

Town of Fowler Directory 2026

Assessment Review Board

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

Assessors assessor@fowlerny.gov

Kathy Besaw.....315-276-5987
Robert Theriault.....315-345-4952
Timothy Thomas315-767-1576
Assessor's Office....315-287-0045 Ext 102

Code Enforcement codeofficer@fowlerny.gov

Glen Besaw.....315-323-0761
CEO Office315- 287-0045 Ext 104

Custodian

Rosalee Thornton...315-287-0045 Ext 101

Maintenance

Byron Woodward....315-287-0045 Ext 101

Dog Control

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

Ethics Board

Marcia Cleveland.....315-854-0420
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503
Chair Alex Mackinnon...315-778-1287
Leo Knight Jr.315-528-2440
Vivian Goodman.....315-287-2369

Health Officer

St. Law Co Health Dept 315-386-2325

Highway Superintendent highway@fowlerny.gov

Randy Durham..... 315-286-8664
315-222-6797
Hwy. Dept.....315-287-0045Ext 105

Historian

Karen Simmons315-287-4753
. 315-854-5517

Justice Department

Justice Tim Knowlton....315-287-0045 Ext 103
Fax #315-535-4300

Court Clerk: Irma Ashley 315-287-0045 Ext 103

Town Supervisor supervisor@fowlerny.gov

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
John Walsh315- 535-4096

Town Bookkeeper bookkeeper@fowlerny.gov

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

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

townclerk@fowlerny.gov

Tami Gale.....315-287-0045 Ext 101
Fax #.....315-535-4094

Deputy Town Clerk

Donna Brown.....315-287-0045 Ext 101
Kim Reed.....315-287-0045 Ext 101

Town Facilities

Use of Town Hall.....315-287-0045 Ext 101
Public Beach/Sylvia Lake.....315-287-4098
Hailesboro Ball Field.....315-287-4098
Use of Pavilion/Playground.....315-287-0045

Town Planning Board

Chair Stephen Gale.....315-287-1408
TBD.....
Roger Refici.....315-323-5994
Dan Kingsley..... 315-816-7531
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503

Town of Fowler Newsletter 2026

Assessment Review Board

There are three seats on the Board of Assessment Review. Currently, the board of review consists of Chairman Donna Brown, and members 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 **Assessor's Office at 315-287-0045 Ext 102 or email assessor@fowlerny.gov**.

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 decide 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 of every month at 12:00 PM upstairs in the Fowler Town Hall. Fines may be paid at your court appearance 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 at any other time, please call **(315) 287-0045 Ext 103** and leave a message or fax us at (315)535-4300.

Town Board

In the year 2026, town board meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm except for the months of October. 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.gov.

The 2026 Town Board consists of Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine, Deputy Supervisor / Councilperson Karen M. Simmons, Councilpersons Lynn Bishop, Leo Knight Jr. and newest Board member John Walsh. 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 2026.

The Town Board would like to invite all town residents and visitors to attend our monthly meetings in person. Visit our website (www.fowlerny.gov) to view and download newsletters and other information about the Town, including the minutes past and present.

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 2025.

The Village of Gouverneur Recreation Department is a mainstay at four days a week as the Sylvia Lake beach continues to provide supervised fun and exercise to local children and adults alike. 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.gov or call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045 Ext 101 email townclerk@fowlerny.gov.

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 1-4 PM 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, and had their names engraved on a plaque. The plaque is hanging in our Town Hall alongside the existing plaques from the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.

Highway Department highway@fowlerny.gov

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 County Route 24.

The Highway Department building phone number is 315-287-0045 Ext 105. The highway cell phone number is 315-286-8664, which is forwarded to my personal cell phone, so I am easy to contact.

We appreciate everyone's patience this past year during our busy 2025 construction season. We have been steadily working on my goal of upgrading the Town roads and equipment.

In early 2025 the Town ordered a new 2026 Mack Plow Truck, which was delivered in October, and is waiting for Viking to accessorize it with plows and a box. The new Mack Plow Truck will be finished and ready to use in 2026.

In 2025 we rebuilt 2.1 miles of the Country Club Road, resurfaced the last portion of Sylvia Lake Road, and 1.1 miles of the Doane Road. The highway crew replaced 15 culverts on the outer portion of the Country Club Road and cut numerous miles of shoulders.

In 2026 we are planning to repave the Chub Lake Road and rebuild 2.1 miles of the Country Club Road, as well as prepare the roads for our planned 2027 projects.

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 2026 from the Town of Fowler Highway Crew: Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Deputy Highway Superintendent 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 2025 was a big success. Watch for our free rabies clinic in August of 2026.

The Department of Agriculture & Markets mandated new rules and regulations for all dog kennels going into effect in January, 2026,

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 101.

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.gov or may be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office. A security deposit of \$100.00 is due at the time of submitting your pavilion rental application and will be promptly returned upon satisfactory inspection of the pavilion after its use.

Sylvia 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's Office at (315) 287-0045 extension 101.

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, Chair Alex Mackinnon, Marcia Cleveland, Vicky Cappellino, Vivian Goodman, and Leo Knight Jr. 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 2025.

From the Assessors assessor@fowlerny.gov

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

Assessors: Chair, 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 102** 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, 2026**, you can still apply for the Enhanced Star Exemption. **The income limit for the Enhanced Star Exemption is \$110,750 or less.** If you qualify you will be able to continue to receive the **exemption** on your 2026 school tax bill.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ENHANCED STAR

*****You can apply for Enhanced Star on the Homeowner Benefit Portal www.tax.ny.gov/star. If you do not have computer access, you can call (518) 457-2036 to register.*****

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 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 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 \$30,700** per year to qualify for this. **If you believe you qualify, please contact your local assessor at 315-287-0045 Extension 102** 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, but 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 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. Currently, there are four members: Chair Stephen Gale, Dan Kingsley, Roger Refici, and Vicky Cappellino, with the 5th member to be appointed in January of 2026 to replace newly elected Town Councilmember John Walsh's seat on the planning board. 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.gov .

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.gov

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.gov . 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.gov .

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.gov

Regular Office hours are Monday thru Friday, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This office issues dog licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses, One Day Marriage Officiant Licenses, Death Certificates, Certified Marriage transcripts, Genealogical Service Requests, 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, 2026. 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 Extension 101. Wishing "Health and Happiness" to you and yours in the new year ahead.

2026 Town Board Meeting Dates

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

January 12, 2026

February 9, 2026

March 9, 2026

April 13, 2026

May 11, 2026

June 8, 2026

July 13, 2026

August 10, 2026

September 14, 2026

October (TBD)

November 9, 2026

December 14, 2026

Town of Fowler Online www.fowlerny.gov .

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 19, 2025, 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 Tami Gale. Honoring her dedication to taking care of many of the behind-the-scenes details that help to make the day a success year after year. Featured this year was Pipsqueak the clown, providing strolling comedy to children and adults alike at Fowler Family Day 2025. As always local merchants, manufacturing facilities, and citizens stepped up to fund this event. Family Day gets bigger and better each year, and we look forward to 2026 being as successful. A big thank you to all who volunteer for this all-important Town of Fowler gathering. It would not be possible without you. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer, please contact the Town of Fowler at 315-287-0045 extension 101.

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. 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.

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.