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# RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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September – October 2017

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## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Members of the Planning Board have prepared this special edition of the Richford Quarterly Newsletter to help inform our residents of the choices for the primary election to be held on September 12. I hope that you will take the time to read all of the candidate statements for those running in the primary election. Also note that a candidate forum will be held at 6:30 pm on September 6, 2017 where candidates for the September primary and November general election will be on hand to provide personal statements and answer questions from those in attendance. Aside from the upcoming elections, you will also find articles of interest to all of our residents regarding other projects and scheduled events. See you around town, Charlie Davis.

## PRIMARY ELECTION DAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Registered Republican residents of the Town of Richford will have the opportunity to vote for candidates on September 12, 2017. The polls will be open from noon to 9 pm at the Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford, NY. The Planning Board asked all primary candidates to describe their qualifications and goals. Their responses are printed verbatim below.

**Town Board:** Roberta L. Holcomb  
4 year term: Steven P. Kotula  
Vote for any two: Kenneth W. Miller

**Highway Superintendent:** Timothy J. Ceurter  
4 year term: Joseph R. Gorsline  
Michael F. Hunt  
Harrison R. Marsh

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN BOARD

**Name:** Roberta L. Holcomb

**Occupation:** I, along with family members, own and operate Victory Hill Farms.

**Qualifications (experience, education and training):** I am retired from AT&T. During my 32 year career, I worked in numerous areas in Operations and Engineering including Satellite, Microwave radio, and fiber optics and also in New Technology Development at AT&T Labs(formerly known as Bell Labs) as a Project Manager, software tester, technical support and giving training to field technicians in software and new equipment installation and maintenance throughout the USA, its territories and internationally via teleconference. I served 6 years in the US Navy as a Radioman and previously ran my own

small business in PA for 12 years ( Morning Glories, a Bed and Breakfast). My experience in small government includes having served for 12 years on the Board of Directors of Hilltop Village Association, a private community in Beach Lake, PA . During my service to the Village, I held the office of Vice President and of President with the responsibility of maintenance and repair of the village roads and water (well) system for about 40 homes. I have served on the Richford Town board for one 4 year term. I attend the Calvary Baptist Church in Harford, NY.

**Goals:** None stated.

**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:** Ken Miller

**Occupation:** I am a crop and hay farmer, and also work at Lowe's in Ithaca as an assembler, hardware, and tools associate.

**Qualifications (experience, education and training):** I grew up on the family dairy farm, earned a BS degree at SUNY Cortland, and served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. I'm a 30 year resident of Richford, an American Legion and Farm Bureau member. I am seeking reelection as councilman.

**Goals:** I would like to see our community remain rural. One of the most difficult situations facing our town is the budget and the amount of tax we need to collect. One of the primary goals for our Town is a more responsive ambulance service at a reasonable price. I would like to have a committee set up to take on this matter. Another thing that should be taken care of is the building purchased by the town to possibly be remodeled into an office center for the Town. The committee on this seems presently stalled. Volunteers will be needed to assist on these committees. Speed bumps on several roads for safety and affordable senior housing are also important. The Town park has come a long way thanks to many community member. Thank You.

## CANDIDATES FOR HWY SUPERINTENDENT

**Name:** Timothy J. Ceurter, Sr.

**Occupation:** Shift Mechanic for Cornell University

**Qualifications (experience, education and training):** I have lived with my wife for the last 30 years in Richford. I graduated from N.V.H.S. in 1978, and entered the Army serving my Country for 5 years. In February 2018 I will have 30 years in at Cornell. I started In the Grounds department as a laborer, and worked my way to Lead man, supervising a group of 8 or more individuals. 7 years ago I was hired as a Shift Mechanic working a 12 hour shift responding to all emergency calls. I am one of 4 persons that keep the University up and running 24/7 365 days a year. Nights, weekends, and holidays. I have a C.D.L license, and have carried a Commercial Pesticide Applicators license. I am knowledgeable in vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, as well as road maintenance and snow Removal.

