
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR

This has been a busy summer around the town and the warm, dry weather has helped facilitate many projects for the town and our residents. At Rawley Park the mosaic on the south wall has been completed. This was an ambitious project that spanned many months and required a dedicated group of volunteers to see it through to completion. Many thanks to Cyndi Herrick for her hard work in writing the grant for this project and then following through the entire project. Thanks also to Annemarie Zwack of ZwackArt for the design and her enthusiasm throughout the project. A dedication is planned for Sunday October 16, 2016 at 2 p.m. to present the project to the community and to thank all that contributed to this project. Cyndi also wrote a grant through the Hooker Foundation for new playground equipment at Rawley Park and that new equipment has arrived and work dates will be announced soon for this project. The town has also entered into a contract to purchase the Parker Property on Town Barn Rd. This purchase gives the town ownership of the former Clark Seed Farm building and the adjoining properties, including the lot south of the Highway Barn and clear ownership of the roadway between the Highway Barn and Mill St. We hope to see you at the monthly Town Board meetings where use of this new property and other issues will be addressed. Charlie Davis

ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 8

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, from 6 am to 9 pm at the Richford Town Hall, Bowery Lane. In addition to the presidential elections, there will be a local measure on the ballot. This proposal will change the elected Highway Superintendent's term from two years to four years. A yes vote will approve the change to a four year term, while a no vote will keep the term at the current two years.

HIGHWAY REPORT

The highway crew has been busy with road up-grades. New drainage and crushed stone base has been installed and a gravel topping applied on Tubbs Hill Rd. A new gravel topping is being applied to Andersen Hill Rd. The up-grades are an effort to help prevent frost penetration into the road base and extend the life of the road surface. As fall weather approaches, work on these projects will wrap up and preparation for the winter will start.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

It has been another busy year for our Fire District and Department! To date, our volunteers have responded to over 40 calls ranging from brush fires, motor vehicle accidents to structure fires. Our volunteers give of themselves freely to support the safety of our town. We are always looking for new volunteers, and if you would like more information, please contact Barb Keener at 607-242-1754. We can provide a sense of community, camaraderie and top-notch training opportunities!

The District and Department have been working collaboratively on a new fire station design for the past several months, and have hired Root2 Architecture design to help with this process. We have spent countless hours determining the best design, functionality, cost effectiveness and long-term usage. We want to make sure that whatever is designed and built will serve its function for many generations from now. If you would like more information on this exciting project, please contact April Andersen at 607-222-9316. We would love if emergencies never came to our community, but when those emergencies come, we want to provide you with the best support in your time of need!

TOWN BOARD REPORT

Aug 9 - Special Town Board Meeting to discuss changing the term of the Town Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years. If approved, the change would be included on the November ballot for a vote by registered voters.

Aug 9 - Regular meeting. Supervisor and Town Clerk Reports were presented. Supervisor Davis stated he corrected an error due to a deposit into the wrong fund. Discussion about the Parker Property purchase; monthly payments of \$1537.95 will be made from the Capital Project fund. Justice Report included a check for \$5,591.

A resident suggested the Town pursue a grant to pay for building a salt shed. The Board will look into this possibility. Councilman Thayer worried that a salt shed might not resolve the bigger issue of salt storage and potential contamination.

Highway Superintendent Mike Hunt reported he has filed paperwork for \$141,800 for the first installment of CHIPS money this year. Also, the Highway Department installed drain tile on Tubbs Hill Road. The Board discussed a local law that would change the Highway Superintendent term for this elected position from 2 years to 4 years. Before taking effect the proposed local law must be approved by voters in the November election.

Discussion about EMS Service. Maine Ambulance Service (in the Town of Maine, NY) now holds Richford's Certificate of Need so they provide emergency and ambulance service to Town residents. Dog Control Officer reported that a dog was hit by a car and was treated. Owners paid the bill and took possession of the dog. Code Enforcement Officer reported 22 inspections, and \$200 collected in fees.

Discussion about LED Street Lights. The Board unanimously agreed for Richford to form a consortium with nearby municipalities of Owego, Newark Valley, the Village of Newark Valley and Berkshire to purchase LED Street Lights from Johnson Controls in Syracuse. Buying in bulk will greatly reduce the price. A minimum of 1,000 bulbs will be purchased in all, and the cost to each municipality will be based on the number of bulbs each receives.

Sept 13 - Highway Superintendent Hunt thought there may be sufficient funds remaining in the snow removal fund (due to low snowfall last year) to pay for the salt storage shed. Justice Report included a check for \$1,455. Councilwoman Holcomb will research the best LED lighting for the Town Hall. A lengthy discussion about Fire Department Test Holes. Supervisor Davis will ask the Fire Commissioners to request the Engineer attend next month's meeting.

