

# Town of Fowler Directory 2024

## Assessment Review Board

Chair: Donna Brown .....315-287-2949  
Candace Brown .....315-287-2144  
Rich Weaver.....315-286-2696

## Assessors

Kathy Besaw.....315-276-5987  
Robert Theriault.....315-345-4952  
Timothy Thomas .....315-767-1576  
Assessor's Office.....315-287-0045 Ext 2

## Code Enforcement

Glen Besaw.....315-323-0761  
CEO Office .....315-287-0045 Ext 4

## Custodian

Rosalee Thornton..... 315-287-0045 Ext 1

## Maintenance

Byron Woodward.....315-287-0045 Ext 1

## Dog Control

Dan Moyer.....315-528-7988

## Ethics Board

Marcia Cleveland.....315-854-0420  
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503  
Alex Mackinnon.....315-778-1287  
Chair Karen Simmons.....315-287-4753  
Vivian Goodman.....315-287-2369

## Health Officer

Dr Eric Putman.....315-287-2192

## Highway Superintendent

Randy Durham..... 315-286-8664  
315-222-6797  
Hwy. Dept.....315-287-0045Ext 5

## Historian

Karen Simmons .....315-287-4753  
315-854-5517

## Justice Department

Justice Tim Knowlton.....315-287-0045 Ext 3  
Fax # .....315-535-4300  
Court Clerk: Irma Ashley ...315-287-0045 Ext 3

## Town Supervisor

Ricky W. Newvine.....315-287-4098  
315-771-2194

## Town Board Members

Karen Simmons.....315-287-4753  
Lynn Bishop.....315-955-2929  
Leo Knight Jr.....315-528-2440  
Scott A. Cleveland.....315-778-5358

## Town Bookkeeper

Barbara Finnie.....315-486-1075

## Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Tami Gale.....315-287-0045 Ext 1  
Fax #.....315-535-4094

## Deputy Town Clerk

Debra Tupper..... 315-287-0045 Ext 1  
Kim Reed.....315-287-0045 Ext 1

## Town Facilities

Use of Town Hall.....315-778-5358  
Public Beach/Sylvia Lake.....315-287-4098  
Hailesboro Ball Field.....315-287-4098  
Use of Pavilion/Playground.....315-778-5358

## Town Planning Board

Chair Stephen Gale.....315-287-1408  
Leo Knight Jr.....315-528-2440  
Roger Refici.....315-323-5994  
Dan Kingsley..... 315-816-7531  
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503

# Town of Fowler Newsletter 2024

## Assessment Review Board

There are three seats on the Board of Assessment Review. Currently, the Chairman is Donna Brown. Other members are Rich Weaver, and Candy Brown. The Board of Assessment Review holds Grievance Day on the fourth Tuesday of May from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Fowler Town Hall.

Residents who disagree with their assessment are urged to meet with the Town Assessors to discuss their assessments **PRIOR** to presenting their grievance to the Board of Assessment Review. To make arrangements to meet with an assessor at the Town Hall, please call the Assessors at 315-287-0045 Ext 2.

After meeting with the assessors' residents who still wish to grieve their assessments may do so at the date and time previously outlined. The Board will review grievances and then make a decision to either lower the property owner's assessment or leave the assessment the same. Residents who have filed a grievance are notified of the outcome by U.S. Mail.

## Justice Department

Tim Knowlton is the Town Justice for the Town of Fowler. Court is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday every month at 12:00PM upstairs in the Fowler Town Hall. Fines may be paid at that time or sent in the mail. Individuals who wish to make payments to Fowler Town Court using credit and debit cards may do so through **allpaid.com**. Go to [www.allpaid.com](http://www.allpaid.com) and use the Pay Location Code (**PLC a0026f**). The Court does not accept checks. Irma Ashley, Court Clerk is at the Town Hall on Mon. Tues. and Wed. from 9:00 AM to 3:00PM to answer questions and collect fines. If you need to contact the court any other time, please call **(315) 287-0045 Ext 3** and leave a message or fax us at (315)535-4300.

## Town Board

In the year 2024, town board meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm except for the months of October and November. Special meetings will be advertised in the Gouverneur Tribune Press and/or the Watertown Daily Times newspapers and on the town's website. [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com)

The 2024 Town Board consists of Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine, Deputy Supervisor and Councilperson Karen M. Simmons, Councilpersons Lynn Bishop, Scott A. Cleveland, and newest member Leo Knight Jr. was elected to fill the vacated councilmember seat of Jeff Andrews, who did not seek re-election. The Town board would like to thank Jeff for his 6 years of dedicated service to the Town of Fowler serving as a councilperson from 2017 through 2023. Day-to-day operations at the Town Hall continue to be handled by Town Clerk Tami Gale. Barbara Finnie will serve as our bookkeeper for 2024.

