

October 2026

# 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. 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 meeting will be **Thursday, November 5, 2026.** For the monthly agenda, meeting minutes and updates, please visit the town website at 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 845-794-0611 ext. 101.

### Planning Board

The Planning Board did not meet for its regular September meeting as there were no submissions. It will meet on October 27, with two items on our agenda. The first, a revised application for a land Division of The Hartwood Club's 923-acre parcel on Galligan Road, where it seeks to create a 5.8 acre parcel to include the former ranger's home. The second agenda item is a revised sketch plan for a major subdivision, including a full buildout plan for 70 homesites parcels, adjoining the Thompson subdivision Birchwood Estates, owned by the same developer.

## Announcements:

### *VACANCIES* Board of Assessment Review(2) & Dog Control Officer

The Town of Forestburgh BAR has 2 paid positions available, and we are looking for a part-time Dog Control Officer. If interested please send a letter of interest to the Town Clerk, 332 King Road, Forestburgh, NY 12777 or if you have any questions, please direct them to (845)794-0611 ext. 101.

### Dog Control Officer(VACANT: POSITION AVAILABLE)

NYS has enacted a new law which requires stricter standards for shelter placement, care and veterinary services. This new law will present additional physical and financial challenges to provide services within an animal care system which is already in crisis as shelter space is extremely limited as is the availability of immediate veterinary care.

Please make certain that your dogs are vaccinated for rabies, are not permitted to run loose and are licensed with the Forestburgh Town Clerk (all of which are required as per NYS law). Microchips, identification tags and collars with phone numbers on them all assist me in getting your dog home safely without having to place them in a shelter.

## Forestburgh Highway Department

The Highway Department will be getting equipment ready for winter. We are continuing to grader patch some of the roads that have not been paved, to get them ready for the winter season. We are going to be out cutting brush back from the edges of the road, also. If any residents have concerns they can reach us at the Highway Barn at (845)794-8069 or just stop in.

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

-In continuation of the celebration of our Country's 250 Birthday-

What were the issues that led to the rebellion? After Brittain defeated the French at Quebec in 1760 they gained an empire in the new world. British Parliament set out to govern by taxing and regulation its trade. First was the sugar tax, the empire's most lucrative commodity. Although is was grown in the West Indies, the sugar cane was processed into rum on the North American mainland. The following year Parliament followed with the stamp act, taxing every printed document; newspaper, almanacs, advertisements, court documents, diplomas, licenses and even playing cards had a shilling tax and a pair of dice had a ten shilling tax (which equals about $120!). The tax provoked a violent response. A Boston mob destroyed a warehouse believed to contain the stamps. Next the Lieutenant General's house was destroyed when he objected. It was not only these taxes, but more the principle that a parliament which they were not represented at could not tax them. Only their own elected representatives had the power as by Magna Carta. The Stamp Act was repealed but Parliament stated it had the right to govern the colonies "in all cases what so ever". They sent troops to defend Boston's Tax Collectors in 1770. A riot resulted in which five Colonists were killed. In 1773 Bostonians destroyed a ship full of tea, which had taxes to be paid on, Parliament shut down Boston Harbor and suspended the Massachusetts governments, its assembly and convocated all alms. If these actions were taken to frighten the other colonies it backfired when they came from Virginia to the settlement in Boston. More to follow. Remember Valley Forge winter of 1778! Interested in attending a Revolutionary War event? Search online for "Revolutionary War 2026" and "living history", "250th anniversary events" or "reenactments", along with your state or region. You can also talk with organizers about what it takes to join as a reenactor in upcoming events.

## Forestburgh Seniors

*REORGINIZATION*- We need members who are willing to take leadership rolls. Please contact Sabina Toomey (845)794-2702, if interested.




## 90th Celebration

We would like to invite you for some coffee and cake to celebrate Father Csete's 90th Birthday at the Forestburgh Town Hall on November 13th at 1:00p.m. All are welcome!

