

WINTER ISSUE

News From Your Town Government

Webster Today

Where Life is Worth Living!

January 2025 • Vol. 38 No. 1

Happy New Year, Webster!

Inside this Issue:

How To Pay Your
Webster Taxes

4

Webster Winter
Reminders

6

Webster Citizen
Boards

8

Town Attorney
Charlie Genese Retires

14

EMS in Webster

18

2024: Year in Review

20

You can also read us online at websternytoday.gov



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<https://www.websterwasps.com>

Visit the Town of Webster's website:

websterny.gov



911

**for Police, Ambulance
or Fire Department**

Code Enforcement

Fire Marshal - Andrew Vorndran

Phone: (585) 872-7035

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Webster Today

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WEBSTER TOWN SUPERVISOR



Thomas J. Flaherty
Town Supervisor

Happy New Year, Webster!

As you'll see from the 2024 Year-in-Review in this edition of *Webster Today*, a lot was accomplished in 2024. Those accomplishments were a TEAM effort that Town department heads, employees, board members, and most importantly, our community all had a hand in. We are not resting on our laurels as we enter 2025. There is work to be done to achieve the overall goal of having Webster be "where life is worth living" in 2025 and beyond. Based on efforts in 2024 and prior, 2025 will see the completion of the Wastewater recovery facility project

on Phillips Road. It will see the completion of the 750,000 square-foot Coca-Cola/fairlife® Dairy processing plant on Tebor Road.

The Town government team seeks to start, continue, or complete several priority items in 2025 including but not limited to: initiating the Town of Webster's first assessment revaluation in over 20 years, getting private roads on the Xerox campus into the public domain to assist in redevelopment on that 700+ acre campus, developing the West Webster Hamlet at the corner of Old Ridge Road and Gravel Road, and continuing

the development of one of the most unique Town parks in the United States, Sandbar Park.

We look forward to building upon our progress with our community in 2025.

As always, please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Flaherty
Webster Town Supervisor
585-872-7068
supervisor@websterny.gov



WEBSTER TOWN BOARD



Patricia Cataldi
Town Councilwoman
Deputy Supervisor
15 Years of Service



John Cahill
Town Councilman
5 Years of Service



Ginny Nguyen
Town Councilwoman
3 Years of Service



Jennifer Wright
Town Councilwoman
1 Year of Service



WEBSTER TOWN JUSTICES



Thomas J. DiSalvo
Town Justice
Since 2001



Christine Seppeler
Town Justice
Since 2023

2025 Town and County Tax Bills

Bills for 2025 Town and County taxes were mailed on or before December 31, 2024

By Danene Marr, Receiver of Taxes

Town and County tax season is upon us and these tax bills can be paid in a variety of ways, which are outlined on the back page of each tax bill. Tax payments are received at Webster Town Hall, 1000 Ridge Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If your taxes are paid along with your mortgage and held in an escrow account, your lending institution is responsible for the payment of your taxes. In this case, if you receive your tax bill, contact your mortgage company and forward the bill to them. If there have been any changes in the status of your mortgage, such as a change in your lending institution, transfer, or sale of property, you may want to check with the Webster Tax Office at 585-872-7064 on the status of your account and where your bill is directed.

Monroe County website at monroecounty.gov. Select "**View/Pay Taxes Online**" and print the two-page document, "Combined Town and County Tax Bill." It is important to act promptly to avoid possible interest charges. If your bill is misdirected in the mail and you have not received the bill, penalties cannot be waived.

for escrow accounts are automatically sent by the Town or affiliated agency approximately four to six weeks after receipt of payment from your mortgage company.

If you pay your taxes electronically through your bank, note the full account number on the remittance information or the address, however, we discourage online bank payments. Online banking payments cannot be guaranteed by the bank to be delivered to our office by the due date. If you utilize online banking, you do so at your own risk.

Paying in Installments

Tax payments may be made in full, in four installments, or partial payments. Completed instructions and information concerning payment of installments or full payments are on the back of the bill.

If you do not have an escrow account from which your taxes are paid, you should have already received a 2025 Town and County tax bill. If you have not received a bill in early January, please contact our office immediately so a duplicate bill can be sent to you. You may also retrieve a bill from the

If you wish to be issued a receipt, you must provide us with the entire bill with the payment coupons found on the second page so that we can properly apply your payment. The coupons are used to post your payment if you pay in full or by installment; please remit with your payment. Receipts

The interest-free period ends on February 10, 2025. The due dates for each installment this year are February 10, February 28, March 31, and April 30. When the due date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday will be the date payment is due without additional penalties.

How can I pay my taxes?

Online

Charge card and electronic check payments via the internet are available through Monroe County's website: monroecounty.gov. Select, "**View/Pay Taxes Online**". The payment portal is linked to the tax system, so your payment will be posted immediately. Fees will apply.

