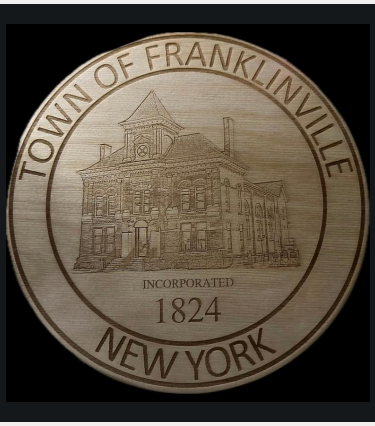


Town of Franklinville APRIL Newsletter

APRIL 2026

📅 **Office Hours & Closures**

• April 8 (Wednesday)

🏡 Assessor’s Office Open: 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

• April 9–10 (Thursday–Friday)

🔒 Town Clerk’s Office Closed

• April 21 (Tuesday)

🎖️ VA Services: 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM (By Appointment Only)

• All Saturdays (unless otherwise posted)

Code enforcement office hours: 8 AM -10 AM

⚖️ **Court Sessions**

• April 6 (Monday)

⚖️ Misdemeanors & Felonies Court: 7:00 PM

• April 20 (Monday)

⚖️ Violations & Infractions Court: 7:00 PM

🏛️ **Town Meetings & Public Engagement**

• April 14 (Tuesday)

💼 Audit of Bills: 6:30 PM

🏛️ Regular Town Board Meeting: 7 PM

• April 27 (Monday)

📚 Law Review Workshop (Solar Law Discussion) 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Note from the Tax Collector

March 31st was the deadline for payment of Town and County taxes. Any taxes remaining unpaid as of this date must now be paid directly to the Cattaraugus County Treasurer’s Office.

If you have any questions regarding outstanding taxes or payment procedures, please contact the Treasurer’s Office for further assistance.

Town Historian Appointment

The Town Board would like to recognize the recent appointment of Holly Zendarski as the Town Historian following the retirement of Bruce Fredrickson.

We are pleased to appoint Holly to this role and look forward to her continued efforts in preserving and promoting Franklinville's rich history.

For more information about the Ischua Valley historical society or to become involved please click on the link below.

Ischua Valley Historical Society

DEC - ISCHUA CREEK UPDATE

DEC ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR 2026 TROUT STOCKING AND FUTURE HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS FOR ISCHUA CREEK

Stocking Will be Limited to the Lower 6.25 miles to Provide Recovery of Aquatic Resources in Impacted Portions of the Creek

New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton today announced trout stocking plans for Ischua Creek following the discharge event last year that resulted in severe impacts to the aquatic community, including the existing trout resources.

"DEC continues to act in the best interest of the public and the resource regarding Ischua Creek," **said Commissioner Lefton.** "The plan for stocking and habitat enhancement represents a measured approach to satisfy the recreational desires of anglers while also providing the time and resources needed to rehabilitate this fishery."

While water quality data has shown significant improvements since the State's initial response and aquatic life is recovering, condition of the aquatic resources, such as minnows and invertebrates that provide food for trout, is unknown at this time. The 2026 trout stocking plan for Ischua Creek reflects a conservative approach by DEC given the reduction in food sources within the impacted area, while still providing opportunities for anglers seeking stocked trout.

To address the uncertainty regarding food availability, trout stocking will pause within the impacted portions of the stream (Farmersville/Franklinville town line downstream to Five Mile Road) this year to promote the natural recovery of the fish and macroinvertebrate community and ensure that adequate food resources are available to support trout for the long term.

DEC is also developing a habitat enhancement plan for the Stocked-Extended portion of the impacted area to repopulate this stream reach with wild trout to obtain Wild-Quality management and provide enhanced habitat for the native fish community. Details of this plan are in development and will be released in a New York Trout Stream Habitat Plan later this year.

Trout stocking will occur in a section of the stream outside of the impacted area in late March. Sites being stocked include Baxter Hill Road, Mill Street (Ischua), Dutch Hill Road, Farwell Road, Kent Road, and Mill Street (Maplehurst), providing approximately 6.25 miles of available stream for trout anglers. Projected stocked trout numbers for Ischua in 2026 are 3,867 9-inch trout and 430 12-inch trout.

Community Feedback & Clarifications

We value hearing from our residents and are committed to transparency. This section highlights important questions and feedback received through surveys, social media and Town Board meetings. The Town is providing clarification and updates to ensure accurate and consistent information is shared.

Public Hearing – Temporary Solar Moratorium

A public hearing was held regarding a proposed local law establishing a temporary six-month moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of applications for commercial and industrial solar energy systems within the Town of Franklinville.

The purpose of this moratorium is to allow the Town Board time to review and, if necessary, update the Town's zoning and solar regulations. This includes evaluating potential impacts on agriculture, community character, public services, and overall land use planning before allowing additional large-scale solar development.