The Town Board would like to invite all town residents and visitors to attend our monthly meetings in person or via teleconference by contacting the Town Clerk's office for the phone number and PIN number. Visit our website ([www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com)) to view and download newsletters and other information about the Town, including the minutes past and present. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds have completed the roof installation of the Herbert V. Whalen and Family Pavilion and provided a 26KW backup generator for the Town facilities. A portion of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to be spent in 2024 will help finance a heat alarm system to protect the Town Barn and fleet and will be used to upgrade security throughout the Town complex.

## Sylvia Lake Public Beach 29 Old Beach Road, Gouverneur NY 13642

The Public Beach is owned and operated by the Town of Fowler with guidance from the NYS Board of Health (Canton Office). The beach is open seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August. Certified lifeguards are on duty during the posted hours of operations. (10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.) Handicapped and public parking is located in relative proximity to the beach entrance.

The beach has a picnic area with tables and charcoal grills for public use.

Change rooms, a drinking fountain, rest rooms, and a handwashing station are also on site.

We have a great group of lifeguards led by Claire Knowlton, who met the needs of all who visited the beach in 2023.

Guidance from the NYS Board of Health has led to a heightened awareness of our Lifeguarding Team. That knowledge and their continued dedication ensures the safety of all beach visitors regardless of age.

If you have special needs, or are planning a special event, please contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, (315) 771-2194, or the Town Clerk's Office at (315)287-0045 Ext 1.

## **Historian's Office**

The Historian's Office is located upstairs in the Fowler Town Hall. Historian Karen Simmons is in the office on Thursdays from 1-4PM or any time by appointment by calling (315)287-4753 or the Town Clerk at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

In 2023, I completed genealogic research for several families.

If you are researching ancestors and/or working on your family genealogy, contact my office as I have some records on hand that may assist you in your search.

I am still looking for names of veterans who were from Fowler when they enlisted and served in the Korean Conflict as well as the Vietnam War.

## **Highway Department**

The Town of Fowler maintains 56.25 Miles of Town Roads.

In the winter months the town plows 73.75 miles of roads which includes County Route 22 and 24.

The Highway Department phone number is now 315-287-0045 Ext 5. Of course, you can always reach me on my personal cell at 315-222-6797.

We appreciate everyone's patience this past year during our busy 2023 construction season. We have been steadily working on my goal of upgrading the Town roads and equipment.

In 2023 the Town purchased a 2023 Ford F250 Pick Up Truck and is anticipating the arrival of a new 2024 Mack Plow Truck.

In 2023 we rebuilt 1.3 miles of Road. In 2024 we have plans to pave Popple Hill Rd, Little York Rd, and Sylvia Lake Rd. As always, the amount of paving will be determined by the cost of materials.

I would like to thank John Walsh, who retired on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for his dedicated years of service to the Town of Fowler.

I would also like to thank both Larry Allen and Francis Cole, who have both moved on to other job opportunities, for their dedicated years of service to the Town of Fowler, which were greatly appreciated. Brian Koerick was hired in June of 2023 as a new employee of the highway department and will be a great asset to our Town. In December of 2023 the highway department began advertising to hire another employee. Please check out my Town of Fowler Highway Department Facebook Page to get current road conditions during the larger storms this winter. I will not be doing a daily update this year.

I would like to thank everyone for your support this year. It is your support that makes this team so successful. Best wishes for a happy and safe new year in 2024 from the Town of Fowler Highway Crew: Randy Durham, Nelson Bice, David (Dennis) Travis, Anthony Sequin, Terrell Ferrer, and Brian Koerick..

## **Dog Control**

In 2023, Dan Moyer, Dog Control Officer, received many complaints of dogs running at large. There is a leash law in the Town of Fowler. There is also a law stating that **ALL** dogs 4 months of age or older must have a rabies shot and be licensed in the Town in which they live.

The rabies clinic in 2023 was a big success. Watch for our free rabies clinic in August of 2024.

If you have any questions, contact Dan Moyer at (315)528-7988 or (315)771-8103 or the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045 extension 1.

## **Use of Town Facilities**

The Herbert V. Whalen pavilion is now available to be rented by individuals for special parties or special occasions from **May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>**. Applications for use of the pavilion can be obtained online at [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com) or may be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office. Councilperson Scott Cleveland oversees the pavilion and playground and can be reached at (315)778-5358 with any questions. A security deposit of \$100.00 is due at the time of

submitting the pavilion application and will be promptly returned upon satisfactory inspection of the pavilion after its use.

The Sylvania Lake Beach is open to the public seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August in compliance with guidelines from the Department of Health. For more information call Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, (315)771-2194. We are always in need of certified lifeguards who are the age of 16 or older. If you would like to apply, call the Town Clerk at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

Groups interested in using the Hailesboro ball field during the summer should contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, or (315)771-2194.

