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# RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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Volume 10, Issue 4

[www.richfordny.com](http://www.richfordny.com)

October - December 2010

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## FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The town is beginning work on the 2011 Town budget. Richford is facing reductions in state aid, a severe reduction in sales tax revenue and greatly reduced budget surpluses. The Town will also be negotiating a new contract with the Highway employees. All of this could result in a difficult year for the Town budget with a tax increase. In 2011 all municipalities will be assuming the responsibilities for issuing dog licenses. This will mean that Richford must adopt a local law and will have additional expenses. Next year New York State will expect local governments to assume additional responsibilities with no additional state aid.

## PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the 2011 town budget will be held Thursday, November 4, 7 p.m., at the Town Hall. Information about the proposed budget can be obtained from Supervisor Wilcox or Town Clerk Judy Thurston.

## TOWN BOARD NEWS

**August 10, 2010** - Highway Superintendent, Mike Holt, reports that the new power broom has been received. Work on Barden and Michaud Roads is done. Work continues on Brummage Road. Road signs are being repaired or replaced. The Planning Board is looking into an alternative way to mail the newsletters in the future. The Town Board will order more wood chips for Rawley Park and parts have been ordered to repair playground equipment. Highway Superintendent Holt will prepare a list of items to be taken to auction in Whitney Point in September. Judy Thurston reports that starting in January 2011 the Town will be required to administer its own dog licenses. The Summer Youth Program was given permission to have two storage cabinets in the Town Hall.

**September 21, 2010** - This meeting of the Town Board was postponed from its usual day because of the Primary Elections. Highway Superintendent, Mike Holt, reports that work on Brummage and Victory Hill Roads is complete. About 3300 tons of sand has been hauled in for use this coming winter. Code enforcement and dog control reports were given. The Justice report was given and \$2395 in fines was collected. John Schwartz gave a report from the Planning Board. There was a lot of discussion on senior citizen exemptions on property taxes but the matter was tabled for another meeting. Tire collection day will be October 30th with prices being the same as previous years. The Town Board authorized Mike Holt to buy a used 13-foot truck box. There was more discussion over the Town handling its own dog licenses. The highway employees presented their

proposals for their new contract. Their present contract expires at the end of December. The Town Budget needs to be worked on. There was much discussion over property assessments and how they affect school taxes.

**October 12, 2010** - The code enforcement and dog control reports were given. The Justice report was given and \$4945 in fines was collected. The Planning Board is working on its budget for next year. Martin Wilcox will be going for training in Syracuse in November. Dog licensing in Richford will require a special computer program, according to the State. Due to the cost, there was much discussion over the necessity for this program. November 4th will be a public hearing on the proposed town budget. There is a tree at the graded school property that is in danger of falling on a neighboring house. Peggy Andersen is applying for a grant to buy new chairs for the courtroom. Hubby Road needs repairs due to heavy rains washing out pipes. Emergency work needed to be done quickly on that road so residences could get in and out, so there was no time to send out for sealed bids. Cleaning the Community Hall and in Rawley Park was discussed

## TIRE COLLECTION DAY

Oct. 30, 2010, Town Highway Garage, (Rt. 79 east), 8 a.m. - 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).

## POTATO FESTIVAL

The Richford Historical Society wishes to thank all that made our 18th annual "Potato Festival a success.

Winner of the Raffle Basket drawing was Palma Lynch of Berkshire.

Quilters Contest winners, 1st -Jessica Westra, 2nd-Vivien Westra, 3rd -Ruth White. Viewers Choice, Lucy Cross. Thanks to all of the quilters for your hard work and sharing your art with us. Special thanks to Helen Sweeney for judging the quilter contest this Year.

Helen learned quilting from a person who was a judge at the state fair. Currently, Helen is teaching classes locally and is attending classes to further her craft and teaching skills.

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## Election Day - November 2

The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Town Hall. The ballot is a full one with many candidates sponsored by both well known and more recently organized parties, representing various points of view. Arriving a few minutes early at the Town Hall to review the sample ballot may make voting easier. The new voting machines will be in use. Starting with the local election, this is a brief summary of candidates, their offices, and parties.

