
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Volume 18, Issue 1

www.richfordny.com

January - March 2018

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Welcome to 2018. As I start my 2nd term as supervisor, I look forward to serving the residents of our town for the next 2 years. As I have done over the past two years, I will continue to stay on top of the town's financial health and ensure we get the best value for your tax dollars. With a lot of hard work by all of the Town Board members, the 2018 budget was held within the state tax cap. Searching for the best value for all of our expenditures is helping us to reduce our dependence on an unencumbered balance each year to balance the budget and, in the end, work to build a healthy reserve to help absorb any unexpected financial demands that may occur.

I want to take a moment to welcome former Town Supervisor Steve Kotula to the Town Board. I look forward to working with Steve and all of the Board members and the entire team that you, the voters, have put in place for our town. The town currently has vacancies on the Board of Assessment Review, the Planning Board and the County Planning Board, so here is your chance to get involved in your community. Please let us know if you are interested in any of these positions. Again, thanks for your support and I will see you around town. Charlie Davis

REMINDERS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Town Assessor Frances Butler reminds residents that applications for all property exemptions must be received in her office by March 1, 2018. If you own property that is your main residence, you are eligible for the STAR (School Tax Relief) exemption. The basic STAR is for all property owners and the enhanced STAR is for seniors who meet income and age requirements. Seniors must apply for the enhanced STAR each year.

New STAR applicants will receive a credit in the form of a check directly from NYS instead of receiving a school property tax exemption. The amount of the STAR benefit is the same regardless of how it is received. New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants will no longer apply through the assessor, instead they must register with NYS Tax Department. Property owners may register weekdays by phone from 8:30 to 4:30 ([518-457-2036](tel:518-457-2036)) or online at www.tax.ny.gov/star. Additional information is available at <http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/>.

Seniors 65 and over, with a yearly income of \$23,999 or less are eligible for an exemption of Town property taxes. Renewal forms were sent to residents who applied last year for the enhanced STAR and/or the aged property exemption. For information or forms, contact Frances Butler by email (town.assessor@gmail.com), phone (849-6966), or letter (PO Box 366, Marathon, NY 13803).

Low-income seniors are also reminded that the Newark Valley School District and Tioga County have different income levels for residents to apply for property tax exemptions. Tioga County has a yearly income of \$24,300. Please check with the Assessor if you may be eligible for one or more exemptions. Application forms can also be obtained online at www.orps.state.ny.us/.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

Minutes from the Town Board meetings are available on-line at <http://richfordny.com/meetingminutes.html>.

Dec 12, 2017 – A special meeting to discuss the proposed Sidewalk ordinance, followed by the regular Town Board meeting. Justice Report presented a check for \$6,449. Code Enforcement report indicated a total 30 building permits were issued, and estimated construction costs totaled \$1,114,752, for all of 2017.

Dec 28, 2017 – A special year-end meeting to pay vouchers, and transfer funds as needed between accounts so that all accounts have a zero or positive balance for 2017 (by law, accounts cannot have a negative balance).

Jan 9, 2018 – As part of the annual 'housekeeping' business, the Town Board affirmed each member's oath of office; established salaries for all elected and appointed officials; set meeting dates and times for Town Board and Planning Board meetings, and for public hearings on the 2019 budget (set for Nov 8 2018); and similar actions. The Board briefly discussed the proposed Sidewalk Ordinance and decided to have a public conversation about the law, likely at the March 13 meeting (see the proposed law on the home page of the Town website richfordny.com).

Dog Control officer Patrick Cartwright summarized activity for the past six months; a total of 56 calls, 12 involving problems with dogs, and 44 involving cruelty or neglect. The Board discussed several problems with Stray Haven, including their requirement that the Town pay \$100/animal/day for any strays held at the facility. Alternative options were discussed and will be looked into.

BE INFORMED

Did you know there is a notebook in the Richford Quickway that contains Minutes from Town Board and Planning Board meetings? Town Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. It is your town and this is your chance to have input on our future! Planning Board meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of every month and they need volunteers to fill recently vacated positions. You are welcome to attend any of these meetings!

SOUP AND SALAD SUPPERS

Soup and Salad Suppers will be held the first Saturdays of February and March at the Richford Congregational Church, from 3:30 to 6:30 PM. Enjoy a great variety of soups, pasta and green salads, assorted breads and desserts as you visit with your fellow townfolk! It is a free will donation meal, all proceeds going to help support the Helping Hands Food Pantry in Berkshire which also serves Richford.

NORTHERN TIOGA NEIGHBORS NETWORK

Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN) is a group of dedicated volunteers who provide transportation for elderly residents who need it, exercise classes to help people stay healthy, and other services. If you would like to join as a volunteer driver or a board member call John Schwartz (657-8512). If you or someone you know needs transportation to a doctor's appointment or the grocery store call our NTNN phone number: 657-2823. Please allow at least 3 business days to allow us to find a volunteer driver.

