

Webster Today

Where Life is Worth Living!

October 2024 • Vol. 37 No. 4

Investing In Our Infrastructure: Sewer Project Update

22

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Preliminary Budget Public Hearing

Thursday, October 17 at 7:30 PM 
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Webster Today

October 2024 • Vol. 37 No. 4

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Advertising sales managed by
Pilato Entertainment, Marketing & Media LLC

Webster, NY 14580

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Fire Marshal

Andrew Vorndran Phone: (585) 872-7040

Visit the Town of Webster's website:

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



WEBSTER TOWN SUPERVISOR



Thomas J. Flaherty

Town Supervisor

My Webster Friends,

Over 50 years ago, Joe Wilson brought the 1,000+ acres Xerox campus to Webster. I think everyone agrees that was a boon for the community that set off the golden age of growth and prosperity in town throughout the 20th century.

The only constant in life is change. Over 20 years ago, Xerox started to change their trajectory both as a company and on the Webster campus. When I became Supervisor in

2020, 4 million square feet of the 6 million square feet of buildings on the Xerox campus were empty. That was almost 100 football fields of empty space! I don't think we can overstate the significance of Tessy buying 110 acres and 1.5 million square feet of buildings from Xerox in June 2022, or the announcement by Coca-Cola/fairlife® in May 2023 that they had chosen Webster as the location to build their dairy production facility. As we enter this new phase of development in the Town of Webster, we are entering another golden age of

opportunity, growth, and prosperity that will leave its mark on the 21st century!

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



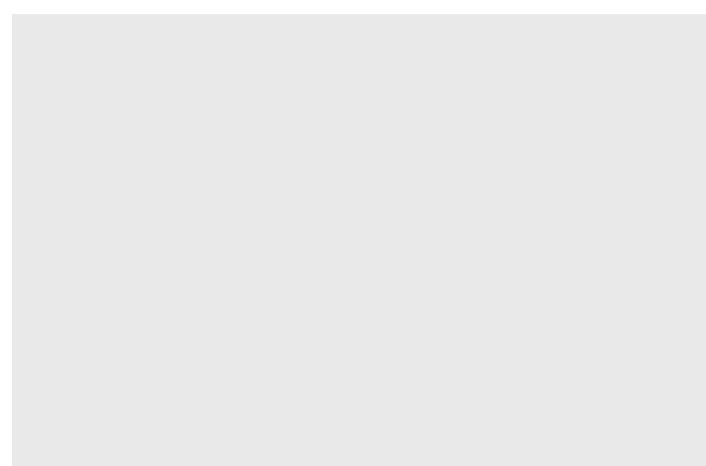
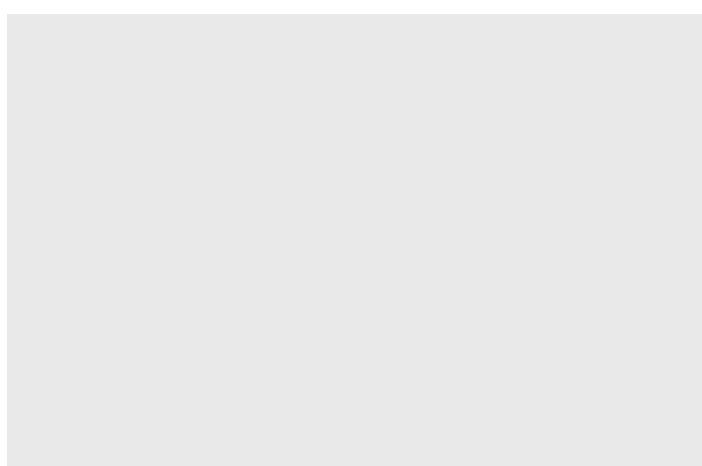
Ginny Nguyen

Town Councilwoman
2 Years of Service



Jennifer Wright

Town Councilwoman
Elected in 2023





WHERE LIFE IS WORTH LIVING

2025 Webster Budget Message

By Tom Flaherty, Webster Town Supervisor

The Town of Webster commenced the 2025 budget season in early May. It's a process that takes six months of the year to complete and it demands a considerable effort by the Town department heads, the Director of Finance and the Town Board. Each department head was instructed to put forth their best effort to minimize the tax levy for the citizens, while providing for the needs within their respective departments. The department heads presented their budgets during the televised budget workshops that were held on August 1 and August 8. A public hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget will be held on October 17 at 7:30pm.

Since the Town's primary role is to provide services, employee compensation and benefits is the largest portion of the budget. It encompasses 56.8% of net expenditures. Total employee compensation for 2025 is \$16,377,353 versus \$15,374,552 for 2024. This represents a \$1,002,801 (6.5%) increase. At the time that the 2024 budget was completed the police union contract remained unsettled so the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase was not built into each line item. Therefore the 2025 police budget reflects a jump for the COLA increase in 2024 and 2025, which was 3% and 4%, respectively. The 2025 budget also includes a \$85,000 police retention bonus which was not part of the 2024 budget. In addition, three new positions were added which include a communications assistant, a recreation leader and a maintenance mechanic in the sewer department.

The three positions have an aggregate compensation cost of \$147,037.

The employee benefits include contributions to the NYS retirement system, employers share of social security, worker's compensation insurance, medical and dental insurance, health savings account contributions and medical insurance paid on behalf of retired former employees. The budget for 2025 is \$8,407,000 versus \$8,126,800 for 2024. This represents a 3.5% increase.

“The Town’s primary role is to provide services.”
Supervisor Tom Flaherty

The 2024 budget includes a significant increase in debt service costs. In August of 2024 the Town renewed the 2023 bond anticipation note (BAN) and borrowed \$67,050,000 to fund the Highway Building project (\$22,100,000), Sandbar Park project (\$3,670,000), the Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase II project (\$35,000,000) and the Tebor to Phillips Road Conveyance Pipe project (\$6,280,000). The BAN is a one-year loan which is based on projected cash flow requirements for each project. The Town's BAN sale process proved to be very competitive which resulted in a \$681,964 premium paid to the Town

and a net interest rate of 2.936%. This was better than expected. When the BAN matures the premium will be recognized as revenue in 2025 which will partially offset the gross interest charge. The Town's debt service payments for 2024 will total \$5,953,138 versus \$4,450,356 for 2024. This represents a \$1,502,782 (33.8%) increase.

This budget includes increased revenue from commercial sewer charges and entrance fees. We have included \$2,986,550 for 2025 versus \$1,038,810 for 2024. The increase is primarily due to the Coca-Cola/fairlife® entrance fee which is being paid to the Town in annual installments of \$2,190,000 over ten years. A large portion of the Town's surplus fund balance (\$3,991,676) has been appropriated to stabilize the 2025 tax levy. The appropriation helps the Town stay in line with its' fund balance policy which has set limits on the amount of surplus that can be held.

Overall, the 2025 budget is fiscally sound in spite of persistent inflation and increased debt related to the various capital projects that are in process. The Town officials are working together to project the Town's financial position into the future so that revenue and expenses can be effectively managed beyond the one-year window of the budget process. We are pleased to say that the Town has been able to stay under the New York State tax cap, while continuing to provide the same level of service to the citizens.



2025 WEBSTER BUDGET

by the numbers

By Paul Adams, Director of Finance

The Town of Webster's annual budget process is robust. The Town strives to ensure services are being delivered to our community in a responsible manner. The 2025 budget underscores the Town of Webster's commitment to **investing in infrastructure, supporting economic growth, and funding quality-of-life services** that truly make the Town of Webster a place where life is worth living, all while protecting Webster taxpayers.

Protecting Taxpayers

The Town of Webster works diligently to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used responsibly to fund necessary expenditures and plan for the future. The 2025 budget protects taxpayers by remaining under the New York State tax cap.

There is a slight raise in the Town tax rate, with a net increase of \$0.34 from \$5.06 to \$5.40. Overall, the tax rate has remained relatively stable since 2020. Taxpayers will also see that there is a **decrease of \$43.90** in sewer rent charges, from \$296.83 to \$252.93.

As Supervisor Flaherty mentioned in his budget message, this means that the aggregate tax bill for an average house (assessed value of \$177,000) outside of the Village of Webster will increase 1.4%.



Fig. 1: The Town's tax rate has remained relatively stable across the past six budget years.

