (often for \$1 or less!) to raise money to help provide funding that goes beyond our normal, tax-funded operating budget. Primarily, the library uses this money to support additional collections (books, movies, online resources) and programs; in fact, if you've ever been to a program at our library, you likely have the Friends to thank.

Last year, the Friends donated \$55,000 throughout the year; as of May 15, 2024, the Friends have

already donated \$40,000! Through your generosity and theirs, we continue to hold excellent programs, bringing in outside experts and entertainers, to ensure that we're meeting our mission to educate, entertain, and enrich Webster.

However, I'd be remiss if I just spoke about dollars and cents. Libraries are chronically underfunded and usually only a small portion of a municipal budget. But these volunteers donate something that goes beyond that: they donate their time. Libraries, especially ours, would not be the vibrant community centers we are without our Friends.

So, thank you, Friends - it is your time for which I'm personally most grateful.





WELCOME TO WEBSTER

Webster's new Town Engineer, Keith Mortimer, began his work with the Town in early May.

Keith is a Professional Engineer with 30+ years of experience as a Civil Engineer focused on Transportation/Traffic Engineering and Planning for 21+ years as well as a Facilities & Construction Project Manager for the last 9 years.

Keith received his AAS in Architectural Engineering Technology from SUNY Alfred and his BS in Civil Engineering Technology from Rochester Institute of Technology.

He has been a resident of the Rochester area since 1993; loves living here and does not plan to leave anytime soon.

The Engineering Department oversees the Town's Storm Water Management Program (MS4), Development Design Review, Construction Inspection (CI) as well as



maintaining/expanding the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS). Keith would like to acknowledge the work of his predecessor, Mary Herington PE, for setting up the Engineering Department up for success. Keith and his Team will build upon those efforts. In the coming months, it is one of Keith's goals to start updating the Engineering Department's information on the Town's website that he hopes is useful to the Webster Community.

"I am looking forward to being an integral part of this thriving community."

-Keith Mortimer, Town Engineer

Unique community partnership

FOSTERS CONTINUED GROWTH IN WEBSTER

By Matt Chatfield, Executive Director, Webster Economic Development Alliance

The Town and Village of Webster are blessed to have a great many active projects taking place throughout the community. Public works, infrastructure, parks and recreation, transportation improvements, Main Street revitalization, the re-vamping of dilapidated structures, master planning projects intended to foster a renewed vision for the future, and a bevy of private-sector investments, all taking place throughout Webster's 35 square miles. A common thread linking many of these activities is the **Webster Economic Development Alliance** – our community's solution to the need for a coordinated economic development approach across the Town and Village of Webster.

Formed in 2008 as a Local Development Corporation, WEDA (or the Alliance) is a public-private partnership with five members: the Town and Village of Webster, Webster Central Schools, the Webster Chamber of Commerce, and the Village Business Improvement District. The Alliance was formed to speak with a unified voice for economic development in Webster and to promote growth and revitalization in our community. A key role of WEDA is to facilitate the planning and implementation of strategic projects in Webster, including securing necessary funding to bring projects to fruition.

Additionally, WEDA functions as our community's local site selector, and was responsible for coordinating the arrival of the

\$650m fairlife project into Webster.

In particular, 2024 has been a momentous year for Webster. In February, Governor Hochul awarded the Village \$4.5m in downtown revitalization funding for Main Street, parks and building improvements. This was followed up by the **generous support from Senator Schumer and Congressman Morelle** to secure \$500,000 in Housing and Urban Development funding towards

neighborhood. **Central to each of these victories was the Alliance** and its steadfast approach to building relationships and awareness at the State and Federal levels that Webster is indeed a community worthy of investment.

Other recent WEDA victories include:

- \$4.61 million for Sandbar Park in the Town
- \$1.84 million for industrial infrastructure in the Village
- \$2.29 million for sidewalks and streetscape improvements in the Town and Village
- \$293,000 in master planning funds for West Webster and portions of the Xerox Campus

Heading into the second half of 2024 and continuing into 2025, the Alliance will remain focused on revitalization efforts in the West Webster Hamlet, Village Downtown, and the Xerox Campus. Initiatives such as these take many years to plan, gain momentum, and obtain necessary public and private funding.

Please visit the Alliance website for further information and to become involved:
www.WebsterEDA.org



infrastructure improvements that will facilitate the revitalization of a 75-acre Xerox site on Phillips Road into a new mixed-use





Town of Webster
1000 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580



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ASK WEBSTER

Q

What should I do if I find a fawn?

& A

Fawns are left alone by their mother for several reasons, including to rest, eat, and hide from predators. If you encounter a fawn, **keep your distance**. Fawns have the best chance of surviving if they are left alone, as they perceive humans as predators and will not return to their fawn if people are nearby. If a fawn is crying, cold, approaching you, covered with blood or insects, or caught by a cat or dog, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator immediately. Locally:

DEC - Wildlife Region 8: 6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd., Avon, NY 14414; phone 585-226-2466

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

