
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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April - June 2011

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Richford has gone through its worst winter in years. Rawley Park has survived another winter season and the Highway Dept. will be working to get the park ready for another season. The Town appreciates all the work and extra hours by the Highway crew to keep our roads open this past winter and for their work at the park.

The new state budget will probably mean reduced state aid. It has been challenging budget year with the loss of sales tax revenue and interest income. Sometimes unexpected expenses occur during the year but the Town will continue to closely monitor its costs.

Town residents are reminded of the new dog control law and of the need to license their dogs and keep rabies vaccinations up to date. A dog census may be conducted later this year. The Town is considering a new property ID law requiring the numbering of all residences in Richford; this will assist emergency response crews responding to calls. There will be a tire collection day on May 7; fees will remain the same.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

February 8, 2011

Mike Holt, Highway Superintendent, reports that in December the highway crews were out 33 times to clear roads. Repair work on trucks is ongoing. The Code Enforcement, Dog Control and Justice Court reports were read. The check from the Justice Court for January was \$2715.00. Charles Davis gave a Planning Board report. The Planning Board is looking into a joint bulk mailing with Berkshire and Newark Valley to save on postage. There was a discussion on replacing Suburban Propane as supplier of kerosene for the Town Hall. The board will be looking into related costs and will make a decision at another time. The board authorized Superintendent Holt of the Highway Department to purchase a 1999 Volvo dump truck for \$30,000 from the town of Dryden.

There was a discussion regarding property tax exemptions for the aged. There was discussion on the proposed Property ID law.

February 15, 2011

This was a special Town Board meeting, called to agree to discontinue business with Suburban Propane and to open an account with E & V Energy Company of Cortland to provide fuel oil and heating system maintenance. The board also resolved that a new sliding scale beginning at 50% and ending at 20% be adopted for aged exemptions of Town Property taxes.

March 8, 2011

The Berkshire Emergency Squad was present to answer billing questions and area coverage questions. The Code Enforcement, Dog Control and Justice Courts reports were read. The Justice Court check was \$2190.00. The Planning Board is working on updating the Comprehensive Plan, and will also check with Tioga County to see if they have any road use laws in place. The Planning Board also presented a proposed Property ID law to the Town Board. The Town Board made corrections and changes. There was discussion over the plowing of Richford roads.

Grievance Day

Grievance Day will be held Tuesday, May 24, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane, Richford. Grievance Day gives property owners the opportunity to discuss and to seek relief of their tentative assessments with Board of Review members Flora Karasin, Steve Kotula, and Sharon Cockbill. By law, Frances Butler, Assessor, must also be present at this meeting. The assessor is not a member of the Board of Assessment Review. Property owners whose assessments have been changed are notified directly by mail..

Copies of the required assessment complaint form will be available at the meeting. Copies can also be obtained from the County Real Property Tax Office, 16 Court Street, Owego, the assessor, or from the New York website: www.orps.state.ny.us or from the Richford website www.richfordny.com.

At the March 2011 meeting, the Town Board adopted a new sliding scale for aged exemption beginning at 50% and ending at 20%. The income level was also changed. Seniors, age 65 and over with a yearly income of \$22,699.99 or less, should check with the assessor to find out if they might be eligible for a property tax exemption.

The tentative Assessment Roll Book will be filed by the Assessor with the Richford Town Clerk and with the Tioga County Real Property Tax Office on or about May first. The Roll Book can be examined locally at the Town Clerk's Office during the Clerk's business hours or at the Owego Real Property Tax Office or at the Assessor's Office.

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

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DOG LICENSING

On January 1, 2011, all local governments in New York State, assumed the duties of dog licensing and maintaining a central database of dogs within their municipality. The Town Board has updated the fees for licensing dogs, as follows.

Spayed/neutered: \$11.00

Un-spayed/un-neutered: \$20.00

Replacement tags available for \$4.

\$15.00 enumeration fee for any dog found to be unlicensed/un-renewed at the time of the enumeration.