Discussion about a 2017 Tax Cap: Supervisor Davis stated that in the past the Board has passed a tax cap override. The Board tries to keep the increase in taxes down. A public hearing and local law will need to be done prior to the budget being passed. The Board unanimously agreed to hold a Public Hearing on the local law to override 2017 tax cap, which will be held October 11, 2016 at 6:45 pm.

Town people in attendance expressed concern about the 2017 budget. At this time the Board has started the budgeting process but the final numbers are not known. This override process is done just in case there is an increase in the budget over the state tax cap.

Supervisor Davis will meet with the Town's insurance company to finalize the new policy for all Town buildings. This will include the newly purchased Parker Property (replacement value \$1.3 million).

The Board passed a resolution to establish Town Road Weight Limits that will apply to Michigan Hill Rd, Victory Hill Rd, Rockefeller Rd, Sears Rd, Payne Marsh Rd, Hubby Rd, Tubbs Hill Rd, Hog Hollow Rd, Andersen Hill Rd, Brummage Rd, Davis Rd, and Creamery Rd. On these roads, all vehicles must have a gross weight (vehicle plus load) of less than ten (10) tons. Emergency vehicles, routes established as temporary emergency routes and local deliveries and pick-ups are exempt.

AUXILIARY NEWS

We want to say thank you to everyone that helped put John Keener's benefit together. It was a huge success and a good time for all.

Plan to attend Snacks with Santa at the Town Hall from 1 to 3 pm on December 17. This fun event is open to all Richford children, and will feature snacks, crafts, and even a photo with Santa. Also, look for us in seasonal costumes four times a year (Santa, Easter bunny, potato head, and chicken) when we will stand at the intersection of Hwys 38 and 79 and collect donations to fund the various Auxiliary projects. Want to learn more about the Auxiliary? Contact Andrea Baker at 607-539-7069. Membership is open to all Richford residents.

DEPRESSED? SUICIDAL? WALK-IN HELP

The Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene offers crisis help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you want to speak to someone face-to-face, walk-in and ask to speak to a counselor, Monday thru Friday 9 am - 5 pm. You can also make an appointment, or work with a counselor by phone at 607-687-4000. For after hours, weekends and holidays, call 607-687-1010, and ask to speak to the on-call crisis worker. No one is refused services due to inability to pay - getting help is the goal.

The Department is located at 1062 State Route 38, Owego, and offers a continuum of counseling services and support for individuals of all ages and families coping with emotional problems, mental illness, marital issues, depression, alcoholism and substance abuse.

EXERCISE CLASS

A fall exercise class, "Get a Grip 2016", sponsored by Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN), is held Tuesday mornings from now through November 29 from 10 to 11:30 am in the Richford Town Hall. The class will not meet on 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. Come and join the fun - all residents are welcome. Registration is just \$10 for the series, and you can start anytime during the session.

NTNN NEWS

Last month the Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN) received a \$5,000 grant from the Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation. This funding is key to NTNN's ability to serve the residents of Richford, Berkshire and Newark Valley. NTNN provides rides for adults to medical appointments, grocery store, pharmacy and to stores for general shopping in our area.

NTNN also has fall and spring older adult exercise classes to help them stay fit. Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation funding helps NTNN continue to serve our communities. Thanks Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation. If you need transportation help, would like to know about the exercise classes or would like to be a volunteer driver or board member call: [607-657-2823](tel:607-657-2823).

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

The Helping Hands Food Pantry in Berkshire coordinates holiday baskets for residents of Richford, Berkshire and Speedsville. Make your request for holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas by calling Joan at 657-2501 or Emily at 657-8158 by the deadline, November 12 for the Thanksgiving box, and December 10 for the Christmas box. Sign up for both baskets with a single call. You can also sign up in person during regular pantry hours (see below). Each family should sign up for themselves. Pickup days are on Saturday, November 19 for Thanksgiving baskets and December 17 for Christmas (boxes are packed the night prior to distribution). Pickup times will be assigned at time of signup. If you need to change your pick-up time please call Emily. If someone else is picking up the holiday box for you, please provide written permission.

Volunteers for packing or distributing boxes are always welcome. Please call Emily or Joan or leave your name and phone number at the pantry during regular hours. A monetary donation to help defray the costs of providing these boxes is always appreciated. Regular pantry hours are: Mondays, 6:30 to 7:30 pm and Thursdays, 2 to 4 pm. Questions? Call Joan at 657-2501 or Emily at 657-8158

GRADED SCHOOL NEWS

At its September meeting the Richford Historical Society met with representatives from the Cornell University Design Connect team about the team's plans for their work on the Graded School. The Historical Society's survey and open meeting comments will help inform that work. There is an open meeting on Thursday Oct 20 at 7 PM in the Graded School. The Design Connect team will present a draft concept design for the building. All are invited. There will be a second meeting on the final draft on Monday Nov 28. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7 PM in the Town Hall.

