
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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July - September 2016

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

A new camera security system has been installed in the Town Hall. This system will provide the town the ability to keep the building secure without the long-term cost of our prior system. As part of this project, we were also able to negotiate a better price for our phone and Wi-Fi service for the Town Hall and the Highway Garage. We will continue to review all of our current systems, programs and infrastructure for areas where we can be more cost effective without compromising safety and services to our community. A security camera system has been purchased for Rawley Park through a grant provided by the Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation. This new system will be installed this summer. Work on the mosaic on the south wall of the Rawley Park pavilion continues, so watch for work times so you have an opportunity to be part of this ambitious, sustainable community project. We also received a grant from the Floyd Hooker Foundation for new “age appropriate” playground equipment for younger children at the park. I continue to be in the Town Hall every Wednesday morning from around 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and have found that having like hours with the Town Clerk is very effective in coordinating our efforts. Hope to see you out around town enjoying this great summer. Charlie Davis

RICHFORD POTATO FESTIVAL

Come to the 24th Richford Potato Fest on Saturday September 17, from 9am – 3pm. Events will be held at the Graded School, Congregational Church, Health Center, Fire Department, and Rawley Park, all in downtown Richford. The Fire Department will host a chicken BBQ, 11am – gone, Potato soup and lots of other good food will be served at the Congregational Church, Potato donuts will be prepared at the Town Hall, and Potato ice cream at the Graded School. A flea market will be held all day at Rawley Park. At the Graded School, the Cornell Raptors will have a bird exhibit at 10 am, Dr. Walter DeJong will update us on potatoes at 11 am and share new potato varieties to take home and try. The Mashed Potato Eating Contest starts at 11:30 am, and the Potato Princess/Tater Tot event is at 1 pm. Bring your best potato salad for the 2 pm contest (\$1 entry fee), and stay for the Potato Sack Race and other events 2 – 3 pm. This will be the best Potato Fest yet!

HIGHWAY REPORT

This dry summer has been great for getting projects completed, but for anyone living or traveling on our gravel roads the dust has been an issue. The extremely dry conditions have made the application of salt brine for dust control ineffective for the most part. Roads that were eligible for “oil and stone” coating through the CHiPs program have been completed and the highway crew will continue working on other highway improvements through out the summer and into the fall.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

June 14 – Councilwoman Roberta Holcomb stepped down from her Board position to speak as a private citizen about her concern with her assessment reduction. Attorney Canizio tried to explain that the court order to reduce her assessment had not been signed by the judge since Ms. Holcomb delayed signing the papers herself. Now that she has submitted the signed papers, the judge can sign the stipulation and then the assessor will make the needed adjustments to the assessed value.

Highway Superintendent Mike Hunt reported they are hauling gravel. He asked to have a 10 ton weight limit placed on Payne Marsh Rd and Michigan Hill Rd. Attorney Canizio will review and discuss with the county on how to proceed. The Justice Report included a check for \$2769, the Dog Control reported following up on issues on Robinson Hollow Rd, and the Code Enforcement Report stated that 31 inspections were conducted and 16 permits issued.

Town Planning Board Chair John Schwartz reported on a presentation by Steve Winkley of the New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) federally-funded Source Water Protection Program. This free program provides technical assistance at no charge to rural and small communities for the development and implementation of local source water projection plans designed to prevent the deterioration of water resources used for drinking water. Mr. Winkley will assess water quality and quantity in Richford, and provide suggestions for protecting this valuable resource. Mr. Schwartz asked the Town Board to pass a resolution to participate in the (NYRWA) Source Water Protection Program. The Board unanimously approved the resolution.

The Board passed a resolution to adopt a local law to change the term of office for the Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years. A public hearing will be held July 12, 2016.

Discussion about the contract with Stray Haven that includes a \$100 fee/animal for dogs picked up by the Dog Control Officer. If the owner does not pay this fee then the Town is obligated to pay it. Discussion about “zombie houses” - homes that are in bank foreclosure. Attorney Canizio and Code Enforcer Kevin McMahon will discuss how to proceed with these houses in the Town.