Mail

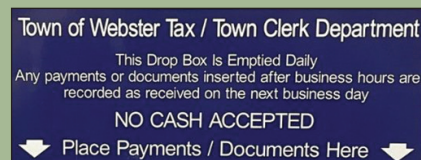
If mailing your payment, list your account number/phone number on your check or money order. Include your payment coupon found on the second page of your bill and send it to:

Danene M. Marr
Receiver of Taxes
1000 Ridge Road
Webster, New York 14580

Tax payments delivered by the U.S. Postal Service after the due date that do not contain an official U.S. Postal Postmark but rather a "postage meter" mark are not considered timely. Payments with insufficient interest or late payment charges will be returned to you.

Drop Box

You may utilize the Town's Payment Drop Box located inside the front vestibule of Webster Town Hall, 1000 Ridge Road. It is available 24 hours a day to submit your payment.



Place your check/money order payment in an envelope with your phone number. NO CASH will be accepted. Payments received after 4:30 p.m. are considered received on the next business day. Please be sure to include your payment coupon found on the second page of your bill to ensure proper processing.

For questions call the Town of Webster Tax Office at 585-872-7064 or email Danene Marr, Tax Receiver at dmarr@websterny.gov.





Webster Winter Reminders

By Pat Stephens, Highway Superintendent

The Town of Webster is responsible for snow and ice removal on town, county, and state roads within Webster, with the exception of the New York State Expressways. As winter continues, Webster Highway Department reminds residents of the rules and regulations that promote safety while at home or traveling in Webster this winter snow and ice season. Here are some important reminders to consider this winter:

Snow Removal

It is Webster Highway Department's goal to provide roads that are passable and reasonably safe for vehicular traffic as much as possible within the limitations imposed by weather conditions. To do so, the department runs three shifts to remove snow during the snow removal season, January 1 through March 28.

Highway and Road Salting

Webster Highway Department follows the "Sensible Salting" Guidelines established by Monroe County, in conjunction with the Environmental Management Council. This policy requires us to use only enough salt to make our highways safe for motorists but requires drivers to reduce their driving speed according to conditions. We adjust roadway treatment to the conditions based on traffic volumes, temperature and time of day. We ask you to do the same.

The Town of Webster follows strict guidelines for winter road treatment. Roads are treated with different products to enhance performance depending on the time of year and temperatures. Highway Department crews adjust the application depending on forecast, temperatures, traffic volume, and time of day. Drivers should adjust their speed and expected time of travel by considering the same criteria.

Webster Highway Department trucks back up at almost every single intersection. Giving them the room to maneuver enhances the overall operations, thus safer roads quicker; please be courteous.

Roadway Delineation

Snow stakes (markers) placed by Town personnel are for the sole purpose of delineating obstructions or points of curve for drivers during snow removal operations. They are strategically placed to guide Town crews while not obstructing or impeding operations.

During storms or heavy accumulations, the Highway Department may perform a detail called "benching" or "shelving." At that time, stakes (markers) may become vulnerable and subject to damage from shelving. The Town does not repair or replace damaged markers placed in the right-of-way by homeowners.

Driveway Clearing

Driveway maintenance is the responsibility of a property owner. When clearing your driveway, the Webster Highway Department asks that snow be kept on your own property. Any snow pushed, blown, or plowed into any street is not permitted under both NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law and NYS Highway Law. If your driveway is plowed by a private contractor, both the property owner and plow operator may be ticketed in the case of violation.

To minimize the amount of snow pushed back into your driveway by street plowing, it is advised to push snow to the left side of your driveway (if facing your house). In addition, please keep trash and recycling bins out of the road, shoulder, and gutter through snow removal season as they create a hazard.

Winter Parking Regulations

In order to facilitate snow removal and to eliminate potential hazards, the parking of vehicles on all highways, shoulders, or within three feet of the road is prohibited between the hours of 12:00 am and 7:00 am from November 1 through May 1; parking on roadways is also prohibited during snow emergencies. Vehicles in violation of this ordinance are subject to a parking ticket. Vehicles in violation of this will be towed and the vehicle's owner will be responsible for all towing and storage charges. The Town of Webster has legal authority to remove vehicles parked in the road outside posted hours if vehicles impede or obstruct our snow removal operation; it is best to avoid parking in the road whenever possible.

Mailbox Replacement

It is the Highway Department's practice to replace mailboxes that are damaged by the town during snow removal operations. Replacement of your mailbox is done as a courtesy; the Town is not legally liable for damage to mailboxes. To report a damaged mailbox, please complete an online form, posted on our website.

The department does not repair special mailboxes. Any and all damaged mailboxes will be replaced with a standard 4' by 4' post and mailbox. If you have a special mailbox, you may consider replacing it for the winter snow season with a standard mailbox.

The Webster Highway Department works diligently to keep roadways clear throughout our community for the safety and well-being of Town residents, businesses, and visitors. We look forward to serving Webster this winter and thank you for your cooperation.



Literary Fan Fest at Webster Public Library

Join Webster Public Library for an evening of immersive literary fun for all ages on Sunday, January 19 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm! Visit five different literary realms: **The Dragon's Den (fantasy)**, **The Queen's Ball (Regency era)**, **The Fairytale Forest (princesses & fairytales)**, **Mythology Camp**, and **the Comics Cafe (comics & superheroes)**. Each realm will offer interactive themed crafts & activities, treats, and more! Visit with live animals, have a tarot card reading, learn a Regency-inspired dance, get your face painted, meet char-

acters from your favorite fairy tales and comics, and more! And don't forget your treats from our Candy Shoppe!