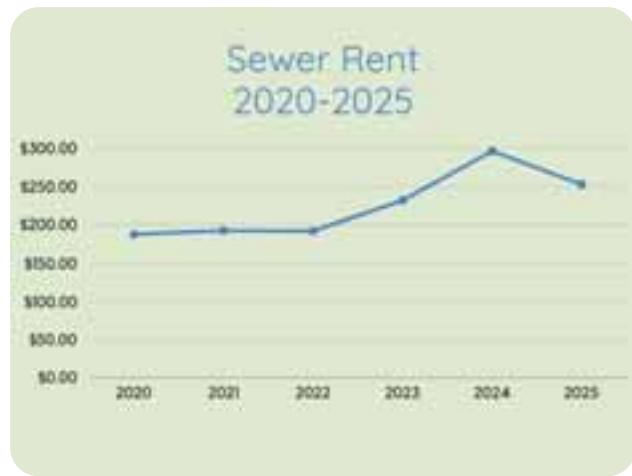


Fig. 2: Sewer rent charges will see a decrease of \$43.90 in 2025.

	2025	2024
Town Property Taxes	\$955.80	\$895.62
Sewer O&M and Capital Charge	252.93	296.83
Totals	\$1,208.73	\$1,192.45

Fig. 3: The average taxpayer will see an increase of just 1.4% on their 2025 tax bill.

- STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 10



Fig. 4 (left): The Town of Webster's anticipated major revenues for 2025.

Fig. 5 (right): The Town of Webster's anticipated expenditures for 2025.

Investing in Infrastructure

Timely investments in infrastructure equate to long-term cost savings. The 2025 budget contains significant investments in our Town in maintenance and improvements to our Wastewater Treatment Plant, provisions for equipment to maintain town roads, construction of the new highway building, and technology infrastructure to improve accessibility and reach.

The budget will support a network infrastructure update for all town facilities. After extensive research was conducted, it was determined that it is most practical to make these upgrades all at once rather than spread across several years.

The 2025 budget also includes an investment of \$540,000 into the Sewer Capital Reserve. This is significant, as this fund will support future sewer plant repairs and asset renewal.

Supporting Economic Growth

Economic growth and investing in our community continue to be a top priority for the Town of Webster. This can be seen in many aspects of our town government which is supported by the 2025 budget.

The upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant

to transform it into a Water Resource Recovery Facility that will generate significant revenue in the future and have a substantial impact on taxpayers' wallets. These upgrades also foster an environment that will continue to attract businesses to our community.

The 2025 budget also supports community planning initiatives like preparing 600 Ridge Road for sale and the update of the Town of Webster's Comprehensive Plan. These planning initiatives are critical to establishing the vision for the future of Webster.

Funding Quality of Life Services

The Town of Webster is dedicated to delivering high quality services to our community. Throughout Town, residents and visitors can be found enjoying these offerings and amenities through our town parks, recreation programming, library programs, and services like the fall leaf pick up or material delivery/pick up through the Highway Department. The 2025 budget continues to fund and expand these beloved and relied upon amenities.

From delivering services to fostering economic growth to investing in infrastructure, the Town of Webster's 2025 budget supports residents and has the best interests of taxpayers in mind.

Interested in learning more about the 2025 Webster Town Budget?

More information and the line-by-line Town Budget can be found on our website by visiting websterny.gov/253/Detailed-Budget or using the QR code to the right.



TOWN OF WEBSTER

SUMMARY OF 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

<u>OPERATING FUNDS</u>		APPROPRIATIONS	LESS ESTIMATED EXPENSES *	LESS ESTIMATED REVENUES *	AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES
	<u>FUND NAME</u>	ESTIMATED EXPENSES *	ESTIMATED REVENUES *	UNEXPENDED BALANCE	BY TAXES	BY TAXES
A	GENERAL - TOWN WIDE	\$23,182,394	\$6,204,795	\$910,000	\$16,067,599	\$14,881,147
B	GENERAL - PART TOWN	\$1,752,813	\$1,552,813	\$200,000	\$0	\$0
DA	HIGHWAY - TOWN WIDE	\$2,174,248	\$1,004,750	\$0	\$1,169,498	\$1,113,160
DB	HIGHWAY - PART TOWN	\$6,660,633	\$5,166,000	\$1,494,633	\$0	\$0
TOTAL-OPERATING FUNDS		\$33,770,088	\$13,928,358	\$2,604,633	\$17,237,097	\$15,994,307
<i>Increase 2024 to 2025</i>		<i>\$2,689,779</i>	<i>9.56%</i>		<i>\$1,242,790</i>	<i>7.77%</i>

Town Wide Funds Cover all 16,791 Parcels in the Town and Part Town Funds Cover the 15,323 Parcels Outside the Village of Webster

TOWN SEWER (Outside the Village with Access to Sanitary Sewers; Capital Units = 15,736 / O & M Units = 15,370)

G	SEWER FUND	CAPITAL	\$4,338,685	\$3,659,518	\$0	\$679,167	\$1,533,619
		O & M	\$4,611,535	\$1,147,391	\$240,000	\$3,224,144	\$3,037,191
		TOTAL	\$8,950,220	\$4,806,909	\$240,000	\$3,903,311	\$4,570,810

SPECIAL DISTRICTS & OTHER FUNDS

SD	DRAINAGE DISTRICT		\$823,655	\$36,000	\$0	\$787,655	\$628,110
SL	LIGHTING DISTRICTS		\$41,100	\$5,700	\$0	\$35,400	\$33,650
SP	PARK DISTRICTS		\$126,279	\$0	\$6,000	\$120,279	\$80,700
SS	SEWER DISTRICTS		\$88,739	\$20,558	\$0	\$68,181	\$134,961
SW	WATER DISTRICTS		\$59,498	\$1,480	\$0	\$58,018	\$50,249
E	PARKLAND TRUST FUND		\$467,836	\$110,000	\$357,836	\$0	\$0
L	LIBRARY **		\$2,614,812	\$2,614,812	\$0	\$0	\$0
V	DEBT SERVICE FUND		\$783,207	\$0	\$783,207	\$0	\$0
TOTAL-SPECIAL DIST. & OTHER		\$5,005,126	\$2,788,550	\$1,147,043	\$1,069,533	\$927,670	

OPERATING, SPECIAL DIST. & OTHER	\$47,725,434	\$21,523,817	\$3,991,676	\$22,209,941	\$21,492,787
<i>Increase 2024 to 2025</i>	<i>\$5,304,084</i>	<i>14.79%</i>		<i>\$717,154</i>	<i>3.34%</i>

* The estimated expenses and revenues include interfund transfers in the amount of \$4,055,130.

** The Library Fund is incorporated into the General Fund Town Wide amount to be raised by taxes.

TAX RATE ESTIMATES

	2025	2024	\$ Increase	% Increase
VILLAGE PROPERTY	\$5.40	\$5.06	0.3369	6.65%
TOWN OUTSIDE VILLAGE	\$5.40	\$5.06	0.3369	6.65%
SEWER RENT (CAPITAL + O & M)	\$252.93	\$296.83	(\$43.90)	-14.79%
SEWER O & M	\$209.77	\$199.13	<i>Operation of Collection System & Treatment Plant</i>	
SEWER CAPITAL	\$43.16	\$97.70	<i>Capital Plant Improvements, Equipment and Debt</i>	
TOTAL	\$252.93	\$296.83		
DRAINAGE DISTRICT - LEVY PER UNIT	\$787,655	20,168 Units	\$39.05	\$40.74



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

Webster's Comprehensive Plan

By Josh Artuso, Director of Community Development

The Town of Webster is embarking on an update to its Comprehensive Plan. This plan will create a community-based vision for the future of our town and support a balanced economic and community development strategy based on current and projected market trends. The existing comprehensive plan was last updated in 2008. Having an up-to-date comprehensive plan is imperative to reaching long-term goals for our community.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan expresses a community's long-term vision, goals, and objectives. Through establishing policies and strategies, comprehensive planning prioritizes capital improvement and infrastructure projects, informs land use regulations and local decision-making, and functions as the basis for updating the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map. An update to the comprehensive plan will analyze population demographics, housing types and density, economic demographics, transportation, infrastructure, land use, culture and recreation,

sustainable practices, and environmental resources to develop policies, recommendations and strategies.

Benefits of an updated Comprehensive Plan

There are several benefits to having an up-to-date comprehensive plan. It provides municipal officials with an understanding of historical trends, present conditions, and an opportunity to thoughtfully plan for future growth. An updated comprehensive plan also assists in attracting grant funding for implementation of projects and initiatives identified in the plan. Another benefit of updating the Town of Webster's comprehensive plan is to ensure a balanced economic and community development strategy based on the community's physical, environmental, and social conditions.

Timeline, costs, and funding

In August, the Town issued a request for proposals (RFP) for professional consulting services to assist with this effort. Proposals were due on September 13th. An internal

committee comprised of Town staff is in the process of evaluating the proposals received and is expected to make a recommendation for selection to the Town Board in the coming weeks.