June 15 - A Special Town Board Meeting to discuss purchase of a new Town truck and skid steer for \$89,900 via a USDA Loan/Grant. If approved the USDA will tell the Town how much will be a grant and how much will be a loan. If the equipment is sold before the loan is paid off then the town will repay the loan as per the contract with the USDA. The interest on the installment loan would be about 4% and payments would come out of the Highway Fund.

July 12 - Highway Superintendent Mike Hunt reported that they are oiling and stoning roads in town, patching potholes, and maintaining equipment. Hunt talked to DEC about storing salt in a new 10x28 building with hoop roof, the approximately \$10,000 cost would come out of the General Fund.

Friends of Rawley Park reported they would like to have directional signs to the park installed at the intersection of Hwys 79 and 38. Councilperson Herrick will check with DOT.

Discussion about EMS Service. Newark Valley now has an agreement with Maine Ambulance Service. We have not heard from Maine or Newark Valley, and currently do not have EMS service. The Board voted to hold a second public hearing on the proposed local law to change the Highway Superintendent's term from 2 years to 4 years.

The Board appointed Doris Caskey as Substitute Bookkeeper. During training Doris will volunteer her time and when working as the Bookkeeper the town will prorate the yearly pay of the Bookkeeper. Discussion about hiring an assistant for the Highway Supervisor. Barb Keener has been working for Mike in the office. Discussion was tabled until August.

Discussion about the Town lawn mower. Highway Department fixed the old one. Supervisor Davis asked Board Members to keep an eye out for a new mower. The Town will consider buying a new one when they go on sale. Bill Stell volunteered to repair the Welcome to Richford signs. The Board approved to pay up to \$100 for lumber and hardware to repair the signs.

Discussion about LED Street Lights. Johnson Controls in Syracuse proposed to replace the regular street lights with LED, stating this could save the Town money. The Board will explore working with Newark Valley, Village of NV, Berkshire and possibly Owego, to obtain lower fees for all entities.

Once again Councilwoman Holcomb stepped down from her Board position to address the Board about her complaints regarding her assessment. The same complaints, and the same responses, were made as in the previous month.

RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The Richford Historical Society application for the Cornell Design Connect project was accepted, and will start in August. This is a fiercely competitive grant and Richford is lucky to be chosen. Students and faculty will review the Schoolhouse in the areas of structural integrity, energy efficiency, handicap accessibility inside and outside, functionality, design of the grounds and preservation of documents and artifacts. The wishes of town residents, as determined by surveys and open houses, will help inform the work. Richford's history was a popular topic at the open houses as well as ideas such as a Nature Education Center, displays of antique farm equipment, arts and crafts classes and a place for classes on improving peoples' skills to help with getting better jobs. One person volunteered to paint the building if paint is purchased. The Historical Society will host an informational meeting at the Schoolhouse on Monday, September 19 at 7:00 pm. Additional meetings will be held throughout the summer and fall, and all residents are invited to participate in these discussions.

RAWLEY PARK NEWS

Have you been to the park lately? The Friends of Rawley Park (FORP) have been working with the Town and community volunteers to install a tile mosaic on the south wall of the pavilion. This mosaic was made possible through a grant from the Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes along with donations from many local businesses and community members. We welcome everyone to come down and help complete the mosaic.

Many other improvements are in the works. The Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation awarded a grant for security cameras, and the Floyd Hooker Foundation awarded a grant to purchase additional playground equipment including a crawling tunnel, a wobble pod, a balance beam, kid's basketball hoop, and a new swing where parents can swing with their small child.

Additional plans are in discussion to install murals on the dugouts by art students from the Newark Valley School District, new paint for the roof, walls, and posts of the pavilion, and safer access down to the stream. For more information about park improvements look us up on Facebook under FriendsofRawleyPark.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming events! The next FORP meeting is July 25th at 6:30pm in the park pavilion. **Movie Night** will be August 19th. Watch for fliers around town for more details on this free event. **Trunk-r-Treat** this year will be on Friday, October 28th in the park.

WORKSHOP TO PREVENT FALLS

Sign up now for "Stepping On", a 7 week program that helps participants become aware of fall hazards, learn how to reduce their fall risk and stay in their own homes by remaining active and independent. The workshop will be held Sept 8 - Oct 20 from 10am to noon in the Berkshire Town Hall, Railroad Ave. Topics include information about balance, strength training, hazards in the home, choosing footwear, and Vitamin D and nutrition. Light refreshments will be provided.

