
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

Volume 10, Issue 2

Town website: richfordny.com

April - June 2010

SUPERVISOR'S NOTES

There are three new members on the Planning Board and two new members on the Board of Assessment Review. There will be a Tire Collection Day on Saturday May 15. Residents are reminded that the cost of garbage disposal at the Packer will increase to ten cents a pound effective June 1. This will better help cover the costs of garbage disposal, including driving the Packer to the transfer station on Glenmary Drive. The Town is getting Rawley Park ready for another season.

TAX RE-EVALUATION

All properties in the Town of Richford were subjected to a re-evaluation this year, reflected in the tax notices sent last month. Town Assessor Fran Butler determined that properties were selling above assessment, and vacant land parcels sold for a larger percentage than residential parcels. Because of this differential an across-the-board increase could not be used as was last year. Consequently, all Town properties were subjected to a re-evaluation, and as a result residential properties had a lower increase in assessed value than vacant land.

The job of the assessor is to deliver a fair and equitable assessment roll. The job of the taxpayer is to monitor the town, county and school budget process and keep spending as low as possible. The schools are in the midst of preparing their budgets as we speak. The town prepares their budget in October and the County in November. There is no way at this time to know how the final budgets will look. But it is never too late for taxpayer input.

GRIEVANCE DAY

Grievance Day will be held Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane, Richford, from 4 to 8 p.m. Grievance Day gives property owners the opportunity to discuss and seek relief of their tentative assessments with Board of Review members Flora Karasin, Steve Kotula, and Shannon Cockbill. By law, the assessor Frances Butler must be present at this meeting, but is not a member of the BAR. Property owners whose assessments have been changed were notified directly by mail

The meeting with the Board of Assessment Review is by appointment only. Call Mrs. Butler at 849-6966 to arrange for a time and also to obtain a copy of the required assessment complaint form. Forms can also be obtained from the County Real Property Tax Office, Owego or from the New York website: www.orps.state.ny.us. Copies of the complaint form will also be available on May 25th, but the process is easier if the form is filled out ahead of time. This form can also be obtained on our website at www.richfordny.com.

The tentative assessment roll will be filed with the Assessor, Town Clerk, Richford, and with the Tioga County Property Tax Service Office (16 Court St., Owego, NY, phone: 687-8661) on or about May 1st. The assessment roll book can be examined locally at the Town Clerk's Office, during the Clerk's business hours, at the Owego office, or at the Assessor's office.

New York State law requires that any changes in property assessment after the tentative roll has been filed must be made by the Board of Assessment Review and NOT by the Assessor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Kenny Gordinier, longtime Fire Chief, resigned recently. The community would like to extend a huge thanks to Ken and Janet for their many years of dedicated service to the Richford Fire Department and the Town. John Keener was promoted to Fire Chief with all other officers moved up one position.

A recent New York State law requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all homes. The Fire Department does not sell carbon monoxide detectors because there are so many different brands, all of which work well. If you have any question regarding this new law, please contact the Code Enforcement Officer at 539-6700.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

March 9, 2010 – Michael Holt, Highway Superintendent, reports that February was rough on the equipment and many repairs were made. The Highway crew is still short one man. Mr. Holt is looking for another truck to purchase. A Justice report for February was given, and \$4010 was collected in fines. A Dog Control report was presented. Emilie Stuhlmiller, reporting for the Planning Board, says there will be a training session at the Tioga County Office Building in Owego on March 29, to help fulfill the state required 4 hours of training for Planning Board members. Vacancies on the various Boards, as recently advertised in the Town and Country Pennysaver, were filled as follows: Lucille Ingrahm to the Board of Appeals, and John Schwartz, Kim Stanford, and Tess Stanford to the Planning Board. A letter of resignation from the Board of Assessment Review was received from Ann Marie Morse. Haefele TV will be increasing its fees on April 1, 2010.

