



# PENDLETON

www.PendletonNY.us

HOME TOWN NEWS ~ WINTER EDITION ~ 2024

## YOUR TOWN BOARD

### SUPERVISOR

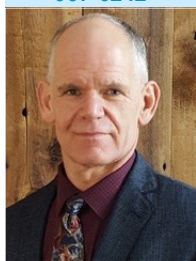


Joel Maerten  
625-8833

### COUNCILMEN



David Leible  
957-6242



Joe Hickman  
625-8833



Scott Lombardo  
625-9080



Wolfgang Buechler  
625-8601

### A message from your Supervisor...

It's been another busy year in the Town of Pendleton and looking around the town park you can see a lot of evidence of this. We have multiple projects moving along and we're hopeful that by this time next year I'll be able to report that all work has been substantially completed. Unfortunately, many factors, such as the summer rain, have slowed the pace of progress in some areas.

The new splash pad and lavatory facility are mostly complete and we anticipate that this area of the park will be ready to go by the start of the summer season. The splash pad installation and site work was significantly delayed due to the rain and the facility could not be opened without final site grading and seeding of grass. Hopefully, next summer will be hot and moderately dry, giving town kids a plenty of opportunity to enjoy the splash pad in addition to the playground.

Looking just a short distance from the park you'll see work beginning on the new community center. We're hopeful that the work schedule will continue on track and the building will be open well before the end of next year. In addition to the building construction, considerable site work has also been planned, including new utilities for that section of the park, paving, and security upgrades.

Ongoing work also includes a few other components. This includes installing a much needed fiber optic connection between the town hall and highway garage, construction of a new server room in the town hall, and repaving of the town hall parking lot. We're also awaiting the delivery of a new stand-by generator system for the highway garage, providing much needed back-up power during severe weather events.

Speaking of severe weather, we are pleased to take delivery of a new plow truck. Over the past three years we've been able to replace three such trucks, which provide an increase in equipment reliability when crews are battling snow storms. Acquiring new equipment has become increasingly difficult and the costs continually increase at an alarming rate. Fortunately, the town is in a good position with equipment replacement and hopefully things will approve down the road.

Joel

## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING TAXES

If your primary residence is in the Town of Pendleton, and you will be 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2024, and on limited income; you may be eligible for additional tax exemptions on county, school and town taxes.

Applications must be received by March 1, 2024. Contact the Pendleton Town Assessor office at 716-625-8833.

TOWN HALL 625-8833	EXT.
ASSESSOR - TOM	116
BUILDING/ASSESSOR CLERK - KIM	131
BUILDING INSP/CODE ENF - RON	115
BUILDING INSP/CODE ENF - CHRIS	114
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK - NOREEN	110
DEPUTY TOWN CLERK - STEPHANIE	109
JUDGE KEVIN MACK	128
JUDGE MACK'S CLERK - JIM	119
JUDGE TODD OSTROWSKI	117
JUDGE OSTROWSKI'S CLERK - BARB	120
PAYROLL/PERSONNEL - ALISHA	123
PLANNING BOARD - JOHN	125
SUPERVISOR - JOEL	113
SUPERVISOR'S SECRETARY - CLAUDIA	121
TOWN CLERK - DEBBIE	112
PUBLIC WORKS 625-8033	
WATER BILLING - RITA	111

### ~ IN THIS ISSUE ~

Assessment News .....	1, 7
Dog Enumeration (2nd notice).....	5
Highway Department .....	8
Historical Society of Pendleton .....	7
Niagara County News .....	10
Pendleton Lions Club .....	6
Pendleton Senior Citizens.....	6
Pendleton Tree Lighting.....	3
Phone Extensions.....	1
Recreation .....	8
Supervisor's Message.....	1
Town Clerk .....	4, 5
Town Historian.....	8
Veterans Association .....	3
Wendelville Fire Co News .....	9

# Advantage Physical Therapy

*A Step Ahead in Getting Results*

Locally owned by Lockport native  
Andrew Perilli DPT

*"At Advantage Physical Therapy, our team strives to provide individualized and quality physical therapy care to Lockport and its surrounding communities. Our goal is to get you feeling better, moving better, and living better as quickly as we can."*

5556 Davison Road • Lockport, NY  
**716-433-3368**

[AdvantagePhysicalTherapy.org](http://AdvantagePhysicalTherapy.org)

6506 Campbell Boulevard  
Pendleton, NY (at 5 Corners)

Family  
Owned  
Since  
1984

Open daily  
at 11:00 am



**PIZZA & SUBS**  
**716-625-6800**

*All Food Made Fresh to Order!*

[FredsPendletonPizza.com](http://FredsPendletonPizza.com)

*Jean A.*  
**MANDERS**

Lic. Associate Real Estate Broker, GRI, CLHMS



**KELLERWILLIAMS**  
REALTY WNY

KELLERWILLIAMS  
*Luxury*  
INTERNATIONAL



Mobile: 716-534-1495  
Office: 716-832-3300

5500 Main St, Suite 108  
Williamsville, NY 14221

[jeanamanders@gmail.com](mailto:jeanamanders@gmail.com)  
[www.jeanamanders.com](http://www.jeanamanders.com)



*Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated*



**CONCIERGE**  
DENTAL GROUP

Dr. Marian C. Pilecki | Dr. Jill Rowland

**Smile with  
confidence.**

Same day dental implants  
using cutting-edge technology.

