
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Volume 17, Issue 3

www.richfordny.com

July -September 2017

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The tire recycling and heavy trash programs held this spring were both very successful. Nearly 1000 tires were permanently removed from our town and sent to a recycling facility. We extend a huge thanks to Weitsman Recycling for helping fund this program and Tioga County Recycling for their help. We hope that Tioga County Recycling can find community and business support to continue this program in the future. We have not received the final numbers for the heavy trash collection, but we filled 2+ 30 yard containers and collected over a ton of scrap metal during the 2 days of collection. I want to thank William Stell, Robert Keener and Roger Howland for the assistance that they provided during those collection days. We also want to remind residents that we continue to provide a Weitsman scrap metal container at the town barn for any heavy scrap metals that they want to dispose of. Please, this is only for scrap that consists mostly of metal. If you have any questions as to what can be disposed of in this container, ask Doug at the garbage truck or contact Michael Hunt at 657-2770. The town has completed all of the overdue Annual Update Documents (AUDs) required by the state. There was no penalty for failing to file these reports, but we were required to do all of the past reports in order to meet the requirements of this annual reporting program. A HUGE THANKS to Velvet Lyke for all of the work she put into getting the AUDs filed. I will end by saying if you have any questions or wish to review current or past AUDs, or any of the Town's finance reports, please contact the town office at 657-8090 and we can make them available for you to review. I hope you take time to enjoy the coming summer and I will see you around town, Charlie Davis

TOWN BOARD NEWS

April 11 - Highway Superintendent Hunt reported he filed paperwork with FEMA for reimbursement of monies spent dealing with Blizzard Stella. The Department re-opened the Harrington Pit with MSHA, and is getting trucks ready for inspection. Justice Report included a check for \$1,255. Code Enforcement Report indicated 3 new building permits issued.

Planning Board asked the Town Board to establish a definitive official list of Town Roads according to use: year round, seasonal and abandoned roads (if any). The list needs sufficient detail to settle questions such as does a particular parcel of property have access to a town road and is that road year round use or seasonal. Also identify seasonal use roads where the cost to make them into year round use may make the upgrade economically unworkable. Considerable discussion followed. Attorney Canizio will look into the laws regarding developing on a seasonal road.

Friends of Rawley Park (FORP) asked the Board to plan for replacement of the metal roof at the park pavilion within the next couple years. FORP has procured paint for both the steel roof and the remainder of the pavilion, but painting and patching this summer will only be a temporary fix. There are several locations where the metal has been punctured by kids throwing stones onto the roof.

A local resident reported that he drove himself to the hospital for emergency surgery rather than wait for EMS given the long delays for EMS to get to Richford. Continued discussion about EMS service. The Certificate of Need has to be given to an ambulance service per Attorney Canizio, who will contact the Association of City and Towns to see if they can assist us with the EMS issue.

Preparations were made for Tire Day and Clean Up day. Supervisor Davis spoke to George Haus, the Engineer working with the Fire Department, and he is willing to do the assessment for renovation of the Parker Building ("Warehouse"). The Board agreed to ask Mr. Haus for an estimate to conduct the assessment. Carol Mott and Bill Ferris volunteered to be the residents on the warehouse committee.

Discussion about Aurora Street and the road closed sign, placed in response to the high speed people are driving on the road as a short cut and the lack of patrols available to watch the street. Supervisor Davis indicated that the town is working on alternatives but NYS has to be involved. Two residents from Aurora Street reported a drastic decline in cars and the children are safer. Suggestions included caution signs, speed bumps or loops and cross walks at the end of the road for Aurora Street and Bowery Lane. Superintendent Hunt suggested connecting Aurora and Bowery as a loop so it would take away the short cut. The Board supported this approach, and Supervisor Davis and Superintendent Hunt will talk to the State about this option.

May 9 - Discussion about the Council of Government Meeting and the Governor's plan to consolidate services. Highway Superintendent reported work on patching dirt roads, truck inspections, crushing stones and cleaning roads. Justice Report included a check for \$1,880. Judge Anderson has been assigned, by the Court in Binghamton, as a Special Justice for Berkshire until they elect or appoint one. Code Enforcement report indicated 6 building permits issued, and numerous inspections of work in progress.

