
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Volume 17, Issue 5

www.richfordny.com

November - December 2017

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

It's that time of year again. This is your chance as a voter to shape the future of your town by voting. I hope that the field of candidates includes the people that you want to represent you for the term of that office. The Town Board is in the final stages of negotiating an ambulance service agreement contract with Maine EMS Services. This has been a long and difficult decision for the board, with many factors that needed to be balanced out. The biggest concerns were response time and cost to both taxpayers and individual residents that need the service. Our community, like many rural communities within the state, faces the same challenge in securing ambulance service for our residents. The Town Board is also currently working on a sidewalk ordinance; your input on this issue is important and a public hearing will be held in the near future that will provide residents the opportunity to address the need for this ordinance. During the coming months, work will be done at Rawley Park to improve service for all that use the park.

Hope to see you around town, Charlie Davis.

ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 7

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, from 6 am to 9 pm at the Richford Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane. In addition to local elections (see below) there will be three important state-wide proposals on the ballot. For the full text of each, go to www.elections.ny.gov/ProposedAmendments, and/or <https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/Elections/2017/proposals/2017CertificationofBallotProposals.pdf>.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you can't vote in person you can obtain an absentee ballot online at tiogacountyny.com/media/3084/absentee2016.pdf, or at the Board of Elections, County Office Building, 56 Main St., Owego open 9 am – 5 pm weekdays. In addition, the Board will stay open until 7 pm on October 24 and 26, and November 1 and 2, and will be open on Saturday Oct 28 and November 4 from 9 am to noon.

The last day to postmark an application for an Absentee Ballot is October 31st. In person Absentee Ballot applications may be completed at the Board of Elections office through November 6, 2017. Students away at college must apply annually for an Absentee Ballot. Those with permanent health concerns may apply to be put on a Permanent Absentee Ballot Application List.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

The Planning Board asked all Richford candidates to describe their qualifications and goals. Their responses are printed below.

Supervisor: 2 year term: Charles E. Davis (R)

Town Board:
4 year term: Steven P. Kotula (R)
Kenneth W. Miller (R)
Vote for any two: William Stell (D)

Highway Superintendent: Michael F. Hunt (R)
4 year term: Joseph R. Gorsline (Back Road)
Harrison Marsh (Improve Roads)

D = Democrat R = Republican

CANDIDATE FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR

Name: Charles E. Davis

Occupation: Town Supervisor; Self Employed Contractor

Qualifications (experience, education and training): Before election as Town Supervisor in 2016, I served 8 years on the Town of Richford Planning Board including 4 years as Planning Board chair. Over the past 10 years I have attended multiple training seminars including planning, basic board procedures, and conduct and risk management. I am a graduate of Newark Valley Central School, class of 1972, senior year as FFA President. Trained in use of Excel and MS Word, both of which are essential for this office. I have worked for 40+ years as a self employed contractor, and 22 years as American Motorcyclist Association Congress Delegate for western New York.

Goals: To continue to be available to the residents of our community. Right from the start, I have been in the Town Hall every Wednesday morning and I try to be at as many Town events as possible so you can communicate information to me. Continue development of easy to comprehend reports that will help both the board and residents understand the day to day business of the town. Continue to implement both short and long term cost saving programs and find funding sources for the many mandated programs that are required. Work with County officials to develop shared services both with the County and other local town governments.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN BOARD

Name: Steven Kotula

Occupation: Special Ed. teacher – Union Endicott CSD

Qualifications (experience, education and training):

- 1) Past member Richford Planning Board
- 2) Town Supervisor 2006 – 2008
- 3) Current member Board of Assessment Review
- 4) President Richford Highland Cemetery Association

Goals:

- 1) Maximize Town resources for all town residents
- 2) Spend tax payer dollars wisely
- 3) Promote open and honest local government

Name: William E. Stell, Sr

Occupation: Retired union carpenter

Qualifications (experience, education and training): I have served for the past five years on the Town Planning Board. I have lived in Richford and attended almost every Town Board meeting for the last five years. I have been active with the Rawley Park renovation, helping install the new playground equipment and planning for additional equipment. Before moving to Richford I served 15 years on the Paulsboro NJ Park Commission, and the Environmental Quality Commission, and worked on residential and commercial building projects, including restoration of government historic buildings.

Goals: I am seeking to work with the Board on bridging the communication with our Town organizations and residents and work on getting grant money to help with different issues in the Hamlet and the rest of the Town, including water quality and home renovation.

Name: Ken Miller

Mr. Miller did not prepare a statement.

