

# Forestburgh Newsletter

*February 2017*



**Forestburgh Town Hall hours are from 9-3 Mon. through Fri. (845)794-0611**

## **Board and Committee News:**

For a copy of the minutes or agendas, please visit our website at [forestburgh.net](http://forestburgh.net). While on the website, check the calendar for upcoming events and meetings.

## **Town Meeting Schedules:**

### **Town Board**

Regular Town Board Meetings are the 1st Thursday of every month, at 7pm in the Town Hall. The next scheduled meeting will be on **March 2nd**. At this meeting there will be two public hearings held. One to address the proposed kennel law and one to reestablish the planning board as the lead agency on all proposed developments. At the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Town Board enacted a 6 month moratorium on commercial solar applications and established a committee to address concerns and help draft regulations.

### **Planning Board**

The Planning Board held its regularly scheduled meeting in January and welcomed its two new members, Gene Raponi and Vincent Galligan.

An application for a Subdivision of Republic Lake Joseph's 400+ acre parcel was introduced by its engineer, Glen Smith. This parcel was the undivided property that was formerly phase 2 and phase 3 of the Lake Joseph Planned Unit Development (PUD) but was withdrawn from the PUD several years ago. St Joseph Road bisects this parcel and Republic Lake Joseph is seeking to subdivide this parcel into two parcels using St Joseph road as the boundary between the two. One parcel will be roughly 300 acres, the other roughly 100 acres. This application will continue to be processed at the Planning Board's February 28 meeting. It is anticipated that a public hearing will be scheduled for a date - perhaps at the Planning Board's March 28 meeting.

Other matters addressed at the January meeting included the proposed 6 month Moratorium on Commercial Solar installations, which the Planning Board unanimously endorsed. The Planning Board also unanimously agreed that the Town Board should be the lead agency for SEQRA purposes regarding the proposed local law amending the town code to permit Kennels as a land use authorized in Forestburgh with a Special Use Permit.

Also anticipated to be on February's agenda will be a review of the amendment of the Planned Development District Law (PDD) returning responsibility to the Planning Board, and a continuation of the review of a draft Subdivision Code.

Tent Days has not yet submitted its anticipated application for a Special Use Permit for the Foster Road property that it is in contract to buy. The deadline to be on the agenda for the February meeting was February 13.

The next scheduled Planning Board meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 7pm on **February 28th**.

### **Solar Committee**

There will be a Solar Committee meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm held in the Town Hall located at 332 King Road.

## **Forestburgh Day Committee**

There is a scheduled meeting for the Forestburgh Day Committee will be at 6pm on March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Town Hall.

## **2018 Revaluation Update:**(submitted by Town Assessor, Dennis Ketcham)

GAR Appraisals initiated our revaluation project in January 2016 with a mass mailing to all town property owners, introducing the project and announcing the public meeting that was held at the Forestburgh firehouse. There were approximately 30 individuals present including myself and Cindy Dodd. The mailing also made available the option of scheduling an appointment for data collection; approximately 10 property owners contacted us for appointments.

Data collection started immediately in January 2016 and still continues today. In addition to the outside field work, we are updating the Property Record Cards and entering the data in the NYS Real Property System (RPS). My office is working closely with the town Building Inspectors office when our inspections uncover potential illegal and/or unsafe building conditions or improvements.

We are reviewing, resorting, and refileing all the real property deeds this Assessors' office has received from 1990 to present, they are being reviewed to insure that the information that is recited in the deed, and reviewed by Sullivan County Tax Map, correlates with RPS, as I have found discrepancies.

Additionally, I am working with Sullivan County Real Property Tax Director Ed Homenick, and Tax Map Technician Chris Knapp, to correlate, verify and correct any problematic data that exists between: the deeds, RPS, actual printed tax maps, and the county ImageMate system. We are also correcting/ verifying & changing problem 911 addresses' with the appropriate county office as they arise.

I have been in contact with GAR Appraisals intermittently over the last year via phone, email, and in person to provide updates and exchange digital data; per the contract, they had little to do with the data collection part of this project. I officially requested a Utility Advisory Appraisal from NYS Taxation & Finance Valuation Services Bureau on February 12, 2016. They have not yet committed to perform this appraisal.

I anticipate data collection to be completed in the next several months, weather permitting, once complete, we will be sending data mailers containing the information gathered in our collection efforts. Property owners will then have an opportunity to offer comment to the data. There is no assessment or tax information contained in the data mailers.