FRIENDS OF RAWLEY PARK UPDATE

Rawley Park is closed for the winter, but planning for next spring is in full swing. Moneys that were earmarked for the park have been set aside for improvements to the pavilion and grounds. Up grades to the bathrooms and kitchen as well as painting of the roof and outside of the building are in the works as well as a couple of other locally and state funded projects. Stay tuned as these projects proceed.

We are particularly excited that our request for a walking path in the park has been approved! This half-mile loop will be paved and will, in the future, have multiple exercise stations. Fingers crossed, the path will be installed next summer and ready for everyone to use.

CERTIFIED FIRST RESPONDER CLASS

If you call 911, chances are you will have to wait for 30 minutes or more for an ambulance to arrive. That's too long for many emergencies. The Richford Fire Department is addressing this problem by organizing a First Responder group, who will respond rapidly and provide initial care in medical and trauma emergencies including emergency childbirth, CPR, bleeding control, and basic life support, while waiting for the ambulance and paramedics to arrive.

The Fire Department is organizing a free class to train Certified First Responders (described on the enclosed flyer). Volunteers need to be 16 years old or older, have a high school or equivalent education, be able to work in low light and confined spaces, and be strong enough to help lift an injured person, among other requirements. Become a Certified First Responder and help save lives in our community!

NTNN EXERCISE CLASS

Mark your calendars. The Spring 2018 NTNN exercise class: "**Have a Ball**" is a low impact exercise program for adults 50 and over. NTNN has sponsored active older adults exercise and fitness programs in Richford since 2012. The class is held at the Richford Community Hall on Tuesdays March 6 - May 8, 10 to 11:30 am (no class on April 24). The cost is \$10 for the whole program. Finishers receive prizes. Watch for more information.

HEALTH CLINIC NEWS

The Lourdes Mobile Mammogram Van will be at the Richford Health Clinic on February 22 and March 29. An order from your physician is required. Call Lourdes at 798-5723 to schedule an appointment. For information about financial assistance call the Health Center at 657-8521.

The Clothes Closet, with free clothing for women and children, is open the first and third Thursday at 6 pm in the Hubbard Center. Donations of clean, wearable clothing can be left in the large plastic container located next to the Hubbard Center.

HEATING AND EATING COST HELP

Many residents must choose between heating their homes and buying groceries. It is possible to do both with the SNAP program. People who participate in the SNAP program are given a special debit card to buy groceries. Because SNAP dollars are spent at local grocery stores, SNAP helps both residents *and* the businesses that serve them.

With SNAP, lower income families, children, veterans, college students and older adults are able to buy the nutritious foods they need to stay strong and healthy through the winter months while keeping the heat on. To get information about SNAP or a free and confidential prescreen to find out if you eligible, contact Kathi Latson at the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) at (607) 723-8313 x 1190.

POST OFFICE RETURNS?

Three years ago the Richford Post office was closed. The United States Post Office has been working to find a replacement location for a new post office here in Richford. A potential site has been identified, and the USPS is in the very preliminary phase of negotiating use of the site for a new building. How long this will take is anyone's guess, but if the negotiation is successful, Richford will finally have a post office back in town this year or next.

TOWN AND OTHER OFFICIALS

TOWN BOARD MEETS: 2ND TUESDAY, 7PM, TOWN HALL

e-mail: townboard@richfordny.com

- ◆ Charles Davis Supervisor 657-8248
- ◆ Cyndi Herrick Councilperson 657-8659
- ◆ Steve Kotula Councilperson 657-4467
- ◆ Charles Thayer Councilperson 657-8651
- ◆ Ken Miller Councilperson 657-2789

TOWN CLERK

- ◆ Velvet Lyke townclerk@richfordny.com 657-8090

◆ Business hours- Town Hall:

Tues, 5-7 pm. Wed. 8-11 am.

TOWN HALL BOWERY LANE

- ◆ Fax, answering machine: leave a message 657-8090

TOWN JUSTICE

- ◆ Peggy Andersen Judge 657-8090
- ◆ Rebecca Randall Court Clerk 657-8090
- ◆ Court held 1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays 5:30-8:00 pm;
Town Hall

TOWN BOOKKEEPER

- ◆ Rebecca Randall 657-8090

ASSESSOR

- ◆ Frances Butler 849-6966
- e-mail town.assessor@gmail.com

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTION

- ◆ Kevin McMahon Phone: (B)539-6700; (C)745-0004
Fax: 539-6400. Office hours: 8am – 12 noon M-F
- ◆ Office: 2670 Slaterville Road [PO Box 136],
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881. E-mail at
codeofficer@richfordny.com

