
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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www.richfordny.com

January - March 2016

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Welcome to 2016. I want to start out by thanking the voters of Richford for their support in November. That said, the first of January came with little fanfare and the sudden reality of my new position. The first few days have been very busy with the change of administration and all of the details that must happen to make the transition as seamless as possible. I want to thank Martin Wilcox for his extended service to the community and for his help during the transition. Velvet Lyke and Becky Randall have also been a great help in getting me pointed in the right direction with the programs policy and procedures that are in place. With many of the details of the day-to-day operation of the town falling into place, the Town Board must deal with the same challenges that face many small towns.

We currently do not have a contract for Emergency Medical Transport (EMT) service for our town and are looking at options to provide EMT service for our residents and guests. For the time being we are depending on mutual aid from surrounding EMT providers who already have obligations to the communities that they are contracting with or volunteer for, thus placing a strain on their resources and extending response time for mutual aid calls that they make to our town. Response time is a very important factor in any 911 call, be it an ambulance call or fire/rescue call. With some of the responders unfamiliar with our town roads, having your house properly numbered is an important part of response time. The Town of Richford Property Identification Law details how your house should be identified, making it easier for responders to find you. Copies of the law can be obtained at http://richfordny.com/localaws/property_identification_2_11.pdf or at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. Also make sure that all of the roads have signs and that they are properly installed. If there is no road sign or you feel it needs to be adjusted, call the Highway Department at 657-2770 and they will address the problem.

The Town Board is aware of the challenges we face and will do our best to address those challenges. Currently, I will be at the Town Hall every Wednesday morning from 9-11 a.m. if you want to stop by or by appointment. You can contact me at 657-8248 or by email at cdavis@richfordny.com. Charlie Davis.

VISIBLE HOUSE NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT

With the loss of local EMS service, it is more important than ever that your house numbers are clearly displayed on the front of your residence or at the entrance to your property. Emergency responders waste valuable time trying to locate your call location and the highly visible house numbers get them to you faster. The Richford Fire Department can, for a nominal fee, provide you with a highly visible address sign. Call 657-4414 to get a sign made.

REMINDERS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Town Assessor Frances Butler reminds residents that applications for all property exemptions must be received in her office by March 1, 2016. If you own property that is your main residence, you are eligible for the STAR (School Tax Relief) exemption. The basic STAR is for all property owners and the enhanced STAR is for seniors who meet income and age requirements. Seniors must apply for the enhanced STAR each year.

Seniors 65 and over, with a yearly income of \$23,999 or less are eligible for an exemption of Town property taxes. Renewal forms were sent to residents who applied last year for the enhanced STAR and/or the aged property exemption. For information or forms, contact Frances Butler by email (town.assessor@gmail.com), phone (849-6966), or letter (PO Box 366, Marathon, NY 13803).

Low-income seniors are also reminded that the Newark Valley School District and Tioga County have different income levels for residents to apply for property tax exemptions. Tioga County has a yearly income of \$24,300. Please check with the Assessor if you may be eligible for one or more exemptions. Application forms can also be obtained online at www.orps.state.ny.us/.

ELECTION RESULTS

Charles Davis was elected as Town Supervisor for a 2-year term, and Cynthia Herrick and Charles Thayer to 4-year terms on the Town Board. Barbara Keener was elected to a 5-year term, and Crystal Foux to a 2-year term, as Fire Commissioners. A BIG thank you and farewell to Martin Wilcox for his many years of service as Town Supervisor.

LIBRARY NEWS

Fran Miller, the new Librarian at the Berkshire Library, announced that the Story Hour in Richford will be held on Thursday from 10 to 11 am at the Richford Congregational Church from now on. The Story Hour in Berkshire will continue on Wednesday, also from 10 to 11 am. Pre-schoolers and their parent or caregiver are welcome at either location to share reading, singing, rhyming, and fun crafts.

The Library Book Sale will be held Saturday, March 5 -12 from 9am to 4pm, and a bake sale will be held on March 5 and 12. On Wednesday March 23 Story Laurie, storyteller, songwriter, and entertainer will be coming to Richford Congregational Church to read and perform for the whole family. A family supper will follow. Everyone is invited. For more information call the Library at 657-4418.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

Minutes from the Town Board meetings are available on-line at <http://richfordny.com/meetingminutes.html>.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTED

The Town Board adopted the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update at the December 8 meeting. This plan was developed with community input over the past two years, and includes a Town Vision and six major goals, each with detailed objectives. The plan is available at <http://richfordny.com/compplan.html> and from the Town Clerk during business hours.