Call for an appointment:  
**(716)-333-3333**



[ConciergeDentalGroup.com](http://ConciergeDentalGroup.com)

6511 Campbell Blvd. Pendleton, NY



## PENDLETON VETERANS ASSOCIATION



**IMPORTANT NEWS** - Starting with the December monthly meeting our Association has made a big change in our meetings format. We will be combining our board meeting and our general

members meeting into one. We are also moving our meeting time to 6:00pm in the evening with pizza provided at meeting end. All meetings will REMAIN on the first Wednesday of every month and still be held at Town Hall. Please enter at the Town Clerks entrance from the parking lot and proceed to the Board room at the end of the hall. Any deviation from the above schedule members will be notified via e-mail and posted on electronic billboard at Town Hall, Town web site and facebook.

We (PVA board) came to realize that having afternoon meetings was not convenient to our younger Veteran members, most of which are still employed. We hope that this move stimulates more Veteran members to attend meetings and also resident veteran non-members to come and join our group. Our current members are a wealth of information and have knowledge to offer regarding Veterans Administration issues, health benefits, pension issues, cemetery benefits, prescription benefits and more. You earned these benefits why not investigate your eligibility. Please come join our Association. **We hope to see you at our next scheduled meeting at Town Hall, 6:00pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month. Please!**

Our Association has been busy as usual with Veteran and community initiatives as follows.

- The “HOME TOWN HERO’S Banner program is now reality and is visible on the north facing fence of the town hall tennis court, across from the Veterans monument, adjacent to the OUT driveway of the parking lot. You can’t miss it. There are over 50 family sponsored banners displayed currently with many more to come.
- Many thanks go out to Town Clerk Debbie Maurer for her inspiration and coordinating of this initiative. Families or individuals can sponsor any town resident Veteran, See Debbie at Town Hall Clerk’s office for an application.
- Our annual Veterans Day Ceremony November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 honoring all Veterans was a great success this year. Niagara County Assemblyman Mike Norris gave a nice sincere speech and thank you to all veterans especially those in attendance. Reverend Pastor John Rance from Family Worship Center, gave a very fitting invocation. Taps were played by bugler Karl Miller.
- The PVA has donated funds and was represented at

the Niagara County Community College Veterans Park dedication Ceremony November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- A huge “**THANK YOU**” goes out to three local merchants that contribute and support the PVA in an ongoing effort.

**FREDS PIZZA ~ KRAFT COFFEE HOUSE  
SMITHS ORCHARD**

Please support all local businesses.

Greg Metzger, *Vice President*

Pendleton Veterans Association

### PENDLETON TREE LIGHTING

**Yvonne Vivian and Candice Black, Tree Lighting Coordinators, would like to thank all the sponsors who donated to the Pendleton Tree Lighting Ceremony and Festival of Lights.**

**Gold Sponsor (\$300.00 - \$400.00) Retail value of donation**

Brown Electric Inc. Sharon Brown, *President*  
- Outdoor Inflatables & Numerous Supplies

**Silver Sponsors (\$200.00 - \$299.00) Retail value of donation**

Chameleon Pools & Patio -Elsa and Olaf  
Craft Coffee House - Hot Chocolate and Toppings  
Fred’s Pizza - Decorations and Gift Cards  
Kandyland Day Care - Gift Basket and Gift cards  
Lions Club Pendleton Chapter

**Bronze Sponsors (\$100.00 - \$199.00) Retail value of donation**

Bogart Landscape Contracting  
Chiavetta’s Barbeque  
Kenyon’s, Campbell Blvd  
Pendleton Creek Golf Club & Pub  
Tops – South Transit Road  
Yvonne & Daniel Vivian



**\$25.00 - \$50.00 Sponsors Retail value of donation**

5 Points Wines and Spirits, Fieldstone, Home Depot, Subway, The Ship Bar & Grill, Synergy Salon, Trinity Salon, Uncle G’s, Walmart, Candace Black, Della Proefrock, Debbie Maurer.

**Special Thanks to:**

Henry & Berny Fischer ( Mr. and Mrs. Claus)  
Craft Coffee House - Katie Graves  
- Donation of Hot Chocolate and Toppings  
Pendleton Historical Society  
- Serving Hot Chocolate and Popcorn donation  
Wendelville Fire Dept - Santa Arrival and Firetruck  
Shawn and Nancy Christman - Building and painting outdoor picture sign  
Briar Scott (9 years old) - Donation outdoor Unicorn  
Starpoint Band Director - Monica Graves  
Starpoint Honor Society - Jessica Haskill and Student Volunteers  
Debbie Maurer, *Town Clerk* - Endless help with event



## TOWN CLERK

Happy New Year! I wish you all good health and happiness in the upcoming year. Bundle up and get ready for some chilly WNY weather! If you are struggling with heating bills and need assistance you may want to consider applying for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) with the Niagara County Department of Social Services. You can call them at 716-278-8400 for more information or apply online at <https://www.mybenefits.ny.gov/>.