### Local:

- Peggy Andersen (D) for Town Justice.

### Member of NYS Assembly 123rd District:

- Gary D. Finch (R,I,C) unopposed.

### NYS Senator 52nd District:

- John Orzel (D), Thomas Libous (R,I,C)

### Representative in Congress 24th District:

- Michael Arcuri (D, Moderates)
- Richard Hanna (R,I,C)

### United States Senator - 2 year unexpired term:

- Kirsten Gillibrand (D,I, Working Families)
- Joseph DioGuardi (R, C)
- Five other candidates representing five different parties also on the ballot.

### United States Senator, 6-year term:

- Charles Schumer (D,I, Working Families)
- Jay Townsend (R,C)
- Colia Clark (Green)
- Randy Credico (Libertarian Antiprohibition)

### Attorney General:

- Eric Schneiderman (D,I, Working Families)
- Dan Donovan (R, C)
- Carl Person (Libertarian)

### Comptroller:

- Thomas DiNapoli (D, Working Families)
- Harry Wilson (R, I,C)
- Julia Willebrand (Green)
- John Gaetani (Libertarian)

### Governor and Lieutenant Governor:

- Andrew Como (D,I, Working Families)
- Carl Paladino (R, C, Taxpayers)
- Five other parties also have candidates for these offices.

## NEW LEGISLATOR

Ed Hollenbeck, Newark Valley, was recently appointed to the County Legislature, representing (District 7) Richford, Berkshire, Newark Valley, and Candor. Ed will complete the term of Will Oberbeck from Candor, who resigned. Ed can be reached at 642-3201. Ron McEwen (657-2531) from Berkshire is the other legislator representing this district.

## Community Auxiliary Activities

A Halloween Dance will be held Saturday, October 30, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane. Open to all, to join in the fun. Halloween parade for youth; wear costumes if you wish. Refreshments and music. Those 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Other upcoming events are, a Hunter's Breakfast: November 20 from 4 a.m. to 11 a.m. \$6.00 for a full breakfast and a Christmas party, December 18, 2 - 4 p.m. Santa Claus to attend. Gifts for infants to youth though age 14. Open to Richford children only. Town Hall, Bowery Lane, Richford.

The Community Auxiliary consists of a small number of members who are very active in carrying out a variety of activities to enhance community life in Richford. Dances (Valentine, Halloween), youth activities (Easter bunny visit, Kiddies Day and the Christmas party) are some of the projects carried out by this active group. They also assume responsibility for funding the Richford Scholarship for two graduating Richford seniors by holding a chicken barbecue in May (assisted by the fire company).

Upon request they will provide funeral dinners for families. Baskets are also provided for shut-ins and elderly.

Financial support comes from the Town budget, as well as donations from groups and individuals that help supply food and other provisions for dinners and the scholarship chicken barbecue. Two motorcycle groups provided bicycle helmets for children at Kiddies Day. The Auxiliary also does funding raising by making and selling potato doughnuts at Potato Festival, cooking Hunter's Breakfast, and sponsoring Jam days as well as other activities.

The Auxiliary meets the second Monday of the month at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Several new members, both junior (age 12 - 18) and senior, have joined recently. For more information about the Auxiliary and its programs, please call President Chris Craft at 423-8553 or 844-8969.

On behalf of the Richford Community, we thank the Auxiliary for its many activities on behalf of the residents and for being such a vital part of our community life.

## DRILLING

Four members of the Town of Richford Planning Board were able to attend the Tioga County Planning Board's Municipal/Local Land Use Tools for Natural Gas Exploration & Development on Sept. 9, 2010.

While the actual drilling and well heads are under the State of New York Law, we learned that there are a number of activities related to gas drilling that can be under control of towns through town ordinances, if those ordinances exist. For example local ordinances apply with in the areas of: Site Plan Review, Lighting, Noise, Town Roads, Driveway Permits and Flood Plains. Having appropriate ordinances, including a Site Plan Review, which the town of Richford has, are key. There are drilling related activities, called Incidental Uses that can also be controlled by towns through town ordinances. Incidental Uses include: warehouses, pipe yards, scrap

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yards, staging areas and possibly compressor stations.

