



**Forestburgh Fire Co.  
Corned Beef Dinner  
March 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm.  
Adults \$15, Children \$10,  
under 5 FREE**

**2025**

## **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](http://www.forestburgh.net) . While on the website, please check the calendar for upcoming events and meetings. You can also see postings for upcoming meetings at the Forestburgh Firehouse, Forestburgh Town Hall and in the Sullivan County Democrat newspaper.

### **Town Board**

The Town of Forestburgh Town Board monthly meeting is usually held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00pm located in the Forestburgh Town Hall unless otherwise stated. The next scheduled monthly board meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 6, 2025**. For the monthly agenda, meeting minutes and updates, please visit the town website at [www.forestburgh.net](http://www.forestburgh.net). You can also see postings for upcoming meetings at the Forestburgh Firehouse, Forestburgh Town Hall and in the Sullivan County Democrat newspaper. For more information, please call the Town Hall at 845-794-0611 ext. 101.

### **Planning Board**

The planning board held its regular January meeting. The Trips to Win (Black Brook Barn) application was the sole item on our agenda. Additional submissions and modifications of the site plan were received, and with those, the matter became ripe for a continuation of the State Environmental Quality Review Act Public Hearing. Following the closure of that hearing, The Board issued a negative declaration for the potential for significant adverse environmental impact from this project. The further review of this project will continue at our February meeting, on February 25, at 7pm. Also on our February agenda will be a sketch plan review of an upcoming proposal for a project named "The Grand Luxury Retreat" - a hotel and spa, and other amenities, including a number of clustered cabins on 200+ acres of the property of the former Another Sky Campground (formerly Forestburgh Country Club Golf Course) on Tannery Road. At present, the size of their digital submission is stymying the Town's webmaster and hopefully this issue will be resolved and will be available online. A hard copy is available for review at Town Hall. Submissions for matters before the Planning Board can be accessed at <https://forestburgh.net/boards-and-committees/planning-board/pending-applications/>.

### **Announcements:**

#### **Dog Control Officer**

Reminder to all dog owners: by law all dogs must have current RABIES vaccinations and be licensed. Rabies and license tags must be attached to the dog's collar or harness at all times. Sullivan County offers free rabies clinics throughout the year in various locations, or your veterinarian will administer the vaccine. There has been a significant increase in abandoned dogs, dogs roaming loose and bite incidents. Letting dogs run loose is not only illegal it also creates a safety hazard for the public, the dog and other pets. Please be a responsible dog owner and a good neighbor.

## **Highway Department**

There will be no further use of the sand shed at the Town Highway Garage. If you want sand, you must call the highway dept and we will let you know when we will be available to give you sand. It will not be outside. Any questions call the highway dept. (845)794-8069

## **Free Tax Help from AARP & the IRS**

**(For taxpayers with low and middle income,  
with special attention to those age 50 and over)**

Would you like help with your 2024 income tax preparation and filing? Volunteers trained as tax counselors will prepare and e-file your Federal and State tax returns at no cost to you through the AARP Tax-Aide program, part of the AARP Foundation. Although intended for those taxpayers age 50 and over, there are no fixed age or income limits. However, complex returns and certain types of income are beyond the scope of the program. Preparation of tax returns, both Federal and NY State, will start on Monday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 and will continue through Wednesday Apr 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension office, Ferndale Loomis Road in Liberty, 292-6180 or the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library in Monticello, 794-4660 for additional information and to make an appointment. A limited number of appointments in March will also be available at the Liberty Public Library, 292-6070, the Sunshine Hall Free Library in Eldred, 5567-0578, and the Mamakating Library in Wurtsboro, 888-8004. Contact these libraries directly for availability.

Sponsored by AARP and the IRS, with help from the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service of Sullivan County, the Sullivan County Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and the participating libraries.

## **Our Town(as submitted by Town Historian Sabina Toomey)**

The first application for a road to be laid out when the Town of Forestburgh was established in 1837 was made by Stephen C. Drake to run through unimproved lands of Joseph Drake, Zephenial Drake, Luther Drake and Stephen C. Drake. The survey began near the Mongaup River on the Orange County -Sullivan County line and ran up the stream to intersect the highway leading from Monticello through Forestburgh to Port Jervis. The Drakes were early pioneers who settled along the Mongaup- the area was once known as Drakes Town. The Plank Road materialized at a later time than 1837. Alterations made to the original road were done during the 1925 Rio Dam construction which caused flooding and the loss of property of the Drake family. Currently none of the Drake line are living in town.

## **Our Town (additional submission)**

**Town of Forestburgh reports many Elephants once roamed the forests as evidenced by the finding of many bones-especially between Gilman's Station and Barnum's Crossing!**

This tale could have become real due to the fact that a Circus elephant car caught fire while passing on its way to perform in Monticello. Elsie Winterberger reported the story in her column *Forestburgh Lore* as it appeared in the Sullivan County Democrat. The train the elephants traveled on was part of the O&W branch line running through Forestburgh and the fire was confirmed factual. However, a cartoon which depicted two explores finding the bones many years later was a bit of humor. After all the column was called "Forestburgh Lore". *To the Mountains By Rail* by Herman Wakefield has been reprinted by the Sullivan County Museum and can be purchased there.

## **Grievance Day**

This year grievance day will be held on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-8pm. Please visit our website for the proper application and instructions. For more information, please call the Town Assessor's office at (845)794-0611 Ext. 104 or 103.