Do you need notary services? There are two notaries available to the public in the Town Clerk's office who can assist you at no charge. Please make sure to bring photo identification with you when in need of this service.

In case you didn't know, we are also an approved Passport Application Acceptance Facility. This means that we can assist you with your passport application if at least **one** of the following is true:

- You are applying for your first U.S. passport
- You are under age 16
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued when you were under age 16
- Your previous U.S. passport was lost, stolen, or damaged
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued more than 15 years ago

APPOINTMENTS are required for passport application assistance.

Unfortunately, we are not authorized to process passport renewals. Renewals must be submitted through the mail. Go to <https://travel.state.gov/> for more information.

I have included some important information for the upcoming months below.

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE – TOWN HALL CLOSED

New Year's Day	January 1 <sup>st</sup>
Martin Luther King Day	January 15 <sup>th</sup>
Presidents' Day	February 19 <sup>th</sup>
Good Friday	March 29 <sup>th</sup>

### TRASH COLLECTION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH

HOLIDAY	EFFECT
New Year's Day	Tuesday's collection on January 2 <sup>nd</sup> will be delayed until Wednesday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>

The 2024 Recycling & Trash Collection calendar, which will include the Bulk Trash Pick-Up Schedule, will be mailed to all residents from Modern Disposal Services at the end of December. This can also be found on our website once it is released. Here are few important tips to

remember:

- 1) Only waste placed inside the cart is accepted. No bags, unless they are tagged.
- 2) Extra bag tags can be purchased at the Town Clerk's office for \$5.00 each.
- 3) Additional tote/refuse service can also be purchased for an annual fee of \$55.00.
- 4) Bulk trash is collected once per month. Each parcel is allowed a maximum of three items. (See schedule below)
- 5) If you have a missed collection, please call Modern Disposal's customer service number directly at 716-754-8226.

### BULK COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH

*See maps and listing of roads on [www.pendletonny.us](http://www.pendletonny.us)*

Week A (RED Map)	Week B (BLUE Map)
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	February 20 <sup>th</sup>
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	March 19 <sup>th</sup>

### TAX COLLECTION

Town/County tax bills will be mailed out by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Bills must be either paid in person at the Town Hall, Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, by placing in the locked drop box outside of Town Hall, or by mailing to:

**Town of Pendleton**

**P.O. Box 2305**

**Buffalo, NY 14240-2305**

**\* THIS IS ONLY FOR TAX PAYMENTS. THE WATER BILL PAYMENT ADDRESS HAS NOT CHANGED. \***

You may also pay **ONLINE** by going to <https://egov.basgov.com/pendleton/>.

**IMPORTANT:** If you pay your bills through your bank's online bill paying program, please make sure to allow enough time for your check to be mailed to and received at the collection office. The envelopes sent by your bank DO NOT have a USPS postmark that is stamped by the Post Office therefore it will be considered paid the day it is actually received in the office. The payment **MUST BE** received in the office by the due date in order to consider it a timely payment. (Real Property Tax Law §925.)

Please refer to the Tax Collector page on the town's website for additional information about your tax payments. This page contains several FAQs that you may find helpful.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please call me at 625-8833 ext. 112.

Warmest regards,  
Debbie Maurer

**DID YOU KNOW?** Article 7 of the New York State Agriculture and Market Law requires all dogs older than 4 months to be licensed within the town in which they reside. Licensing ensures that all dogs have been properly vaccinated against rabies for the protection of both you and your neighbors. Any dog living with you for more than 30 days must be licensed.

The Town of Pendleton is currently conducting a dog enumeration, or census. We would appreciate your help by completing and returning the form below to the Town Clerk, either by mail or in person, no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. *If you are a landlord and allow dogs, please pass this on to your tenants.*

The animal control officer will be doing random road checks in order to ensure census accuracy after May 1, 2024. If at that time you have not returned your form, or are found to be harboring an unlicensed dog(s), you will be subject to possible court fines per dog, along with a one-time enumeration fee of \$25.00 per dog that will be added to the dog license base fees.

Please complete the information below and return it to:  
**Pendleton Town Clerk's Office**  
**6570 Campbell Boulevard**  
**Lockport, NY 14094**



You can also complete this form on our website at [www.pendletonny.us](http://www.pendletonny.us) or by scanning the QR Code found to the right. ➔

-----  
**TOWN OF PENDLETON DOG ENUMERATION FORM**

Resident's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the following:

- ☐ I do not own a dog.
- ☐ I currently own a dog(s) with license number(s) listed below:

If you currently own an unlicensed dog(s) please mail back the following information or stop into the Town Clerk's office with the following documents:

1. Current rabies certificate showing the date of immunization. We will return this form with your license.
2. Spay/neuter certificate if applicable. We will return this with your license.
3. Check made out to the **Town of Pendleton** in the following amounts:

\$8.00 if the dog is spayed or neutered

\$20.00 if the dog is NOT spayed or neutered

All forms received or postmarked after **December 31, 2023** will be subject to a one-time enumeration fee of \$25.00 per dog in addition to the license fee above.

WINTER PARKING REMINDER!