## **Ethics Board**

The Fowler Board of Ethics Committee consists of five members, Marcia Cleveland, Vicky Cappellino, Chair Karen Simmons, Alex Mackinnon, and Vivian Goodman. Each member serves a four -year term. Any person may file a concern or complaint in writing to the chairperson who in turn will set up a meeting with the other committee members to address the issue. The committee may request an interview with the party or parties involved to discuss the situation further to reach a decision or solution. After the discussion, the committee notifies the party or parties of their decision in writing. There were no complaints in 2023.

## **From the Assessors**

**\*\*\*\*\*Office hours Tuesdays from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and by appointment.\*\*\*\*\***

Assessors Kathleen Besaw, Robert Theriault, and Timothy Thomas make up the Assessor Department.

### **VETERANS:**

If you are a **Veteran** or **surviving spouse** of a Veteran with an **honorable discharge** you may be eligible for one of the following exemptions:

**Alternative Veterans Exemption (form RP-458-a)** available only on residential property of a veteran who has served during a designated time of war or received an expeditionary medal.

**Cold War Exemption (form RP-458-b)** available only on residential property of a veteran who served during the Cold War period.

**You must apply prior to March 1, 2024 for the 2024-2025 Assessment Roll.** Please call our office at **(315) 287-0045 Ext 2** and we will mail you the necessary application to complete and return with necessary documents. For more information you can reference the following link: <https://veterans.ny.gov/content/property-tax-exemptions-veterans>

### **STAR EXEMPTION INFORMATION:**

If you are currently receiving the basic or enhanced star exemptions NYS Tax department will be doing the yearly qualification for these exemptions. If more information is needed you will receive an information request in the mail directly from the NYS Tax Department office. If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to call our office and we will try to help you all we can.

If you currently have the **BASIC Star Exemption** and **at least one** of the homeowners **turns 65 before December 31, 2024**, you can still apply for the Enhanced Star Exemption with your **local assessor**. You will need to complete the required application and submit proof of age and income. **Income limit for 2024-2025 Enhanced star exemption is \$93,200 or less.** If you qualify you would be able to continue to receive the **exemption** on your school tax bill. **Please contact our office 315-287-0045 Ext 2 if you believe you may qualify for this exemption.** We will mail you the required application to complete and return to local assessor office. This will need to be done prior to **March 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 Assessment Roll.**

**NEW HOMEOWNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE BASIC OR ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION CREDIT ON TAX BILL.** NEW HOMEOWNERS MUST APPLY FOR STAR CREDIT WITH NYS TAX DEPARTMENT. WITH THE STAR CREDIT YOU RECEIVE A CHECK FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT TO APPLY TO YOUR SCHOOL TAXES. **You can apply for Star Credit (WHICH WILL BE A CHECK), by calling 518-457-2036 8:30am to**

4:30pm or online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star) This number is a good number to call with any questions on STAR CREDIT.

**Senior Exemption** is eligible for seniors 65 or older upon age, ownership & income qualification. You must earn **below \$17,699** per year to qualify for this. **If you believe you qualify, please contact your local assessor at 315-287-0045 Ext. 2** and we will mail you the necessary application for this exemption.

HOMEOWNERS TAX REBATE CREDIT OR CHECK QUESTIONS CALL 518-453-8146.

Our office is currently working on updating property record cards for the Town of Fowler as mandated by NYS Office of Real Property. Data Collection is needed to value each parcel of property located within a specific assessing jurisdiction. It is very important that the data be recorded as accurately and consistently as possible as it will serve as the basis of all future appraisal activity in revaluation programs and ORPS market survey process. Not only will this information provide the specific elements needed to value each parcel of property, it will also become a valuable record of information for future use by the assessor's office. If the data collector comes to your property and no one is home a notice will be left so you know we were there. If you could please call the phone number left on the notice that would be greatly appreciated. We might be able to confirm any information needed over the phone and or can set up a time when it would be best to return to your property. This is a work in progress and your help would be greatly appreciated!!!!

## **Town Planning Board**

The Planning Board consists of five Fowler residents Chairman Stephen Gale, Dan Kingsley, Roger Refici, Vicky Cappellino, and Leo Knight. There are no zoning laws in the Town of Fowler. In 2023, with concerns from Code Enforcement Officer Besaw, and at the request of the Town Board, the planning board prepared proposed dock regulations to add to the Town of Fowler's Land Use Law. A public hearing will be held on the proposed regulations in late December of 2023 for consideration.

The Planning Board makes its decisions and submits them to the Town Board according to the Town's Land Use Law. You may view a hard copy of the Land Use Law at the Town Clerk's Office. Or you may view or print the policy from our website: [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com).