CANDIDATES FOR HWY SUPERINTENDENT

Name: Michael Hunt

Occupation: Highway Superintendent

Qualifications (experience, education and training): For the past 2 1/2 years, I have been Richford's Highway Superintendent. The men and I have rebuilt 3 1/2 miles of high-quality road, responded to storms and flooding, maximized CHIPS reimbursements, shared services with other towns, maintained quarterly and annual reports and training requirements for federal and state agencies, worked within the budget to replace and repair our equipment as needed, and accessed FEMA money to repair storm and flooding damage. I also worked as an employee and Highway Superintendent in Berkshire for seven years. I attended Highway Superintendent School at Cornell for three years. For the last 21 years I have

run my own Excavation and Construction Business, so I know how to keep costs low and quality high. I work well with the Town Board and look forward to continuing to move in a positive direction.

Goals:

- * Maintain high-quality work within the budget, avoid raising taxes
 - * Continue to maximize CHIPS funding and FEMA reimbursement
 - * Rebuild 5 miles of high-quality road every four years
 - * Continue to maintain and replace equipment when needed
 - * Continue to follow regulations and reporting requirements
 - * Use my skills and knowledge to serve our community
- Thank you for your consideration.

Name: Joseph R. Gorsline

Mr. Gorsline did not prepare a statement.

Name: Harrison Marsh

Occupation: "Highway Superintendent in Training"

Qualifications (experience, education and training): I was driving tractors and farm machinery early. I learned the importance of maintaining equipment. I obtained my CDL driving for Ready Mix, sold Insurance, then worked in transportation for over twenty-five years supervising 25 to 30. I am working for The Town of Lapeer learning everything I need to be Highway Superintendent from Jamie Bush, Jack Holcomb & Randy Ensign all Hwy. Superintendents. Before this I built two roads with Pendell Construction.

This should be a full time working position, not just before elections. The town needs a plan and full inventory of equipment/tools so the town knows what we need, also an inventory of all roads. A record keeping of what has been done and what needs doing. I will not close roads without prior notice I will not stop farmers from using our roads. I will use crushed gravel not bank run, does better and is cheaper in the long run. I will continue working with surrounding highway departments making Richford's roads what they should be. I will do a report for each town board meeting and not rely on others to report this for me. I will be available by phone and will return calls.

NTNN

Northern Tioga Neighbors Network received a \$5,000 grant from the Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation to cover volunteer mileage reimbursement, and volunteer and Board of Director insurance. This is a great benefit to the community and helps ensure that NTNN can continue providing services to seniors living in Richford, Berkshire and Newark Valley. From January through July 2017 volunteers drove 6,000 miles taking seniors to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy and more. In 2016 they drove 9,200 miles! More volunteers from the three communities are welcome. Contact NTNN at 657-2823 and leave a message for more information.

PROTECTING OUR WATER

Steven Winkley, Hydrogeologist & Source Water Protection Specialist, New York Rural Water Association, is working with Richford and Berkshire to develop a plan to preserve and protect our most valuable resource – our groundwater. Dr. Winkley has created a map of all wells drilled since 2000, but needs additional information about wells drilled before then in order to determine water quality and quantity for all residents both now and in the future.

He has prepared a confidential survey that is available on-line <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8RQMN8Q>. A paper copy of the survey is also available at the Town Hall, the Garbage Truck, and will be distributed on election day at the Town Hall. Plan to fill out this questionnaire while waiting to vote, or after you have voted. 10 simple questions will ask about the type of well, the depth of the well, and any concerns about water quality or quantity. Using this information combined with field work conducted here in Richford, Dr. Winkley will prepare a map of groundwater resources and recommendations for protecting our water.

RICHFORD'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

A local cadet scout, Hannah Holt, took her love of reading to complete her silver award project. She built two small libraries to set up around town, one outside the Country Folks Diner near the mailboxes & the other at the ice cream store. There are a variety of books in the libraries, including children's books, young adult & adult books, in addition to cookbooks. Hannah needed a total of 50 hours of work on this project to be awarded the silver award, the highest honor Girl Scout Cadettes can attain.

MORE GIRL SCOUT NEWS

The Richford Girl Scout Cadettes have been working on two other silver award projects over the past year. To earn their silver award, a scout needs to research, lead and put in at least 50 hours on a sustainable service project. Lacey Cunningham, Darrah Wright and Alisha Westfall spent the winter knitting hats (and enlisting family members to do the same) for the victims of domestic violence that arrive at A New Hope Center shelter in Owego. How many hats? 143 of them to be exact! Piper Davis, Angelina Slougher and Eva Denis just completed their project for the shelter also. They rebuilt the shelter's playground and built, painted and decorated a new picnic table for the families. They also conducted a very successful bedding and towel drive for those that arrive at the shelter with nothing. They filled a van with 45 towel sets and over 50 bedding sets! Great job girls!

EXERCISE CLASS

This fall's NTNN stronger seniors exercise class has 21 participants. This is larger than the typical fall and spring enrollment of about 16 to 18. We meet Tuesday morning at 10 AM in the Richford town hall. All seniors are invited to participate. There is a modest fee, just \$10 for 9 weekly classes. Any questions? Call Barbara Schwartz at 657-8512.