Knowing what roads are town roads is a crucial part of town road use agreements with the gas companies that require the drilling companies to maintain roads and bridges they use, not the town residents. Knowing what roads are town roads is key to entering into agreements with the drilling companies for repair of the town roads and bridges they use. Having a future land use plan and map is a central part of a required Site Plan Review. A Town Site Plan Review, which Richford has, and Flood Plain ordinances MUST be followed by drilling companies.

Clean, safe ground water is central to living in Richford. Ground water contamination is a regular occurrence where gas drilling has been done in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. At the Sept. 9 conference we learned that all of Tioga County is designated a Sole Source Aquifer as part of the Clinton Street Ball Park Aquifer of Broome and Tioga counties. A Sole Source Aquifer designation is one tool to protect drinking water supplies in areas where there are few or no alternative sources to the ground water resource and where, if contamination occurred, using an alternative source would be extremely expensive. We are also part of the Susquehanna River Basin and water use is subject to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission regulations and review.

There is work to be done. The town of Richford does have some authority and control. We are not powerless.

## **HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS**

Residents of Richford, Berkshire and Speedsville can sign up for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets from the Helping Hands Food Pantry by calling 657-2501 or 657-8158. The deadline is November 8 and the signup is for both holidays.

Pickup dates are Saturday, November 20 for Thanksgiving and December 18 for Christmas, from 10 to 12 noon, at the Congregational Church, Route 38, Berkshire.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to help the Food Pantry with the baskets can send a contribution to the Helping Hands Pantry, c/o Congregational Church, P. O. Box 196, Berkshire, NY 13736. Donations of food and paper products can be left at the church.

The Pantry is open twice a week: on Monday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

## **TIOGA CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

The Society will have its eighth annual O' Tannenbaum Holiday Showcase. This holiday event has grown from a display of thirty-seven trees in 2003 to 140 trees and wreaths last year and is now a major event of the Christmas season in Tioga County. Trees are decorated by individuals and businesses and then sold by silent auction to raise money for the Historical Society. The Showcase will be on display from November 13 through December 18. There

will also be an electric train display and a teddy bear exhibit. The museum is located at 110 Front St. in Owego and is open Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4PM. Beginning November 26 through December 18 there will be extended holiday hours: the museum will be open until 7PM and also open Sunday afternoon. This is a holiday event that the entire family will enjoy.

## **AMERICORPS (Rural Health Service Corps)**

A position is available beginning December 2010 with Rural Health Associate (Richford): Northern Tioga Neighbors Network and Lourdes Northern Tioga Center for Family Health in Richford N.Y. This position will provide support for both a community volunteer organization and the Lourdes Hospital primary care practice in Richford, N.Y. This position consists of 1710 hours of service over 10-12 months. A living allowance of \$11,800, Education Award of \$5,250, health insurance and college loan forbearance is available. Please visit our website for details and an online application: [www.ruralhealthnetwork.org/amicorps](http://www.ruralhealthnetwork.org/amicorps)

## **SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

Free smoke detectors and a limited number of carbon monoxide detectors can be obtained by calling Connie Fedorowicz at 687-1452. One smoke detector is available free for any county resident. Carbon monoxide detectors are available ONLY to homeowners. (Landlords are required to install carbon monoxide detectors in rental units).

To obtain one or both detectors call Connie Fedorowicz at 687-1452 and leave a message. Connie requests that you repeat your name and telephone number **clearly**. The Tioga County Fire Fighters Association is furnishing the smoke detectors and the Owego Kiwanis Club provided a grant for the purchase of the carbon monoxide detectors. The detectors do help to save lives, give Connie a call if you need one or both detectors.

We appreciate the efforts of the Fire Fighters Association and the Kiwanis Club in providing these life-saving detectors. Thank you. If several residents request detectors, arrangements will be made with the local Fire Department for a central pickup place.