Next Steps

This community-driven initiative will include ample opportunities for public engagement throughout the process, including formation of several topic-based committees, public open house meetings, web-based surveys, presence at local community events, and venues and other mechanisms to ensure that a wide cross-section of our community is represented. Stay tuned to the Town's website, newsletters and social media channels in the coming months for opportunities to get involved in the process.

As the updated comprehensive plan will be a blueprint for our community and a template for achieving long-term objectives that align with the needs, behaviors, and vision of our community, we look forward to engaging with you as this important project moves forward!

ASK WEBSTER...



Question

**How can I
participate in
town meetings?**



Answer...

Town meetings, including Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board, can be attended in-person, watched live, or viewed by video after the meeting.

Meetings can be watched live on the Town of Webster's official YouTube page: youtube.com/@townofwebster7836. Following the meeting, the video will be posted to YouTube, as well as on the Town's website: websterny.gov/civicmedia.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
T Town of Webster P Parks & Recreation L Library H Holiday/Other S Webster Schools	P Hunting Season Begins C 7:00pm T Planning Board Meeting	1 Archery Deer P 11:00 am - 12:00 pm D Diverse Abilities L Dialogue: D Developmental & Behavioral R Resources and Challenges	2 6:00 - 7:00 pm L Night out at the Library: Fall Macrame Rainbows	3 3:00 - 4:00 pm L Explore Wild Webster - Fall Edition!	4 9:00 - 11:00 am P Fitness Staff Meet and Greet	5 10:30 am - 4:00 pm L Drop-in Lego Fun
6	T 2:00 - 3:00 pm L Tuesday Travelogue: Springtime along the Rhine T 7:00pm Zoning Board Meeting	7	8	9 2:00 - 5:00 pm L AARP Smart Driver Course - Part 1	10 2:00 - 5:00 pm L AARP Smart Driver Course - Part 2 L 4:00 pm T Kittleberger's Bouquet Cards Fundraiser Kickoff	11 11:00 am - 12:00 pm L Bilingual Storytime: Sebi and the Land of Cha-Cha-Cha
13 S NO SCHOOL	14	15	16	17 9:00 am - 7:00 pm L Friends Fall Book Sale	18 10:00 am - 4:00 pm L Friends Fall Book Sale (\$5 bag sale) T 6:30pm Town Workshop T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	19 10:00 am - 12:00 pm L Friends Fall Book Sale (\$5 bag sale)
20	H Columbus Day All Town Offices CLOSED	21	22	23 5:00 - 8:00 pm L Celebrate Diwali L 5:30 - 6:00 pm T Meet 2024's Greater Rochester Youth Read Week's author Veera Hiranyakani	24	25 9:00 - 11:00 am P BOO-camp L 1:00 - 2:00 pm P Harmonia Antiqua Musical Program P 7:00 - 8:30 pm P Pumpkins on Parade
27	L 6:00 - 7:30 pm L Family Fun Night: Spooky Season	28	29	30	31 N O V	2 10:30am - 12:30pm P Family Scavenger Hunt with FWTP
3	L 6:30 - 7:30 pm L Color Webster Green	4	H 10:00 am - 10:30 am L Spooky Storytime!	5 11:00 am - 12:00 pm L Diverse Abilities Dialogues L 10:00 am L Hats for Sale T Fundraiser Kickoff T 7:00pm Planning Board Meeting	6 6:00 - 7:00 pm L Night out at the Library T 6:30pm Town Workshop T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	7 6:00 - 7:00 pm L Night out at the Library T 6:30pm Town Workshop T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting
10 S NO SCHOOL	H Veterans Day All Town Offices CLOSED	11	12	13	14 10:00 am - 3:00 pm L Red Cross Blood Drive	15 6:30 - 7:30 pm L In This Moment presentation
P WBA Program Begins						16

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
L 6:00 - 7:00 pm Make It Monday: Flower Pot Turkey	L 10:00 - 11:00 am Discovery Morning	L 6:30 - 7:30 pm Musical Program - Group Therapy	L 6:30 - 8:00 pm Teen Library Club	S PK-5 Parent Conferences: 1/2 Day School	S PK-5 Parent Conferences: 1/2 Day School	
P Conference Day Camps 10am - 5pm			P Conference Day Camps 10am - 5pm	P Conference Day Camps 10am - 5pm	P Conference Day Camps 10am - 5pm	
L 6:30pm Town			T Board Workshop	T Board Workshop	T Board Workshop	
T 7:30pm Town			T 7:30pm Town	L Library Campout	L Library Campout	
T Board Meeting			T Board Meeting	L Library Campout	L Library Campout	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
S PK-5 Parent Conferences: 1/2 Day School	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	
P Conference Day Camps 10am - 5pm			H All Town Offices CLOSED	H All Town Offices CLOSED	H All Town Offices CLOSED	
			H All Town Offices CLOSED	H All Town Offices CLOSED	H All Town Offices CLOSED	
			H All Town Offices CLOSED	H All Town Offices CLOSED	H All Town Offices CLOSED	
D E C	P Winter/Spring Registration Begin	L 12:00 - 3:00 pm AARP Safe Driver Course	L 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Diverse Abilities: Dialogues: Alternative Therapies	L 12:00 - 3:00 pm AARP Safe Driver Course	L 12:00 - 3:00 pm AARP Safe Driver Course	
			T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	
			T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
P 6:00 - 7:00 pm Make It Monday: Melted Snowman Ornaments	L 10:00 - 10:30am Winter Storytime	L 6:30 - 7:30 pm Barn Quilts with Marie Warda	L 6:30 - 7:30 pm Barn Quilts with Marie Warda	L 5:30pm Town Board Workshop	L 10:00 - 11:30 am Build Your Own Gingerbread House	
T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	P 5:00-9:00 pm Parents Night Out	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
L 6:00 - 7:00 pm Make It Monday: Melted Snowman Ornaments					P 1:30-3:30 pm Afternoon w/ Santa	
T Board Meeting						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
L 10:00 - 10:30am Winter Storytime	L 10:00 - 8:00 pm Teen Library Club	L 6:30 - 8:00 pm Teen Library Club	L 6:30 - 8:00 pm Teen Library Club	L 5:30pm Town Board Workshop	L 1:00 - 2:00 pm Rochester Mandolin Orchestra Holiday Concert	
T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T Board Meeting	T 7:30pm Town Board Meeting	P 5:00-9:00 pm Parents Night Out	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	S NO SCHOOL	
H Christmas Eve	H Christmas Eve	H Christmas Day & Hanukkah Begins H All Town Offices CLOSED	H Christmas Day & Hanukkah Begins H All Town Offices CLOSED	H Kwanzaa begins		
29	30	31				
S NO SCHOOL	L 11:30 am - 12:15pm Noon Year's Eve	S NO SCHOOL				



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.



THE REAL

Parks and Recreation

By Katie Kovar, Webster Parks and Recreation Director

If you google “parks and rec”, “parks and recreation” or “the history of parks and rec” – you do not get an educational recap of the 19th Century Recreation Movement. Instead, you find a synopsis of characters from the NBC sitcom *Parks and Recreation* including Andy Dwyer and Ron Swanson, who, like many satire characters, won the hearts of Americans.

It also shouldn’t surprise anyone that if you mention working in Recreation one of the first questions asked is which character you would play on the series...” Are you the Leslie Knope of Webster?”. The crew, including Knope, work for the town of Pawnee, Indiana Parks and Recreation where they attempt to build a new community park and are hit with a myriad of red tape and some success along the way. Like Pawnee, Webster faces both challenge and success in our Parks and Recreation Department.

“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. I read that one on a can of lemonade. I like to think it applies to life.” –Andy Dwyer

We all talk about COVID, but the reality is, it was a turning point in our lives, especially the way we regard recreation and free time. The staff at Webster Parks and Recreation had to shift the way we programmed to our residents... thinking outside the box. We were forced to delve deeper into ways to provide memorable experiences to our community – and the hard work stuck. We now offer consistent, free, open events to Webster residents (and beyond!).



Our annual events bring families together to listen to live music, sit on Santa’s lap, or run through the mud. It hasn’t stopped, either. Staff of the individual areas including recreation, fitness, 55+ programming and parks are continually encouraged to brainstorm and execute new ideas.

In the last year alone, we have added additional days to our Come and Play program, welcomed many new fitness personal trainers, responded to the request for more adult programming (...another LEGO ladies night, anyone?), added a shuttle service and day trips for our 55+ participants and expanded summer camp.

We are finally hearing less and less of “I didn’t know you existed” and more and more of “Do you offer...?”



We have been lucky enough to add outdoor pickleball courts, a revamped park along the lake, remodeled kitchens in our lodges and fresh paint in our game room and 55+ lounge. We continue to work alongside our community partners developing unwavering relationships with Wegmans, MVP Healthcare, Friends of Webster Trails, The Arboretum Association, Webster Art Club, Challenger Miracle Field, Wellness 360, and Gleason Orthodontics – to name a few. I truly believe that “we are not us without you” ...and each minuscule addition, update and partnership makes us stronger and more accessible.