This event is for literary lovers of all ages! Costumes are highly encouraged. Please register online at websterlibrary.org or call 585-872-7075. This event is funded by a grant from Senator Samra Brouk.



GREAT BOOKS
...AND SO MUCH MORE



ASK WEBSTER



Q & A

How do I apply for a license plate or hanging parking permit for people with disabilities?

New York residents can apply for license plates or parking permits for people with severe disabilities. Required documentation includes:

- Application for License Plates or Parking Permits for Persons with Severe Disabilities
- Driver's license or non-driver identification
- Medical doctor's signature and certification

Hanging Parking Permits Permits are issued by local governments, not the DMV. Permits are available for any person living in the town, but you must apply to the town in which you live. In Webster, parking permits are issued by the Town Clerk's Office, located at 1000 Ridge Road.

Temporary or permanent permits are issued free to applicants with a doctor's statement. The application is available on the Webster Town Clerk's webpage.

License Plates

License plates are issued at County DMV Offices.

Please note: Filing a false application is a crime.



Webster Citizen Boards

By Tom Flaherty, Town Supervisor

When I became Town Supervisor nearly five years ago, I was reminded of the great sense of community we enjoy here in Webster. Residents of our Town are proud of our hometown and become involved in making Webster where life is worth living. We see this in attendance at community events and programs, volunteerism through the many organizations in our area, and citizenship through engagement in local government.

Webster benefits from the sense of involvement and community that our residents embody, especially as we look for residents to serve on the Town's citizen boards. The Town of Webster has several citizen boards that support Town operations, including Board of Assessment Review (BAR), Conservation Board, Library Board, Planning Board, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Athletic Review (PROSAR) Board. These boards help guide decision making and processes with our community.

These boards and the members that serve on them benefit and impact our community in such a great way, however often times, our community does not know that they exist or exactly what they do.

Board of Assessment Review

The BAR constitutes what is known as a quasi-judicial body and the members of the board are charged with judicial responsibility to get all the facts and apply appropriate laws and reasoning to the facts in a fair and judicious manner.

Members are appointed for a five-year term. BAR members must:

- have knowledge of property values in the municipality
- be at least 18 years old
- be a citizen of the United States
- be a resident of the municipality in which the board serves; and
- attend required training

As an initial appointee or re-appointee to the board of assessment review (BAR), members must attend a training session,

taught by a county director of real property tax services.

Conservation Board

The Conservation Board serves to advise the Town in the development, management, and protection of its natural resources. Board members review proposed development applications for environmental impacts and advise the various Town boards on their findings, including the Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board.

The following criteria guides the Conservation Board's review process:

Tree Mitigation: Review plans for tree management within a project, including tree removal and protection of existing woodlands.

Wetland Protection: Review impacts to stormwater management, existing wetlands, drainage, and ponds.

Comprehensive Plan Alignment: Evaluate plans to ensure they align with the Comprehensive Plan standards including percentage of greenspace, protection of native species, green initiatives, and conservation easements.

Visual Impacts: Review plans for visual impacts to residents in the area: landscaping and berms, outdoor lighting, and setbacks and buffers.

Erosion Control: Evaluate plans for grading, including impacts to the soil and potential for erosion.

Conservation Board members are responsible for conducting site visits and staying current on the Town Comprehensive Plan, Town Code, and State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) guidelines. Board members serve a two-year term.

Library Board

The Library Board is responsible for seeing that the Webster Public Library provides the best possible service to its community. A library trustee's commitment is to both the physical property and resources of the library and the services it provides.

The responsibilities of trustees include:

- Create and develop the mission of the library.
- Regularly plan and evaluate the library's service program based on community needs.
- Exercise fiduciary responsibility for the use of public and private funds.
- Adopt policies and rules regarding library governance and use.
- Library trustees must attend a minimum of two (2) hours of NYS required training courses each year and are appointed to a five-year term.

Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Athletic Review (PROSAR) Board

The PROSAR Board serves to advise and assist in the preparation of plans and programs for carrying out the functions of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Such Board also reviews plans and proposals for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation lands and facilities as may from time to time be referred to it by the Town Board or the Planning Board and make recommendations to these boards, as appropriate.

The PROSAR Board consists of eleven members appointed by the Town Board, of whom six members will be appointed for two years, and the remaining five members for three years. A two-year appointment is renewable no more than twice, a three-year term renewable only once, each such appointment for a maximum of six years.