The six goals are: Value, protect and preserve the natural beauty, water quality and quantity, natural resources, and peaceful, quiet rural landscape of the Town of Richford; Encourage economic development geared towards recreation, tourism, small and home-based businesses, and small industry; Support and encourage local business and agriculture; Improve the overall appearance of the Town; Preserve historic elements; and Enhance quality of life for Town residents.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The mild fall and early winter allowed the Highway Department to trim brush along Sears Road and Michigan Hill Road with the new excavator-mounted brush trimmer. Many of you may have noticed the "new to us" garbage truck: The old truck served us well for many years, but maintenance and safety issues made replacement of that vehicle the best option. You also may have noticed the large scrap metal dumpster at the Town Barn. This unit is provided to our residents to dispose of "scrap metal" only. Please don't dispose of furniture or electronics (TV's, computers, copiers/printers, radios, phones, both cell and home and any other electronic devices) in this unit (the camera is watching). If you have any questions regarding what can be disposed of, or if you have used motor oil you what to get rid of, contact the Highway Department at 657-2770.

FALL PREVENTION WORKSHOP

A 7-week workshop on improving balance and preventing falls will be held 10-12 noon on Wednesdays, April 20 – June 1, at the Berkshire Town Hall. Participate in strength and balance training exercises taught by Registered Nurses and Physical Therapists. The \$35 registration fee covers all classes and the program exercise manual. For information call Diane 757-0750 or Donna 765-4180.

NEED HELP?

Meet with a representative from Congressman Tom Reed (607-654-7566) to discuss federal or state issues or other concerns, at Tioga County Office Building, 56 Main St., Owego, the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 10am – 4pm. You can also contact Mr. Reed on-line at [Facebook.com/RepTomReed](https://www.facebook.com/RepTomReed) and reed.house.gov.

RAWLEY PARK

Friends of Rawley Park (FORP) had a great first year in 2015. FORP hosted free community events this summer with Trunk-or-Treat and the community potluck and move night. With your help and support, FORP hopes to expand on the number and variety of free events and activities.

FORP received a grant from the Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes to fund the creation and installation of a mosaic mural on the south wall of the park pavilion. Ours was the only large project to receive full funding! Watch for a tile-making workshop in the spring of 2016 to begin the creation of the mural. We are also looking for donations of tile, broken mirror, stained glass, glass pebbles, etc. Come take part in creating public art in our historic park.

We are currently conducting an online opinion survey to get your ideas for park improvements and activities. Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F38TWMQ> and fill out the survey by February 6th, 2016. If you don't have access to internet, paper copies are available at the garbage truck and during Town Clerk hours at the Town Hall.

FORP is working to become a 501c3 Not-For-Profit. We hope to raise \$2000 for our first big project to install stone steps for access to the creek. Show your support at <https://www.gofundme.com/5eepk78> and help us reach our goal. Please LIKE US on Facebook (FriendsOfRawleyPark), and if you have questions or comments call Joe Kral at ([585](tel:5853223232)) [322-3232](tel:3223232) or email us at friendsofrawleypark@richfordny.com.

HEALTH CLINIC NEWS

The Lourdes Mobile Mammogram Van will be at the Richford Health Clinic on February 25 and March 24. An order from your physician is required. Call Lourdes at 798-5723 to schedule an appointment. For information about financial assistance call the Health Center at 657-8521.

The Clothes Closet, with free clothing for women and children, is open the first and third Thursday at 6 pm in the Hubbard Center. Donations of clean, wearable clothing can be left in the large plastic container located next to the Hubbard Center.

HEATING COST HELP

Many residents must choose between heating their homes and buying groceries. It is possible to do both with the SNAP program. People who participate in the SNAP program are given a special debit card to buy groceries. Because SNAP dollars are spent at local grocery stores, SNAP helps both residents *and* the businesses that serve them.

With SNAP, lower income families, children, veterans, college students and older adults are able to buy the nutritious foods they need to stay strong and healthy through the winter months while keeping the heat on. To get information about SNAP or a free and confidential prescreen to find out if you eligible, contact Kathi Latson at the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) at (607) 697-6721 x1190.

TOWN AND OTHER OFFICIALS

2016 TOWN BOARD MEETS: 2ND TUESDAY, 7PM, TOWN HALL

e-mail: townboard@richfordny.com

- ◆ Charles Davis Supervisor 657-8248
- ◆ Cyndi Herrick Councilperson 657-8659
- ◆ Roberta Holcomb Councilperson 657-8644
- ◆ Charles Thayer Councilperson 657-8651
- ◆ Ken Miller Councilperson 657-2789

TOWN CLERK

- ◆ Velvet Lyke townclerk@richfordny.com 657-8090
- ◆ Business hours- Town Hall: Tues, 7-9pm. Wed. 8-11 am.

