
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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STEVE LAWTON RETIRES

In the Town of Richford, much has changed over the past 28 years. One thing that has remained a constant is the Town Highway Superintendent. That era will end with Steve Lawton's announced retirement, effective December 31, 2009.

In a small town where the largest portion of the taxpayer money goes towards highway maintenance, Steve has always tried to give the taxpayers the very best he could while staying within the town's budget. Roads, that at times seemed to be no more than a muddy path, now have a hard gravel base and drainage ditches. Where the budget would allow, roads were oiled and stoned to prevent the gravel base from washing away and to provide dust control.

He has been vigilant in the battle with all of the natural forces that try to undo all that hard work. There was always snow to plow, flood damage to repair, brush to be cut and the endless maintenance of the town's equipment. All of those challenges were executed year after year with the general resolve of the majority of the residents of Richford. Steve can retire knowing that his service to his town was first rate and can take pride in a job well done. Thank You Steve!

TOWN ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 3

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane. Three candidates are running for two four-year terms on the Town Board, and two candidates are running for Highway Supervisor. Each candidate's statement is printed below, in alphabetical order.

Candidates for Town Board

Name: Beverly Brown

I am running for the Town Board a second time. I have enjoyed serving on it. I would like to see Richford become a nice place to live in. I have lived in Richford all my life and have seen a lot of changes. I think there is more we can do for Richford and the community. I also serve on the Richford Community Auxiliary as Secretary.

Name: Ricky Brown

I have been living in Richford all my life. I am a manager at the Dandy Mini Mart. I am a very responsible and organized person. I am someone that's filled with good ideas. Anything or everything I do, I take it seriously. I think I would be a good member of the Town Board because I like change and I know for some people,

they like change to. Helping to build our community is making a difference in our town and community. As for what some people say "Better community, Better life." So I hope you will vote for me and I will try to make a difference. Thank you.

Name: Ken Miller

I grew up in Dryden on the family dairy farm and earned a BS degree in physical education at SUNY Cortland. After 3 years as an officer in the Marine Corps, I taught and coached some, as well as worked part time at many different jobs. I now have a farm, with a little bit of grain, in Brooktondale, sell twine and ag. bags, and work full time at Lowe's in Ithaca. I have lived in Richford for the past 21 years, with my wife Barb, a life time resident of Richford. I am a member of the American Legion and a board member of the Farm Bureau. I am working to get up to speed with the Town Board by attending meetings. The Board has been doing a good job, but I feel that I could bring a new voice and a fresh set of eyes to it. I feel that I could be a good representative for the farming community and rural interests. I would like to see our community remain rural. I am a less government type of person. I am asking for your vote this November and your help in keeping Richford a rural and vibrant community. Thanks.

Candidates for Highway Superintendent

Name: Michael L. Holt Sr.

A life long resident of the area, Michael and his family have lived at their present home on Victory Hill Rd. since April of 1988. Michael worked for the Tompkins, Tioga, Seneca, BOCES in Ithaca for 14 years doing vehicle and building maintenance. In 1999 he went to work for the Town of Richford Highway Department, where he was able to apply his maintenance skills keeping the Town's equipment in repair and ready for service. He also gained skills in road building and maintenance, snow removal and all aspects of the road work of our town. During his employment with the Town of Richford, Michael was appointed to the position of Deputy Highway Superintendent for 3+ years. Michael retired from the Town in 2008, but is looking forward to coming back to serve as Highway Superintendent.

Name: James Klinge

Having lived in Richford most of his life, James Klinge and his wife, Kim, currently live in a house they built on Brummage Road, where they raised their two sons. James worked at Smith-Corona for 17 years where he gained experience working with large groups in a factory setting. He

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also has over-the-road trucking experience and is currently employed as a commercial sheet metal worker, fabricating and installing various sheet metal components. James wants to see that the taxpayers of Richford get the best value from their highway dollars. He hopes to continue and improve on the highway maintenance plan of the outgoing Highway Superintendent and is looking forward to the opportunity to serve our community and make improvements in the town.

NEW VOTING MACHINES

Richford is one of the towns chosen to use the new optical scan voting system for the November 3, 2009 election. This process is similar to the old-fashioned "ballot box" voting system.

At the polling place you will sign in and be given a paper ballot that lists the candidates and propositions. Then you will go to a privacy booth where you can mark your ballot with a special marker. Upon completing your ballot you will place it in a privacy sleeve and proceed to the scanning machine, the modern day version of the old ballot box. While lightly grasping the sides of the privacy envelope, you will insert the end of your ballot into the scanning machine and it will pull the ballot out of the privacy sleeve and into the machine. The machine will then ask if you are casting your vote or if you wish to review your ballot. It will also detect if you have omitted any choices or if the ballot is not acceptable due to damage or errant markings on the ballot. You have the choice of casting your ballot as is, reviewing your ballot, or having your ballot voided and receive a new ballot. When you are satisfied with your choices, press the "cast" button and your voting session is completed.