Parking is prohibited on all town roads, North Tonawanda Creek Road, and Bear Ridge Road, between the hours of 1:00 am and 6:00 am December 1st – March 31st

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

Please help us update your contact information in our database. Just scan the QR Code to answer a short questionnaire or you can call as at 716-625-8833, option 3.

Kandyland Kids Inc.

DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL  
Ages 6 weeks to 12 years old

Offering: Early Head Start Program, Infant, Toddler, & Preschool 3-Year-Old Programs. Starpoint Universal Pre-Kindergarten, Before & After School Program, Summer Camp, & more!!!

4945 Beach Ridge Road (at the Five Corners)  
**716-625-9400** • [kandylandkidsinc.com](http://kandylandkidsinc.com)  
[kandylandkids@gmail.com](mailto:kandylandkids@gmail.com)

A Pendleton Community Daycare for over 20 years!

WHERE FUN AND LEARNING GO HAND IN HAND!



## PENDLETON LIONS CLUB

The Pendleton Lions have been keeping busy this past Fall. We delivered our Pendleton Lions Directory to all residents. Please let us know if you would like to be added or to advertise in our book for next year. This is our biggest fundraiser, and we do our best to keep it as current as possible. We appreciate your donations and 'Thank You's' that you send us.

Scholarship checks have been sent to the 8 Graduating Starpoint Seniors that won them. They were Ava Pytlik, Ava Wohleber, Morgan Hamm, Frank O'Connor, Nicholas Brady, Rachel Stoelting, Mara Beiter, and Makaela Day. We award these scholarships every year so please remind your Starpoint Senior to check with their guidance counselor for the application.

We have recently done the Peace poster contest at Starpoint. Winners were 3<sup>rd</sup> place Heath Wohleber, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Marianna Kuriscak, and 1<sup>st</sup> place Lily Kipp. Lily donated her award to Performing Hearts Theater, in Lockport, NY. She also placed second for our District at the Fall Cabinet meeting. If you ever visit Starpoint Middle School you can see the framed winning posters in the main hallway. We have been doing this for over 12 years. All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to enter a poster they have created.

By the time you read this, we will have completed our Christmas Projects for the 2023 Holiday Season. This was the second year for the Annual Giving Tree, out at Craft Coffee House. We collected presents for 30 children in the Starpoint School district. We also bought a gift card for Aldi's so each family we collected presents for would have a Christmas Dinner.

Another Christmas project we had is Santa Claus providing a requested present for each student at the North Tonawanda Learning Center. This is a BOCES that educates special needs children in our area of Niagara County. Over the past years we have provided toys to 85-95 children each Christmas Season. This has been going on for over 20 years.

We have recently initiated 'Adopt A Senior'. We provided a hot dinner and a gift to a Pendleton Senior who is alone for this Holiday Season.

We Thank the Pendleton Community for supporting us in all the things we do during the year. Being able to do even more this Christmas Season shows how much we all care for each other.

We are currently working on how and where we can create a Pendleton Lions Medical Loan Closet for our community. We receive calls every week for medical equipment and about once a month for ramp help. Currently we must go to other Lions Clubs for assistance in getting medical items and this can take days to weeks to find what we need. For ramps, we are looking to build a supply to have for when we do get a call for one.

Keep in mind we do collect and distribute some minor medical equipment, canes, wheelchairs, shower seats, etc. We also will remove and reuse metal wheelchair ramps. Please be on the lookout for our Lions glasses donation boxes in our local businesses since we do collect, refurbish and donate those all over the world.

As always thank you very much for all your support. Please check our **Pendleton Lions Website** at [www.PNYLC.org](http://www.PNYLC.org). Cheryl Smith, *Pendleton Lion Secretary*



Above left: Second annual 'Giving Tree' at Craft Coffee House. Above right: Principal Gray, Art Teacher Amanda Alvarez, Lion Kim Baglio, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Heath Wohleber, 1<sup>st</sup> place Lily Kipp, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Marianna Kuriscak, Lions Cheryl Smith and Debbie Maurer.

## PENDLETON SENIOR CITIZENS

2024 is right around the corner!!! Maybe this will be the year that you decide to join the Pendleton Senior Citizens group. We welcome all town residents aged 55 or over.

You can find us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Wendelville Fire Hall. Visit awhile before our noon lunch, followed by a meeting with a speaker and/or more visiting with one another afterwards. Lunch is usually a potluck but we vary things from time to time. Bringing your own lunch or paying \$5.00 are other options. \$10.00 for your yearly membership and you'll be set to go!!

The officers for 2024 have been elected: President, Joyce Lane; Vice President, Linda Caffrey; Secretary, Laurie Barnes; and Treasurer, Pat Ward.

Early in the new year, we'll be hearing about the trips planned by the Travel Club for 2024. They'll be listed in a future town newsletter. You can always call Joe Kania at (716) 625-8118 for more information. We thank Joe and the rest of the committee – Pat Kania, Susan Neubauer, and Brenda Jasinski – for providing a varied, fun-filled series of trips this past year. So, whether or not you belong to Pendleton Seniors, remember that ALL seniors living in Pendleton as well as non-residents for an extra charge are invited to go on these trips.

As always, we end by remembering the dedicated members of our Armed Forces as well as all those Veterans who have served Our Country.

