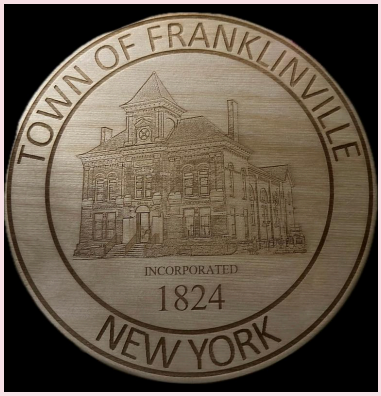


March 2026 Newsletter

Code Enforcement Office Hours - Saturdays 8 a - 10 a

Assessor's Office Hours - 2nd Wednesday of every month - 1230 p - 3 p

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

02/13/2026

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF FRANKLINVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Franklinville, Cattaraugus County, New York, on March 10, 2026 at 7:01 pm, at the Franklinville Town Hall, 11 Park Square, Franklinville, NY to hear all persons interested in a proposed local law entitled:
“A Local Law Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on Acceptance, Processing and Approval of Applications for Certain Solar Development Within the Town of Franklinville.”
The purpose of the proposed local law is to impose a temporary moratorium, for a period of up to six (6) months, on the acceptance, processing, and approval of applications related to Commercial Solar Systems and Industrial Solar Systems, as defined in the Town of Franklinville Solar Energy Law, in order to allow the Town Board time to review, study, and consider potential amendments to the Town’s zoning and solar regulations.
The proposed moratorium would not apply to Residential Solar Systems.
The proposed local law is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk’s Office, Franklinville Town Hall, and on the Town’s website.
All interested persons shall be heard at the Public Hearing. Written comments may also be submitted to the Town Clerk prior to or at the time of the hearing.
March 10, 2026 at 7:01pm

By Order of the Town Board
Town of Franklinville

Andrea Stanbro, Town Clerk

Moratorium on Solar Development Draft

Town Historian

We would like to take a moment to thank Bruce Fredrickson for his dedicated service to the Town of Franklinville in his role as Town Historian.

Bruce recently submitted his resignation, and in accepting it, the Town Board would like to formally recognize and express appreciation for his 22 years of service.

For more than two decades, Bruce served as Town Historian alongside his wife, Maggie Fredrickson, who served as Village Historian. Together, they worked as a team researching, documenting, and promoting the closely connected histories of the Town and Village of Franklinville.
During his tenure, Bruce:

- Achieved designation as a Registered New York State Historian through the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS)
- Served in leadership roles within APHNYS and helped organize state and regional historian conferences
- Served on the Cattaraugus County Bicentennial Committee and co-authored History of Cattaraugus County
- Contributed to The Encyclopedia of New York State
- Served on the Cattaraugus County Tourism Board and authored historical articles and brochures
- Played a key role in preservation efforts at The Miner's Cabin, the Howe-Prescott Pioneer House, and 3 Park Square
- Helped secure grants for historical signage and preservation projects
- Assisted residents with genealogical research and historical inquiries
- Documented cemeteries, preserved archival materials, and strengthened the Ischua Valley Historical Society

Under Bruce's leadership, significant preservation work was completed, including restoration projects, the acquisition of 3 Park Square for historical use, preservation of rare glass plate photographic collections, and expansion of local archives.
Beyond these accomplishments, Bruce generously gave his time to host tours, organize programs, support community events such as the Maple Festival and Cadiz Cemetery commemorations, and ensure that Franklinville's stories were carefully preserved for future generations.

The Town Board extends its sincere gratitude to Bruce for his professionalism, dedication, and passion for preserving our shared heritage. His efforts have created a lasting foundation that will continue to benefit our community.

We thank Bruce and Maggie for their many contributions to Franklinville and wish them all the very best in the years ahead.

ATTENTION

Recently, several household appliances have been left along the Town Roads. Dumping items on the roadside is illegal and creates safety hazards for drivers and pedestrians.

Please remember: kitchen stoves, washers, dryers and other major household appliances can be disposed of for free at the Transfer Station.

If you are unsure if an item is accepted or need Transfer Station hours please contact the transfer station at 716-676-3730 or click on the link below for more information.

Transfer Station Information

Cemetery records modernization survey

The Town is currently evaluating whether to transition our cemetery records from primarily paper-based files to a digital management system. This type of system would improve record preservation, enhance accuracy, provide mapping capabilities and potentially allow residents to search for graves online.

We have obtained proposals from two vendors. One proposal includes a start up cost of $13,084 with an annual fee of $2350. A second proposal was substantially higher in cost.
We are not limited to only these options, but before we go any further, we wanted to see what our residents think. We are also looking into grants that could offset the costs should we decide to go this route.