The 7-week class costs only \$15 thanks to grants from Tioga Opportunities and Broome County Health Dept. Make checks payable to Independence Awareness and mail to Independence Awareness, 518 Hooper Road, PMB 274, Endwell, NY 13760. The fee **MUST** be received by August 18 to reserve a place. Each participant receives a workshop manual. Caregivers who provide transportation for a registered participant or for reinforcement of exercises/program materials may attend at no cost but will not receive a workshop manual.

This program is facilitated by Donna Gavula RN and Diane LeFever RN of Independence Awareness in conjunction with other community experts. Donna and Diane can be contacted at 757-0750 if there are questions; also check their website at www.independenceawareness.com for additional information on classes and falls prevention.

BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

Book sales will be held several times this summer: at the Blueberry Festival (on July 23), at the Berkshire Community Hall (September 3, September 6 – 10) and at the Richford Potato Festival (September 17), from 9 am to 4 pm. The annual Pie and Ice Cream Social will be held Thursday, August 18, at the Berkshire Fire Station, starting at 6 pm. Come and help support your local library!

Northern Tioga children age preschool to 12 years old are enjoying the summer program that began July 7 and continues on Thursday, July 21 and August 4 and 18. Independent reading for prizes continues all summer. Preschoolers must have a parent or caregiver stay for the program each day.

Reading fun and special programs are also offered as part of the Richford Youth Summer Program at the Richford Town Hall. Contact Becky Randall, 657-8254, for more information.

On August 11, at 10 am, a special celebration of reading will be held at the Nathan T. Hall School in Newark Valley and will highlight activities with the Cornell University's Physics Bus. Ice cream sundaes will be served.

RABIES CLINIC

A Rabies Clinic will be held at the Berkshire Fire Station, 12515 State Route 38, Berkshire, on Thursday, August 4, from 6 – 8 pm. Pets are to be on a leash or in a carrier. All dogs, cats and ferrets are required to be vaccinated by 4 months of age. Please bring any past rabies shot records. \$10.00 donation per animal is requested, but not required. No animal will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information call Tioga County Environmental Health at 607-687- 8565.

FALL EXERCISE CLASS

A fall exercise class, "Get a Grip 2016", sponsored by Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN), will start Tuesday, Sept 27 at 10 am at the Town Hall. The class will end Nov 22 with a break for Election Day Nov 8. Barbara Schwartz, who has taught several exercise classes under NTNN sponsorship, will again be the leader. For information and to sign-up for the class call 607-657-2823 or toll free 877-657-2823. The fee is \$10.00, payable the first day of class.

NEED WATER?

Do you need water to fill a pool? Call the Richford Fire Department at 657-4414, and for just \$75 a load you can have your pool filled quickly and easily with fresh clean water.

SUNDAES ON THE FARM

Come and enjoy farm tours, animals, sundaes and more at the King Dairy Farm, 450 Ithaca Rd, Spencer, July 31, noon -3 pm.

KNOW YOUR OFFICIALS

Supervisor:	Charles Davis	657-8248
Town Board Members:	Cyndi Herrick	657-8659
	Roberta Holcomb	657-8644
	Ken Miller	657-2789
	Charles Thayer	657-8651
Town Clerk:	Velvet Lyke	657-8090
Town Justice:	Peggy Andersen	657-8090
Justice Clerk:	Rebecca Randall	657-8090
Assessor:	Frances Butler	849-6966
Code Enforcement:	Kevin McMahon	539-6700 cell: 745-0004
Highway Supt.:	Mike Hunt	657-2770
Dog Control Officer:	Ronald Raab	426-4567
Town Hall and Park Scheduling:	Barb Keener	242-1754

TIMES AND DATES TO REMEMBER

Town Board Mtg:	2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 pm
Planning Board Mtg:	1st Wednesday of the month, 7 pm
Town Court:	1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays, 5:30 – 8pm
Town Clerk:	Tuesday 7–9 pm, Wednesday 8–11am
All are held at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane.	