**Goals:** My primary goal is to work with the board, and the residents within the budget keeping the roads safe and maintained in every season. I want to see the taxpayers get the best value for our money. In my work dealing with the people at Cornell I have maintained open and honest communications. My door is always open, and my phone is always on!

**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

**Qualifications (experience, education and training):** Hello fellow residents. I've been a Richford resident all my life and take pride in my town. I've been an independent logger for the past 15 years and have operated all kinds of heavy equipment. In addition I've had plenty of experience with farm equipment and new construction. I've decided to run for town highway superintendent because I believe I can make a difference and help give the residents what they deserve. I work well with others and look forward to a challenge. I'm focused, dedicated, and willing to listen to others input and suggestions. Make the right choice! Vote Joe, Joe knows!

**Goals:** None stated.

**Name:** Harrison Marsh

**Occupation:**

**Qualifications (experience, education and training):** I have lived in Richford most of my life. I was brought up on a farm on Tubbs Hill Rd. and was driving a tractor and farm machinery at a early age. I learned the importance of maintaining equipment. I obtained my CDL driving for a Ready -mix concrete company. I sold Insurance and then worked in transportation for over 25 years. I have received certificates in communications. I supervised between 25 and 30 drivers. Right now I work for the town of Lapeer highway dept. , before that I helped Pendell Construction build two new roads in Whitney Point. I already have a good working relationship with all surrounding town highway departments and feel confident that they will work with me to make the roads in Richford what they should be. On a personal note I'm married, have 4 children and 12 grandchildren. My wife can't retire anytime soon so neither will I. As a tax payer I think this should be a full time working position and will treat it as such. I will make myself available by phone and will return all calls. I truly believe I am the best candidate for this position and will do the most for the tax payers.

**Goals:** None stated.

## 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 groundwater. Dr. Winkley will present his current research on Richford's groundwater quality and quantity, and the next steps to gather data for this project. Interested residents are invited to attend this informational meeting on September 14, at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Keeping our drinking water clean is essential!

## 25<sup>TH</sup> POTATO FESTIVAL

Don't miss this year's Potato Fest. For the 25<sup>th</sup> year, Richford will host the annual Potato Fest at the Graded School and other venues in downtown Richford on September 16, from 9 am – 3 pm. Come and enjoy food, education, history and of course, potatoes in every form – fried, mashed, pancakes, and the delicious Richford Potato Ice Cream.

Activities and venues include: Graded School: 9 am Introduction, Pass the Potato, Hot Potato; 10 am Cornell Raptors bird exhibit; 11 am Dr. Walter Dejong of Cornell talks about potatoes with samples; 11 am 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 foods 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.

## RICHFORD CONNECTED

The Town of Richford Planning Board mails a quarterly newsletter to all Town residents and landowners, and also has an email distribution list that allows subscribers to receive notices of special events and schedule changes. All emails are sent out as "Bcc:" to protect your privacy, and we never share or sell our email list. If you want to subscribe to this email list, or have an event that you want to send out via email, contact us at [newsletter@richfordny.com](mailto:newsletter@richfordny.com). It's an easy way to stay informed of your Town's events.

## DOG CONTROL

Long time Town of Richford Dog Control Officer Ronald Raab resigned his position as of August 4, 2017, due to personal health reasons. The Town Board thanks Ron for his many years of service to our town. Patrick Cartwright of Owego has been appointed by the Town Board to fill the position of Dog Control Officer for the remainder of 2017. The position of Dog Control Officer will be advertised and a permanent appointment will be made in January 2018. Officer Cartwright can be contacted at 607-259-3651.