Planning Board Chair John Schwartz reported meeting with Steven Winkley, Hydrogeologist & Source Water Protection Specialist, New York Rural Water Association. Mr. Winkley will develop a source water protection plan for the Town. Mr. Winkley's services were requested by the Town Board and are

a response to Goal 2.1 of the Town of Richford Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Winkley described the process, and a copy of his PowerPoint presentation was sent to Town Board members. Joe Kral reported that most of the Rawley Park playground equipment is put together, and the final design is being worked on.

The Neighborhood watch program has deterred different crimes in town such as copper thieves and making of a meth lab in an abandoned home. A local resident spoke about many close calls between pedestrians and motor vehicles on Route 38. She is trying to find grants to get solar-powered electronic speed signs (estimated at \$3500/unit). Councilwoman Herrick indicated she would look into the grant but did not promise to write the grant.

Continuing discussion about EMS service: response time is very long, the cost is way too expensive and it would be a hardship to the town to pay the yearly amount. Attorney Canizio is trying to get NYS financial assistance.

Doris Caskey presented her Business Plan for the Richford Farmer's Market. She would like to do the market on Saturday Mornings from 10 am to 1 pm on Town Barn Road due to the location of the Garbage Truck and the local traffic. It would run June 9 until September 9, excluding the Blueberry Festival. The farmer's market was strongly supported by the Town-wide survey and is in the Town Comprehensive Plan. Doris has been in touch with Cooperative Extension and Chambers of Commerce to get assistance. The board approved proceeding with the Farmers market.

Discussion about the Mega (Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance) Proposal. Municipalities can choose a fixed rate or a variable rate, and can piggy back off another municipality so all receive a lower rate. NYSEG would be responsible for delivery, power outages and maintenance. MEGA would get a competitive bid to supply the energy. This is a multi-step process, and while the Town can make a decision without involving residents, it will be important for residents to learn about the program and provide input to the Town.

The Warehouse Committee reported that a structural review of the building showed only minor issues although it will be somewhat costly to construct the divider between Newts Garage and the rest of the building. Councilman Holcomb reported her meeting with County Planner Elaine Jardine about Affordable Housing.

June 13 - Councilman Holcomb and Elaine Jardine had another meeting regarding affordable housing. An email was sent to the Town Board Members related to properties Ms. Jardine thought might be an option. There will be a follow-up meeting to check out additional locations.

Highway Superintendent Hunt reported grading and re-working dirt roads and preparing to oil and stone roads. Justice Report included a check for \$2,305. Bill Stell reported that installation of the new playground equipment is 90% complete. Code Enforcement Report showed 7 building

permits issued last month. Continuing EMS discussion. Attorney Canizio recommended that the Town Board negotiate with Town of Maine for mileage fees.

Planning Board is updating the 2003 Subdivision Law. Councilman Holcomb expressed her opinion that the list that she and another board member came up with should be the only thing updated in the law. If the law is completely rewritten she will not sign it

Supervisor Davis received a call from Fred Akshar to help fund the walking path at Rawley Park. The Town needs to come up with a proposal and use an outside company to perform the work. The State requires a Bond for the project first and then they will repay it for us. Supervisor Davis asked the Board to contact the architect to design a plan to renovate the warehouse as the new Town Offices. Elaine Jardine indicated that the Warehouse is included in the flood plain and this may cause issues with funding. The Board passed a resolution asking the NYSDOT to conduct a traffic study regarding speed zones entering the hamlet of Richford with a main focus on the south entrance into the hamlet, and the intersections of Aurora St and Bowery lane entering State Rt. 79.