## Forestburgh Fire Company

As the cooler weather settles in, I'd like to remind everyone to take a little time to prepare their homes for the heating season and the winter months ahead. A few simple precautions can make a big difference in preventing an emergency. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Please check that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. Test them regularly, replace batteries as needed, and check their expiration dates. Smoke detectors should generally be replaced every 10 years, and carbon monoxide detectors according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Working detectors provide an early warning that could save your life. Heating Equipment: Before relying on your heating system for the winter, have your furnace, boiler, wood stove, pellet stove, and chimneys inspected and serviced as appropriate. Keep combustible materials away from heating appliances and never use an oven or outdoor cooking equipment to heat your home. Proper maintenance helps prevent fires and carbon monoxide emergencies. Generator Safety: With winter storms come the possibility of power outages. If you use a portable generator, always operate it outdoors, at least 20 feet from your home, with the exhaust directed away from windows, doors, and vents. Never operate generators in garages, basements, or enclosed areas, even with the doors open. Never connect a generator directly to household outlets or wiring without properly installed transfer equipment. Improper connections can endanger utility workers, emergency responders, and your neighbors.

**File of Life – Helping Us Help You**

One thing I'd especially like to bring to everyone's attention is the File of Life program we've been offering to our residents. These simple cards provide emergency responders with valuable medical information when arriving at your home, particularly if you're unable to communicate or a family member isn't available to answer questions. Please take a few minutes to complete your card with current medications, medical conditions, allergies, emergency contacts, and other important information. Once completed, place your File of Life in its designated holder on the front or a clearly visible side of your refrigerator, where emergency responders can easily locate it. If you are utilizing the File of Life, please place one of the provided File of Life stickers on the outside of your front door or main entrance, where it is clearly visible to responding emergency personnel. This lets them know to look for your File of Life and helps us locate important information when every second counts. If you already have a card, please review it periodically to make sure the information is current. Medications, medical conditions, and emergency contacts can change, and having accurate information is extremely important. I'd also like to emphasize that File of Life cards aren't just for senior citizens. They can benefit residents of any age, and we encourage everyone to consider having one. If you haven't received a File of Life card, need a replacement card or sticker, or would like additional cards for your household, please contact us at 845-794 7899, email info@forestburghfire.com, or stop by the firehouse on Wednesday evenings between 7 and 9 PM. We're always happy to help! Finally, thank you to everyone who came out and supported our recent dinner and breakfast. These events are about much more than fundraising. They give us an opportunity to bring our community together, to spend time with our neighbors, catch up with old friends, and welcome new faces into our Fire Company family. As always, we're here for our community, and we're always looking for new members who would like to be part of what we do.

Stay safe, look out for your neighbors, and don't hesitate to reach out if we can help! Todd Petrowsky Fire Chief Forestburgh Fire Company #1



**<u>Look Out For The Spotted Lantern Fly</u>** (written by Katie Gasior, Horticulture Subject Educator)

The Spotted Lantern Fly(SLF) has been in Sullivan County for a few years now, but based on the enormous population we saw in Orange County last season, we might be seeing a rise in their numbers here. If you are not familiar with them, SLF (Lycorma Delicatula) is an invasive insect that continues to spread through New York State, so residents should be aware and have the ability to identify the pest. This invasive leafhopper does not sting or harm humans-but it does harm trees, ornamental landscapes, and agricultural crops. SLF is a sapsucker-they use piercing mouthparts to feed and cause damage to stems and bark leaving the plants vulnerable to disease, and cause loss of overall vigor. They feed on grapevines, hops, maple, black walnut, willow, birch, and fruit trees-among many others. One important indication of SLF to watch for are the insect's egg masses. Females are able to lay eggs pretty much anywhere, including trees, wood, patio furniture, trailer, stone, and any type of vehicle. Egg masses are laid from late summer through the fall and resemble gray putty. As they dry out, the putty can become crackled giving it a dried mud appearance and individual egg sites become more visible. Egg masses are easier to look for when the trees are bare during colder weather. Residents can help slow the spread by inspecting their trees and outdoor furniture for SLF egg masses, and reporting aadults through iMapinvasives.org. If you find an egg mass, scrape it into a container of rubbing or hand sanitizer to destroy the eggs. Visit Crisp.org and https://dec.ny.gov/nature/invasive-species for more information-and keep a look out!

Town of Forestburgh
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