April 13, 2010 – A Dog Control report was given. A Justice Court report was given and \$2285 was collected in fees. A Code Enforcement report was presented. Vicki Nuzzo, reporting for the Planning Board, stated that work is ongoing to update the Comprehensive Plan. John Schwartz gave a report on what to expect when gas drilling starts and what the Town can do to reduce problems. Lew Gehm wants to rent some Town owned parkland for farm fields. He wants to plant corn the first year, and then reseed to grass crops. No decision was made at this time. A new federal law concerns lead exposure in older homes. Contractors working on any houses older than year 1978 must be certified for lead abatement. For more information contact the code enforcement officer at 539-6700. Tire Collection Day will be May 15, with the same prices as before. The Friends of Rachel Club, a youth group, requested permission to place a bin to collect soda can tabs as a fund raiser. Rachel was the first student that was killed at the Columbine High School. The two openings on the Board of Assessment Review were filled by Steve Kotula and Shannon Cockbill. Rawley Park is to be put into shape and maintenance work, cutting of grass, putting out picnic tables and picking up of trash will be done. Lou Karasin requested that Michaud Road to be plowed, but it has not yet been determined if this is a town road or just a driveway. No decision has been made at this time. Kim Stanford reported a problem when she tried to place a 911 call, and there was no response until it was too late to help a heart attack victim.

RABIES CLINICS

A rabies clinic will be held Friday, April 30, at the Berkshire Fire Station, Route 38, from 6 - 7 p.m., with Dr. West. Sponsored by the Tioga County Health Dept., all clinics are available for dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets.

A \$5.00 donation per animal is requested, but not required. Animals are to be under control, with dogs on a leash and cats either leashed or boxed. All are to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Proof of previous vaccination is required and lack of this will result in this shot being considered a first time vaccination for the animal and effective for a one year period. All other vaccinations are effective for a three year period.

Another clinic will be held Friday, May 14, at the Newark Valley Fire Station, Route 38, from 6 to 7 p.m. For more information, call Environmental Health, 687-8565.

TIOGA COUNTY WELLNESS DAY

This public event will be held Wednesday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Owego Treadway Inn. The day will feature local businesses and services, and provide healthy living information and helpful hints for lifestyle changes. For more information call Tina Slavik, Tioga County Health Department at 687-8607.

LEGAL PROBLEMS - NEED HELP?

Tompkins/Tioga Neighborhood Legal Services work with low-income people who live in Tioga and Tompkins Counties. There is no charge for this help. This agency deals with housing problems, public benefit problems, Social Security Disability and SSI issues, uncontested divorces, prisoner re-entry and employment-related problems (such as unemployment benefits). In Tioga County (by appointment only), call Tioga Opportunities Department of Aging, 9 Sheldon Guile Blvd, Owego at (800) 724-4170.

RICHFORD SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

A chicken barbeque and bake sale will be held Saturday, June 12 at the Fire Station, Bowery Lane. Hosted by the Richford Fire Dept., the dinners will be \$7.00. All proceeds will go to the Summer Youth Program for supplies and equipment.

Donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. Also planned for this event is a vendor board. If you have a local business in or around the Richford area, please consider posting a business card or flyer so that people can see what services are available locally. For more information or to make a donation, please call John or Barbara Keener at 607-972-1336.

The Youth Program will begin Monday, July 5 and end Wednesday, August 11. Games, crafts, and reading are all part of the many events that the youth participate in during the meeting times on Monday and Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. **“Also continued”** will be the 5 times a week free lunch program, from noon to 1 p.m. This program is available for youth from 18 months through 18 years of age. The lunches again will be provided by the School Lunch Program, Owego Apalachin School System. For more information about the Summer Youth Program, please contact Director Becky Randall at 657-8254.

TIOGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A firearms exhibit is currently on display at the museum; it includes a Marlin rifle originally owned by President Theodore Roosevelt. Opening April 22 will be an exhibit entitled "Remembering Earth Day 1970-2010". It will depict some of the important events that inspired the environmental movement and how society's attitude changed from one of consumption to conservation. It will also look at a fish kill that occurred in Richford in 1979. A student art show is scheduled for May. The museum is located at 110 Front St. in Owego and is open Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM.

