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# RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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Volume 10, Issue 1

January – March 2010

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## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

2010 began as a year of change in Town government. On December 31 Nancy Paul left the Town Board after eight years as Councilwoman. The Town appreciates her many years of service to our community. Kenneth Miller now serves as the newest member of the Town Board. Michael Holt has begun his first term as the newly elected Highway Superintendent. Residents are encouraged to attend Town Board meetings that are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. The official town newspaper is the Scotsman Town and Country Pennysaver where legal notices of public hearings are printed.

The Town has had budget surpluses which helped offset the property tax levy. There has been a sharp reduction in the interest earned on town funds because of extremely low interest rates, which are currently .015%. There is the possibility of reduced or delayed payments from the state because of New York's fiscal crisis. Some expenses have increased sharply. Every year Richford receives a bill from the New York State Retirement System. In 2009 it was less than \$10,000; this year it was almost \$14,000. Next year it may be over \$20,000. This is mainly due to losses in the stock market.

The floodplain maps have been updated and as a result, a larger area of the town is now included in the floodplain. Construction in the floodplain is heavily regulated. In order to remain part of the National Flood Insurance Program, Richford will be required to modify and update its Flood Damage Prevention Law.

## FROM THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The consistent small snow storms and cold that we have experienced since Christmas have kept our town roads coated with a hard layer of snow and ice. With temperatures remaining well below freezing, plowing and sanding the roads is the only option available to all of the local towns for these conditions. Many days the drivers have plowed their route, only to have to go back out and start all over again. Our residents have been great about keeping vehicles and other obstructions off of the road side, which helps us with our job.

For your safety and the safety of others, please avoid plowing your driveway or walkway snow into or across the roadway, as this practice can cause buildup and ridging that can affect vehicle control and also puts you in harm's way. Also remember, your mailbox is just that, your mailbox, the town is not responsible for repair or replacement of mailboxes. Placement and installation of your mailbox and its stand can make a big difference in the effect that plowing has on it. Check out your neighbor's mailbox - if it seems to withstand the stress of winter better than yours, copy their setup. Every

winter offers its own unique challenge. Be as prepared as you can for these challenges, and drive safely for the conditions.

## REMINDERS FROM THE ASSESSOR

The assessor will be reviewing all properties within the next two months and adjusting assessments as necessary to comply with the Town Boards request to maintain the equalization rate at 100%. Notices of assessment changes to affected parcels will be mailed in March. Property owners can meet with the assessor at her office in Marathon to discuss changes before the filing of the tentative roll.

Town Assessor Frances Butler reminds residents that she must receive applications for all property exemptions by March 1, 2010. Real property is assessed on an "as is" basis as of March 1 each year. 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 (apply one time only) and the enhanced STAR is for seniors who meet certain income and age requirements. Seniors must apply for this exemption each year. Other exemptions are available for senior citizens, agriculture and veterans.

For more information and to obtain copies of needed forms contact Frances Butler at 849-6966, [townassessor@gmail.com](mailto:townassessor@gmail.com) or write her at PO Box 366, Marathon, NY 13803. Forms can also be found on line at [www.orps.state.ny.us](http://www.orps.state.ny.us).

For low income seniors, age 65 and over: Tioga County, the Town of Richford, and the Newark Valley School District each has a different income level for residents to apply for property tax exemption. In 2008 Tioga County raised the limit to \$23,400. Please contact the Assessor to find out if you or a family member may be eligible for one or more of the above property tax exemptions.

## HEALTH CLINIC NEWS

Susan Boldman, an AmericCorps volunteer, was recently assigned to the Northern Tioga Center for Family Health for this year. Susan replaces Chelsey Dean, whose term as a volunteer ended in October. In addition to her Health Clinic responsibilities, Susan will also assist with the Northern Tioga Neighbors Network as needed. All of this is under the direction of Lynn Verduin, FNP.

The Rural Health Network, Whitney Point, is the agency that obtains the services of the AmeriCorps volunteers, who assist community agencies in Tioga and Broome Counties. We thank the Rural Health Network for their part in obtaining the volunteers.

