

2020
Town of Forestburgh Newsletter



Board and Committee News:

For a copy of the minutes and/or agendas, please visit our website at www.forestburgh.net . While on the website, please check the calendar for upcoming events and meetings.

Town Board

The State Senate and Assembly have taken the unprecedented step of giving the Governor and State Budget committee absolute authority to adjust the budget as they see fit due to the Covid-19 epidemic. They have said they will likely cut 20-50% of state funds given to Municipalities and schools across NYS. To us here in Forestburgh this means a \$18,000.00 cut in CHIPS funding to the Highway Department, which will impact road projects, and a \$27,200.00 cut to General fund from our AIM money. This has forced the town board to make some necessary cuts to our budget to assure no overruns of tax increases. One of the most significant and hardest decisions was to keep the pool closed this summer. This will help with funding, as well as help stop potential exposure and spread of the virus. We are told that the health department would likely not issue permits till possibly mid-July at earliest anyway, leaving about 1 month of use. There is not 1 department in the budget that was not impacted by these budget cuts, and should the State decide to cut up to the 50% they spoke of, we will be forced to cut even more.

We are also “phasing” in reopening the Town Hall to the public. Staff will rotate days on and off so the Town hall is open Monday through Friday, and see residents by appointment to conduct business. Strict CDC guidelines must be followed and will be enforced.

These are extremely difficult decisions we are faced with but must take the necessary steps to assure both the physical and financial health of our residents and the Town.

Planning Board

May's Planning Board meeting was Forestburgh's first official meeting held virtually. No technical difficulties were encountered. The Review of the Forestburgh Pond application for a 21 lot subdivision of a 548 acre parcel was begun, and the Planning Board declared its intent to be the lead agency in the Environmental Review process, with notice of that declaration being sent to other state and local agencies for their input. Comments concerning the application were made, and correspondence from neighbors was received, as well. All materials received from the applicant and public have been posted on Forestburgh's website: <https://forestburgh.net/boards-and-committees/planning-board/applications/forestburgh-pond/>

Our June meeting will be held on **June 30**. A determination has not yet been made as to whether it will be an “in-person” meeting at the outdoor pavilion at Town Hall, or a virtual meeting, again conducted via Zoom. Notice of the details will be posted at Town Hall, the Fire Department, the Town's website and the Sullivan County Democrat.

Zoning Re-Write Committee

The zoning committee will be discussing the possibility of a July meeting. We are looking forward to getting back to work and completing our project.

Announcements:

Forestburgh Highway Department

The highway will be working on North Rd starting July 6th and continuing until July 8th. Because of this it will be necessary to close the road for that time. The highway department continues ditching in

Hartwood. Hopefully we are going to try and do a fall clean-up since we could not do it in the spring due to the virus.

If you see anyone dumping trash in Town, please let us know-794-8069. Let's work together to keep Forestburgh beautiful, and please have a safe summer.

Dog Control Officer

Reminder to all dog owners; by law all dogs must be licensed. Please see the Town Clerk for details. Dogs must always be on a leash or in complete control of the owner. It is against the law for any dog to be on private property without expressed permission from the property owner or wandering loose on any public road or on any public property. Letting dogs roam loose creates a safety hazard for the dog, the public and other pets. Please be a responsible dog owner and a good neighbor.

The Grateful Deadheaders

We're looking beautiful! Check out the gardens around the Town Hall and also the Dove Garden in the center of town to see the gorgeous work that has been done with the help of Sullivan Renaissance. Even our Welcome Signs coming into town have new plantings! We are very fortunate to have Forestburgh resident Roland Zanger working with us as our Renaissance intern. He'll be here all summer helping to maintain our Forestburgh gardens and Welcome Sign plantings. Welcome Roland!

See the picture below for the new patio stones in front of our benches at the Dove Garden. Thanks to the Highway Department for the outstanding work they have done to help us.



Stop by any of these spaces and see how Forestburgh grows more beautiful through the seasons. If you want to join this happy group, call Joanne Nagoda at Town Hall. 794-0611, ext 21.

Forestburgh Friends For Fitness (F4) (As Submitted by Karen Ellsweig-Forestburgh Community Health Champion)

For abundance of caution related to current concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, future Forestburgh Friends for Fitness (F4) meetings are temporarily suspended until further notice. Please stay tuned and stay well.

Our Town(as submitted by Town Historian:Sabina Toomey)

The Spanish Flu 1918-1919:

Caused by a H1N1 virus with genes of an avian origin. An estimated 500 million people or one third of the world population became infected. 50 million people were killed. 675,000 occurring in the US. The unique feature of this virus was it killed young people. Healthy people in the 20-40 age group. The properties that made it so deadly were unknown! There was no medicine or antibiotics. Major defenses:

Isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants and limitations of public gatherings. Sound familiar? 2020 Corona Virus: It happened again! And there are still a lot of unknown's! A time to test our faith happens again. Stay safe and stay positive.

Expanded Voting Options For June Primary Election

Absentee vote by mail: Applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, June 16, 2020:

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf>

In-person EARLY voting: Saturday, June 13 - Sunday, June 21, 2020 at the Sullivan County Government Center Lobby (North Street Entrance ONLY). For voting hours:

<https://www.sullivanyny.us/Departments/Elections>

Sullivan County Polls on Election Day, Tuesday June 23, 2020 for Town of Forestburgh will be at the Sullivan County Board of Elections Office, 100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701. Polls open at 6:00 AM and close at 9:00 PM. The polling site is Handicapped Accessible.

Forestburgh Seniors

Before all of this quarantine craziness happened, the Forestburgh Seniors held an art class where they learned how to use alcohol paints to decorate tiles. They really came out beautiful! And much fun was had by all who attended.



Doing Good Deeds From Home

Just because you're stuck at home doesn't mean you have to feel disconnected from your community and the rest of the world. During times of crisis, the positive effects of reaching out and doing good deeds goes even further. You can still make a difference from the comfort and safety of your home. Here's one way; Virtual Volunteering. To start volunteering from home, all you need is an internet connection and a device. Digital volunteering allows for more flexibility. Whether you're passionate about education, language, science or social issues, there are plenty of virtual volunteering options. Organizations like the Smithsonian, Zooniverse, Project Gutenberg and Translators Without Borders offer digital volunteering opportunities. Websites like DoSomething.org, Catchfire.org and VolunteerMatch.org house other options.

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