Planning Board meetings are held, when necessary, in the Fowler Town Hall. Meetings are advertised in the local newspaper and on the Town of Fowler website.

## **Code Enforcement Officer**

**Building permits are required for demolition of buildings, renovations, structural changes on your home or buildings, roof replacement, pools, buildings over 144 sq. ft, and septic systems.**

**Building and use permits are still required for any construction to enlarge, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of any building or structure as well as changing or installing any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.**

Effective January 1, 2021, Building Permit applications and fee schedules were updated, to be more compatible with surrounding Towns. Building Permits and Fees can be viewed and downloaded from the Town website: [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com). It is the responsibility of the **homeowner or contractor** to fill out the building permit and call Code Enforcement Officer **Glen Besaw, at 315-323-0761** with any and all questions pertaining to a building permit before it is turned in to the Town Clerk's office with payment.

If residents or contractors have any questions, they need to call **Glen Besaw, Town of Fowler Code Enforcement Officer at 315-323-0761**. Glen will make every effort to get any requested information as quickly as possible, which will prevent the possibility of any work stoppage or delay.

If you have any questions about code regulations or concerns about unsafe or unsanitary conditions within the Town, please call Glen Besaw (Code Enforcement Officer) at (315)323-0761.

**ANY PERSON STARTING WORK WITHOUT A BUILDING PERMIT WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDED FEE OF \$50.00 NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## **Town Clerk and Tax Collector**

Starting January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 evening hours one day a week during the month of January, will be added for the convenience of the public to pay their land taxes. Our office will be open every Monday in January from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to **6:00PM**. Regular Office hours are Monday thru Friday, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to 4:00PM. This office issues dog licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses, One Day Marriage Officiant Licenses, and disabled parking permits. Voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and building permit applications, are available at this office. Both Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper and Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reed are returning to their appointed office in 2024. Town Clerk Tami Gale and Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper are Notaries. We will start collecting land taxes on January 2, 2024. Taxes may be paid with cash, check, money order, and credit /debit cards. There is a 2.65% fee added if paying by credit/debit cards. To avoid physical contact there is a drop-box at the rear of the Town Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045 extension 1.

### ***2024 Town Board Meeting Dates***

***Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6PM at the Town Hall***

***January 8, 2024***

***July 8, 2024***

***February 12, 2024***

***August 12, 2024***

***March 11, 2024***

***September 9, 2024***

***April 8, 2024***

***October (TBD)***

***May 13, 2024***

***November (TBD)***

***June 10, 2024***

***December 9, 2024***

#### **Town of Fowler Online**

A local Fowler business, Rainbowtech Designs, created and manages the Town of Fowler's website. You can find minutes of meetings, a business directory, and other information about Fowler. Everything on the site is searchable.

[www.fowler.com](http://www.fowler.com).

#### **Fowler Family Day**

Fowler Family Day, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was a huge success. The family day committee took the opportunity to honor one of their own by dedicating the 2023 event to Deputy Town Clerk, Debbie Tupper. Debbie's actions that continue to make family day and Fowler a better place to be speak for themselves. As always local merchants, manufacturing facilities, and citizens stepped up to fund this event. Matune Creek Band provided music under the pavilion for all to enjoy. Family Day gets bigger and better each year, and we expect 2024 will live up to that billing. A big thank you to all who volunteer for this all-important Town of Fowler gathering.

#### **SOS (SUPPORT OUR SENIORS) PROGRAM**

This program is for anyone age 65 or older who resides in the Town of Fowler. Four times a year we have been able to purchase and deliver care packages to the senior citizens who have signed up for this program. It is the Town of Fowler's way of giving back to our senior citizens. This program is possible due to food and monetary donations from individuals, as well as limited ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds. This program was started by Supervisor Newvine during the COVID-19 Pandemic and has grown to serve nearly 100 seniors in the Town of Fowler. This program would not exist without our neighbors, family, and the never-ending dedication of Councilperson Karen M. Simmons. Thanks Karen!

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE SIGNED UP FOR THIS PROGRAM AND ARE AGE 65 OR OLDER, CALL KAREN SIMMONS (315) 287-4753.**

#### **HAP PROGRAM**

This program is open to all residents of the Town of Fowler. On Thursdays from 9-12 and 1-4 Fowler residents can come into the Town Hall and choose from a variety of foods available. The success of this program has been possible largely due to the donations of groceries, garden harvests, and monies received from many local residents, including the Fowler Baptist Church. Thank you to all who have helped out in any way to make this program a success and to Councilperson Karen M. Simmons for her administrative guidance.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Karen Simmons at (315)287-4753 or Tami Gale at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

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\* NOTE: There is a Drop box located by the back entrance to the Town Hall that is checked twice a day on business days.