The Lourdes Mission in Motion Mobile Mammography van will be at the Health Center on January 28, February 25, March 25 and April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments are made through Central Scheduling, at Lourdes - 607-798-5723. An order from your doctor is needed to schedule an appointment. For those with insurance Lourdes will bill the company directly. For those without insurance, call Cancer Services Program, 1-877-276-1019 for information about qualifying for no-cost service that will cover the cost of the screening.

## CHANGES IN TOWN POSITIONS

During the past year there have been changes in elected and volunteers positions at the Town level. In November Mike Holt was elected highway superintendent, Beverly Brown was re-elected to a second term and Ken Miller to a first term on the Town Board. Nancy Paul completed two terms, (8 years) on the Town Board on December 31, 2009. To Nancy and to all who have served our Town on one of the Boards, our thanks and appreciation for your time and effort.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are two vacancies on the Board of Assessment Review, three vacancies on the Planning Board, one on the Board of Appeals, and one on the County Planning Board. These Boards depend on local residents to keep the Town functioning – if you are interested in one of these positions contact Martin Wilcox 657-8295.

## COMMUNITY AUXILIARY EVENTS

A Valentine Dance, with DJ, is planned for February 13, from 7 to 10 p.m, at the Town Hall. Those 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments will be available. A fund raising dinner is planned for March, and Breakfast with the Easter bunny on April 3, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (open to Richford children only). For information about Auxiliary events or about becoming a member, contact Chris Craft, president, 844-8969, or Florence Brooks, treasurer, 657-4420.

## TOWN BOARD NEWS

November 10, 2009 – John Keener, reporting for the Richford Highway Department, said the sander is being rebuilt on one of the trucks. They are waiting on some parts. They still need to get more sand. The new pickup is here. The Town Board authorized the sale of the old pickup to the Newark Valley School for \$15,000.00. Other than that, the Highway Department is just getting ready for winter weather. A Code Enforcement report was read. The Dog Control report was read. The Justice Court report for October was read, and \$3,145.00 was received in fines. Emilie Stuhlmiller gave a report for the Planning Board. The Planning Board has been working on the draft of a letter to send to the DEC about their impact statement on gas drilling and protecting roads and water quality. The Town Board donated \$50 to the Richford Community Auxiliary for a meat platter for the dinner after Steve Lawton's funeral service. The Town Board approved replacing the walk entry door at the Highway Garage. The Highway Garage also needs a mailbox. Martin Wilcox stated that he would be attending a Flood Plain workshop on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. The Town Board appointed Mike Holt to fill the vacancy of Highway Superintendent beginning

on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The furnace of the Town Hall is to be serviced on Dec. 3.

**December 8, 2009** – Highway Superintendent, Mike Holt reports that the equipment is ready for winter weather. A Code Enforcement report for November was read. A Justice Court report was read, and \$2,800.00 was collected in fines. Vicki Nuzzo, Planning Board, handed out a copy of the summary replies to the recent Town survey. These results will be used to update the Town Comprehensive Plan. She also handed out a copy of the Planning Board's reply to portions of the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on natural gas drilling. The Town Board approved the agreement with Stray Haven for dog control. The contract with the Town of Caroline for the services of Code Enforcement Officer for 2010 was approved.

**December 15, 2009** – This was a special meeting of the Richford Town Board to discuss the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact statement on natural gas drilling. After was much discussion, a letter was prepared and will be mailed before the deadline. The Town Board also authorized Highway Superintendent, Mike Holt, to sell the 1988 Aveling Barford Grader for \$10,000.00 and the 1982 Drott excavator for \$3,900.00 in "as is condition".

**December 28, 2009** – This was the Town Board's year end meeting to balance the Town books. Councilwoman, Nancy Paul, told the Board that she had enjoyed her time on the Town Board and the Board thanked her for her eight years of service.

**January 12, 2010** – Mike Holt, Highway Superintendent, says that they are using the big trucks to plow in town instead of the pickup. There are two new roads to be plowed because of new houses, one near Hartford and the other on West Hill. Due to the weather conditions this winter, there has been a need for overtime. Also the highway crew has been shorthanded due to a medical condition of an employee. The Dog Control report and Code Enforcement report were read. The Justice Court report was read, and \$3,405.00 was collected in fines. Emilie Stuhlmiller, reports that the Planning Board is working on the next Town newsletter. The Town Board made appointments for the new year. Dave Perry was appointed Deputy Highway Superintendent.