Thank you. Joyce Lane (716) 625-8789

## ASSESSMENT NEWS

This continuing section of our newsletter shows the Arm's Length sales for the previous quarter. Not included in Arm's Length sales are construction sales, estate sales, foreclosures and sales between relatives. Because sales will eventually affect what your home is assessed, it is important for property owners to see what is sold in town, and the sales prices.

DATE	ADDRESS	SELLER	SALE PRICE	ASSESSED VALUE	SQ FT LA	STYLE	YEAR BUILT	LAND (acre)
09/05/23	6194 Campbell Boulevard	Frances Pogorzala	\$275,000	\$120,000	1512	Ranch	1955	1.10
09/05/23	6999 Arrowhead Drive	Melvin Ralph	\$375,000	\$226,600	1886	Ranch	1993	.72
09/08/23	5082 Mapleton Road	Arthur and Laura Norwood	\$507,000	\$215,000	1988	Ranch	1988	1.0
09/08/23	4206 Tonawanda Creek Road	William and Linda Miller	\$295,000	\$145,000	1808	Ranch	1958	1.30
09/14/23	5427 Mapleton Road	Janis Saj	\$317,500	\$147,000	2048	Ranch	1989	.95
09/15/23	7273 Pendale Drive	Jamie & Katherine Marcolini	\$435,000	\$225,400	2232	Colonial	1994	.60
09/19/23	4938 Cloverleaf Lane	Sriram Vilayanoor	\$483,500	\$274,300	2810	Colonial	2012	.57
09/29/23	4922 Cloverleaf Lane	Maureen Ducharme	\$500,000	\$255,000	2720	Colonial	2012	.57
09/29/23	6277 East Canal Road	Russell Pierino	\$160,000	\$135,000	1350	Ranch	1955	34.70
10/13/23	7051 Campbell Boulevard	SSS Growth Holdings	\$290,000	\$110,000	1244	Ranch	1967	.94
10/19/23	4278 Beach Ridge Road	Joan Jerla	\$290,000	\$135,000	1322	Ranch	1960	.62

### REMINDER:

If you move from your primary residence in Pendleton, it is your obligation to notify the Assessor's office. Each residence that is receiving the STAR Exemption signed the STAR application acknowledging that they would notify the Assessor of their change in residency.

As a resident/owner of property in Pendleton, there are property tax exemptions that you may be entitled to – including STAR, Enhanced STAR, Senior Citizens, Veterans, Agricultural, people with Disabilities and Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers. For information on any of these exemptions you can either visit the NYS Department of Tax and Finance website [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) or visit the Assessor's office at Pendleton Town Hall or contact us by phone at 716-625-8833.

If you are signing up for Basic STAR, you need to go to the NYS website noted above or call (518) 457-2036 to sign up for the Basic STAR Credit (which is a check from NY State vs. receiving an Exemption). Additionally, any resident/owner who is currently receiving a Star Exemption can switch to the credit program by contacting the New York State Department of Tax and Finance, via their website or phone number.

All Enhanced STAR applications require enrollment in the NY State Income Verification Program (IVP). Note, if you are currently enrolled in the Enhanced STAR Exemption or Credit, you do not need to renew your application (unless you are contacted by our office or NY State).

**If your primary residence is in the Town of Pendleton, and you will be 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2024, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR Exemption for your school taxes. Additionally, if you meet the above criteria, and are on limited income, you may be eligible for the Senior Citizen Exemption which provides additional tax exemptions on County, School and Town taxes. Contact the Pendleton Assessors office at 716-625-8833 ext. 131 for additional information.**

The forms for all the exemptions and the IVP program are available at the Town Hall or can be obtained via the NY State website. Deadline for all exemptions is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY of PENDLETON

The Pendleton Historical Society has been reformed and renamed. From now on it is the Historical Society of Pendleton. We have new documents and by-laws. We are now recognized by the state as a non-profit. We participated in the Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 1st. Everyone enjoyed the hot cocoa from Craft Coffee House that was served along with our own popcorn. Earlier in the day, our boxes of homemade Christmas cookies were available for purchase in the Town Hall. We always sell out as our members are the greatest of bakers. Is it our historical recipes from

generations past or just that we are great bakers? Our Christmas party was held at the Fieldstone Restaurant on December 18th. Election of officers will take place so we will be ready by January 1st with our new organization. Still meeting at the Town Hall until the community center will be built. Our meetings in 2024 will begin on March 18th at 1pm. The speaker will be our own Cheryl Smith, topic to be determined. We always welcome new members and our annual dues are \$10. Come join us and learn things from the past and serve the community. Help us plan our new displays in the community center.

## RECREATION

It's hard to think about the spring and summer when it's this cold outside! But it will be here before we know it! Keep an eye out for Baseball, Softball, T-Ball, and Coach Pitch registration information on the town website. Registration will begin February 15th. A HUGE shout out to the coaches that donated hours of their time for our T-Ball season last year! Hopefully this year with an earlier start date, we can add softball, baseball and coach pitch. Please email [cblack@pendletonny.us](mailto:cblack@pendletonny.us) or call/text 716-804-4343 with any questions!

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Hi All, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

I just have some winter reminders, with the snow season upon us.