TOWN HALL BOWERY LANE

- ◆ Fax, answering machine: leave a message 657-8090
- e-mail townclerk@richfordny.com

TOWN JUSTICE

- ◆ Peggy Andersen Judge 657-8090
- ◆ Rebecca Randall Court Clerk 657-8090
- ◆ Court held 1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays 5:30-8:00 pm; Town Hall

TOWN BOOKKEEPER

- ◆ Rebecca Randall 657-8090

ASSESSOR

- ◆ Frances Butler 849-6966
- e-mail town.assessor@gmail.com

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTION

- ◆ Kevin McMahon Phone: (B)539-6700; (C)[745-0004](tel:745-0004)
- Fax: 539-6400. Office hours: 8am – 12 noon M-F
- ◆ Office: 2670 Slaterville Road [PO Box 136], Slaterville Springs, NY 14881. E-mail at codeofficer@richfordny.com

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- ◆ Mike Hunt 657-2770

TOWN GARBAGE TRUCK

- ◆ Doug Wandell Attendant Highway Garage
- ◆ Business hours: Wed 4-8pm, Sat 8am- 2pm, \$.10/pound

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

- ◆ Flora Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ Steve Kotula 657-4462
- ◆ Vacant– volunteer needed

DOG CONTROL OFFICER

- ◆ Ronald H. Raab 426-4567

PLANNING BOARD MEETS: 1ST WED, 7PM TOWN HALL

e-mail: planboard@richfordny.com

- ◆ John Schwartz Chair 657-8512
- ◆ Doris Caskey 220-4161
- ◆ Chuck Merrill 657-2587
- ◆ Victoria Nuzzo 657-8656
- ◆ Joe Kral 585-322-3232
- ◆ William Stell 856-689-3573
- ◆ Emilie Stuhlmiller 657-2680

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETS: LAST THUR, 6PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ John Keener Fire Chief 972-1336
- ◆ Carrie Keener President 657-4414

FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETS: 1ST TUES, 6:30PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ Jeff Holcomb President 657-8176
- ◆ April Andersen Secretary 657-2575
- ◆ Travis Getzke 432-4206
- ◆ Barb Keener 242-1754
- ◆ Donna Gencarelli Treasurer 657-9985
- ◆ Crystal Foux 351-0867

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY MEETS: 2ND MON, 6 PM TOWN HALL

commaux@richfordny.com

- ◆ Chris Craft President 844-8969
- ◆ Andrea Baker Vice-President 539-7069

Currently looking for member to join. Call Chris Craft if interested

TOWN HISTORIAN

- ◆ Bill Sherwood 539-6283

RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2ND MON, APRIL - NOV

- ◆ Bill Sherwood President 539-6283

TOWN HALL AND RAWLEY PARK SCHEDULING

- ◆ Barb Keener 242-1754

Emergency Service

- ◆ Call 911

RICHFORD REPRESENTATIVES TO:**COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

- ◆ Ed Hollenbeck 642-3201

County Planning Board

- ◆ Vacant – volunteer needed

OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPER

- ◆ Tioga County Courier 687-0108

TOWN WEBSITE

- ◆ www.richfordny.com

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Calendar of Events

- Jan 28** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- Feb 4** Mobile Food Pantry at Richford Congregational Church, Rt. 38, 11 am -12:30 pm, bring boxes, bags.
- Feb 6** Soup and Salad, Congregational Church, Richford, Route 38, 4 – 6:30 pm to benefit Helping Hands Food Pantry. Free will donation, take outs available
- Feb 6** Last day to complete Rawley Park survey, on Internet; also paper copies at garbage truck and at Town Clerk (during open hours)
- Feb 25** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- March 1** Deadline for various application forms to Frances Butler, Town Assessor
- March 3** Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, see Feb. 4

- March 5** Soup and salad, Congregational Church, Richford, see Feb 7
- Mar 5 -12** Book sale to benefit Berkshire Free Library, 9 am – 4 pm Community Hall; Bake sale on March 5 and March 12 only
- Mar 23** Story teller Story Laurie will at the Richford Congregational Church. A family supper will follow. Call the library at 657-4418 for information
- Mar 24** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- April 7** Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, see Feb. 4
- April 20** First session of 7 week workshop, "A Wellness Workshop to Prevent Falls"; Berkshire Town Hall, \$35.00 fee; scholarships available; for registration information call Diane at 757-0750 or Donna at 765-4180

For additional events, up-dates and much more go to
www.richfordny.com.

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EXERCISE CLASS

NTNN is sponsoring a spring exercise class for active adults age 50 and over. It will meet for 9 weeks starting Tuesday March 1 at 10 AM in the Richford Town Hall. The class emphasizes low impact exercises to promote strength, flexibility and balance. The fee for all 9 weeks is \$10. Finisher prizes are awarded. For more information leave your name and phone number at [607-657-2823](tel:607-657-2823) or toll free [1-877-657-2823](tel:1-877-657-2823) and specify the exercise class.

SOCCER CLUB

Spring is coming, and so is soccer! Rawley Park will be hosting as a satellite soccer field for the U8 teams for the Newark Valley Soccer Club. Come on down and check out our little players! Registration for children 6 through 18 is for any child who lives in the Newark Valley School District or surrounding towns. If interested in signing your child up or receiving information about the Newark Valley Soccer Club, please contact April Andersen at klingleandersen@aol.com or [607-722-9316](tel:607-722-9316)