

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, December 3, 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 met for its regular October meeting. There were 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, seeking to create a 5.8 acre parcel to include the former ranger's home was granted. The second agenda item was 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. This plan did not meet the zoning code's required level of specificity and its lawyer explained that the owner has not determined how it wants to proceed with the further development of this parcel, although it is considering a conservation subdivision where the permitted number of homes are clustered, leaving the majority of the property open, and protected from development, or as the type of standard type of subdivision shown in the incomplete sketch plan submitted. Given the lack of information provided by the applicant, the Board was unable to provide the applicant with useful feedback. There will not be a November Planning Board meeting next week as no submissions have been received.

Announcements:

Our Town (as submitted by Town Historian Sabina Toomey)

Continuing with the celebration of 250th Birthday of America: Patrick Henry

"Give me liberty or give me death" is a quotation attributed to the American politician and orator taken from a speech given to the second Virginian Convention on March 23, 1775 at Saint John's Church in Richmond. Henry is credited with convincing the convention to pass a resolution to supply troops for the Revolution. Some delegates continued to talk about peaceful resolution and asking the King for help to appease the parliament to reach a diplomatic compromise. Patrick Henry argued that a decade of their approach to Great Britain and the King had failed and only resulted in more military force. Henry stated, "there is no retreat but in submission and slavery. Our chains are forged. Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston Commons!" He continued with, "the war is inevitable, our brethren are already in the field. Almighty God! I know what course others may take, but as for me, Give me Liberty or Give me

Our Town cont'd:
Death!" Then he took a knife and pretended to stab himself in the chest. The entire room, including George Washington and John Adams, fell silent for what felt like a long time. A committee was formed to establish forces for Virginia and to provide George Washington troops for the Army. I found Patrick Henry was most active in expressing his love of freedom and his dreams of an America where all men would truly be free. Following are more very moving statements made by Patrick Henry: "Liberty is the greatest of all earthly blessings. Give us that precious jewel and you may take everything else.", "Time has been when every pulse of my heart beats for American Liberty.", "Would you give up your rights to trial by jury and the liberty of the press?" This is a time for giving thanks. Let us remember all the men and women who have given their lives for our freedom and for this blessed country, Our America. Remember Valley Forge! A very Happy Thanksgiving to all of you with peace and good health.

Forestburgh Highway Department

I would like to thank the residents of Forestburgh for electing me as your Highway Superintendent. I appreciate your trust and look forward to serving our entire community with dedication, accountability, and open communication. We have hit the ground running preparing for winter. Our highway crew is busy brushing roadsides to improve visibility and preparing the fleet for snow and ice operations. I appreciate their hard work as we address immediate needs and get ready for the season ahead.

The following seasonal roads are officially closed for the winter and will reopen April 1, 2027:

- King Road
- Carpenter Road
- Whitehead Road
- Tannery Road
- Upper end of Eden Road
- Burns Road

Help Keep Our Roadways Clear

Please keep vehicles, trailers, garbage containers, and other items out of the roadways so our crews can plow safely and effectively. Give highway equipment plenty of room to work and use caution when approaching our crews. Residents and snow removal contractors must not push, plow, blow, or otherwise deposit snow into the roadways. This creates hazardous conditions and is prohibited under New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law § 1219. Salt for residential use is available just outside the Highway Department gate. **This supply is for residents' personal use only and is not for commercial use**.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work together to keep Forestburgh's roads safe and accessible. Residents are welcome to reach out with any questions or concerns at 845-794-8069.

Todd Petrowsky
Town of Forestburgh Highway Superintendent

Forestburgh Seniors

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



Forestburgh Fire Company

As we get ready for winter, I'd like to revisit a few fire and health safety reminders. Please take a little time to check your alarms, prepare your heating equipment, and update the information that could help us care for you during an emergency. Please test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms regularly, replace batteries as needed, and check their replacement dates. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions. It's an easy task to put off, but that early warning could save your life. If you haven't already, have your heating equipment and chimneys inspected, cleaned, and serviced as appropriate. Keep combustible materials away from heating appliances and never use an oven or outdoor cooking equipment to heat your home. If you rely on a portable generator during power outages, please operate it outdoors only, at least 20 feet from homes, doors, windows, and vents, with the exhaust directed away from buildings. Never run it in a garage, basement, or other enclosed space, even with the doors open. Never connect a generator to a household outlet; connections to home wiring require properly installed transfer equipment.

I especially want to remind everyone about our File of Life program. Having your medical information readily available helps us when you're unable to speak for yourself or a family member isn't there to answer questions. Please complete your card with your current medications, medical conditions, allergies, and emergency contacts. Keep it in its designated holder on the front or a clearly visible side of your refrigerator and place the provided sticker outside your main entrance so we know to look for it. File of Life cards are useful for residents of every age. If you already have one, please check that the information is current. **Packets can be picked up at Town Hall**, or you can contact us if you need a card, replacement sticker, or additional materials for your household. We're always looking for new members who want to help their neighbors. If you've thought about volunteering, I encourage you to stop in, meet us, and learn more about how you can contribute. For information about membership or File of Life materials, call **845-794-7899**, email i**nfo@forestburghfire.com**, or visit the firehouse on Wednesday evenings between **7 and 9 p.m.** Thank you for continuing to support our fire company. I'm grateful to serve this community alongside our dedicated volunteers. Please look out for your neighbors, stay safe, and don't hesitate to reach out if we can help.


The Forestburgh Fire Company Christmas run will be Sunday, December 20th. If you are new to the Town of know someone who is and have children aged 12 and under, please contact Ron Geysen at (845)796-6303. Also, if you have turned 70 please let Ron know.



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.

Upcoming Highway Department Employment Opportunity

The Town of Forestburgh Highway Department will have an upcoming opening for a Motor Equipment Operator (MEO). Applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL and have two years of experience in road, bridge, or building construction or maintenance, or solid waste operations. Applicants must also demonstrate competency operating several types of motorized equipment, including single-axle straight trucks with a gross vehicle weight of 26,000 pounds or more and trucks equipped with plows, wings, and sanders. If interested, please contact the Forestburgh Highway Department (845)794-8069

Town of Forestburgh
332 King Road
Forestburgh, NY 12777