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY JAMBOREE

The Community Auxiliary will sponsor a community Jamboree at Rawley Park on Sunday, August 28 from 11 am to 6 pm. The day will be filled with entertainment including bands, musicians jamming, food, raffles, Chinese auction, and other activities for adults and children. The admission charge is \$2.00 for 15 and older. Plan to come and have fun!

RICHFORD SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

The Summer program started July 11 and runs through Friday August 19, from noon – 3pm. It's not too late to join the fun. Located in the Town Hall, the Monday, Wednesday and Friday program has two parts: a FREE lunch from noon to 1 pm for all youth age 18 months to 18 years (youth can come just for the lunch). The second part includes crafts, exercise, games, guest speakers and reading for youth ages 5 to 16, from 1-3 pm. For more information call Director Becky Randall at 657-8254.

Fold 2

Calendar of Events

- July 23 Berkshire Blueberry and Book Festival, rain or shine, 9 am - 4 pm, food, music, various events for children and adults, Community Hall, Fire Station, Library
- July 25 Friends of Rawley Park mtg, 6:30 pm, pavilion
- Aug 4 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
- Aug 4 Rabies Clinic, Berkshire Fire Station, 6 - 8 pm
- Aug 9 Public hearing on Hwy Sup't term, 6:45 pm, Town Hall
- Aug 11 Celebrate reading. 10am, NTH school, Newark Valley.
- Aug 15 Richford Historical Society, Graded School, 7pm
- Aug 18 Pie-Ice Cream Social, fundraiser for Berkshire Free Library, 6 p.m., Berkshire Fire Station
- Aug 18 Deadline for receipt of \$15 fee for Falls Prevention Program
- Aug 19 Last day of summer Richford Youth Program
- Aug 19 Family Movie night, at dark, Rawley Park
- Aug 20 Chicken barbecue, Richford Fire Dept., 11 am till gone
- Aug 26 Music program by Lindsey Family Singers, Richford Congregational Church, 6:30 p.m. public invited

- Aug 28 Jamboree at Rawley Park, 11am - 6pm, \$2 admission
- Sept 1 Mobile Food Pantry, see August 4
- Sept 3, 6 - 10 Book sale, Berkshire Community Hall, 9 - 4 p.m.
- Sept 8 First day of Falls Prevention Program, Berkshire Town Hall, be there by 9:45 a.m.
- Sept 10 Fundraiser for John Keener, noon - 6 pm, Rawley Park.
- Sept 17 Potato Festival, various areas in hamlet, 9 - 3 p.m.
- Sept 19 Richford Historical Society, Graded School, 7pm
- Sept 21 Annual meeting, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN), 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
- Sept 27 NTNN Fall Exercise Class begins, 10 am Town Hall, call 657-2823 or 1-877-2823 to register
- Oct 1 Richford Congregational Church Roast Pork Dinner, 4 - 7 pm
- Oct 6 Mobile Food Pantry, see August 4

Please check town website, www.richfordny.com, for additional programs and news occurring after the newsletter.

Fold 1

BERKSHIRE BLUEBERRY AND BOOK FESTIVAL

This annual event will be Saturday, July 23 (rain or shine) from 9 am - 4 pm at the Community Hall, Fire Station and Library (State Route 38 and Jewett Hill Road). Main Events include Blueberry Pancakes 7 - 10 am, BBQ chicken, berry bake sale, art show, live music, meet and greet local authors, vendors, raffle baskets (30+), paperback book sale, classic car and truck show, antique appraisals with Bob Connelly (donation), activities for children and museum tour at the library. Lots of activities! Plan to come to Berkshire for the day and enjoy the festival!

BENEFIT FOR JOHN KEENER

A benefit is being organized for John Keener on Saturday September 10 at Rawley Park from 12 noon to 6 pm. Chicken barbecue and other food, raffles, Chinese auction, 50/50, bake sale, live music and much more are planned. John has been a longtime employee of the Town Highway Department and Fire Chief for many years. At this time John is in need of a kidney and is on the donor list. All monies donated will go for medical expenses. The benefit is sponsored by the Auxiliary, friends and family. For further information and to donate for the event, please call Andrea Baker at 539-7069 (home) or 760-8454 (cell).