- Pushing snow across the road is unsafe and illegal. Please make sure if you have a plow service that they are aware of this law.
- Pushing snow into ditches blocks them from flowing freely as snow melts.
- Pendleton has a ban on street parking from December 1st to April 1st, beginning at 1 AM and ending at 6 AM.
- Please keep in mind that plows are out all hours of the day and night, so if you can keep your cars off the road as much as possible, it will make it easier for the plows to get through.

#### News from DPW:

We have received our new 2024 MACK tandem axle dump truck, equipped with plow and salter. This will be an addition to our current fleet. The plows have been ready since the end of November, roadside stakes have been put in place, and we have an abundant supply of salt in our barn. We are ready to go when the snow flies.

**Mailbox Damage:** While plowing the roads, mailboxes can be damaged from the snowplow directly or by the force of the snow being thrown by the plow. In the event a mailbox is damaged by the snowplow, the Highway Department will, as a courtesy, replace with a temporary town issued box & post, so that mail may be received.

#### PARKS:

All bathrooms have been fully winterized and will remain closed until sometime in the spring, weather permitting. Work has begun on the Community Center and will continue throughout the winter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

David Fischer, *Highway Superintendent*

P: 716-625-8033 M: 716-909-1408

Email: [dfischer@pendletonny.us](mailto:dfischer@pendletonny.us)

### TOWN HISTORIAN

The harshness of autumn and winter posed significant challenges for the new world immigrants. For those accustomed to a Northern European climate, arriving on the new continent felt akin to experiencing the familiar conditions of the old continent. However, the territory that would eventually become Pendleton was colder and snowier than their respective homelands.

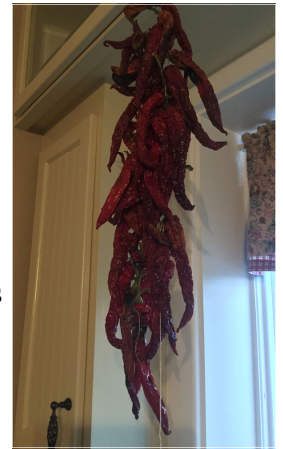
Christmas, or the festivities resembling it, did not hold the popularity we witness today. The initial settlers in the Pendleton area were of English descent, with Sylvester Pendleton Clarke hailing from Rhode Island with English heritage on both sides. During the Georgian period, there was a tendency to eschew the grandiosity of an English Christmas, treating it like any other day with tasks such as chopping firewood, food preparation, and household chores.

The subsequent wave of immigrants to the newly formed Pendleton was of German origin. A German Christmas in the 1820s was more robust, featuring modest homes adorned with evergreens. Handmade gifts were exchanged, and the Tannenbaum (Christmas tree) was illuminated by real candles. A unique tradition involved finding a pickle in the Christmas tree, a special discovery for a child wishing for an extra gift.

The Irish, recruited for the Erie Canal construction, also celebrated a modest Christmas. If affordable, bacon and cabbage were the preferred festive meal. Due to its cost, they often relied on their Jewish friends for corned beef. As a religious community, Catholic Mass held particular importance during the holiday season.

Dear reader, in the spirit of documenting history, do you have any family history or items you'd like to share? As crucial as it is to record the past, our current and future histories offer tomorrow's clues to a shared future. God Bless You All & Stay Safe,

Carissa Smith, *Historian*  
[CSmith@pendletonny.us](mailto:CSmith@pendletonny.us)  
(716) 342 - 9767



"If you see someone without a  
SMILE...give them one of YOURS."

-Dolly Parton





## WENDELVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

The Fire Service is constantly changing. Your fire Company is no different. You often read here how we continue to learn new techniques and upgrade our equipment. But that is not all we try to improve. We are always looking at how we run and support our organization. What are we doing well? What can we do better? How can we draw new members into the organization? What can we do to support our current members and still provide exemplary service to the Town of Pendleton. As we go through this process, we look at many ideas. Some are worth trying and implementing. We have 2 new items that we are implementing and want you to know about.

We have created a new way for you to help us in our mission to provide great service to you and your family! A new designation for membership called a **Support Member** has been created. A **Support Member** is anyone wanting to join Wendelville to help, but for whatever reason, does not or cannot commit to being a firefighter. A support member can help us plan fund raisers, maintain our facilities, and help the Fire Company run smoothly. No requirement to answer fire calls or train. Our Active Members have seen the call total for the year increase from approximately 400 in 2019 to almost 800 calls this year. Yes, we need new Active members to respond to calls, but we realize that getting people to help support the Organization can help us too. There are still minimum requirements to make, but again, they do not include participating in firematic training or responding to calls. YOU can help us continue to be a growing and vibrant organization. Please contact us today if you are interested in joining as an Active or Support member.