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES

The Auxiliary continues its support of the Richford Scholarship by sponsoring a chicken barbeque on Saturday, May 8, from noon till gone. The event will be held at the Richford Fire Station, 12 Bowery Lane. Chicken half: \$5.50, dinner \$7.00.

Donations of cooking oil, vinegar, beans and charcoal are greatly appreciated. E-mail commaux@richfordny.com to find out more about needed supplies or times to drop off items at the Community (Town) Hall,

On June 19, the Auxiliary will sponsor a Jam Day at Rawley Park from noon on. Bring your instruments to play and have a good time. There will also be raffles, 50-50, food, and fun for all. Entrance fee: \$1.00 for those ages 1 to 12, \$2.00 for all others.

July 17: Kiddies Day at Rawley Park. Activities start at 10 a.m. and include nominations for King & Queen (from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.), games, refreshments, and bike giveaways for four different age groups (0-3, 4-7, 8-12, and 13-16). This event is for Richford children only. For more info regarding this event or any Community Auxiliary activity call Chris at 844-8969 or e-mail commaux@richfordny.com.

Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN) website: www.ntnnonline.org

NTNN is a group of volunteers who help our neighbors in Richford and Berkshire. For those without alternatives, NTNN provides transportation to the grocery store and pharmacy, to doctor and dentist appointments, help with simple home maintenance, or a friendly visit or phone call. The services are confidential and at no charge. NTNN is also a source of information and referrals to appropriate service agencies.

NTNN uses the service of an Americorps volunteer who handles the telephone calls and coordinates the other volunteers.

Originally organized under the auspice of the Richford Congregational Church, NTNN has recently become an independent 501 (c)3 organization. This opens the way to an even larger range of grant sources. NTNN maintains contacts and is working with other neighbor groups in the county to expand services.

NTNN always welcomes financial support and new volunteers. Volunteers receive training and have an ID card. If you would like to help, if you have special skills you would like to offer to the community, give a call.

To obtain services or to offer to help, call 607-657-2823 or toll free 1-877-657-2823. Financial donations can be sent to NTNN, P. O. Box 93, Richford, NY 13845.

TOWN SURVEY RESULTS

The Richford Planning board conducted a town-wide survey in November 2009 to gather residents' opinions on a variety of issues. Surveys were mailed to all households in the Town and most non-resident land-owners (approximately 450 in all), and were also available at the Richford Diner, Lourdes Health Center, town garbage facility, and Town Hall. A total of 84 residents (19%) filled out the surveys. The survey results help the Planning Board and Town Board assess options for the future development of the Town of Richford.

Town clean-up was the most important category for respondents, and 10 wrote comments concerning the need to clean up the town. Most respondents considered town buildings (both public and private) to be in poor to medium condition, but were split on the need to upgrade or replace public buildings, citing cost as a major concern. Respondents strongly favored attracting funds to upgrade existing housing and strongly disfavored public sewer/water, again citing cost as a major concern.

Respondents had both favorable and unfavorable comments about ambulance service, and were split on the quality of fire protection. Town roads were generally considered in poor to medium condition.

Natural resources of the town (water, forest, air) were consistently rated as high quality, and respondents strongly favored protecting these resources, especially water quality and quantity, and farmland. Respondents also strongly favored energy conservation at both town and individual levels. Respondents were evenly split about the impacts of gas exploration, and expressed little concern about the impacts of wind farms.

NEW DWI LAW

In August one of the toughest DWI laws will take effect in New York (details at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/Press/20091117b/>). A DWI conviction, including a first-time offense, will require an ignition interlock system. Court fees, civil penalties and the interlock system will cost roughly \$2,800 in a conditional discharge situation or roughly \$5,000 if the person is put on probation. In addition, if the breath test is refused, the DMV civil fee will be \$500, increased car insurance is estimated to be \$500, and the retainer fee for an attorney would be at least \$750.

Here is a quick run down of the legislation, which creates a new section of the Vehicle and Traffic Law and repeals the current version:

- * Makes it a felony to operate a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .08, or impaired by drugs, with a child passenger who is 15 or under.