## RECEPTION FOR REVEREND JIM WILLARD

Reverend Willard will retire from the First Congregational Church of Berkshire on April 30, 2010. Reverend and Mrs. Willard will be honored at a reception on April 24 from 1 to 4 pm at the Congregational Church in Berkshire. This gathering is in recognition of their love, service and dedication to not only to the members of the Church, but to all of the people of the northern Tioga County whose lives they have touched. Everyone is invited to the open house. If you have a special memory of a time when Reverend Willard has been "there for you or your family," (a wedding, baptism, funeral, sickness or other occasion), please share this in a letter, photo, or a completed 8 1/2 by 11 scrap book page. All will be placed in an album. For information contact: Ken and Carol Mott, 657-8392 or [kcmott@frontiernet.net](mailto:kcmott@frontiernet.net) or Joan Stoughton, 657-2501.

**TOWN AND OTHER OFFICIALS 2010****TOWN BOARD** MEETS: 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY, 7PM, TOWN HALL

- ◆ Martin Wilcox Supervisor 657-8295
- ◆ Beverly Brown Councilperson 539-7034
- ◆ Cyndi Herrick Councilperson 657-8659
- ◆ Ken Miller Councilperson 657-2789
- ◆ Cathy Schoonover Councilperson 657-8195

**TOWN CLERK**

- ◆ Judy Thurston 657-8090
- ◆ Business hours- Town Hall: Tues., Wed. and Thurs 7-9pm.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 5:30-8:00 pm; Town Hall

**TOWN BOOKKEEPER**

- ◆ Rebecca Randall 657-8090

**ASSESSOR**

- ◆ Frances Butler 849-6966
- e-mail: [townassessor@gmail.com](mailto:townassessor@gmail.com)

**BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTION**

- ◆ John Daniels 539-6700  
Fax: 539-6400
- ◆ Office: 2670 Slaterville Road [PO Box 136], Slaterville Springs, NY 14881. E-mail at [Building\\_Department@townofcaroline.org](mailto:Building_Department@townofcaroline.org).

**TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

- ◆ Mike Holt 657-2770

**TOWN GARBAGE TRUCK**

- ◆ Kenneth Gordiner Attendant Highway Garage
- ◆ Business hours: Wed 4-8pm, Sat 8am to 2pm.,\$.05/pound

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

- ◆ Dore Karasin 657-8659
- ◆ Louis Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ Lucille Ingrahm 657-8002
- ◆ Richard Thurston 657-8033
- ◆ 1 vacancy – volunteer needed

**BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

- ◆ Flora Karasin 657-2526
- ◆ 2 vacancies – volunteers needed

**PLANNING BOARD** MEETS: 1<sup>ST</sup> WED, 7PM TOWN HALL

- ◆ Victoria Nuzzo Chair 657-8656
- ◆ Charles Davis 657-8248
- ◆ Phyllis Hoffman 539-7750
- ◆ Emilie Stuhmiller 657-2680
- ◆ 3 vacancies – volunteers needed

**FIRE DEPARTMENT** MEETS: LAST THUR, 7PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ Kenneth Gordiner Fire Chief 657-8594
- ◆ Carrie Keener President 657-2849

**FIRE COMMISSIONERS** MEETS: 1<sup>ST</sup> TUES, 6PM FIRE STATION

- ◆ Jeff Holcomb President 657-8176
- ◆ Florence Brooks Secretary 657-4420
- ◆ April Andersen 657-2575
- ◆ Roberta Holcomb 657-8644
- ◆ Guido Gencarelli 657-9985
- ◆ Donna Gencarelli Treasurer 657-9985