All resident dog owners are responsible for maintaining their dog license's and rabies vaccinations. At this time, dog licensing is below average within the town. If the Town Board feels that an dog census is needed, costs of this census will be covered by license fees, late charges, fines and the tax payers of your town.

You can license your dog or get details of all fees, late charges and penalties at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours, (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. 7-9 p.m.) Phone: (607) 657-8090. Information regarding dog licensing is also available at www.richfordny.com/townclerk.html.

RABIES CLINIC

A Rabies Clinic will be held on May 12, 2011 from 6-7:00 p.m. at the Newark Valley Fire Station, State Rt. 38, Newark Valley, NY. (Dr. West). Sponsored by the Tioga County Health Dept. Division of Environmental Health.

This clinic is available for dogs, cats and domesticated ferrets. A \$5 donation per animal is requested, but not required. The vaccine will not be administered unless pets are under control with dogs on a leash and cats either leashed or boxed, and both accompanied by a responsible adult. You must also show proof of previous vaccination, 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 only. All other vaccinations are effective for a three year period. For other clinic dates in Tioga County go to www.tiogacountyny.com/whats-new/tioga-county/spring-rabies-clinics.html.

SPRING!

Spring brings thoughts of clean-up, repairs and new project challenges to all of us. Here is some helpful information, hints and events to aid you in those endeavors.

Building Permits must be obtained for all building and demolition projects including swimming pools. If you have any questions about your planned building projects contact John Daniels the Code Enforcement Officer at (607)539-6700 or e-mail Building_Department@townofcaroline.org.

Tire Collection Day, May 7, 2011, Town Highway Garage, (Rt. 79 east), 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The fees to help cover costs:

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17" or smaller (auto type): \$1.00

Auto tires, to 17" w/rims, or truck tires 15 - 19" without rims: \$3.00.

20" and larger, 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).

Open Burning of trash is prohibited statewide in all cases. Existing incinerator rules already prohibits burning household trash in wood stoves, fireplaces, and outdoor wood boilers. DEC recommends that you recycle all appropriate materials (such as newspaper, paper, glass and plastic) and compost your organic kitchen and garden waste.

In towns with a total population less than 20,000, you may burn tree limbs with attached leaves. The limbs must be less than 6 inches in diameter and 8 feet in length (also referred to as brush). However, this is not allowed from March 16 through May 14 due to the increased risk of wildfires.

Scrap metals can be dropped off at the south end of the Town of Richford Highway Garage in the area provided for Richford Residents.

Remember this area is for RECYCLABLE SCRAP "METAL" ONLY. All garbage must be taken to the garbage truck on the north end of the building, at the regularly scheduled drop off times. **Disposal of solid waste/trash, hazardous waste and electronic waste in this area is prohibited and is controlled legally as such.** If you have any questions as to what is or isn't allowed to be disposed of in this area, speak to the attendant at the garbage compactor, or the Highway Superintendent.

Hazardous & Electronics Waste from Tioga County can be properly disposed of at the Broome County land fill site at 286 Knapp Road, Binghamton, NY 13902. There is paper work to fill out and a procedure that must be followed to dispose of these items. Please contact them before taking items to the site. Phone: (607)778-2250, Fax: (607)778-6051 or E-mail daschofield@co.broome.ny.us for that information.

2011 collection dates for Tioga County residents are May 4, 7 & 21, June 1, 4 & 18, July 6, 9 & 23, Aug. 3, 6 & 20, Sept. 7, 10 & 24, Oct. 5, 8 & 22, Nov. 2, 5 & 19. Hours are: 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on these dates.

Community Auxiliary News

Several activities have been planned by the members:

May 7: Chicken barbecue to support the Richford Scholarship. Call Andrea Baker for information about needed items. Donated items (beans, charcoal, salt potatoes, etc.) should be left at the Town Hall on May 5 and 6. Bryan Craft and David Crispell were the 2010 scholarship recipients. Each received \$200 toward college expenses.