Planning Board

Planning Board members are appointed to serve a term of seven years. Each member of the Planning Board shall attend a minimum of four (4) hours of training courses each year, measured during the period from January 1 to December 31. Members of the Planning Board shall attend a minimum of eighty (80) percent of the regular meetings of such board held each year between January 1 and December 31.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

The administrative and regulatory roles of the Planning Board include the review of all site plans, subdivision proposals and permanent signage applications associated with both existing and proposed development. The Planning Board ensures that development proposals are consistent with the Town's Design Guidelines and are in harmony with the Town's comprehensive plan. Other project impacts that Planning Board members are tasked with evaluating include traffic, lighting, landscaping, access and circulation.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Responsibilities of a Zoning Board Member:

- Members are appointed to serve a term of five years.
- Each member of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall attend a minimum of four (4) hours of

NYS required training courses each year, measured during the period from January 1 to December 31.

- Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall attend a minimum of eighty (80) percent of the regular meetings of such board held each year between January 1 and December 31.
- Preparation for monthly board meetings will include reviewing project materials and conducting site visits.

Alternate Zoning Board Members:

- Appointed to serve a term of 3 years (per Town Code section 59-2)
- Will serve at board meetings when a member is absent or unable to participate on an application or matter before the Zoning Board

- When so designated by the Chairman, the alternate member shall possess all the powers and responsibilities of such member of the Zoning Board
- Must attend required NYS training courses (4 hours per year)
- Will be expected to prepare for the monthly meetings by reviewing project documents and completing site visits.

These boards and each member of them help the Town of Webster develop, grow, and deliver the services that make our community a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

More information about time, date, and location of each board's meetings is available on our website at

websterny.gov/121/Citizen-Boards

BACKYARD WILDLIFE IN WEBSTER



Cooper's Hawk

"The photo is a juvenile Cooper's Hawk that decided to hang out in our Webster backyard for about 15 minutes. I enjoyed watching him as he explored our yard!"

Photograph by
Marie Costanza of Webster

**Thank You
to all
who have
Submitted
Photos!**

Please keep sending them...grab your camera, cell phone, or tablet and capture a visitor from the wilds of Webster. Email your photo with a brief description to: webstertodayproduction@gmail.com.

Be sure to look for the next **Backyard Wildlife in Webster** photo in the April issue of *Webster Today*, which will be mailed to you around April 3-5, 2025.



Celebrating Charlie Genese

By Kim Doyle, Supervisor's Office

After 29 years of service to the Webster community, Town Attorney Charlie Genese is retiring.

Charlie was first hired by the Town on January 1, 1996, as a Zoning Board Member. On August 6, 1998, he was appointed to Town Attorney and has been in this position until his retirement. Charlie's wealth of knowledge will be sadly missed. His opinions were sought after many times daily and the depth of his understanding of the law and his explanation brought clarity to all who worked with him.

Josh Artuso, Director of Community Development, recalls Charlie's guidance through the years, "I've enjoyed working with Town Attorney Genese. His years of municipal law experience and extensive institutional knowledge of the Town and its history have been invaluable resources to me during my tenure. He will be greatly missed; I wish him all the best as he enters retirement."

Charlie was employed as an Assistant Attorney General in the Rochester Office of the New York State Department of Law before coming to the Town of Webster. He was a litigating attorney representing various state agencies and employees in the courts, both State and Federal. Charlie was employed by Monroe County in

several titles: Second Deputy County Attorney, Counsel to the Monroe County Children's Center, and Social Services Counsel, to name a few.

Charlie's compassion for people is overflowing. Charlie has worked pro bono since 1998 for JustCause. JustCause has a mission of improving the quality of life of low-income people in Monroe County by ensuring the existence of a



readily available panel of skilled volunteer attorneys to resolve serious legal problems. His involvement with this organization is something he is very proud of. Town Councilwoman Ginny Nguyen states, "I have known Charlie as a friend for over twenty years. Charlie's knowledge and integrity have been a real asset to the Webster Community. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Town with Charlie."

Charlie grew up in Irondequoit and moved to Webster in 1987. In college, Charlie joined ROTC. He served in the United States Air Force in the Vietnam Era and was Honorably Discharged. He is married to Barbara Genese and they have two children, Amanda and Charles.

Charlie's deep appreciation for the law and his expansive knowledge of the Town of Webster will be missed, along with his sense of humor and kind spirit. His friendship means so much to so many in the Town of Webster, and although we are all truly happy for him on his retirement, we will miss him in our day-to-day lives!

Patti Cataldi, Deputy Supervisor states, "Charlie has provided sage and expert legal counsel to the Town of Webster and the Town Board as well as the Planning, Zoning, and Assessment Review Boards. While he will continue to provide legal services to the Town on a more limited basis, I wish him all the best in this first step of retirement. I feel honored to consider him a partner in good government, a trusted advisor, and most importantly a true friend."