**COMMUNITY AUXILIARY** MEETS: 2<sup>ND</sup> MON, 7 PM TOWN HALL

- ◆ Chris Craft President 844-8969
- ◆ Esther Truesdail Vice-President 539-6466

**DOG CONTROL OFFICER**

- ◆ Ronald H. Raab 607-426-4567

**TOWN HALL AND RAWLEY PARK SCHEDULING**

- ◆ Rebecca Randall 657-8254

**TOWN HISTORIAN**

- ◆ Bill Sherwood 539-6283

**RICHFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 2<sup>ND</sup> MON. APRIL - NOV

- ◆ Bill Sherwood President 539-6283

**RICHFORD REPRESENTATIVES TO:****COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

- ◆ Ron McEwen 657-2531
- ◆ Will Oberbeck 659-5554

**BERKSHIRE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- ◆ Kathy Hartman 657-8497
- ◆ John Knieriem 657-2712
- ◆ Emilie Stuhmiller 657-2680

**COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

- ◆ Vacant – volunteer needed

**COUNTY REAP**

- ◆ Richard Harrington 657-4480

**BERKSHIRE EMS**

- ◆ John Schaffer President 642-3451

**OFFICIAL TOWN NEWSPAPER**

- ◆ Scotsman Town & Country Pennysaver 753-3413

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Code Enforcement Office is moving into the new office space adjacent to the old location at the corner of Rt. 79 and Midline Rd. in Slaterville. If you are planning a spring project, contact the Code Enforcement Office at 539-6700 to get all of the necessary paper work started.

## THE 2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census form is just 10 questions, including: Name, Sex, Age, Race, and if you own or rent. The census DOES NOT ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers. The mailing package from the Census Bureau consists of: the 10-question form and a postage-paid envelope. In areas served by the United States Postal Service, postal workers will deliver the initial mailing in mid-March 2010. In all other areas, census takers will deliver the form packages between March 1 and April 30, 2010. Once you get your form in the mail, fill it in and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope provided. The Census information is used for many purposes, including determining how many Representatives NYS will have in Congress, and need for grants at the local level. Be sure to fill out your census.

## [WWW.RICHFORDNY.COM](http://WWW.RICHFORDNY.COM)

As a small rural community, one of the problems we face is conveying information to local residents. The Planning Board publishes this quarterly newsletter, but the newsletter cannot provide the latest information. To resolve this difficulty, the Planning Board hosts a Town website ([www.richfordny.com](http://www.richfordny.com)) that is updated in real time. Both the website and newsletter are created by volunteers, and your input is vital. If you have information about events or ways to improve our Town, use the comment box at the bottom of the home page to contact us and we will work with you to post the information.

This newsletter is compiled by the Richford Planning Board. If you have any questions or comments, contact any of the Planning Board members or contact us by e-mail at [newsletter@richfordny.com](mailto:newsletter@richfordny.com)

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

## Calendar of Events

- Jan 24 Concert, 7 p.m., Richford Congregational Church, Route 38
- Jan 26 Representative from Congressman Arcuri Office, 4 - 6 p.m., Newark Valley Village Hall, 9 Park St
- Jan 26 Diabetic Support Group, 6 p.m., Berkshire Congregational Church, call 657-4479 for info
- Feb 4 Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, 12:30 p.m. till gone, bring boxes
- Feb 6 Soup and Salad, Richford Congregational Church, 4 - 7 p.m., free will donation
- Feb 13 Valentine Dance, Town Hall 7 - 10 p.m., sponsored by Community Auxiliary
- Feb 17 Advisory Board, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network, 7 p.m., Hubbard Center, Bowery Lane
- Feb 23 Representative from Arcuri's Office (see Jan 26 for details)
- Feb 23 Diabetic Support Group (see Jan 26)
- Mar 4 Food giveaway (see Feb 4)
- Mar 6 Soup and Salad (see Feb 6)
- Mar 13 Auxiliary fund raising dinner (see website, bulletin boards)
- Mar 17 Advisory Board, NTNN (see Feb 17)
- Mar 23 Representative from Arcuri's Office (see Jan 26)
- Mar 30 Diabetic Support Group (see Jan 26)
- Apr 1 Food giveaway (see Feb 4)
- Apr 3 Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, 9 - 11 a.m., Town Hall, Richford children only, Community Auxiliary
- Apr 24 Reception for Reverend and Mrs. James Willard, 1 to 4 pm, Congregational Church, Main St., Berkshire

Richford Resident  
Richford, NY 13835