May 21: Chicken barbecue - \$7.00 per half. Benefit sponsored by Holcomb Family and friends for Florence Brooks, to assist

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with medical expenses.

June 18: Jam Day, Rawley Park, noon till? \$2.00 entrance fee per person. Everyone is invited to bring their instruments and play. Come and join the fun.

July 17: Kiddies Day at Rawley Park King and Queen of Richford to be selected. Richford children to win bicycles. For more information call Chris at 844-8969 or e-mail commaux@richfordny.com.

TIOGA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

There are currently two exhibits on display: one of clocks and coin silver and another of student art sponsored by United Way. In June there will be the annual Artful Berry contest and exhibit in conjunction with the Owego Strawberry Festival and in August there will be a display of soldiers quilts. Theresa Wells is the new museum director and the gift shop has been moved downstairs. The museum is located at 110 Front St. in Owego and is open Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY

The Berkshire Free Library, celebrating 90 years of service to the community, started new Friday hours as of April 1, 2011. The library will now be open Tuesday 12 - 5 p.m.; Wednesday 1:30 - 7 p.m.; Thursdays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday 1:30 - 7 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The library has also started an "Adopt a Book" program to which library patrons may donate \$20 toward the purchase of an adult or children's book from a list. A label will be put inside the book with the name of the donor, who will have the first opportunity to read the book. As of if this writing sixteen books have been donated. For more information contact Marleta Anderson, librarian.

PLANNING BOARD

The Town of Richford Planning Board has just finished a draft of a revised Property Identification Law and submitted it to the Town Board. This proposed law will be reviewed by the town attorney, then a public hearing before a final vote by the Town Board.

The Planning Board is continuing work on the update of the town's comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan is a basic view of how the residents of our town perceive our community and what they feel planners and developers need to know when new projects and events are proposed.

Other Planning Board responsibilities include preparing and mailing the town's quarterly newsletter and maintaining the town website at www.richfordny.com. Richford's central location between multiple news sources leaves us with a media lopsidedness at times. Providing all of our residents with timely information via a common source is difficult. The use of these two town provided sources is intended to get information to our residents as quickly as possible.

The Richford Quarterly is printed and mailed to residents within the geographic borders of the town every 3 months, January, April, July and October. The website is updated as soon as our volunteers can post the information. Articles of interest to our residents can be submitted to newsletter@richfordny.com or mailed to Charlie Davis, 21 Ironwood Pl. Richford, NY. 13835.

HEALTH CENTER NEWS

Emily Hotchkiss has joined the staff at the Northern Tioga Center for Family Health as an Americorps volunteer. She will be assisting the staff at the Center as well as answering the phone and scheduling volunteers to meet, transportation need and provide other requests from clients calling the Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN). Emily comes to the Americorps from the Peace Corps where she spent two years teaching English and Biology to students in Mozambique, Africa.

We welcome Emily to the Richford area and appreciate her assistance to the Health Center and the Neighbors Project. Recruiting for Americorps volunteers is done through the Rural Health Network of South Central New York, located in Whitney Point. Emily is the fourth volunteer serving at the Health Center, under the direction of Lynn Verduin, Family Nurse Practitioner.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

The six-week Summer Youth Program will begin Wednesday, July 6 and will be held three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided on the three days the program is in session; there will be NO lunch on Tuesday and Thursdays. Director Becky Randall has been planning a variety of activities for youth to participate in. Crafts, games and reading are all part of the program.

For more information about the program, contact Director Randall at 657-8254.

DECISION MAKING DAY

On Thursday, May 5, a program on annual legal checkups will be held at the Office of the Aging, 9 Sheldon Guile Blvd. beginning at 10 am. Sponsored by the Elderlaw Section, New York Bar Association, a lawyer will discuss an annual legal checkup (guardianships, wills, estates, etc.). For more information, call 687-4120.