The Town of Webster wishes Charlie a happy and healthy retirement; he has more than earned it!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
T Town of Webster P Parks & Recreation L Library H Holiday/Other S Webster Schools	L 1:00pm Chair Yoga L 6:30pm Webster Area Preschools Open House	L 10:00am Preschool Dance Party T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting	J New Year's Day: All Town Offices CLOSED A N S NO SCHOOL	P Camp Reg Opens & Winter Spring Programs Begin T 6:30pm Org. Meeting S NO SCHOOL L 6:00pm Night Out at the Library: Winter Fairy Door Wreaths	S NO SCHOOL	L 11:00am The 1918 Spanish Flu and Other Webster Epidemics - Cherie Wood
5	L 1:00pm Chair Yoga L 6:00pm Webster Area Preschools Open House	L 10:00am Preschool Dance Party T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting	L 11:00am Diverse Abilities Dialogues Alternative Therapies 2	L 6:30pm Fair Trade - Presented by One World Goods T 6:30pm Town Board Workshop T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	T Full Town/County Tax Payment or First Installment Payment due with no interest.	11
12	L 1:00pm Chair Yoga L 6:00pm Make it Monday: Pasta Snowflakes	L 2:00pm Tuesday Travelogue: Danube Cruise T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting	15	L 6:30pm Fair Trade - Presented by One World Goods T 6:30pm Town Board Workshop T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	17	18
19 L 4:30pm Literary Fan Fest	H Martin Luther King Day Town Offices CLOSED Rec Center OPEN Normal Hours S NO SCHOOL	L 10:00am Music & Movement Storytime	22	L 2:30pm Libby Tips and Tricks L 6:30pm Revising your Resume	L 10:00am Arctic Animals Drop-In Craft	25 L 10:00am Arctic Animals Drop-In Craft L 1:00pm Introduction to Embroidery Class
26	L 1:00pm Chair Yoga L 6:00pm Family Fun Night	28	29 S NO SCHOOL	30	31 P Candy Bar BINGO 6-7:15PM	1 F 10:00am Take Your Child to the Library Day - Storytime and Activities E B
2	L 1:00pm Chair Yoga	L 10:00am Preschool Dance Party L 11:00am Diverse Abilities Dialogue: Care Coordination T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting	5 L 6:00pm Heat Pumps: Presented by Color Webster Green	L 6:00pm Night Out at the Library: Vintage Paper Wreath T 6:30pm Town Board Workshop T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	7	8 L 1:00pm Jazz Generation Concert
9	L 2:00pm Mammogram Sign-Up Table L 6:00pm Make it Monday: Yarn Wrapped Hearts	L 10:00 am Discovery Morning L 2:00pm Tuesday Travelogue: Peru with Machu Pichu T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting	12	L 2:30pm Libby Tips and Tricks L 6:30pm Learn about the Tuskegee Airmen	14 P 55+ Valentine's Day Lunch Party	15

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p>H President's Day Town Offices CLOSED Rec Center OPEN Normal Hours</p> <p>S NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>L 10:00 am Family Trivia</p> <p>P Feb Break Camp</p> <p>S NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>P Feb Break Camp</p> <p>S NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>T 6:30pm Town Board Workshop</p> <p>T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting</p> <p>P Feb Break Camp</p> <p>S NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>P Feb Break Camp</p> <p>S NO SCHOOL</p>	
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
	<p>L 6:00pm Family Fun Night</p>		<p>L 6:30 pm Teen Library Club</p>	<p>L 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Mobile Mammogram Center</p>		<p>P Loosey Goosey Pickleball Tourney</p> <p>L 1:00pm Irish Music Concert</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		<p>L 10:00am Preschool Dance Party</p> <p>L 11:00am Diverse Abilities Dialogue: Housing</p> <p>T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting</p>		<p>L 6:00pm Night Out at the Library: TBD</p> <p>T 6:30pm Town Board Workshop</p> <p>T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting</p>		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<p>L 6:00pm Make it Monday: TBD</p>	<p>L 2:00pm Tuesday Travelogue: Barcelona</p> <p>T 7:00 pm Zoning Board Meeting</p>		<p>L 2:30pm Libby Tips and Tricks</p>	<p>P 55+ St. Patrick's Day Lunch Party</p> <p>L 3:30pm Make a Leprechaun Trap</p>	<p>L 2:00pm Striking Strings Hammered Dulcimer Ensemble Concert</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				<p>T 5:30pm Town Board Workshop</p> <p>T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting</p> <p>P Conference Day Camp</p> <p>S 1/2 Day</p>	<p>P Conference Day Camp</p> <p>S 1/2 Day</p>	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			<p>L 6:30pm Teen Library Club</p>	<p>P Conference Day Camp</p> <p>S 1/2 Day</p>	<p>P Conference Day Camp</p> <p>S 1/2 Day</p>	
30	31	<p>Event dates and times may be subject to change and/or cancellation. Parks and Recreation and Library Events MAY REQUIRE REGISTRATION. Visit websterlibrary.org for registration requirements and updated event information.</p>				

EMS in Webster

By Tom Flaherty, Town Supervisor

As the Town of Webster navigates Emergency Medical Services in our community and works to ensure the best possible EMS for our community's health and well-being, it is important to keep residents informed about the changes that have taken place over the past year concerning this topic.

NEQALS Provides Formal Notice

In December 2023, Northeast Quadrant Advanced Life Support (NEQALS) submitted their formal 90-day notice, meaning that in late March 2024, NEQALS would no longer provide services in the Town of Webster. Following NEQALS's announcement in late December, Webster Town Board named Penfield Volunteer Ambulance (PVA) as the primary agency in West Webster, effective January 13.