During the moratorium period, the Town will not accept or process permits, site plans, variances, or other approvals related to commercial or industrial solar systems. Residential solar systems are not affected and may continue to be permitted and installed.

At this time, there are no pending applications for commercial solar projects. The Town Board is actively working on reviewing and updating the current solar law.

Cemetery Modernization Survey

The Town recently conducted a Cemetery Modernization Survey to better understand community interest and priorities. We would like to clarify that the primary purpose of this initiative is to digitize and preserve cemetery records for long-term accuracy and accessibility.

As part of this process, the Town has explored programs that would improve record retention while also offering additional features, such as assisting staff with work orders, helping families locate graves, and providing the option to purchase burial plots online. These features are considered added benefits to modernization—not the primary focus.

The examples shared in the survey were intended to provide a general understanding of available options and to gather feedback on whether these additional features are of interest to the community. The Town is not limited to those options and will continue to explore alternatives, including potential grant opportunities.

We appreciate the feedback received and will continue to evaluate this initiative carefully as discussions move forward.

Declaratory Judgement Action and Taxpayer Impact

The Town has received questions - both at Board meetings and through community discussions - regarding the potential impact of ongoing litigation on taxpayers.

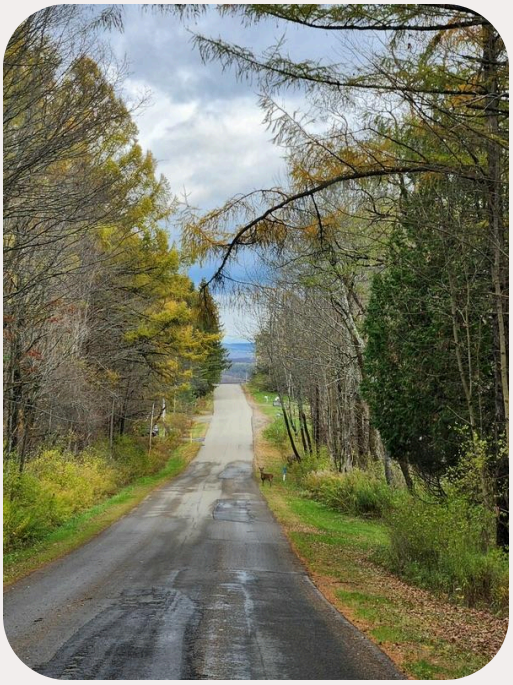
At this time, the case remains pending, and there is an active motion before the Court. As a result, the town is limited in what can be discussed publicly.

The Town has taken steps to seek confirmation that the insurance carrier must continue to cover the costs associated with the existing lawsuit. If coverage is upheld, it would significantly reduce the financial impact on tax

payers. Without coverage, certain legal expenses - such as discovery and depositions- can become substantial.
As required by law, the Town must continue to an participate in the legal process as it moves forward. The Town Board, in consultation with legal counsel, is actively working to manage costs and protect the interests of the tax payers.
We understand that this raises concerns, and we want residents to know that this matter is being handled carefully, responsibly and with the community's best interests in mind.

Electric Delivery Charges and Utility Costs

The Town Board has received concerns from residents regarding rising electric bills, particularly increases related to delivery charges rather than actual energy usage.
In response, the Town Board adopted a resolution urging the NYS Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough review of electric delivery charges, rate increases, and related cost practices impacting National Grid customers. The resolution calls for greater transparency, stronger cost controls, and a focus on affordability for residents - especially in rural communities.
The Town will continue to advocate for fair and reasonable utility costs. This resolution was sent to the NYS Public Service Commission, National Grid, the Governor of the State of New York, members of the New York State Legislature representing this district, and neighboring municipalities served by National Grid to encourage coordinated municipal advocacy.



Recently, our Town was featured in an article that captured the charm and character of Franklinville. It was a thoughtful reminder of what many of us sometimes take for granted.
As I read it, I found myself thinking less about the article—and more about what truly makes this place feel like home.
I wasn’t born here. I came to Franklinville in 9th grade and graduated from TBA. After that, life took me to Olean for 14 years. About 10 years ago, I came back—and

this time, it was different. This wasn't just somewhere I lived. This was home.

Over the years, I've built friendships that feel more like family. I've shared in the everyday moments that don't make headlines but mean the most—quiet roads, changing seasons, familiar faces, and the comfort of knowing your neighbors.

That's what makes Franklinville special. It's not just the scenery—it's the people. It's the sense of belonging. It's the feeling that, no matter where life takes you, this is a place you can come back to.

This community is what we make it. And for me—and I know for many of you—it's something truly meaningful.

— Catie Campbell
Town Supervisor

photo credit: Andrea Stanbro

Highway Department

The Highway Department has begun seasonal road sweeping and is actively assessing pavement conditions throughout the Town.

Please use caution when traveling on Town roadways and be mindful of highway personnel and equipment.

Your patience and cooperation are greatly appreciated as this work is completed.

Town of Franklinville | 11 Park Square | Franklinville, NY 14737 US

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