## RAWLEY PARK NEWS

If you have been to Rawley Park this summer, you'll see that the new playground equipment has been installed. A big thank you to everyone who had a hand in the planning, applying for the funds and completion of this phase of the Rawley Park improvement project. An unexpected problem: Volunteers had just finished installing the equipment Thursday evening, and the park was flooded several feet deep the next evening! The park, pavilion, play ground area and equipment were covered in silt mud. After a few days of drying, the same volunteers rolled up their sleeves, rented a power washer and other equipment and spent a long afternoon cleaning up the park. A special thanks to Barb and Robert Keener, William Stell, Chuck and Mindy Moniz, and Charlie and Trace Davis for their help. Also Thanks Barb for retrieving the lost picnic table that escaped and was found about half a mile down stream.

Other improvements to the park are slated for completion this fall and next spring.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS & RAFFLE

The Richford Fire Department had another successful chicken BBQ on August 19. Want to have more? Come to the next BBQ at the Potato Festival, September 16.

Be sure to buy your tickets for the raffle: First prize is a Kayak with paddle and life vest; second prize is a 2-person floating tube, and third prize is 2 chicken dinners at the Fire Department BBQ of your choice in 2018. To buy tickets (just \$5 each) contact any of the local fire fighters or call Barb Keener at 607-242-1754. The drawing will be held Sept 16 at the Potato Fest.

The Fire Department is continuing to work on building a new Fire House. They also welcome new members. If you would like to learn more, attend one of the monthly meetings; the Department meets the last Thursday of every month at 6 pm at the Fire Hall.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TALK

Tioga County lacks an adequate transportation system, presenting a critical problem for older persons, as well as those seeking medical attention, prescriptions and various basic needs such as food shopping. Without private transportation, the only current options are a cobbled-together assortment of Chemung County Public Transportation System, the Department of Social Services, the Department of the Aging, the Rural Health Network and volunteer groups such as Northern Tioga - Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Andrew Fagan, Tioga and Chemung County Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, will discuss transportation services in the County on Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 pm, downstairs in the Berkshire Community Building on Jewett Hill Road. This information and discussion should be useful to individuals and/or their caretakers in need of such transportation.

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P.O. Box 126  
Richford, NY 13835

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## *Calendar of Events*

- \* Farmer's Market 10 am -1pm, Saturdays through Sept 9, Town Barn Rd.
- \* 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.
- Sept 5 Candidate Forum. 6:30, Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford (see article below)
- Sept 7 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
- Sept 12 Primary Election. 12-9 pm, Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford (see article page 1)
- Sept 13 Public meeting about the post office, 6:30 pm, Town Hall (see below).

- Sept 14 Clean Water meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall (see article inside)
  - Sept 16 Kayak raffle drawing, Richford Fire Department, (see article inside)
  - Sept 16 Potato Festival, various areas in hamlet, 9 am – 3 pm (see article inside)
  - Sept 22 Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
  - Sept 27 Neighborhood Watch Meeting. 7-8:30, Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford
  - Sept 28 Fire Department monthly meeting, 6 pm at the Firehouse.
  - Oct 5 Mobile Food Pantry, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. bring bags, boxes
  - Oct 25 Neighborhood Watch Meeting. 7-8:30, Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford
- Please check town website, [www.richfordny.com](http://www.richfordny.com), for additional programs and news occurring after the newsletter.

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## **CANDIDATE FORUM SEPT 5**

Come hear the candidates present their qualifications, opinions and plans for the future, on September 5 (Tuesday) at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. ALL candidates for Town Supervisor, Town Board, and Highway Superintendent will give a short (2-3 minutes) overview of why they should be elected. After each candidate has spoken the floor will be opened for questions from the audience. This is your chance to find out who you want in office. We hope you all will attend this forum.

## **POST OFFICE RETURNS ??**

The United States Postal Service has reached out to the Town of Richford regarding re-establishing postal service in the Town of Richford. A representative will be at a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. September 13, 2017 at the Town Hall to discuss with Town officials and residents a tentative decision to reestablish retail services, and identify a general location for the new post office. If you have any interest in a new Post Office and where it should be located, come and tell the USPS representative. We really want our post office back!