- * Requires first-time convicted drunken drivers to buy a device that prevents them from driving their cars if they have been drinking

- * Mandates that every person sentenced for a misdemeanor DWI, or DWI-related penal law felony, install an interlock device.

TIRE COLLECTION DAY

Richford residents can bring old tires to the Town Highway Garage (Route 79 east) on Saturday, May 15, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fees to help cover costs:

17" or smaller (auto type):	\$1.00
Auto tires, tires w/rims, or truck tires 15 - 19" or with rims:	\$3.00
20" and larger but, less than 100 lbs:	\$6.00
100 lbs. and larger \$6.00 + an additional .05 per lb. (for example: \$7.25 for a 125 lb. tire).	

GARBAGE FEE INCREASE

Beginning June 2, the cost to dispose of household trash at the Highway garage will be raised to ten cents per pound. For the past 14 years, residents have paid five cents per pound for garbage disposal. Due to increased costs, the Town is presently losing some \$3,000 a year on this service, and the difference is made up by tax money. Raising the fee to ten cents per pound allows the service to pay for itself, and have money set aside for repairs and the purchase of a new truck when warranted. The new fee is substantially less than what private service providers charge.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Tioga County will soon have an Integrated Domestic Violence Court that will coordinate activities between local courts, family courts and county services. Anyone in need of information or help will be directed to Frances Bialy at the A New Hope Center in Owego, phone 687-6866 or 1-800-696-7600.

This newsletter is prepared by the Richford Planning Board. If you have questions please call Emilie Stuhlmiller at 657-2680. or e-mail newsletter@richfordny.com.

Calendar of Events

- Apr 23 Rummage and Bake Sale. Richford Congregational Church. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Apr 24 Rummage and Bake Sale. Richford Congregational Church. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bag sale starts at noon.
- Apr 24 Reception for Reverend and Mrs. James Willard, 1-4 p.m. Congregational Church, Berkshire.
- Apr 27 Diabetic Support Group, 6 pm, Congregational Church, Berkshire. Call 657-4479 for info.
- Apr 30 Rabies Clinic, Berkshire Fire Station, 6 - 7 p.m.
- May 1 Ham Supper, Richford Congregational Church, 4-7 pm, Adults \$8, ages 5 - 12 \$4, four and under free.
- May 1 Richford Highland Cemetery mtg Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- May 6 Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, 12:30 p.m. till gone, bring boxes.
- May 8 Chicken barbecue to support Richford Scholarship, Community Auxiliary, Fire Station, noon till gone. Dinner \$7.00, half chicken \$5.50.
- May 14 Rabies Clinic, Fire Station, Newark Valley, 6 - 7 p.m.
- May 15 Tire Collection Day, Town Highway Garage.
- May 19 Tioga County Working on Wellness, Owego Treadway, Rt. 17C, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- May 19 Northern Tioga Neighbors Network Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m. Hubbard Center, Bowery Lane.
- May 25 Grievance Day, Town Hall, call Assessor (849-6966) for appointment and complaint form.
- May 25 Diabetic Support Group, 6 p.m. see April 27 for info
- June 3 Food giveaway, see May 6 for info.
- June 12 Chicken Bar-B-Q and Bake Sale at Fire Station for Summer Youth Program. from 12 noon till gone.
- June 16 Northern Tioga Neighbors Network Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m., Hubbard Center.
- June 19 Jam Day at Rawley Park, sponsored by Community Auxiliary. Noon on. ages 1 - 12 - \$1, all others - \$2.
- June 29 Diabetic Support Group, see May 25 for info.
- July 1 Food giveaway, see June 3 for info.
- July 5 Summer Youth and Lunch Programs start, Town Hall.
- July 17 Kiddies Day at Rawley Park. 10 a.m. on. King and Queen nominations from 8-9 a.m. Games, refreshments and bike giveaway for four age groups, Richford children only.

Town Newsletter
P.O. Box 80
Richford, NY 13835

Richford Resident
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