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- ◆ Mike Hunt 657-2770

TOWN GARBAGE TRUCK

- ◆ Doug Wandell Attendant Highway Garage
- ◆ Winter hrs: Wed 3:30 - 7pm, Sat 8am- 2pm, \$.10/pound
- ◆ Summer hrs: Wed 4 - 8pm, Sat 8am- 2pm, \$.10/pound

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

- ◆ Flora Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ Donald Lyke 607-725-6193
- ◆ Vacant– volunteer needed

DOG CONTROL OFFICER

- ◆ Patrick Cartwright 426-4567
- e-mail: dogcontrol@richfordny.com

PLANNING BOARD MEETS: 1ST WED, 7PM TOWN HALL

e-mail: planboard@richfordny.com

- ◆ William Stell Chair 856-689-3573
- ◆ Doris Caskey 220-4161
- ◆ Chuck Merrill 657-2587
- ◆ Victoria Nuzzo 657-8656
- ◆ Joe Kral 585-322-3232
- ◆ John Schwartz 657-8512
- ◆ Vacant - volunteer needed

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETS: LAST THUR, 6PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ John Keener Fire Chief 972-1336
- ◆ Carrie Keener President 607-743-6016

FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETS: 1ST TUES, 6:30PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ Jeff Holcomb President 657-8176
- ◆ April Andersen Secretary 657-2575
- ◆ Travis Getzke 432-4206
- ◆ Barb Keener 242-1754
- ◆ Donna Gencarelli Treasurer 657-9985
- ◆ Crystal Foux 351-0867

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY MEETS: 2ND MON, 6 PM TOWN HALL

e-mail: commaux@richfordny.com

- ◆ Chris Craft President 844-8969
- ◆ Andrea Baker Vice-President 539-7069

Currently looking for member to join. Call Chris Craft if interested

TOWN HISTORIAN

- ◆ Bill Sherwood 539-6283

RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2ND MON, APRIL - NOV

- ◆ Bill Sherwood President 539-6283

TOWN HALL AND RAWLEY PARK SCHEDULING

- ◆ Barb Keener 242-1754

FRIENDS OF RAWLEY PARK

- ◆ www.facebook.com/Friendsofrawleypark.com

EMERGENCY SERVICE

- ◆ Call 911; Maine Emergency Squad Inc. [607-863-3683](tel:607-863-3683)

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

- ◆ Ed Hollenbeck 642-3201

COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

- ◆ Vacant – volunteer needed

OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPER

- ◆ Tioga County Courier 687-0108

TOWN WEBSITE

- ◆ www.richfordny.com

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Calendar of Events

- Jan 25** Neighborhood Watch, 7 Bowery Lane, 7-8:30 pm. Contact Mindy at 607-259-3814
- Jan 25** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- Jan 29** Total lunar eclipse (also a "Blue Moon" – the second full moon in a month)
- Feb 1** Mobile Food Pantry at Richford Congregational Church, Rt. 38, 11:30 am -12:30 pm, bring boxes, bags.
- Feb 3** Soup and Salad, Congregational Church, Richford, Route 38, 4 – 6:30 pm to benefit Helping Hands Food Pantry. Free will donation, take outs available
- Feb 22** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- Feb 28** Neighborhood Watch, 7 Bowery Lane, 7-8:30 pm.

- March 1** Deadline for various application forms to Frances Butler, Town Assessor
- March 1** Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, see Feb. 1
- Mar 3** Soup and salad, Congregational Church, Richford, see Feb 3
- Mar 6** Have a Ball exercise class begins. Town Hall, 10 - 11:30 am. Class meets every Tuesday – come any Tuesday.
- Mar 28** Neighborhood Watch, 7 Bowery Lane, 7-8:30 pm.
- Mar 29** Lourdes Mammogram Van at Clinic, doctor's order needed
- April 4** Mobile Food Pantry Distribution, see Feb. 1

Story time 10-11 am Tuesdays for all pre-schoolers and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers, at the Berkshire Free Library. Call 657-4418 for details.

For additional events, up-dates and much more go to www.richfordny.com.

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TOWN OF RICHFORD PLANNING BOARD

The Town Planning Board has a vacancy. If you would like to join please call Bill Stell (856-689-3573). The Planning Board helps the Town Board plan for the future, including writing local laws and this newsletter. We are currently updating the town subdivision law and have several additional projects in the works. Your participation is both welcome and valued. We meet at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the town hall. Stop by and find out more.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Want an easy way to help our Community? Become a member of the Board of Assessment Review (BAR). Members meet once a year on Grievance Day in late May, from 4 – 8 pm. During this session, BAR members work with Town residents to achieve equitable assessment for all complainants. Members are appointed by the Town Board for a 5-year term, paid \$50/year, and attend a single training class in Owego (mileage paid). If you are interested, and are a USA citizen, town resident, and over 18 years of age, contact Supervisor Davis at cdavis@richfordny.com.