As the end of NEQALS's 90 days approached, Webster Town Board authorized the Town Supervisor to sign a contract for Webster Emergency Medical Service (WEMS) to outsource EMS in the Northeast Joint Fire District to PVA, effective March 29, 2024. At that time, PVA established staging areas/bases in both East and West Webster to provide comprehensive coverage across Webster.

To keep Webster Town Board apprised of the call volume and response rate, PVA provided updates at Town Board Workshops in June and October. In their first three months (March 29 – June 24), PVA responded to 96.78% of the 1,119 calls across the Town of Webster. From June 25 – September 30, PVA responded to 96.4% of the 1,411 calls across the Town of Webster.

Webster's Committee on EMS

In addition to partnering with PVA to provide short-term solutions for EMS, the Town has engaged a committee of subject matter experts to provide recommendations on long-term, sustainable solutions for EMS in Webster. This committee was formed in February 2024 and is co-chaired

by Town Councilman and EMS liaison John Cahill and Webster resident, Russ Ziskind.

The committee's mission statement is to counsel the Webster Town Board on various long-term EMS options available to Webster when considering their Municipal Authorities with New York State. The committee has provided updates to Webster Town Board on June 27 and October 3, as well.

The Path to a Long-term Solution

The first charge of the EMS committee was to develop a Request for Inquiries (RFI) to gauge the interest of EMS agencies covering Webster. Twenty-one EMS agencies in Monroe County and Wayne County were sent the RFI in May 2024, with a deadline of June 24, 2024, to remit. The committee received seven total responses; five formal 'no' responses (Eastern Wayne, Brighton, Honeoye Falls, Irondequoit, and Newark-Arcadia) and two formal 'yes' responses (Monroe Ambulance and PVA).

The committee determined pursuing the Request for Proposal process would be helpful in making an educated determination about the future of EMS in Webster. On August 13, a pre-RFP questionnaire was sent to both Monroe Ambulance and PVA calling for responses by September 13. Both agencies responded by the given deadline.

The committee prepared and sent out a formal RFP to Monroe Ambulance and PVA and received proposals from both agencies by the November 18 deadline. The committee is reviewing these proposals and will provide a formal recommendation to Webster Town Board.

In addition to vetting agencies to contract with the Town of Webster for EMS services, the committee also assessed the pros and cons of a Town-run EMS agency with W-2 employed Paramedics and EMTs, leased or owned ambulances, and a leased or owned base. After much discernment, the committee made a formal recommendation

to the Webster Town Board advising against establishing a Town-run EMS agency. This recommendation was the result of several factors, including:

- Estimated costs to start a Town-run ambulance department with full-time EMTs and Paramedics, leased or owned ambulances, and a leased or owned base vs. the projected revenue.
- The volatility of the EMS industry and unknowns as to where the industry will go in the next 5-10 years (mandated consolidation, etc.).
- Lack of economies of scale that existing private companies, like Monroe Ambulance and Penfield Volunteer Ambulance, have.
- Controversiality of the government running a business.

A Decision is Reached

At the December 5, 2024, Town Board Workshop, Russ Ziskind delivered a recommendation to Webster Town Board based on the Committee's review of the strong proposals received from both Monroe and PVA. Their recommendation to accept PVA's proposal was based on fourteen key points, with Cost and Subsidy Requests and Basic Geographic Coverage influencing the Committee's recommendation most heavily. At the Town Board meeting immediately following the Town Board Workshop, the Town Board voted 5-0 to authorize contract negotiations with PVA.

Delivering sustainable and effective ambulance services for our community continues to be a priority for Webster Town Board. Based on the Committee's recommendation and the work and conduct of PVA over the past nine months, I am confident in the PVA's continuing to provide exceptional ambulance services to our community.

2024: Year in Review

January



January 2024:
Webster Town Board at 2024
Organizational Meeting.

- Councilwoman Jennifer Wright joins Webster Town Board.
- Town of Webster celebrates the swearing in of four town officials: Supervisor Tom Flaherty, Councilman John Cahill, Councilwoman Jennifer Wright, and Town Justice Christine Seppeler.
- Webster makes Town history with the first Town Board with a female majority, as well as the Webster's first elected female Town Justice.

February

- Chief Operator Rick Kenealy receives Public Outreach and 25-year service awards for his involvement with New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA).
- Rick Allen retires from the Webster Highway Department after thirteen years of service to the Webster community.



February 2024:
Rick Kenealy receiving an award at the
2024 NYWEA conference.



March 2024:
Supervisor Flaherty at Merit Badge Day.

March

- Supervisor Flaherty joins Boy Scout Troop 110 for Merit Badge Day.
- Bid opening is held for Phillips to Tebor Road conveyance pipe project.
- Webster Parks & Recreation hosts a one-hundredth birthday party celebrating Webster resident Frank Amering.



April 2024:
Chris Bilow accepts Exceptional Park Design
award for Sandbar Park



April 2024:
Ground is officially broken at fairlife®
project site.