Another concern we all face is the financial support the Fire Company receives from the Town and its residents. We have always been blessed to have good support from the Town of Pendleton and all of the residents. But there are always things that break, need to be upgraded, or in general can be improved. All of this costs money, and the costs increase all the time. NYS recently passed Legislation that allows All Volunteer Fire Companies to participate in what is called **Soft billing for Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**. This means that when we respond to an emergency call, we will be able to charge customary amounts to the patient's medical insurance. This means that if we transport a patient to the hospital, we may receive reimbursement for the care and transportation we provide. We will also bill non-resident patients for the co-pay associated with their insurance plan. Soft billing means that if these patients

cannot afford this co-pay, that amount will be forgiven. NO patients will be sent to collections for our services. Residents of the Town of Pendleton will have their co-pays offset by the money we receive from our contract for Emergency Services with the Town. Town of Pendleton residents **SHOULD NOT** receive any bill for our services. We will submit billing for all patients to their insurance company. That means we will begin asking for insurance information when we are treating patients. But again, as a resident of the Town of Pendleton, you should not receive a bill for our services. This is a new process for us, and we ask for patience as we start it. The goal is to help offset some of our expenses and hopefully improve our service to you. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this new process.

Joe Riester 716-598-1653

Wendelville Fire Company President

Another piece of information that we want to inform you of is that the members of our company attended the Lancaster Christmas Parade. They were defending their title from last year and successfully again brought home the Trophy in the "Best Overall Fire Department" Category!!! They were also given a grant from Basil Family Dealerships in the amount of \$5000 for the upgrade of our Main Hall Signage! This was based on an essay submitted by our members!

**Congratulations to All! Keep up the great work!!!**

**"Your smile is your logo, your personality is your business card, and how you leave others feeling after having an experience with you becomes your trademark." - Anonymous**

**Please tell your advertisers you saw them in the Pendleton News!  
If you wish to advertise, please call  
Kax Solutions & Services at 716.514.4567**

### **Why advertise in the Pendleton Home Town News?**

- **Target over 2,700 local households and businesses while supporting the community**
- **Full year discount: Get 4 ads for the price of 3 (start with any issue)**
- **Change your ad in each issue to fit the season (layout is always free)**
- **Coupons & special offers encouraged**



## NEWS FROM NIAGARA COUNTY

Column by Legislator Tony Nemi

As I am writing this column, the Niagara County Legislature is putting the finishing touches on the 2024 Niagara County budget. I am happy to say that for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we have stayed below the property tax cap and delivered a fiscally responsible budget. For 2024, the full value tax rate is \$5.09 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which is a 9.1 percent decrease from last year's budget. I always remind people that this figure will vary between municipalities based on the New York State Equalization Rate.

The total appropriations for 2024 are budgeted at \$432.5 million, a \$23.8 million increase, or 5.28 percent. However, that does NOT mean we increased spending by that amount. Accounting reforms passed years ago require that revenue coming in and going out be recorded as spending, even though we are just an intermediary or a pass-through. For example, Niagara County has an 8 percent sales tax, four percent which is state and four which is local. There is a formula for how the local share is divided with local governments. New York State sends Niagara County the entire local share and then we disperse it out via the formula. So sales tax that is not ours, that, for example, we are sending to Pendleton or Lockport, is still recorded as spending in our budget since it passes through our books. There are many examples similar to this. When we back those out of the budget, our rate of increase drops to 3 percent, or about \$13 million.

Of course, controlling taxes and spending is a particular challenge when you actually do not have control over large portions of the budget. I'm referring to state mandates which are services the state requires by law that we provide but does not give us any funding for. The New York State Association of Counties has sought to highlight this disturbing trend through its "9 for 90 Campaign." What this means is that just nine state mandates can consume close to 90 percent or more of any county's property tax levy. In 2023 in Niagara County, just these 9 mandated items consumed approximately 84 percent of the county tax levy – and that is not counting every single mandate. This year, the problem has only gotten worse at that number jumped to eating up 93 percent of the county tax levy. Albany is pushing their fiscal problems onto the back of local property taxpayers.

Thankfully, over the last couple of years, sales tax growth has been strong and helped offset these mandates. For 2024, the county sales tax revenue is budgeted at \$91.4 million, a \$6.2 million increase, which equates to

7.3 percent. The trends and immediate past history make us comfortable with this forecast. But I should note that across the state, many people are expecting sales tax growth to flatten in coming years. We will need to monitor this closely.

The county budget is about more than just dollars and cents. It is a document that lays out priorities, long-term goals and areas for investment. In this budget, we are addressing needs like public safety, as we are hiring additional county sheriffs. We are also preparing to launch a county-run ambulance service. We continue to be focused on maintaining our key employees, especially in hard-to-fill positions as hiring remains a challenge. We remain committed to investing in our infrastructure, as our DPW team has successfully completed numerous road and bridge projects in recent years. And we continue to maintain a fund balance equivalent to 8 percent of the county budget.

The Legislature recognizes the struggles that many families across the county face, with high inflation and price increases and that is why we go line by line through the budget to ensure accountability of your tax dollars. As such, I want to acknowledge the great work of our management team and department heads in developing a prudent budget that balances taxpayer concerns with the need to fund much-needed public services.