PROTECTING OUR WATER

Steven Winkley, Hydrogeologist & Source Water Protection Specialist, New York Rural Water Association, is working with both Richford and Berkshire to develop a plan to preserve and protect clean water. Since 2000, well drillers are required to file reports about well depth, bed rock depth and yield (gallons of water per minute) with the State of New York on completed wells. Based on that information Mr. Winkley was able to plot the location of 55 Town of Richford wells drilled in bedrock and 5 in the sand and gravel in the East and West Branch of Owego Creek valleys. That information will be helpful in outlining the sand and gravel aquifers in both towns and finding ways to protect the water sources. There was discussion of how to fill in the pre-2000 data, likely involving a Town-wide survey. Three members of the Town of Richford Planning Board and two members of the Town of Berkshire Planning Board were in attendance. Meetings are open to the public; the next one is August 3 at 7 pm in the Richford Town Hall. A pdf of the presentation at the first and second meeting will be posted on the Town of Richford website as well as the data to date on the water wells in Richford and Berkshire.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Richford Neighborhood Watch will hold a public meeting on Thursday July 26 at 7pm at the Town Hall on Bowery Lane. Representatives from the Tioga County Sheriff's department will be on hand to discuss the rash of door-to-door salesmen that have been sweeping the county, as well as discuss ways to be safe in your home and neighborhood. ALL Richford residents are urged to come to this informative meeting. Let's work together to keep ourselves and each other safe! Any questions, please contact Mindi at [\(607\)259-3814](tel:607259-3814).

25TH POTATO FESTIVAL

The 25th Richford Potato Festival will be held September 16, 2017, 9 am – 3 pm. Activities and venues include:

Graded School: 9 am Introduction, Pass the Potato, Hot Potato; Vendors and Flea Market all day; 10 am Cornell Raptors bird exhibit; 11 am Dr. Walter Dejong of Cornell talks about potatoes with samples; 11 am- pm Mike the Magician amazes all; 11:30 am Mashed Potato Eating Contest for groups of 8 and under, 9-12 youth, 13-adult for \$1 entry fee; 11:30-1:30 Cayuga Twister makes free balloon animals; 1 pm Potato Princess and Tater Tot Pageant for youth 3-11 yrs, sponsored by *Specialty Trophy & Award*; 2 pm Potato Salad contest, \$1 entry fee, 2 pm Potato Sack Race, 3-Legged Race, Potato Relay. Plus, all day long come ring Lula's Old School Bell for \$1, little kid games, 50/50 and basket raffles, coloring contests, Berkshire Library book sale, historical displays, Build-a-craft sponsored by *Ithaca Home Depot*, and the favorite Taters 'n Cream or Sweet Potato Ice Cream and cold drinks for sale!

Richford Congregational Church: Various potato dishes and other food including pie by the slice and drinks; live music from 11 am to 3 pm; quilt display; and Vendors outside.

Northern Tioga Family Health Center: Health Fair 10 am to 2 pm, including blood pressure checks, other health information.

Fire Department/Ladies Auxiliary: 11 am Chicken Bar-B-Que; 12 pm Bathtub Race; Dunking booth all day; and fresh homemade Donuts for sale at the Community Hall.

DOOR TO DOOR SALESMEN SCAM!!!!

We have received complaints regarding door to door salesmen in the area. The town currently has no permitting or licensing requirements for such activity and if we did, it would be difficult to enforce as these salesmen tend to hit a small area and move on quickly. Our best advice is to be blunt and ask them to leave your property: If they persist, call the Tioga County Sheriff's office at 687-1010 and they will escort them from your property. For more information on protecting yourself from door to door sales, go to http://richfordny.com/2017/crime_prevention_tips_6_17.pdf to view a press release provided by the Sheriff Department. Remember, they can only sell you something if you let them.

KIDDIES DAY

The Community Auxiliary will host Kiddies Day on July 22nd at Rawley Park. Registration will begin at 9 am with games starting at 10 am. Besides fun, games and great prizes, there will be the annual grand prizes of bikes supplied by the Auxiliary (available for Richford children only). For information contact Christina Craft at 607-844- 8969

RICHFORD RAMBLINGS

This summer Richford will see the start of a Farmer's Market on Town Barn Road. A variety of vendors will set up from 10am to 1pm each Saturday morning except on July 22nd. The dates will run from June 24th through September 9th. Many vendors will be attending! At the market you will find farm fresh produce, maple syrup, eggs, cut flowers, tufa pots, artwork and hand stitched items from local crafters, many direct sales products. Some vendors will be there weekly and some will be there occasionally. Find us on Facebook as Richford Farmers Market for a weekly update on the week's offerings. If you interested in becoming a vendor you can contact us through our Facebook page, call 607-280-1262 or Richfordmarket@gmail.com.