April

- The Town of Webster partners with Webster Police Department and Webster Health Education Network (WHEN) for a drug take back event, collecting over 400 pounds of prescription drugs.
- Sandbar Park is recognized with the Exceptional Park Design Award from the New York Recreation and Park Society (NYRPS).
- Supervisor Flaherty and Webster Town Board joins Governor Hochul, County Executive Bello, and Coca-Cola/fairlife® for fairlife's official groundbreaking ceremony.
- Webster Public Library hosts a Solar Eclipse event at Webster Recreation Center.
- Webster Highway Department begins its annual leaf mulch compost and wood chip pickup and delivery.
- Webster Public Library hosts the annual Friends of Webster Public Library book sale to support library efforts.
- Webster Police Department joins long-time partner Bivona Child Advocacy Center and other partner agencies in signing Bivona's annual Memorandum of Understanding.

May

Keith Mortimer joins Webster as Town Engineer.

June

- Dorothy 'Dolly' Maguire retires from her position as Town Clerk/Receiver of Taxes.
- Proclamation in memory of Bill Rampe, Jr. presented by Webster Town Board.
- Danene Marr joins Webster as Town Clerk/Receiver of Taxes.
- Nate Hansen retires from Parks Department after 23 years of service to the Town of Webster
- Summer Celebration hosts over 6,000 guests.



June 2024:
Dolly Maguire receives a Town Board
proclamation for her service to Webster.

Webster Police Services

"The primary mission for employees of the Webster Police Department is to serve the community of Webster and its people. We are called upon to enforce laws and ordinances passed by the representatives of these same people. The department is committed to service and to maintaining our high standards in response to the community we serve."

- Mission Statement of the Webster Police Department

The mission statement of the Webster Police Department is the guiding principle behind what our department seeks to accomplish each day. While the first thought most people have when thinking about police is response to emergencies and patrol, Webster Police Department also works tirelessly to deliver services to the community we serve. Among these services are the following:

Business Registry

Business owners within the Town of Webster may use to Business Registry Form to notify or update Webster Police Department of who to contact in the event of an afterhours emergency. In the form, Webster Police collect all important contact information, including the business name, type of business, as well as address, phone number, email address for both the owner and preferred contact(s).

In addition to this information, Webster Police Department requests security information to best understand the current afterhours activity and surveillance at each business.

Child Safety Seat Check

Parents and caregivers have the opportunity to have their child safety seat installation checked by Webster Police Officers that are National Child Passenger Safety Certified Technicians. To request a

child safety seat check, parents and caregivers submit a request for an appointment. After submitting the request form, caregivers will receive a confirmation email from the WPD with additional information.



At the time of the appointment, Webster Police Department asks that parents and caregivers meet officers in the East lot of the Webster Police Department at 1000 Ridge Road, unless otherwise instructed. Caregivers should also arrive with safety seats unboxed and installed to the best of their ability in the vehicle where the seat will primarily be used.

House Check

Webster residents may submit a house check request form if they will be away from their home. The purpose of reporting a house check serves multiple purposes. By completing this report, Webster Police

Department will have a phone number to contact residents while they are out of town. In addition, if there is a problem in their neighborhood, the Police can check a reported house to make sure its secure.

It is important to note that Webster Police Department does not guarantee a physical check of each residence while the homeowner is away, but uses the house check as a tool if the need arises. In addition, only residents of the Town or Village of Webster may use this service.

Speed Study Request

Speeding is one of the concerns Webster Police Department hears from residents most frequently. One way we can maximize resource development is to conduct speed studies to assist with targeted enforcement.

Speed studies may be requested by an online form posted to our website and will request a two-week speed study by the Webster Police Department. Completed speed study results will be posted to our website, sharing location, duration of the study, daily values for speed violations, hourly values for speed violations, total number of speed violations, count by speed range, and a summary report. The speed trailed also provides important feedback to the drivers to educate them about their speed.

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 10 for this issue's photo from one of your neighbors

July

- Sandbar Park's first community event, Sandbar Park Splendor, is held.
- Supervisor Flaherty joins Webster resident, Rose, for her one-hundredth birthday.



July 2024:
Sandbar Park Splendor!



August 2024:
Animal Control Officer Barbara Hollands at
Rabies Vaccination Clinic.

August

- Proclamation honoring Webster's first female Eagle Scout, Eliza Drum, is presented by Webster Town Board.
- Town of Webster partners with Monroe County to host a rabies vaccination clinic.
- New digester is installed at Webster's Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of the upgrade process.

September

- Supervisor Flaherty works alongside the Parks Department for a day.
- Fourth Annual Community Mud Run is held at the Webster Recreation Center.



September 2024:
Community Mud Run!



September 2024:
Supervisor Flaherty and Glenn Merrill
preparing the Mud Run course.

Talks on Tuesdays

By Katie Kovar, Recreation Director



Several years ago, Senior Coordinator Daphne Geoca introduced "Talks on Tuesdays" to the Webster Parks and Recreation 55+ Center. The free lecture series hoped to bring older adults a wide range of topics to keep the minds of attendees sharp and alert while meeting new and interesting people along the way.