There is new primer paint on the front of the school. Thanks to Gregg Kulina, Joe Hutchings, Paul O'Haron, and Gary Tauber, who provided the scaffolding and labor, and to Jacob Frost, Martin Wilcox, Maureen Chapman, Tammy Sherwood and Bill Sherwood for labor in removing the old paint and applying the primer. Thanks to those who helped with cost of the paint. When the weather turns warm again the rest will be primed and finish paint applied. The final colors match the original colors.

HIGHLAND CEMETERY CARE

The Richford Highland Cemetery Association works hard to keep the cemetery beautiful and respectable. You can help too-Please follow these guidelines when placing flowers or other items at the graves (the complete set of guidelines is posted in the cemetery).

* Use only metal, clay or plastic containers set at ground level for cut or artificial flowers. Please DO NOT use glass or wire as these will damage the mowers (Glass containers and wire will be removed to protect the mowing equipment).

* Also, please remove all containers for flowers by Veteran's Day. This gives us a head start for the following spring. Any left after that day may be disposed of by the Sexton without owner notification.

RAWLEY PARK NEWS

The Rawley Park mosaic is complete! Local community members and artist Annemarie Zwack of zwackart have spent hundreds of hours over the summer creating the artwork on the side of the Rawley Park pavilion. The mosaic was funded by a grant from the Arts Council of the Southern Finger Lakes and is made up of ceramic tiles, mirrors, small stones and handprints from over 60 community members. Please come to **Rawley Park on Sunday, October 16, at 2:00pm** for a celebration of this amazing piece of art, built by and for the Richford community!

Stayed tuned for other great happenings at the park. The Friends of Rawley Park have been awarded grants from organizations such as the Lowe's Community Foundation, the Mildred Faulkner Truman Foundation, and the Floyd Hooker Foundation. These grants will allow continued improvements to the pavilion and park grounds. *The next big thing?* Stayed tuned for additional playground equipment for our youngest Richford community members!

We currently have paint available for the roof and walls of the pavilion, but we need help getting the work done. Call Joe Kral at 585-322-3232 if you are interested in helping.

Want to join our committee? Please email Friendsofrawleypark@richfordny.com. We will be happy to have anyone join our team of volunteers!

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 Superintendent:	Mike Hunt	657-2770
Dog Control Officer:	Ronald Raab	426-4567
Town Hall and Park Scheduling:	Barb Keener	242-1754

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Calendar of Events

- Oct 6 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
- Oct 11 Public hearing to override the Tax Cap, Town Hall, 6:45pm
- Oct 13 Deadline to sign up for Christmas gifts for Tioga County youth. Call 687-3021 and ask for Cathy.
- Oct 15 Statewide voter registration day, 2-9 pm, Board of Elections Office 1062 Hwy 38, Owego. 607-687-8261
- Oct 16 Dedication of Rawley Park Mural, 2 pm.
- Oct 18 10 am. Story Hour at Berkshire Free Library, call 657-4418
- Oct 18 Public hearing Fire Dept 2017 Budget, 7 pm, Fire Station.
- Oct 20 Open House at Graded School, review design plans. 7pm.
- Oct 28 Trunk or Treat, Rawley Park, 6-7:30 pm. All welcome.

- Nov 4 Mobile food pantry truck, see Oct 6
- Nov 8 Election Day, 6 am to 9 pm, Town Hall, Bowery Lane
- Nov 9 Public hearing on 2017 town budget, 6:45 pm, Town Hall.
- Nov 12 Last day to sign up for Thanksgiving food baskets, helping Hands Food Pantry, call 657-2501 or 657-8158
- Nov 19 Pickup Thanksgiving Holiday baskets
- Nov 28 Historical Society meeting, Town Hall, 7pm.
- Dec 1 Mobile Food Pantry Truck, see Oct 6
- Dec 17 Pickup Christmas Holiday Baskets
2017
- Jan 5 Mobile Food Pantry Truck
- Jan 7 Soup and Salad, 4 to 6:30 p.m., Richford Congregational Church

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

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HOLIDAY GIFTS

The Tioga County Rural Ministry provides gifts for all Tioga County children (infants to eighteen years of age) from low to moderate income families. To register for gifts, call the Ministry at 687-3021 by the October 13 deadline, and ask for Cathy.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Everyone is invited to Trunk-or-Treat at Richford's Rawley Park on Friday October 28th from 6:00 to 7:30PM. Dress up the kids, yourselves and your cars. Bring candy to hand out and join in the fun as we celebrate Halloween and the end of a great season at the park! Music, contests and prizes. Don't usually see many trick-or-treaters at home? Bring your sweets down to the park, dress up your car and yourself and join in the fun (No kiddos required). Watch for more details at www.facebook.com/friendsofrawleypark or call Joe Kral at (585)-322-3232.