N'n TIOGA NEIGHBORS NETWORK

Need help getting to your doctor's appointment? Can't get to the grocery store, pharmacy or need help changing that light bulb? The trained volunteers from NTNN can be of help. Other services such as friendly phone calls or home visits can be arranged as well as letter writing, mail pickups or changing the battery in your smoke detector.

Call 657-2823 or 877- 657-2823 to request the services of a volunteer, or go on-line at www.ntnnonline.org. Phone calls will be returned in one business day.

CONTACT INFO UPDATE

Richard Hanna: Cortland office, hours of operation Mon.- Fri. 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. 18 Tompkins St. Cortland, NY 13045. Phone:607-756-2470
Fax: 607-756-2472
Website: <http://hanna.house.gov/>

Tom Libous: Binghamton Office, 44 Hawley St. Rm. 1607 Binghamton, NY 13901
Voice: (877) 854-2687
District Fax: (607) 773-3688
Albany Fax: (518) 455-2065
Email: Senator@senatorlibous.com
Website: <http://www.tomlibous.govoffice.com/>

Gary D. Finch: Owego office, 16 Court St. Owego, NY. 13827.
Phone: (607)-687-8272
E-mail: gary@garyfinch.com
Web Site: <http://www.garyfinch.com/>

VACANCIES

The Town of Richford currently has two positions that are vacant. These are both volunteer positions that provide residents an opportunity to be involved in our local government. One seat is open on the Town of Richford Planning Board and the other is with the Board of Appeals.

If you are interested, please forward a brief résumé to Attention: Richford Town Board, P.O. Box 80 Richford, NY. 13835.

PARTING NOTE:

On Saturday, March 26, 2011, Ernest Glen McFadden, age 82, of Richford, NY passed away, at the Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca. Many remember Ernie as he and his faithful dog Rufus, greeted us every Wednesday and Saturday at the town trash compactor. We extend our sympathy to Ernie's entire family and will remember Ernie for his many years of service to our town and the Richford Volunteer Fire Company. Go to www.richfordny.com/friendsandfamily.html to view his complete obituary.

Calendar of Events

- May 5, Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, 12:30 p.m., till gone. Bring boxes.
- May 5, Legal checkup, lawyer , speaker, Office of the Aging, Owego, 10 a.m.
- May 7, Smorgasbord Board Dinner, Richford Congregational Church, 4 - 7 p.m. Adults \$8, 5-12 yr. \$4, under 5 free.
- May 7 Chicken barbeque, Community Auxiliary, fundraiser for Richford Scholarship, 12 noon till gone.
- May 7 Tire Collection Day, 8 - 2 p.m., Town Highway Garage, Route 79 east, fee charged.
- May 7 Highland Cemetery Board meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall.
- May 12 Rabies Clinic, Newark Valley Fire Station. 6 - 7 p.m.
- May 17 Newark Valley Central School District Budget vote, 1 p.m. - 9 p.m., Richard H. Kerr Board Room, 79 Whig St., Newark Valley. Call 642-3221 for more information.
- May 18 Advisory Board meeting, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network, 7 p.m. Hubbard Center.
- May 21 Chicken barbeque, benefit for Florence Brooks.
- May 24 Grievance Day, 4 - 8 p.m., Town Hall
- May 31 Diabetic Support, Congregational Church, Berkshire, 6 p.m., call 657-4479 for info
- June 2 Food giveaway, see May 5 for info.
- June 15 Advisory Board meeting, Hubbard Center. 7 p.m.
- June 18 Jam Day, Rawley Park. 12 noon on, \$2.00 entrance fee per person.
- July 6 Summer Youth Program starts, 12 non - 3 p.m. (6 week program Mon. Wed. and Fri).
- July 7 Food giveaway see June 2 for info
- July 17 Kiddies Day, Rawley Park, Richford children can win bicycles.
- July 22 Puppet program at Berkshire Free Library featuring Nancy Sander and Puppets with Pizazz, 2 p.m.

Check for more local events at www.richfordny.com

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

Richford Resident
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