The "talks" have brought in a wide range of speakers—from Dan Mason of the Rochester Red Wings, Jim Porter from NASA, experts on health and safety prevention and even speakers on paranormal activity. The talks garner a wide attendance and happen as often as possible on Tuesdays at the Webster Recreation Center from 10:30-11:30 am. The lecture series is free for participants with registration.

"The Webster community is full of talented, knowledgeable people," says Geoca. "We are continually looking in bringing in new expertise and interesting dynamics to the Talks on Tuesday attendees. Do you have a hobby or interest that you would like to share with others? A compelling story or travel experience you want to discuss? An interesting life



story that you have always wanted to talk about? Talks on Tuesday could be the perfect place for you!"

Interested in learning more or presenting? Contact our 55+ Coordinator via email at

dgeoca@websterny.gov

or by phone at 585-872-7103 x7105. For more information on the 55+ Center at Webster Parks and Recreation visit:

websterny.gov/702/Parks-Recreation

October



October 2024:
Pumpkins on Parade 2024.



October 2024:
55+ Coordinator, Daphne Geoca
with Maplewood residents.



October 2024:
Webster Drug Take Back Event

- Parks & Recreation hosts a donation drive for hurricane Helene victims, resulting in thousands of donations from hundreds of residents.
- Pumpkins on Parade is held at Webster Recreation Center.
- Town Supervisor Tom Flaherty and 55+ Coordinator Daphne Geoca spend time talking to residents at Maplewood Nursing Home.
- Supervisor Flaherty and Kim Doyle visit with residents at CDS Housing.
- Webster Highway Department begins leaf collection.
- Town of Webster partners with Monroe County Board of Elections to host an Early Voting site.
- Town of Webster partners with Friends of Webster Trails for Two Week Trail Challenge.
- Town of Webster partners with Webster Police Department and WHEN for a drug take back event.

November

- Paul Fennell retires from Webster Highway Department after 28 years of service to the Webster community.
- Parks & Recreation meets with NYSEG to begin process for applying for rebates to update gymnasium lighting; this will lower energy expenses and reduce maintenance and associated costs.
- Supervisor Tom Flaherty, Kim Doyle, and Town Clerk Danene Marr meet with a WCSD Life Skills class for a tour of the Town Board Room and Webster Town Hall.



November 2024:
Town Clerk Danene Marr leads
students on a tour of Town Hall.



December 2024:
Santa visits Webster.

December

- Webster Recreation Center hosts an Afternoon with Santa.
- Charlie Genese retires from position as Town Attorney.



2025



WEBSTER PARKS & RECREATION

SUMMER CAMP

ENROLLMENT

- Pre-School Camp ●
- Playground Camp ●
- K-5 Camp ●
- 6-8 Trip Camp ●

**MULTIPLE OPTIONS
BETWEEN
JUNE–AUGUST 2025**

**REGISTRATION
OPENS ON
JANUARY 15, 2025**

Follow Us
@websterrecreation



Contact Us
585-872-7103



Visit Us
websterny.gov/212/Summer-Camps





JOIN US FOR THE 1ST ANNUAL

HELPING HEROES CLEAN UP DAY

HONORING THOMAS SMOCK

This first annual event will bring the community together honoring a man who was active in the volunteer world of Webster, NY. While Tom is greatly missed, the Helping Heroes day will give back the way Tom did, carrying on his legacy by inspiring others to do the same. We are looking for people who want to assist with light spring clean up in yards around the area (including raking, weeding, and spreading mulch if needed) as well as those who need assistance at their homes.

Once all inquiries and volunteers have been established, more information will be sent to participants! Please spread the word and help us continue to honor Tom!



SATURDAY 4.26.25 at 8:30 AM

VOLUNTEERS WILL MEET AT LIBERTY LODGE

REGISTER TO RECEIVE CLEAN UP: #101007-A

REGISTER TO ASSIST WITH CLEAN UP & VOLUNTEER: #101007-B

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
JULIE SCHILLACI AT JSCHILLACI@WEBSTERNY.GOV OR 585-872-7103 X7102



JOIN THE WEBSTER TEAM

Stay in the know about Webster job openings by visiting our website!



Use this QR code or visit websterny.gov/jobs to see all job openings, learn more about open positions, and sign up for job alerts!





The Front Cover:

Participant at
Webster Polar Run
in Winter of 2022.

Town of Webster
1000 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580



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<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfWebsterNY>

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ATTENTION WEBSTER HOMEOWNERS:

If you are 65 or older, or will be 65 by December 31, 2025,

You May Be Eligible for Senior Citizen Tax Exemptions

Senior citizens have until **March 1, 2025** to apply for an exemption.

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

Basic Qualifications

Age: 65 by December 31, 2025

Residency: **ONLY** your Primary Residence is eligible

Income: Currently accepting 2023 income

Benefits are in addition to your STAR benefits!

Don't Delay! Deadline is March 1, 2025 for September 2025-June 2026 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.