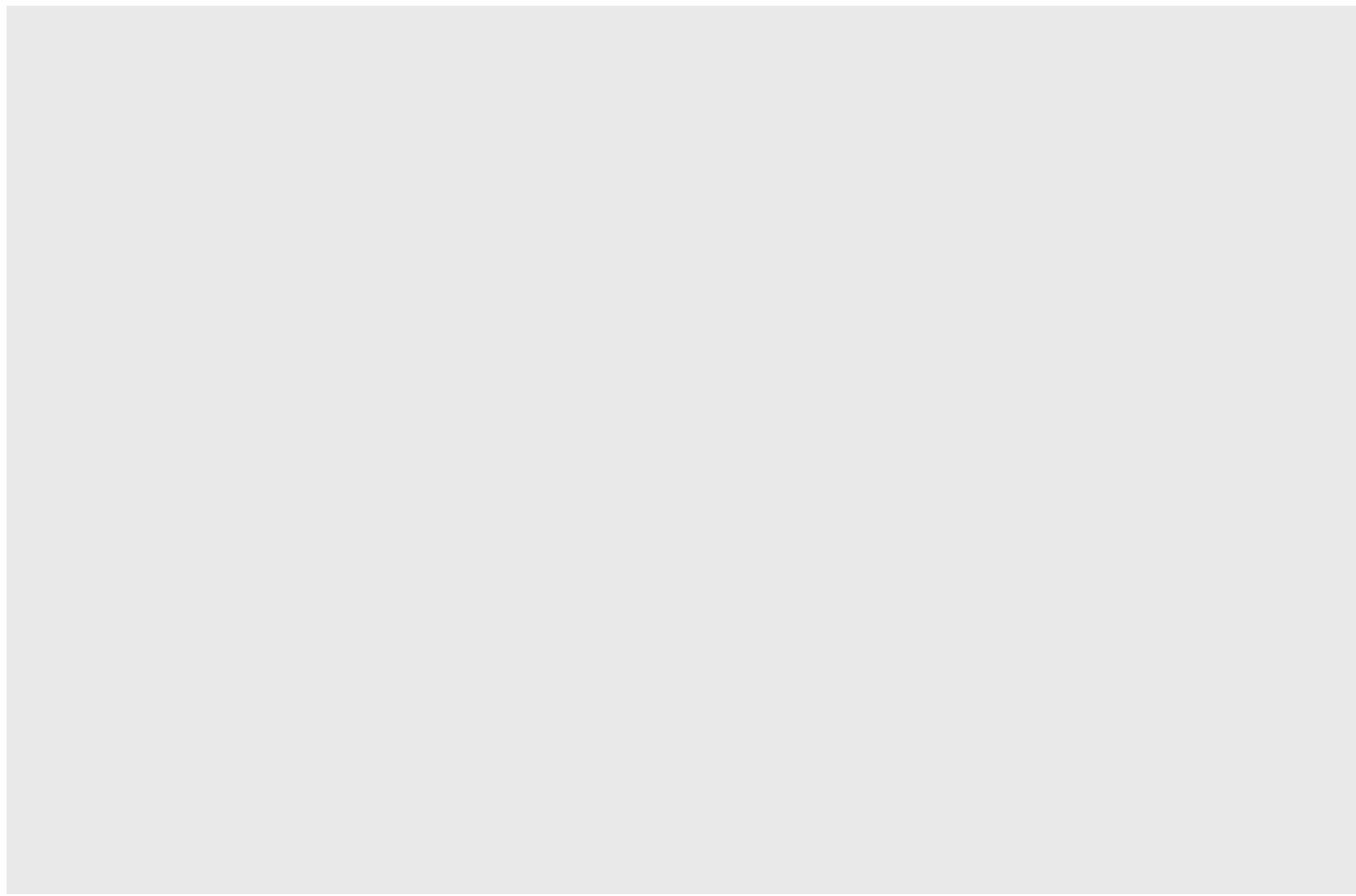
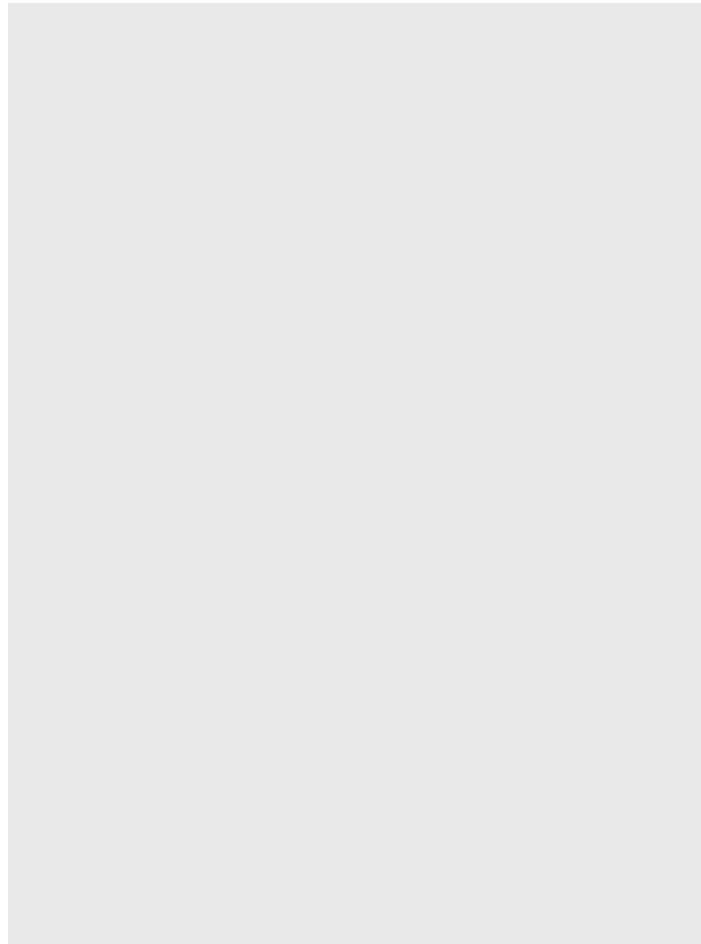
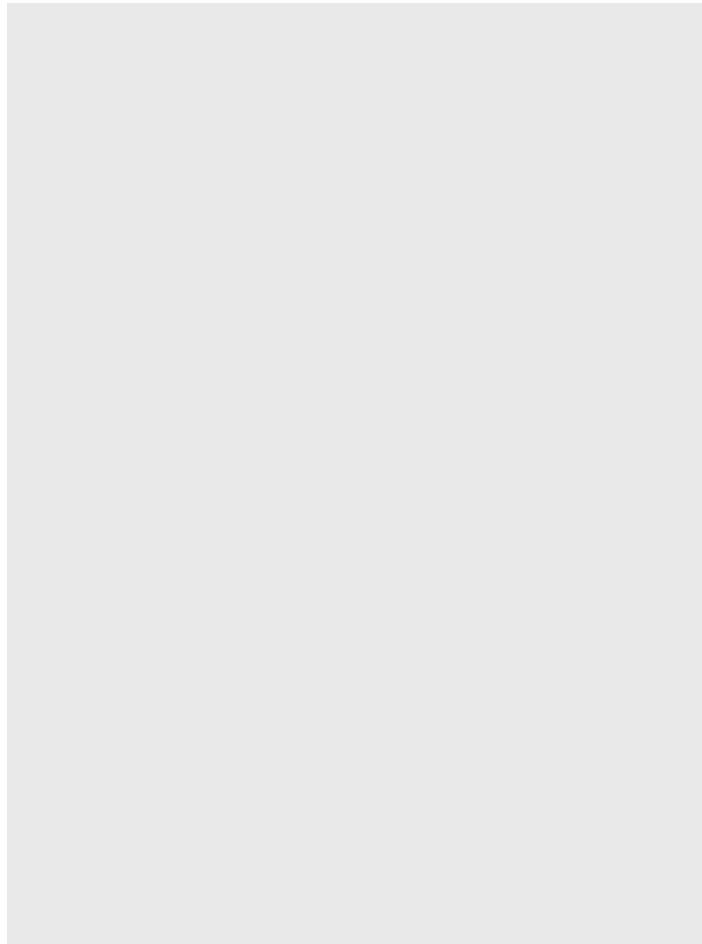
“There’s nothing we can’t do if we work hard, never sleep, and shirk all other responsibilities in our lives.”
— Leslie Knope

We can all learn a thing or two from Pawnee. It’s not always easy but in the field of recreation, it’s always worth it. Webster, we hear you. We will continue to push forward, be better and strive for positive quality of life services while being sure to keep a solid sense of humor.