Did you know summer time is a great time for music in the Richford community? The Auxiliary has its 2nd annual Jamboree on August 27th from noon to 6pm. This is a great time for community members to come with their instruments and jam with many local bands! Admission will be \$2 for everyone 12 and over. While you are listening to music you can buy a 50/50 raffle ticket, some tasty food and purchase some wonderful baked goods. It's a wonderful way to connect with fellow community members while enjoying a variety of music. The 14th annual Busy Bird Blue Grass Festival will be held July 6th-9th in Berkshire. This is a weekend full of music with over 10 different groups performing. The Newark Valley Varsity Wrestling club will open a late night kitchen to sell hamburgers and hotdogs. Camping on sight is available so you won't miss a performance. You can find the event at 231 Ketchumville Rd, Berkshire, NY 13736. Find additional details on the Busy Bird Blue Grass Festival Facebook page or on their website busybirdbluegrass.com. If you enjoy gospel music than the Lindsey Family is a must see at the Richford Congregational Church! Alan and Tammy Lindsey travel around the country with many of their 11 children performing gospel music. The children range in age from 8 to 26, each plays an instrument and they all harmonize beautifully. Join the community and the Lindsey family Monday, August 7th at 7pm for music, food and fellowship. This event is a MUST on your summer calendar!

RICHFORD SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

The Summer Youth Program starts July 10th and runs through Friday August 18th, from noon – 3pm. Located in the Town Hall, the Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The 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 4 to 18, from 1-3 pm. For more information call Director Becky Randall at 657-8254.

RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Richford, NY 13835
P.O. Box 126
Richford Newsletter

Fold 2

Calendar of Events

- * Farmer's Market 10am-1pm, Saturdays (except July 22), Town Barn Rd.
- * No mobile food pantry in July

- July 1 Chicken BBQ Upstate Off Racing Team fundraiser 11am til gone, intersection of Rt 79 and Rt 38.
- July 6-9 Busy Bird Blue Grass Festival, 231 Ketchumville Rd, Berkshire
- July 13 10am-noon Berkshire Library Reading Program begins and is every Thursday through Aug 24
- July 14 Summer Youth program begins. M, W & F. Noon to 1 free lunch 18 mos to 18 years. 1pm-3pm activities for ages 4-18.
- July 15 9th Annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway of Valor Tribute Ride from Owego Free Academy to Hannibal, NY. Ride starts at 11am. Contact Harvey Baker at [\(607\) 898-3507](tel:6078983507), hbaker10@twcny.rr.com.
- July 22 Kiddie's Day hosted by Auxiliary. 9am registration, 10 am games begin.
- July 22 Richford Fire Department Chicken BBQ, 11am 'til gone. Chicken sold as a whole meal or 1/2 of a chicken.

- July 22 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 26 Neighborhood Watch Meeting. 7-8:30, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford
- July 27 Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- July 27 Rabies clinic, Spencer Fire Depart 6-8pm
- Aug 3 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
- Aug 3 Clean Water meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 pm.
- Aug 7 Lindsey Family gospel performance. Richford Congregational Church, 7 pm.
- Aug 18 Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed.
- Aug 19 Richford Fire Department Chicken BBQ, 11am 'til gone. Chicken sold as a whole meal or 1/2 of a chicken.
- Aug 23 Neighborhood Watch Meeting. 7-8:30, see July 26
- Sept 7 Mobile food pantry truck, see Aug 3
- Sept 16 Potato Festival, various areas in hamlet, 9 am – 3 pm
- Sept 22 Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- *** Story Hour, 10-11am every Tuesday for all pre-schoolers and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers, at the Berkshire Free Library. Call 657-4418 for details.

Fold 1

WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Hydrologist Steven Winkley is preparing a detailed plan to assess and protect the Town of Richford's water supplies. Keeping our drinking water clean is essential! Watch for a survey in the mail and on-line asking about your well water



quality and quantity. The best plan depends on having information about everyone's well (or spring) water.

BERKSHIRE BLUEBERRY & BOOK FESTIVAL

This annual event will be Saturday, July 22nd (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 BBQ chicken, berry bake sale, art show, live music, meet and greet local authors, vendors, raffle baskets (30+), classic car and truck show, and activities for children. The Red Brick Church in Berkshire will be sponsoring a blueberry bake off; visit the RedBrickChurch.org for details on how to participate. There's fun to be had for the whole family! Plan to come to Berkshire for the day and enjoy the festival!