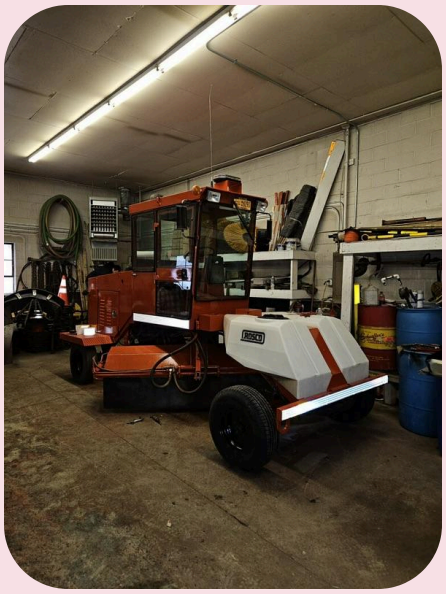
The feedback we have already received has been wonderful. If you have not had a chance to complete the survey, please take a few moments to make your opinion known. Your feedback will help guide our decision and ensure any future action reflects the community interest and responsible fiscal planning. This survey will be available until 3/7/26.

Thank you for your participation.

Cemetery Survey

Highway Department

In between runs for snow plowing operations this winter, the highway department has been busy repairing and rebuilding our 1998 Rosco Road Broom



This is the finished product, which includes replacing rotted out frame work for the sweeper assembly, full service, new tires, replacement warning lights, new paint job and new reflective devices. Watch out for us this Spring!

ZONING, PERMITS & AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS — WHAT RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW

Spring is a busy season for building and property improvements. As projects begin across town, we want to provide clear information about how permits, zoning, and agricultural districts work together.

Permits are not intended to slow projects down. They are required under NYS law to ensure construction is safe and meets established building standards. Permits help to:

- Confirm work complies with the NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code
- Ensure proper setbacks from property lines and roads
- Protect drainage patterns and infrastructure
- Maintain accurate property records
- Prevent costly corrections later

Projects That Commonly Require Permits:

- New homes, additions, garages, or pole barns
- Decks and structural repairs
- Pools
- Sheds and accessory buildings
- Electrical, plumbing, or heating installations
- Solar systems
- Certain agricultural structures

When in doubt, contact the Code Enforcement Office before starting work. A brief phone call before beginning a project can save time and expense.

What Zoning Does

Zoning laws guide how land is used throughout the Town. These regulations are adopted under NY Town Law and apply to all properties within the Town.
Zoning helps balance:

- Residential neighborhoods
- Farms and agricultural land
- Business uses
- Traffic safety and road access
- Protection of neighboring properties

Zoning review helps ensure projects fit appropriately within their zoning district while respecting both private property rights and community planning goals.

Understanding Agricultural Districts

There are several properties in the Town of Franklinville that are located within a **New York State Certified Agricultural District through Cattaraugus County.** Agricultural Districts are established under New York State Agriculture & Markets Law to support and protect active farming. These districts:

- Encourage farming as a preferred land use
- Protect farm operations from unreasonable local restrictions
- Allow eligible farms to apply for agricultural value assessments

How Agricultural Protections and Town Zoning Work Together

New York State provides “Right-to-Farm” protections for sound agricultural practices. At the same time, the Town has a legal responsibility to:

- Administer zoning districts
- Review structures for setbacks and safety
- Enforce the State Building Code
- Protect public safety and neighboring properties

Agricultural District status does not exempt a property from zoning or permit requirements. However, local regulations may not be applied in a way that is unreasonably restrictive on farm operations within a certified district.

This requires the Town to carefully balance:
✔ The right to farm
✔ Appropriate land-use planning
✔ Health and safety standards

Even within an Agricultural District, review may be required for:

- Construction of new buildings
- Changes in use of existing structures
- Large site modifications affecting traffic or drainage
- Commercial activities that extend beyond agricultural production

Each situation is evaluated individually to ensure State agricultural protections are honored while the Town fulfills its legal responsibilities.

Franklinville has a strong agricultural history, and farming remains an important part of our community. The Town is committed to supporting agriculture while maintaining safe construction practices and responsible land-use planning.

Local regulations are administered in accordance with New York State Agriculture & Markets Law, which protects farm operations while allowing municipalities to enforce health, safety, and building code standards.

If you are planning a project or have questions about zoning or agricultural protections, please contact the Code Enforcement Office before work begins at **716-701-4441** or **TownCode@franklinvilleny.org.** Early communication helps ensure projects move forward smoothly and in compliance with State and local law.

Town of Franklinville Zoning Laws (1999)

Zoning Enforcement Guide

Upcoming events being held at the Franklinville Elementary School

PTO Meeting March 11th @ 6pm
Wellness Night - March 12th @6pm-8pm
Bingo for Books - March 17th @ 6pm
PRE-K Registration - March 26th @ 6pm

Visit our Website

Constant Contact

Try email & social marketing for free!