“I regret nothing. The end.”
—Ron Swanson



For updates on Webster Parks and Recreation services, 55+ programs, fitness schedules, community events or to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter, *The Word*, please visit: websterny.gov/702/Parks-Recreation





SANDBAR PARK

Restaurant Update

By Chris Bilow, Webster Parks and Recreation Commissioner

The Town of Webster continues to move forward with the plans for a restaurant at Sandbar Park. As we enter a critical point in the process, this issue of the Webster Today provides an opportunity to share an updated with ALL of Webster citizens.

At the June 13, 2024 Town Board Workshop, the Town introduced The Fantauzzo Family Brands as the restaurant operator of the future 2400 square foot restaurant. At this workshop, the vision and design of the restaurant was shared with the Town Board and the public. The June 13th workshop was the culmination of many months of design meetings required to create a vision that met both the needs of Fantauzzo Family Brands as well as the citizens committee. This citizens committee was created to provide feedback to the Town on aspects they believed were vital to any restaurant operation at the proposed Sandbar Park location.

Since June 13th, the Town of Webster - along with Campus Construction and Passero Associates have worked together to develop a set of bid specifications for the municipal bid process which must be followed for this type of project. During the bid process the cost for a restaurant structure as currently designed will be known. The bid process will begin October and typically lasts 3-4 weeks. During this time, potential contractors will submit their cost estimates for the building of the restaurant.

The location (shoreline of Irondequoit Bay) and design (2nd floor rooftop seating) of the 2400 square foot restaurant has been challenging, however the result is something that "checks all the boxes" for the vision of the restaurant. Additionally, Town has begun discussions with Fantauzzo representatives on how the future required public/private bond will be paid back through monthly "rent". Once the bid process is completed and actual costs are known all parties involved will be able to work together to complete a finalized agreement.



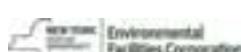
Above: 2 proposed renderings of Webster Sandbar Restaurant provided by Passero Associates.

The Town of Webster is actively working on a number of scenarios based on potential bid results. The Town will continue to discuss options with the Fantauzzo Family Brands representatives at regularly scheduled design meetings based on the bids submitted.

The Town is appreciative of the patience and effort put forth by the Fantauzzo Family Brands. Everyone at this organization has been remarkable to work with and collaborate with. Each of them truly see the need for a mutually beneficial restaurant operation in this unique and highly utilized Town Park.

The Town will continue to provide updates on the process as we move forward. We thank you all for your support on this project.

FANTAUZZO
FAMILY BRANDS INC.



CONTRACT #: C150049 This document was prepared for the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.





INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS:

Webster's Sewer Upgrades

By Tom Flaherty, Webster Town Supervisor

Construction has steadily continued on the improvements being made to Webster's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Among these improvements includes the construction of a new digester, a high strength organic waste building, expansion of the administration building, and many other improvements necessary delivery sanitary sewage treatment services.

History of Wastewater Treatment in Webster

In the early 1990s, over twenty municipalities in Monroe County decided to close down their wastewater treatment plants and transfer residential and business sanitary sewer treatment to Monroe County Pure Waters. Within this move, the municipality would still be in control of the collection system in their town/village (i.e. sewer mains, pump stations, etc.). At that time, three municipalities opted not to transfer treatment to Monroe County Pure Waters: the Village of Honeoye Falls, the Village of Webster, and the Town of Webster.

Since 1990, interesting trends can be seen in the sewer rate, which have led to the sewer fund building minimal

reserves over 30 years. In 1990, the sewer rate totaled \$213.62, and the Town of Webster did not exceed this rate until 33 years later, in 2023 when the rate was \$231.97. In 1998, the sewer rate was \$167.80, and was \$167.50 in 2018, meaning the rate dropped \$0.30 over twenty years. While on the surface a lower sewer rate may have seemed advantageous, it left the sewer reserves low and unable to accommodate necessary improvements to the Town's sewer infrastructure. In turn, this has necessitated the Town of Webster making much-needed upgrades to sewer infrastructure.

Benefits of a Water Resource Recovery Facility

In 2018, Webster's wastewater treatment plant had over \$200,000 of "other revenue" from receiving septage from outside companies. Unfortunately, between 2019-2024, revenue number went down to zero annually as a result of the plant being cited for deficiencies by the New York State DEC. Part of the technological advances of the \$87.3 million new plant is the ability to take in septage from outside companies. It is estimated that in 2025 that will create \$110,000 of new revenue and

\$650,000 in 2026 and beyond. The plant will also be able to take in High Strength Organic Waste (HSOW). The revenue from HSOW is estimated at \$80,000 for 2025, \$1.1 million for 2026, and \$1.6 million per year thereafter.

Cost savings are another benefit of the upgrades being made to Webster's wastewater treatment plant. Sanitary sewer treatment is essentially about separating the solids and other stuff and leaving water that can be discharged into Lake Ontario. The solids left from this process (i.e. sludge) must be disposed of and hauled to landfills that take such waste. By the late 2010s, landfills were hitting capacity and closing, and not many new ones were opening, resulting in greater sludge hauling distance with fewer landfills. The cost per ton to haul sludge increased for the town from approximately \$250,000 to \$500,000 annually.

Part of the new technology at the plant is to dry out the "sludge" to the point where it is a pellet like fertilizer to be either sold, given away, or greatly reduced tonnage to be disposed of. While we do not yet have an exact number for cost savings due to this, what we do know is we have

- STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 24



For those suffering with herniated lumbar discs, a non-surgical, drugless solution is helping patients be pain free

If you've had disc problems for years, recently injured your back, or you're suffering with sciatica, you must hear about these new studies.

Scientific studies tell us that spinal discs are responsible for most of the aches and pains people suffer from. Discs act like a cushion between our backbones and allow for a space at each level so the nerves can exit the spinal column.

When these discs get injured or wear out from bad posture, they begin to degenerate and cause pain. Bulging and herniation begin to form, pressing on the nerve roots. If the herniation occurs at L4-L5, they can severely compromise the large sciatic nerve, causing muscle weakness, tingling, and severe pain.

Before You Go Under the Knife and Opt For Spinal Surgery...

You should seriously consider a less invasive approach called spinal decompression. Non-surgical spinal decompression is a new technology that has been proven to reverse disc herniation. It creates a vacuum effect on the disc, which pulls the disc back into its normal position and brings in a fresh blood supply to promote healing.

Spinal decompression treatments are very gentle. In fact, every once and awhile I even catch a patient sleeping during sessions.

You'll simply lie on your stomach

Could One Hour With This Doctor Give You The Answer To Your Disc Back Pain?

Now in Webster, NY, one doctor has what may be the most important breakthrough in non-surgical back pain treatments. Before and after MRI studies have shown disc bulges shrink in size – even with the most painful cases of L4-L5 herniation.

or back, whichever is comfortable, and then a specialized belt is gently put around your waist. We'll set the machine to focus on your problem area then the advanced decompression computer system will do the rest. Most patients feel better with just a few treatments, and best of all there will be no dangerous drugs, no invasive procedures, and no painful exercises.

Feel the Improvement – and Say "Yes" to Life Again

With my "Decompression Evaluation" we'll be able find the problem and then correct it. Think of how you'll feel in just a few short weeks. See and feel your life change for the better. Start your body on the way to pain-free, normal living. Feel tight joints rest, relax, free up. Feel muscles tied in knots become more supple. Feel strength in your muscles increase.

You're able to live life like a normal person again, without back pain – able to play with your kids, enjoy time with friends, and finally get a good night's rest.

Single Most Important Solution To Your Sciatica and Back Pain

It's time for you to find out if spinal decompression will be your sciatic and back pain solution. For 10 days only, I'm running a very special offer where you can find out if you are a candidate for spinal decompression.

People after Non-Surgical Spinal Decompression often will

comment, "I only wished I had found you sooner" This happens so often, I decided to do something about it and run this ad. Just call before October 15, 2024 and here's what you'll get:

- an overview on your application about your back, neck or leg pain where I will listen...really listen...to the details of your unique situation.

- a specialized posture exam and bilateral weight scale evaluation to determine if posture or joint problem is contributing to your pain.

- a palpatory analysis of your spine and nervous system where we'll map out how you can be helped once and for all.

- a thorough analysis of your exam and x-ray findings so we can start mapping out your plan to being pain free.

You'll get to see everything first-hand and find out if this amazing treatment will be your pain solution, like it has been for so many other patients.

Until October 15, 2024 you can get everything I've listed here for only \$37. The normal price for this type of evaluation could be much higher, so you're saving a considerable amount by taking me up on this offer.