NEW POST OFFICE ???

Yes, it's true – we may finally get our post office back! But first, the United States Postal Service needs a suitable location to build a freestanding post office or remodel an existing space. The Post Office is looking for either a vacant lot of approximately 20,000 square feet, or an existing building with approximately 700 square feet and additional space for parking and maneuvering of 8 vehicles, and truck loading and unloading.

If you have a lot or building that meets these criteria and are interested in submitting a location proposal to the USPS, you can contact Kurtis Bullard, Real Estate Specialist Facilities Service Office, United States Postal Service, by mail at P.O. Box 27497 Greensboro, NC 27498-1103, by phone [\(336\)-430-4937](tel:336-430-4937) or email Michael.k.bullard@usps.gov.

TIOGA TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Andy Fagan, Cornell Cooperative Extension Chemung and Tioga Counties, recently reported on a Tioga County study of transportation options.

The only public transportation in Tioga County is C-Tran (607-734-5211), which runs buses from Elmira to Owego and back along Rt. 17, and to the Health and Human Services, Department of Human Services, and Achieve, all just north of Owego on Rt. 38. Taxi services are available throughout the County.

Three volunteer groups serve limited areas of the county. Community Care Network of Nichols (607-731-3100) serves the Towns of Nichols, Tioga and Barton and the Southside of Owego. Senior Information and Referral Service (888-589-7833) serves the town of Spencer and Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (607-657-2823) serves the towns of Richford, Berkshire and Newark Valley. All 3 services provide free rides to people who have no other means of getting to medical appointments, pharmacies, grocery stores, big box chain stores, etc.

There are other transportation services that serve particular Tioga County clients: ACHIEVE (607-797-8160 X 321) transports people with disabilities; A New Hope Center (607-687-6866) provides limited transportation for crime victims related to advocacy needs; Tioga Opportunities, INC (607-687-4120 X 315) provides transportation to older adults (65+) to help get to doctors; Tioga County Rural Ministries (607-687-3021) provides limited financial aid in emergency situations; and Encoreplus Breast & Cervical Health Program (607-772-0222) provides transportation for mammogram and cervical screenings for women enrolled in the program.

Need help determining which, if any, transportation service is available for you? Getthere, a partner of Mobility Management of South Central NY/Rural Health Network of South Central New York, (855-373-4040) helps people resolve their transportation needs.

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Richford Newsletter

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Calendar of Events

- * Story Hour, 10 -11am, and 1-2 pm, every Tuesday for all pre-schoolers and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers, at the Berkshire Free Library. Call 657-4418 for details.
- * Youth group for boys and girls every Wednesday 6-7:30 pm at the Richford Congregational Church.
- Oct 24 Craft Night 6:30-8pm. Berkshire Library. Bring your current project and enjoy some crafter camaraderie!
- Oct 25 Neighborhood Watch Meeting. 7-8:30, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford
- Oct 28 Trunk or Treat Rawley Park 4- 6pm.
- Nov 2 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
- Nov 7 Election Day. 6 am – 9 pm Richford Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford

- Nov 14 Family Soap Making presented by Berkshire Library. 6:30 pm in the Community Center (11 Jewett Hill Road). Pre-registration is required, fee to be determined.
- Nov 22 Neighborhood Watch Meeting. 7-8:30, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford
- Nov 28 Craft Night 6:30 - 8pm. Berkshire Library. Bring your current project and enjoy some crafter camaraderie!
- Nov 30 Rabies Clinic 6-8pm Campville Fire Station #3, 1307-1315 Rte. 38, Owego. Call 687-8565 with questions.
- Dec 5 Family Candle Making presented by Berkshire Library. 6:30 in the Community Center. Pre-registration is required, fee to be determined.
- Dec 7 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
- Dec 19 Craft Night 6:30-8pm. Berkshire Library. Bring your current project and enjoy some crafter camaraderie!

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

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TRUNK-OR-TREAT OCT 28

Everyone is invited to Trunk-or-Treat at Richford's Rawley Park on Saturday, October 28th from 4:00 to 6:00pm. 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, costume contest at 6pm, goodies and lots of fun! Don't usually see many trick-or-treaters at home? Bring the sweets down to the park and join in the fun (No kiddos required). Watch for more details at www.facebook.com/friendsofrawleypark.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS AND GIFTS

Make your request for holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas by calling Joan (657-2501) or Emily (657-8158) by November 3 for Thanksgiving baskets and December 1 for Christmas baskets. Sign up for both baskets with a single call. You can also sign up in person during regular pantry hours. Pick up days are Saturday, November 18 for Thanksgiving baskets and Saturday, December 16 for Christmas (boxes are packed the night prior to distribution). The Helping Hands Food Pantry in Berkshire coordinates these baskets for residents of Richford, Berkshire and Speedsville.