

Town of Frankfort

Highway Department Newsletter - 2026

The Town of Frankfort owns and the highway department maintains 76.57 miles of road, and in the winter also plows an additional 42.95 miles for Herkimer County. It takes each driver 2.5 hours to complete his plow route. The highway department takes pride in serving the residents of Frankfort, and keeping the roads safe in all seasons. Thank you to all of the residents for your patience and cooperation in getting through the long winter season. Please remember to give ample space, slow down and move over for our plow truck drivers whether in front of or behind them. It's the law. Never assume the driver can see you during plow operations.



During the rest of the seasons, the highway department does spring and fall brush and green waste pickup, and works on road repairs including paving projects to keep up with the standards set by past superintendents as budget allows.

In New York State, mailboxes placed in the highway right of way are considered obstructions allowed as a convenience, not a legal right under Section 319 of the NYS Highway Law. Municipalities are not liable for damage caused by mailboxes located within this right of way.

Key Aspects of NY Highway Right-of-Way and Mailbox Laws:

- Property owner responsibility: While necessary for mail delivery, mailboxes within the right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk. If a mailbox impedes highway maintenance it must be moved.
- Highway Law Section 319: This law grants highway departments the authority to remove obstructions (including mailboxes) that interfere with travel without waiting for legal action.
- Liability and Damages: if a mailbox is knocked down by the weight of snow thrown by a plow, the municipality is not liable.
- No plow driver is intentionally damaging mailboxes and if damage does occur, we apologize. Road safety is our #1 priority and sometimes during heavy snowfall, there are times snow comes off of the wing and causes damage. This is unfortunate and unintentional and ultimately up to the homeowner to repair.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the highway department.

Thank you for allowing us to keep the roads safe and clear.

Here are some things we've been working on to update and make our fleet safer:

- We have sold an outdated roller and replaced it with a 2023 ride on roller.
- Purchased a 2025 mowing tractor to replace a 1986 Ford mower
- Have ordered two Mack plows to replace our oldest plows that were purchased in 2005.
- Purchased a box broom attachment for use on road projects on our Bobcat
- Meeting with engineers to secure grant funding for sewer and water upgrades
- Working with engineers to seek funding for culvert repairs and replacement

Brush Pickup and Green Waste Pickup

- Will begin 5/4/2026 (one pass through town). Please cut limbs to 4 foot lengths & place in piles no more than 20' wide, 5' high, and 4' deep & logs 14" diameter and smaller. All green waste must be in bags or containers. We do not pick up tree stumps.

Spring Trash Drop Off

5/8/26 from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm & 5/9/26 from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Highway Garage. Someone will be on site to help unload vehicles. Please bring identification for proof of residency.

- **ConfiData will be here on 5/9/26 from 9 am - 12 pm to accept boxes of documents from residents for shredding. There will be a limit imposed of 4-5 bags/boxes per vehicle**

Summer Drop off Schedule

In addition, there will be a dumpster on site weekly from June 1, 2026 through August 27, 2026 for people to drop household trash off between the hours of 8 and 2 Monday through Thursday, with the exception of holidays. The dumpster is located in the fenced in area on the north side of the highway garage. NO DUMPING IS ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF THESE HOURS, NO EXCEPTIONS.

September Trash Drop Off

9/12/26 from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Highway Garage. Someone will be on site to help unload vehicles. Please bring identification for proof of residency.

Accepted Items

- White goods and metals and major appliances
- Stuffed furniture, mattresses and rugs
- Televisions and electronics
- Batteries
- Empty paint cans

Items NOT Accepted

- **Construction and demolition materials**
- **Chemicals, oil, toxic containers**
- **Tires of any kind**
- **Household garbage**
- **Recyclables**
- **Clothing**

Green Waste Pickup

Green waste pickup will begin on 11/2/2026 and will continue as the weather permits.

- All leaves and garden debris must be placed at roadside in bags or containers.

Town of Frankfort Highway Department
1896 Albany Road | Frankfort, NY 13340
315-724-5461

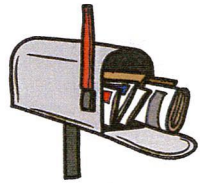
Community Corner

What you need to know

Mailbox Placement

Height of mailbox placement

Your mailbox should be 41 inches to 45 inches from the road surface.



Why: The snow plow wing is 40 inches, having a mailbox at 42 inches is a risky minimum, and does not consider build-up of snow, ice or gravel

How far off the road should a mailbox be placed?

Your mailbox should be placed 6 inches to 8 inches back from the curb or shoulder.



Why: Snowplows have a 15-foot wide pass. NYS Traffic Law prohibits the snowplow from crossing the centerline. Hence anything 15 feet from the centerline will get hit.

Mailbox installation.

A 4" x 4" wood support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe, buried no more than 24" deep.



Why: This is recommended by the Federal Highway Administration.

Why all these standards?



Safety! The best mailbox supports must be stable but bend or fall away if hit.



NYSLTAP -
CLRP website



How to install a
mailbox USPS

WHYS OF SNOW PLOWS

1. Why do snow plows drive so slow?



Snow plows typically drive at 35mph, this is to ensure the salt is being distributed evenly throughout the lanes.

2. What is a Travel Advisory?

It's a caution to drivers to avoid travel whenever possible when winter weather makes driving difficult.



3. Why does the plow always bury my driveway?

When digging out your driveway, pile the snow on the right side, as the plow pushes snow from the left



4. Why is my road always plowed last?

Your local highway and DPW departments must plow the highest priority roads first. These roads are the most traveled, including roads that contain hospitals, schools, and evacuation routes.



Department of Transportation

Local Technical Assistance Program



WINTER WEATHER

DRIVING TIPS

BEFORE DRIVING

- Check tires, antifreeze, windshield wiper blades, fluids, and batteries
- **COMPLETELY** clean off your vehicle of snow & ice



WHILE DRIVING



- Drive according to the conditions, and stay well below the posted speed limit
- Expect the unexpected, leave plenty of room between yourself & other vehicles

WHAT TO DO IF YOU START SKIDDING

- **Gently** steer into the skid to regain control of the vehicle
- Use safe braking techniques to avoid skidding



KEEP AN EMERGENCY KIT ON YOU

The kit should include:



- Jumper cables
- Blankets
- Tools
- Water & snacks
- Warm clothes
- Flashlight
- Flares



NYS LTAP Center - Cornell Local Roads Program website



Information sourced from Washington County's Safety PINS



Department of Transportation

Local Technical Assistance Program



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www.townoffrankfortny.gov