## **NEED HELP**

The Northern Tioga Neighbors Network has several trained volunteers who provide transportation to doctors and other medical appointments, obtain prescriptions and can do grocery shopping either for or with the person. To obtain the help of a volunteer call 657-2823 or toll-free 877-657-2823. Phone calls are usually returned within one business day, Monday thru Friday. More information can be obtained by calling the above number and leaving a message.

## **BERKSHIRE LIBRARY NEWS**

A Rural Mail Carriers exhibit will be featured for the rest of this year at the Museum, located in the Berkshire Library. Evelyn Martin, Berkshire, donated 18 new items to the collection. Some of these items have been displayed in the upstairs display area.

## "SENIOR SCOOP"

A bi-monthly newsletter published by the Tioga Opportunities, Inc., Department of Aging and volunteer senior citizens for all Tioga County senior citizens. Seniors can receive the newsletter, free of charge, by writing Dept. of Aging, 9 Sheldon Guile Boulevard Owego, NY 13827. Phone 607-687-4120 or toll free 1-866-352-3680.

### Items from the latest "Senior Scoop"

The Alzheimer's Association conducts an ongoing support group for families on the third Wednesday of each month from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 261 Main St., Owego, NY

Attention Care Givers: Do you care for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or dementia who you cannot leave home alone? The Care Giver Respite Program can help. We can provide weekly scheduled respite to give YOU a break. Call Jay Scordino at the Department of Aging at 687-4120 x318 for more information.

### FIRE COMMISSIONER ELECTION

Election of Fire Commissioners for the Richford Fire Department will be held in December. One five year position, currently held by Florence Brooks, is up for election this year. If anyone is interested in running for this position contact April Andersen at 657-2575 for nomination details and deadlines. Elections are open to all Richford residents who are registered voters.

### CLOSING NOTE:

As we stated in our last Richford Quarterly, our newsletter must be sent to a correct address. We have tried hard to be sure that we have a complete data base of addresses for all of our residents. If you or someone you know that lives within the geographic borders of Richford N.Y. and do not receive this newsletter, please contact us at [newsletter@richfordny.com](mailto:newsletter@richfordny.com) or call 657-8248 and we will add your address to our list. All we need is your street address, "no name is required".

## Calendar of Events

- Oct. 30** - Halloween Party, sponsored by Community Auxiliary 7 - 10 p.m, Town Hall.
- Oct. 30** - Tire Pickup Day, Highway Garage, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Nov. 2** - Election Day, Town Hall, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Nov. 4** - Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, 12:30 p.m. till gone, bring boxes.
- Nov. 4** - Public Hearing, 2011 town budget, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 6** - N.V. Wrestling Spooktacular Berkshire Fire station at 7 PM.
- Nov. 8** - Deadline for signing up for holiday food baskets, Helping Hands Food Pantry.
- Nov. 13** - Benefit for Justin Craft (very ill boy) at Poor Shots from 12-6 PM (sponsored by Community Auxiliary).
- Nov. 20** - Hunter's Breakfast, 4 a.m. - 11 a.m., Town Hall, sponsored by Community Auxiliary
- Nov. 20** - Pickup for Thanksgiving food basket, Helping Hands Food Pantry, Congregational Church, 10 a.m. - 12 noon
- Dec. 2** - Food giveaway, see Nov 4 for details
- Dec. 4** - Benefit for Robert (Bob) Batsford (brain cancer) at Poor Shots at 2:30 PM (sponsored by Community Auxiliary).
- Dec. 18** - Pickup Christmas food baskets, Helping Hands Food Pantry, 10a.m. -12 noon
- Dec 18** - Christmas party, 2 - 4 p.m., Town Hall, sponsored by Community Auxiliary, **Richford children only.**
- Jan. 6** - Food giveaway, see Nov 4 for details

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Town Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
- Planning Board Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.
- Town Court: 1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Town Clerk: Tues, Wed and Thurs from 7 - 9 p.m.

The Richford Planning Board compiles this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments please call Emilie Stuhmiller at 657-2680 or e-mail us at [newsletter@richfordny.com](mailto:newsletter@richfordny.com)

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