## **Announcements:**

### **Free Tax Preparation:**

#### **FREE TAX HELP FROM AARP AND THE IRS**

**(For taxpayers with low and middle income. Although all ages are welcome, the program gives special attention to those age 55 and over)**

Would you like help with your income tax preparation and filing? If so, volunteers trained as tax counselors by the IRS will prepare and e-file your Federal and State tax returns at several sites around Sullivan County, including Monticello, Liberty, and Eldred.

For more information or to make an appointment at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Liberty, call (845) 292-6180. To make an appointment at the Monticello Library, call (845) 794-4660, and for the Eldred Library, call (845) 557-6258.

Sponsored by the AARP and IRS, with help from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County.

### **Town Clerk's Corner:**

The Town Hall has a 10 burner commercial gas stove that has been deemed surplus. If you are interested in purchasing this sturdy stove, please call the Town Clerk at 794-0611 ext. 21 to discuss the bidding process.

## Website/Newsletter

If you are not receiving the newsletter by email, and you have an email address, contact the Town of Forestburgh bookkeeper at forestburghbookkeeper@yahoo.com or by calling 794-0611 Ext 28 and supply your information to her. The newsletter will also be posted on the website as well as the information board at the Town Hall. If you haven't done so yet, please check out our Town website at forestburgh.net. It has a lot of useful information in it.

## Community Briefs

The Forestburgh Fire Department will be holding their annual **Corned Beef Dinner** on **March 18** in the Firehouse starting at 5pm. Any questions can be directed to Chief Todd Petrowsky at 794-7889.

The Forestburgh Fire Department responded to 129 calls in 2016. 80 of which were medical calls. If you or someone you know are interested in joining the fire department, they meet every Wednesday evening at the firehouse.

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. Donations will be accepted until March 3 with collection stations located at the CVI Building in Ferndale, Neversink General Store in Neversink, Kristt Company in Monticello, at all Peck's Markets, and Jeff Bank locations in White Lake, Liberty, Wurtsboro, and Bloomingburg.

The American Red Cross urges eligible blood and platelet donors to help restock its shelves to overcome a shortage. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Donor app, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). To save time when donating, you may complete the RapidPass online health history questionnaire at [redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](http://redcrossblood.org/rapidpass).

Press Release for Oral History Project in Connection with StoryCorps@YourLibrary FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM: ETHELBERG B. CRAWFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTACT: MARY PAIGE LANG-CLOUSE, DIRECTOR, 845-794-4660 EXT. 7 ETHELBERG B. CRAWFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY IS RECORDING ORAL HISTORIES OF THE HEY-DAY OF THE CATSKILL RESORT INDUSTRY THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF STORYCORPS@YOURLIBRARY February 2, 2017 – The Ethelberg B. Crawford Public Library in Monticello has begun recording the stories of those who experienced or contributed to Sullivan County's impact on popular culture with its Catskill entertainment history and reputation as an important vacation destination. Stories are being recorded of those who lived and worked in this world-renowned culture, affectionately known as the "Borscht Belt." These Borscht Belt interviews may be found on the home page of the library website: [www.ebcrawfordlibrary.org](http://www.ebcrawfordlibrary.org). "Remembering the Hey-Day of the Catskills" is inspired by STORYCORPS@YOURLIBRARY, a national program designed to help public libraries across the country collect the stories of their respective communities. Each interview runs approximately 45 minutes in length and is designed to elicit remembrances and recollections of the people who experienced this unique history. Our upstate rural county has hosted some of the world's most well-known entertainers, whose careers started here before going on to the Broadway stage and movie screens across the country. The hotels and bungalows that dotted the landscape were the get-away for tens of thousands of city dwellers who took advantage of the beautiful environment, friendly resorts and world-class entertainment. Those requesting further information or interested in participating in the program and being recorded should contact the Library at 845-794-4660 x107. ABOUT ETHELBERG B. CRAWFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY The Ethelberg B. Crawford Public Library is the community's favorite place to meet, to learn and to discover. The Library daily connects people to each other and to the world.

# Donate Blood in honor of **Justin Kozachuk**



Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.

## **Blood Drive** **Monticello High School**

In the Auditorium  
39 Breakey Avenue  
Monticello, NY

**Friday, March 3**  
**1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

Sign up in the Guidance Office today!  
or email [dbausenwein@k12mcsd.net](mailto:dbausenwein@k12mcsd.net)

**Come to donate and receive a FREE American Red Cross  
T-shirt (while supplies last)!**



**American Red Cross**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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