Our Patients Speak

"After 4 treatments on the decompression table, Dale slept through the night with minimal snoring (something he has not done in several months) His usual

sleep was in 1/2 hour increments. This has made a BIG change in his day-to-day attitude workwise and family wise. He's getting back to his "old-self"!!

Thank you – Dale R.

"After Just ONE Treatment pain diminished went back to work in 1 week. Now after several weeks of traction, I am walking normally, strength is back and I feel much better! Thank you Dr. O'Dell!"

Mark S. Walker, LMT

Here's What to do Now:

Due to the expected demand for this treatment, I suggest calling my office at once. The phone number is 585-671-9210.

Call today and we can get started with your evaluation as soon as there's an opening in the schedule. Our office is called O'Dell Chiropractic and you'll find us in Webster on Ridge Road between 5 Mile Line and Webster Schroeder High School. Tell Taylor you'd like to come in for the Decompression Evaluation before October 15, 2024.

Call 585-671-9210 now and let's find out if this hour could be the beginning of a brand new you!

P.S. This offer is only good for the first 10 callers; the first 5 callers will receive a complementary Spinal Decompression session (if needed). Use code "1stFive" when calling and we will let you know if you qualify.

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



protected the town from this supply-demand risk on sludge hauling costs by essentially eliminating traditional sludge production.

The Impact of fairlife®

One of the characteristics of Webster that made it an attractive location to Coca-Cola/fairlife® was the investments that were being put into the wastewater treatment plant. The water resource recovery project and fairlife®'s establishment in the Town of Webster have been closely tied to for a number of reasons.

One of these reasons is the one-time tie-in fee. When a new house or business/industry ties into the Town's sanitary sewer system it pays a one-time \$1,000/EDU fee to do so. Over the past eight (8) years (2017-2024), the average annual one-time tie-in fee revenue has been under \$100,000. Coca-Cola/fairlife® is paying the Town a \$21 million+ one-time tie-in fee and the Town has negotiated a contract with Coca-Cola/fairlife® to have that paid over 10 years, 2025-2034 at \$2.1 million per year.

Another factor is the flow that is expected from fairlife®. fairlife®'s flow as a large industrial user will increase the users the plant sees annually in a significant way. As mentioned before, revenue from HSOW is estimated at \$80,000 for 2025, \$1.1 million for 2026, and \$1.6 million per year thereafter. But why is HSOW revenue expected to jump so drastically between now and 2026? HSOW revenue will be made up mainly of fairlife®'s process by-product. The Town is projecting to have flow from fairlife® and possibly process by-product in 2025, but budgeted conservatively, therefore any flow/revenue we receive from fairlife® is a bonus to the sewer fund.

The final tie between fairlife® and the water resource recovery project is a \$20 million grant received by the Town. At the April 18 fairlife® groundbreaking ceremony, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the Town of Webster had been successful in our application for this grant.

While the project would have paid for itself without the grant being awarded, this would have made it very difficult to stay under the New York State tax cap for 2025. The \$20 million grant saves the Town of Webster \$1.2 million of principal and interest payments for each of the next 30 years, resulting in an impact valuing at least \$36 million to the Town.

Protecting Taxpayers

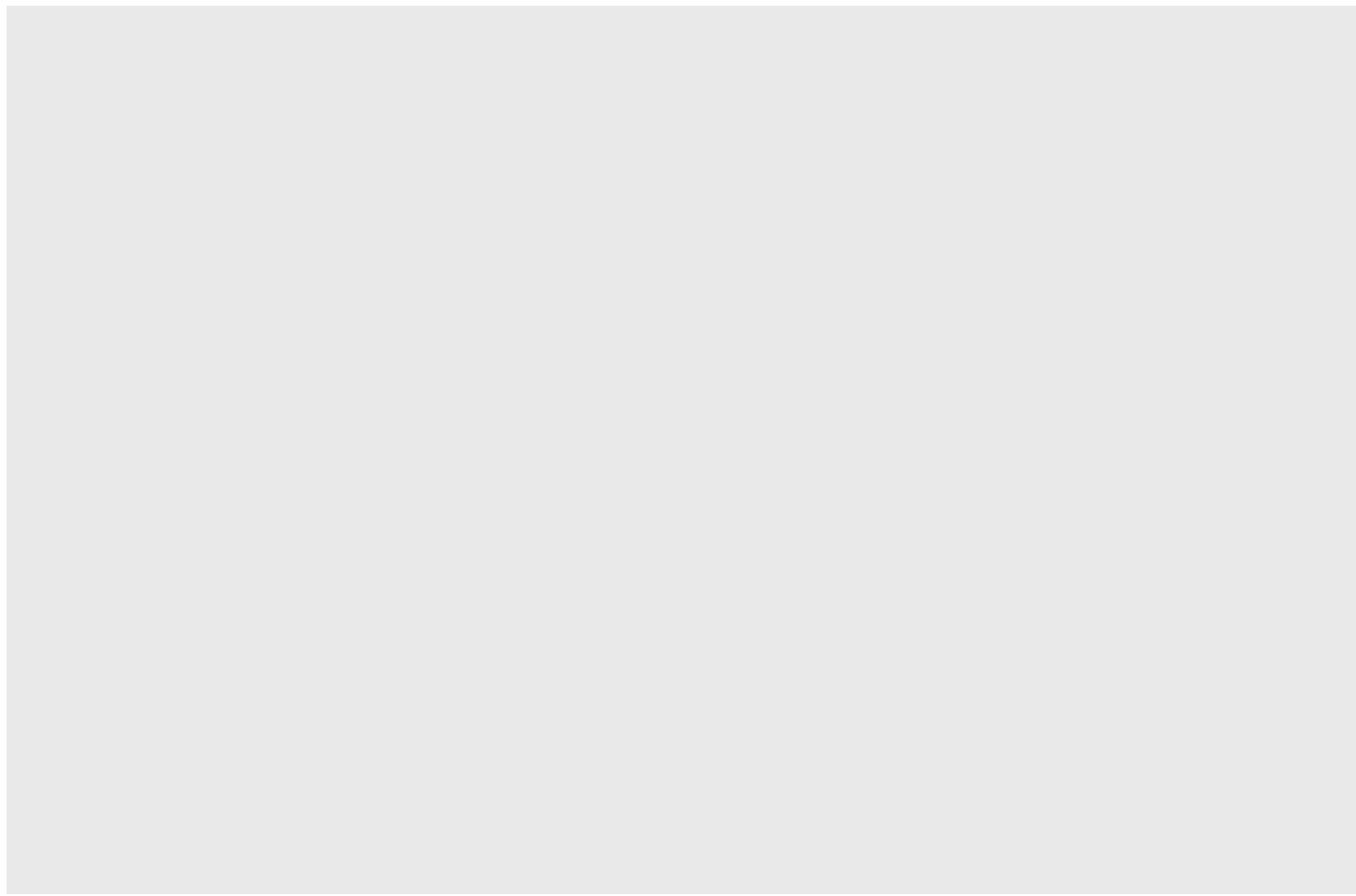
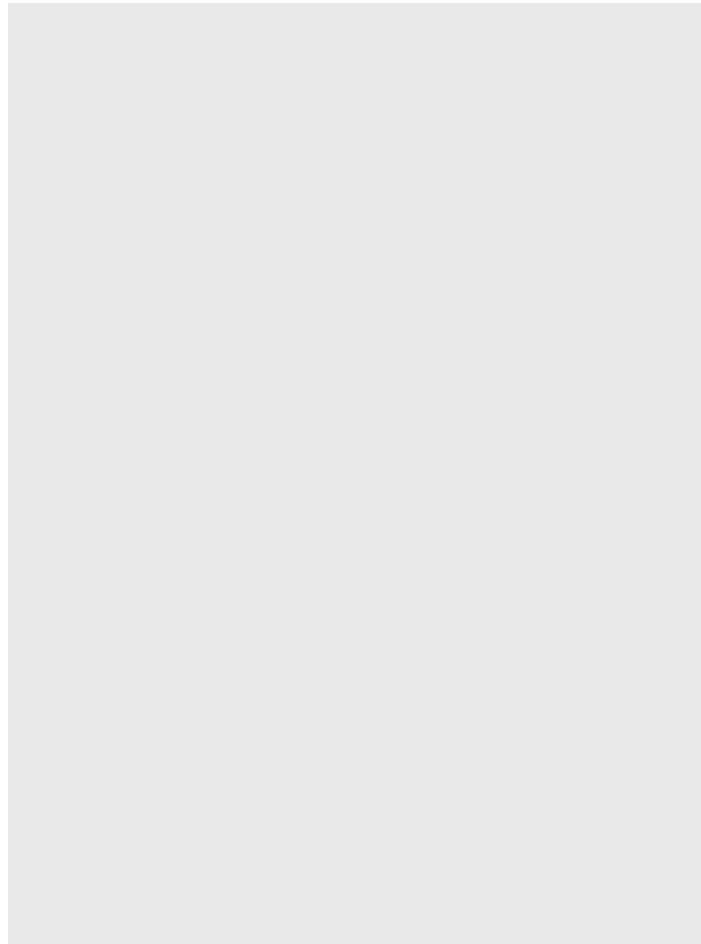
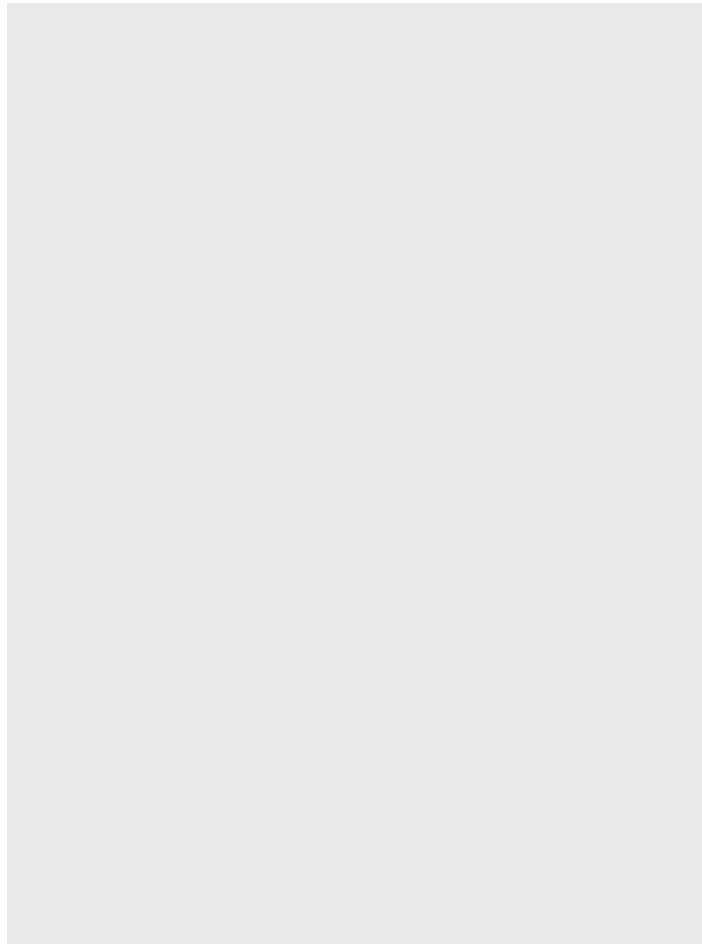
The impact of these investments on taxpayers equates to good news: taxpayers will see lower costs being spread across more users. You may wonder how this is possible with such a significant investment being made into the establishment of a water resource recovery facility. The answer lies in a combination of factors related to net costs declining and the total number of users increasing.