### DO YOU NEED MORE SPACE IN YOUR HOME? TURN YOUR BASEMENT INTO A PLAYROOM or BEDROOM!

- ✓ Emergency Egress Windows
- ✓ Bowed Walls Made Straight
- ✓ Wet Basement Made Dry
- ✓ New Addition & Home Foundations

**\$500 off BOWED WALL REPAIR**

**\$250 off EGRESS WINDOW**

**\$100 off CRACK REPAIR**



**Call Today For Free  
Basement Inspection!  
(716) 298-1100**

**WATERPROOFING • YARD DRAINAGE • FOUNDATIONS**

*P&K*

**Prudden & Kandt**

*Funeral Home Inc.*

*Personal, Dignified Service Since 1876*

**John M. Rosenberg  
Andrew G. Rosenberg**

**433-6300**

*Pre-Arrangements  
Serving All Faiths*

**242 Genesee Street**  
*(between Washburn & Locust)*



**Nature's Way** (716) 863-3113  
Custom Landscape Design

- Spring Clean-ups
- Seeding and Lawn Installation
- Plantings and Maintenance
- Patios, Walks, Retaining Walls

Fully Insured

[www.NaturesWayLandscapingonline.com](http://www.NaturesWayLandscapingonline.com)

**Kawasaki • Suzuki • KTM • CFMoto**  
**Husqvarna • Ski-Doo • Sea-Doo**

**Hebeler Sales & Service**

6466 Main Road • Lockport, NY 14094  
[www.hebelers.com](http://www.hebelers.com)

Monday-Thursday 9-6 (716) 625-8744 P  
Friday 9-5 Saturday 9-2 (716) 625-6016 F  
Sunday Closed

**TURF TEC** 625-8990  
Professional Landscape Services [turftec-wny.com](http://turftec-wny.com)

5096 Lockport Road Lockport, NY 14094

- Lawn Fertilization -Tree Care
- Landscape Install/Maintenance

Celebrating 40 years servicing WNY!

*You're Invited*

**Worship**  
Saturdays at 5:00 PM  
Sundays at 9:00 & 11:00 AM  
Watch online any time!

**Fish Fry Dinners**  
Fridays, Beginning February 16, 4:00-7:00 PM

**PENDLETON CENTER**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6864 Campbell Blvd., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120  
At the corner of Bear Ridge Rd. & Campbell Blvd.  
[pendletonchurch.org](http://pendletonchurch.org) 716-625-8306

When experience matters, call  
**Diane Hazelet**  
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services  
Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker  
[www.DianeHazelet.howardhanna.com](http://www.DianeHazelet.howardhanna.com)  
716.868.0914



Experience  
Passion  
Integrity  
...Neighbor

A Proven Professional

**Howard Hanna**

3195 Niagara Falls Boulevard  
Amherst, NY 14228

**WEST HERR** NEW YORK

Steve Whalen  
Sales Consultant

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

SAME DAY EXPRESS DELIVERY

West Herr Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Lockport  
6200 S Transit Road • Lockport, NY 14094 • [westherr.com](http://westherr.com)  
716-625-9191 • 716-472-8039 Cell

**TBROTHERS**  
renovations

Additions • New Construction  
General Remodeling  
For appointments, please visit our website...  
[TBrothersRenovations.com](http://TBrothersRenovations.com)

Welcome  
2024

**Wm. C. Rott & Son**  
Shield your home.™

Roofing • Siding • Gutters  
Replacement Windows & Doors

Estimates  
Repairs  
Inspections

**694-8220**  
[wcrott.com](http://wcrott.com)

A Tradition  
Of Quality  
Since 1909

454 Young Street, Tonawanda, New York 14150



Northtowns based tax preparer -

# Becky A. Wilcox, CPA PLLC

716.380.5388



- Individual & Business Taxes
- Over two decades of Tax Preparation Experience
- Remote Tax Preparation Available

For more information, please visit my website:  
BeckyAWilcoxCPA.com or Facebook page at  
Becky A Wilcox CPA or email me at:  
[b.wilcoxcpa@gmail.com](mailto:b.wilcoxcpa@gmail.com)

# THE SHIP

BAR & GRILL

NOW OPEN  
@  
11am  
EVERY DAY

5612 Tonawanda Creek Rd  
716-210-3020

Walk-ins  
Welcomed!

*TS*  
*Trinity Salons*

**New  
Stylists**  
JOEY HY  
&  
JENEL  
STOORZA

6421 Campbell Blvd. Suite B • Lockport, NY 14094  
716-210-3002 Website: [www.TrinitySalon716.com](http://www.TrinitySalon716.com)

HELPING  
PEOPLE  
IS OUR BUSINESS



**HOLLER  
INSURANCE**  
AGENCY, LLC



Holler Insurance exists to be  
an advisor and advocate for  
our clients. We strive to  
develop long-term partnerships  
with our customers.

- Jessica Holler, Principal



[HOLLERINSURANCE.COM](http://HOLLERINSURANCE.COM)  
(716) 589-4970 | Lockport, NY 14094

**Trusted Choice** FREE TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU™  
INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS

## Barbara Neri

Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker

Cell: (716) 425-1232

[Barbara.Neri@HuntRealEstate.com](mailto:Barbara.Neri@HuntRealEstate.com)



*"I am a long time Pendleton Resident. I work  
with experience, integrity, and passion. Call me  
today for any of your Real Estate needs."*

~ Barbara Neri

**HUNT**®  
Since 1911

Always There For You®



3070 Niagara Falls Blvd • Wheatfield, NY 14120