

Town of Fowler Directory 2025

Assessment Review Board

Chair: Donna Brown315-287-2949
Candace Brown315-287-2144
Rich Weaver.....315-286-2696

Assessors assessor@fowlerny.com

Kathy Besaw.....315-276-5987
Robert Theriault.....315-345-4952
Timothy Thomas315-767-1576
Assessor's Office.....315-287-0045 Ext 2

Code Enforcement codeofficer@fowlerny.com

Glen Besaw.....315-323-0761
CEO Office315-287-0045 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 highway@fowlerny.com

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

Historian

Karen Simmons315-287-4753
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 supervisor@fowlerny.com

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 bookkeeper@fowlerny.com

Barbara Finnie.....315-287-0045

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

townclerk@fowlerny.com

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
John Walsh.....315-276-4776
Roger Refici.....315-323-5994
Dan Kingsley..... 315-816-7531
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503

Town of Fowler Newsletter 2025

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 or email assessor@fowlerny.com.

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 1st and 3rd 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 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 2025, 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

The 2025 Town Board consists of Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine, Deputy Supervisor Councilperson Karen M. Simmons, Councilpersons Lynn Bishop, Scott A. Cleveland, and Leo Knight Jr. 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 2025.

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) to view and download newsletters and other information about the Town, including the minutes past and present. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds that remain must be spent by end of year 2025. Those funds have been dedicated to a new heating system in the Town Highway Department facility and in reserve for a possible milfoil project at Sylvia Lake.

The Board would like to recognize our maintenance staff for the Town Hall and pavilion who are dedicated to keeping these facilities clean, functional, and essential parts of our community. Custodian/Cleaner Rosalee Thornton and maintenance man Byron (Jack) Woodward, thank you!

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 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 2024.

While the aftermath of Hurricane Debby caused our beach to be closed for 10 days, we did see an increase in use of this facility as the Village of Gouverneur attended four days a week. If you have special needs, or are planning a special event, please contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, (315) 771-2194, email supervisor@fowlerny.com or call the Town Clerk's Office at (315)287-0045 Ext 1 email townclerk@fowlerny.com.

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 (315) 854-5517.

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 was able to confirm 28 names of people from the Town of Fowler who were in the Korean Conflict. At this time, these veterans' names are being placed on a plaque to hang in our Town Hall, alongside the existing plaques from the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.

Highway Department highway@fowlerny.com

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 building phone number is 315-287-0045 Ext 5. The highway cell phone number is 315-286-8664, which is forwarded to my personal cell phone, so I am easy to contact. 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 2024 construction season. We have been steadily working on my goal of upgrading the Town roads and equipment.

In 2024 the Town ordered a new 2026 Mack Plow Truck, with anticipated arrival by December of 2025, making the fleet's oldest plow truck a 2017.

In 2024 we rebuilt Popple Hill Rd, Little York Rd, and a portion of Sylvia Lake Rd. There was a transfer of roadways between St. Lawrence County and the Town of Fowler involving segments of Balmat-Fowler Rd, State Highway 58 to Little York Rd, Pumphouse Rd to State Highway 812, and a segment of Emeryville Rd from CR 22 to Emeryville Rd bridge. The highway department also dealt with the damage from Hurricane Debbie.

In 2025 we are planning to repave the remainder of the Sylvia Lake Rd, Doane Rd from the flats to Smith Rd, and Country Club Rd from State Route 58 to the double culverts.

The highway department welcomed Matt Filiatrault, Cody Hadfield, and Jacob Cunningham to the team in 2024.

I would like to thank everyone for their support this year. It is your support that makes this team so successful.

Best wishes for a happy and safe new year in 2025 from the Town of Fowler Highway Crew: Randy Durham, Nelson Bice, David (Dennis) Travis, Terrell Ferrer, Matt Filiatrault, Cody Hadfield, and Jacob Cunningham.

Dog Control (315) 528-7988

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. If your dog is not micro-chipped, it would be helpful to put your name and phone number on your dog's collar, so it can be returned to you if it is found.

The rabies clinic in 2024 was a big success. Watch for our free rabies clinic in August of 2025.

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 1st to September 1st**. Applications for use of the pavilion can be obtained online at 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 2024.

From the Assessors assessor@fowlerny.com

*****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, 2025 for the 2025-2026 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.nv.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, 2025**, 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. **The income limit for 2025-2026 Enhanced star exemption is \$98,700 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, 2025, for the 2025-2026 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.nv.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 John Walsh, who was appointed to the planning board in January of 2024 to replace newly elected Town Councilmember Leo Knight Jr. There are no zoning laws in the Town of Fowler.

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 Land Use Law from our website: 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 codeofficer@fowlerny.com

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. 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 or email codeofficer@fowlerny.com.

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

Town Clerk and Tax Collector townclerk@fowlerny.com

Evening hours on Mondays during the month of January will be held for the convenience of the public to pay their land taxes after regular business hours. 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, Death Certificates, Certified Marriage transcripts, and disabled parking permits. Voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and building permit applications are available at this office. Notary service is also

available at the Town Clerk's Office. We will start collecting land taxes on January 2, 2025. 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. Payments may be received after hours by using the drop-box located at the rear entrance of the Town Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045 ext. 1. Wishing "Health and Happiness" to you and yours in the new year ahead.

2025 Town Board Meeting Dates

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM at the Town Hall

January 13, 2025

May 12, 2025

September 8, 2025

February 10, 2025

June 9, 2025

October (TBD)

March 10, 2025

July 14, 2025

November (TBD)

April 14, 2025

August 11, 2025

December 8, 2025

Town of Fowler Online www.fowlerny.com.

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.

Fowler Family Day

Fowler Family Day, July 20, 2024, was a super success. The family day committee again took the opportunity to honor one of their own by dedicating this year's event to Councilperson, Deputy Supervisor, and Historian Karen Simmons. Karen's duties and responsibilities in our Town are too numerous to mention and made her the obvious choice for this honor. She is the ultimate professional. New this year was an exhibit featuring Lena the Lizard Lady and her entourage of snakes, lizards, and sloths. The event was enjoyed by children and adults alike at FFD 2024. As always local merchants, manufacturing facilities, and citizens stepped up to fund this event. Family Day gets bigger and better each year, and we expect 2025 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

If you are age 65 and would like to be signed up for the SOS Program contact Karen Simmons 315-287-4753.

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 to honor our senior citizens. This program is possible due to food and monetary donations from caring individuals in our community. This program was started in 2020 and has grown to serve over 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!

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 residents. Thank you to all who have helped 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

* NOTE: There is a Drop box located by the back entrance to the Town Hall that is checked twice a day on business days. This may be used for tax payments, dog licenses, building permits or to conduct any other town business.