The net costs will be primarily influenced by Coca-Cola/fairlife®'s flow revenue, the cost savings through the sludge hauling process, and the additional revenue generated from taking in septage from outside companies, as well as the ability to process HSOW. The total number of users will go from 17,000 in 2024 to 25,000-29,000 in 2026 when fairlife® has three production lines operating in 2026.

In addition, the 2024 Town Board is adamant about not repeating past mistakes of 1990-2020 and failing to build reserves. Therefore, the 2025 budget has provisions for the funding of the sewer capital reserve account. The Town will be able to fund capital projects with reserve funds minimizing the amount needed to borrow.

At the September 5, Town Board Meeting a resolution adopted the tentative 2025 Town Budget that has the following three (3) components: 1. it is under the 2% New York State tax cap, 2. it has a \$253 EDU charge for sewer users which is \$43 less than 2024 charge, and 3. \$540,000 will be put into reserve for future sewer plant repairs and asset renewal.

- STORY
CONTINUES
ON PAGE 26





This project has been underway for approximately one year. Project leaders are targeting July 2025 for the acceptance of septage and HSOW and September 2025 for the start up of the biosolids dryer. In September 2025, the plant is anticipated to be prepared to accept waste flow from the fairlife® facility.

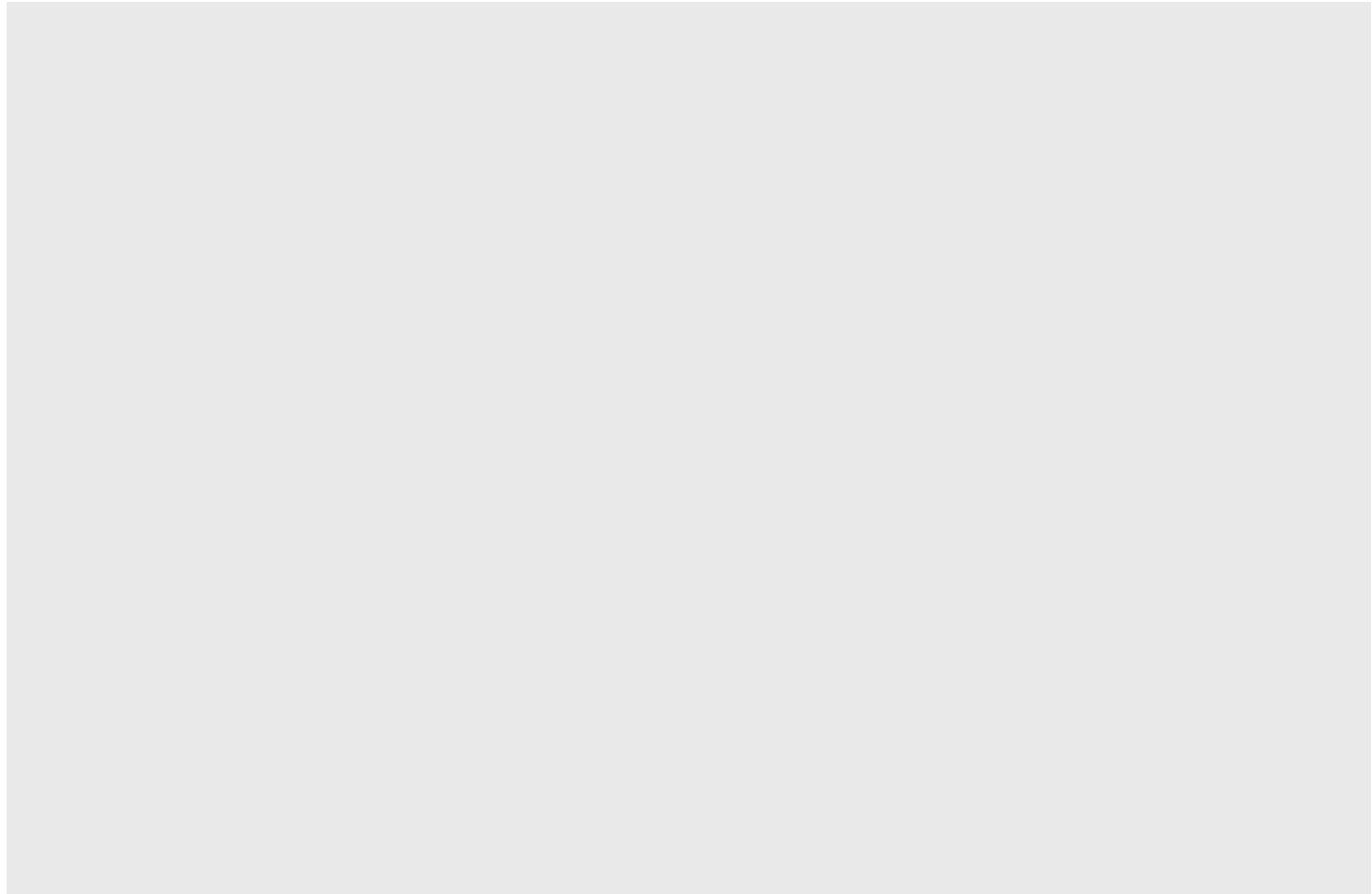
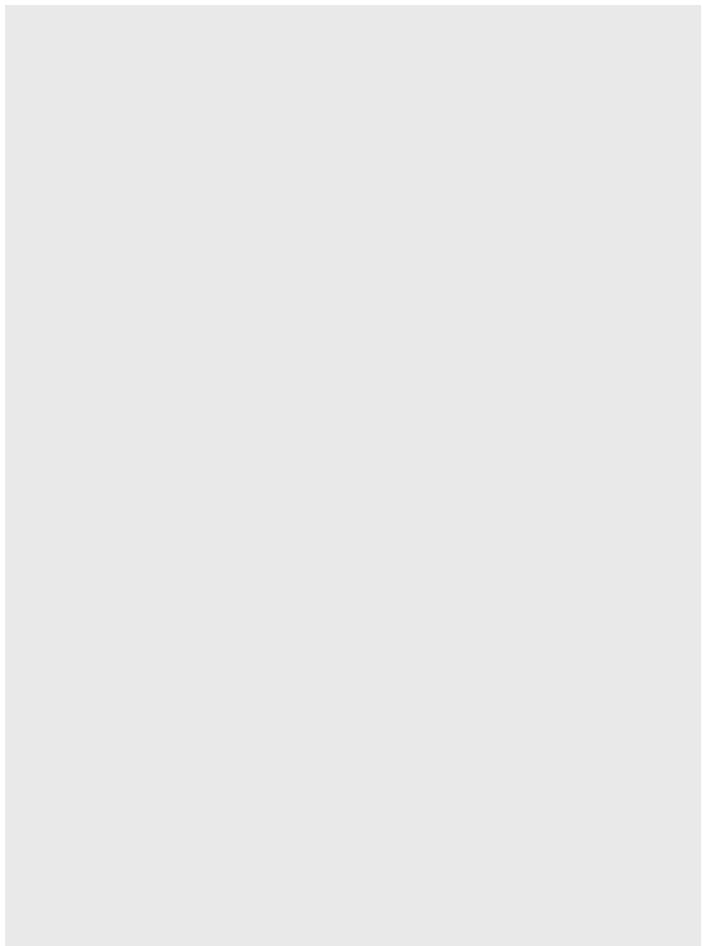
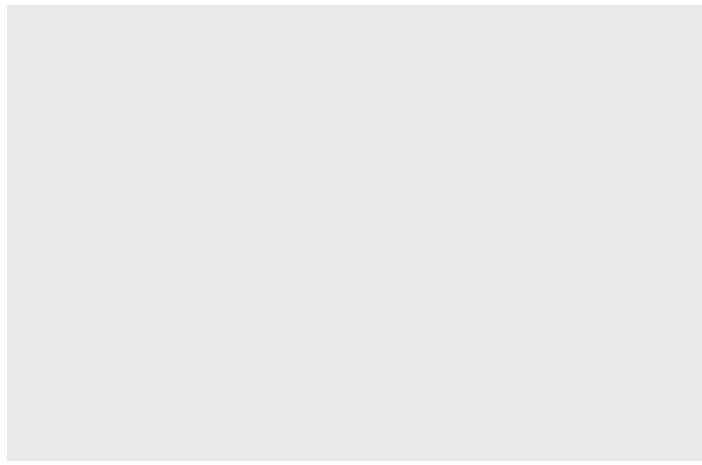
This is a significant investment in the Town of Webster's infrastructure in order to provide a necessary service to residents and businessowners throughout our community. While costly, there has been tremendous intentionality in ensuring that taxpayers are not being adversely affected and, in fact, are being protected for years to come.

.....

Pictured Above: Supervisor Tom Flaherty, Deputy Supervisor Patti Cataldi, and Finance Director Paul Adams touring the plant's construction site.

Pictured in header: Aerial view of Wastewater Treatment Plant. Photo credit: Navitas

Pictured second page of article, left column: Construction process for the new digester.





events

FALL & WINTER 2024



Pumpkins on Parade

Come walk the trail of carved pumpkins and end with cider & donuts! Free, open to everyone and no registration required!

Webster Recreation Center Chioyda Trail

OCT
26
7:00-8:30pm



An Afternoon with Santa

Get your picture taken with Santa and enjoy holiday themed activities. Free, open to everyone and no registration required!

Webster Recreation Center Building

DEC
14
1:30-3:30pm

And, don't forget about ...

Family Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, November 2 from 10:30am-12:30pm

Whiting Road Nature Preserve

\$5 per child day of event goes to Friends of Webster Trails

Conference Day Camps

11/21, 11/22, 11/25, 11/26 from 10:00am-5:00pm

Register for each individual day separately giving your kids a place to go during parent teacher conferences. \$40/child/day

Parents Night Out

Saturday, December 21 from 5:00-9:00pm

Enjoy an night out on us! Kids will enjoy games and pizza!

\$25 for 1st child and \$20 each additional child

Thank you to our
sponsors who make
these events possible!



Stay up to date with events by signing up for our monthly e-newsletter,
The Word, at: websterny.gov/702/Parks-Recreation

BACKYARD WILDLIFE IN WEBSTER



Pet geese in the pond on a fall day; with mallard ducks below.

Photographs provided by Sandra Baldwin of Webster

Thank You To All Our Readers Who Have Submitted Photos!

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

Be sure to look for the next Webster Wildlife photo in the January issue of *Webster Today*, which should be delivered to you January 2-4, 2025.





MAKING SPIRITS Bright

As the leaves start to fall we are naturally transitioning our thoughts towards the snowy, holiday season. While this season brings joy for most there are also many who struggle to purchase gifts for love ones. This year, Webster Parks & Recreation is partnering with Making Spirits Bright to bring joy to as many people as possible.

What is Making Spirits Bright?

Making Spirits Bright (MSB) is an all-volunteer, referral-based, adopt-a-family program, which provides holiday joy to deserving families in need located in the greater Rochester region. The organization has assisted over 500 families since 2014. Most MSB families live in Rochester and Webster, however our reach has extended throughout the greater Rochester region. Due to capacity, we only support families living in Monroe County.

How can I help?

There are several ways to give to Making Spirits Bright. You can adopt a family, adopt an individual person, purchase from the community list, organize a donation drive, make a monetary donation or wrap gifts.

For more information on Making Spirits Bright you can email: thegoodnessinitiative@gmail.com and for questions about the drive at Webster Parks and Recreation contact Recreation Director, Katie Kovar, at kkovar@websterny.gov

This year, Webster Parks and Recreation will be hosting a month long **donation drive at the Webster Recreation Center - located at 1350 Chiyoda Drive, Webster NY 14580**. This drive will take place **from October 15th and run through November 15th**. The drive will allow Webster residents to drop off items needed by MSB. There will be a large bin for drop off in the recreation center vestibule which is open Monday through Saturday until 9 PM and Sunday until 6 PM.

"Making Spirits Bright has been such a staple in the Webster community for the last 10 years, assisting more than 500 families in need." says Jamie Buss, Director at Making Spirits Bright. 'The support, compassion and generosity we've received from our Webster community, from organizing collection drives and adopting families, has been impactful beyond measure. We are immensely proud of the work we do, as a collective community, and are so grateful to all those who have chosen to spread holiday joy with us over the years. We cannot thank our Webster neighbors enough for being a part of this journey with us. We're looking forward to another successful year of Making Spirits Bright... together!"

Most Needed Items:

Personal Care Items

- Dove (sensitive, if possible) body wash/bar soap - men's & women's
- Dove shampoo - men's & women's
- Dove conditioner
- Dove unscented body lotion
- Dove deodorant - men's & women's
- Multi-pack tampons
- Maxi pads with wings
- Children's 3-in-1 shampoo, conditioner or body wash
- Liquid hand soap
- Large tubes of toothpaste
- Soft toothbrushes (multi-packs)
- Kids' toothpaste
- Kids' toothbrushes
- Baby wash
- Baby lotion
- Razors - men's & women's

Cleaning Supplies

- Lysol all-purpose cleaning spray
- Lysol toilet bowl cleaner
- Toilet brushes
- Scrubbing sponges
- Dish soap
- Laundry detergent (unscented, if possible)
- Baking soda

Gift Cards (\$25 values are preferable, but please write \$ amount on each card)

- Aldi
- Amazon
- Price Rite
- Target
- TJ Maxx
- Tops
- Walmart
- Gas cards

Miscellaneous Needs

- Manual can openers
- Waterproof, snow gloves (all sizes)
- Pillows
- Kids' socks - bulk packs (all sizes)
- Men's & Women's socks - bulk packs
- Kids' underwear - bulk packs (all sizes)
- Women's underwear - bulk packs (all sizes)
- Men's underwear - boxers or boxer briefs (all sizes)

Holiday Items

- Gift wrap (larger rolls are preferable)
- Gift bags (all sizes)
- Gift boxes (all sizes)
- Gift tags (sticker sheets are preferable)
- Lighted Christmas trees (new in box)





The Front Cover:
A view of the progress made on Webster's recently upgraded Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Town of Webster
1000 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580



PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Webster, NY
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<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfWebsterNY>

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Webster Residents are Invited to Attend the

Preliminary Budget Public Hearing

2025 **BUDGET**

Thursday, October 17 at 7:30 PM
Town Board Meeting Room, Court Building
1002 Ridge Road, Webster

You may also watch the public hearing live via the Town of Webster's official YouTube channel or recorded on the Town's website.