Your ballot is scanned and your choices are tabulated for retrieval after the polls are closed. In the event that the system fails, the original paper ballots are retained in the machine for review by the Board of Election, if that need arises. So in essence, it is much like the old locked ballot boxes, only the ballots are tabulated by a scanner as they are inserted into the machine, thus saving all of that counting at the end of the evening.

For more information on use of the new optical scan system and the many options that it provides for the handicapped, go to The Town of Richford, NY website at www.richfordny.com and click on the election information link on our home page.

FIRE COMMISSIONER ELECTION

Election of Fire Commissioners for the Richford Fire Department will be held on December 8, 2009 from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Two positions are up for election this year: one 2-year term and one 5-year term. Currently, Roberta Holcomb is running for the 2-year term and April Andersen is running for the 5-year term; both are unopposed at this time. If anyone is interested in running for either of these positions, contact April Andersen at 607-657-2575 for nomination details and deadlines. Elections are open to all Richford residents who are registered voters.

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TOWN BOARD NEWS

August 11, 2009 – Rescheduled to August 12, as only two members were present. Steve Lawton, Highway Superintendent, reported that 193 loads of stone were purchased so far this year. Patching of black top roads is being done. A Code Enforcement report for July was read. A Justice Court report for July was read and \$7235 was collected for the Justice Court Fund. A Dog Control report was read. Arthur Haas submitted a letter of resignation from the Planning Board. A thank you was received for the Town's contribution to the Northern Tioga Neighbor Network. The garbage truck will be closed September 19th due to the Potato Festival. The September 8th meeting date will be changed to September 16. Supervisor Wilcox informed the Board that he is starting to work on the Town Budget for 2010.

September 16, 2009 – John Keener, reporting for the Highway Department, said that work is being done on Lacey Road. A mine safety course was attended by the highway employees. A Code Enforcement report was read. A Justice Court report was read and \$3465 was collected. Charles Davis, speaking for the Planning Board, reported that the Town website is up and running and can be accessed at www.richfordny.com. A letter was received, from the Board of Elections, thanking the Town for its cooperation in using the new voting machine during the recent primary election. Supervisor Wilcox reported that the new voting machine will be in use this November. The Town also received a thank you letter and a certificate from Tioga County for our support of the tobacco free program.

October 13, 2009 – John Keener, reporting for the Highway Department, said that oil and stone work is was completed for this year. Rawley Park has been closed for the winter. A Dog Control report was read. A Justice Court report was read and \$4215 was collected for September. The Code Enforcement report was given. Charles Davis, speaking for the Planning Board, said that a survey on the Comprehensive Plan will be included in the newsletter. The Town Board bought a plaque for Steve Lawton, Highway Superintendent, who will be retiring. The Tioga County Planning Board is seeking a replacement member from Richford. Route 38 has been designated as the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Highway, and there will be a parade on Saturday, October 17th. As of October 14th, the state has banned open burning with some exceptions. The complete list can be obtained from Martin Wilcox or check the Richford website for more information. Tire collection day will be November 7th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prices will not change from before. Martin Wilcox presented the tentative 2010 budget to the Town Board members.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS

We would like to give a hearty thanks to those who showed their support and generosity by donating their time to repaint the fire station on Potato Festival Day! The fire station looks

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wonderful! Thank you John Keener, Bob Keener, Jason Peck, Ricky Lane, Jesse Keener, Mike Holcomb, Guido Gencarelli, Gabbie Gencarelli, Glenn Klinge and April Andersen. Know that you are all greatly appreciated! As commissioners, we understand that our building is in serious need of TLC, and are working very hard to maintain and update the space we currently have.

We would also like to congratulate the following people who recently passed their First Responder Course; Karen Gordinier, Jesse Keener, Carrie Keener, Jason Peck, and Richard Lane. Their dedication to the fire and EMS coverage of our town is so greatly appreciated and we would like to thank you for all that you have done to provide this much needed service. Also, we as a department are very lucky to now have two state certified CPR instructors; Carrie Keener and John Keener. Again, thank you for your great dedication to our department and to our town.

The fire commissioners have completed the 2010 budget for the fire department, and you are invited to attend our budget hearing on October 20th at 7:00 at the fire station. Input from our town members would be greatly appreciated!

TIOGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

The Tioga County Historical Museum, located at 110 Front St. in Owego, will once again have its O'Tannenbaum Holiday Showcase from November 14 through December 18 with a Sneak Preview on November 8. This year's theme is Nutcrackers and this event is the museum's major fundraiser. The museum gives trees to organizations and individuals who decorate the trees as they choose. The trees are then donated back to the museum which sells them by silent auction to the highest bidder. Last year about 5,000 visitors came to the museum and saw 142 trees and three dozen wreaths. The museum is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended hours after Thanksgiving. For more information call the museum at 687-2460.

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY EVENTS

A Halloween party and dance will be held Saturday, October 24 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane. A DJ will provide music. Refreshments will be available. The event is free and open to the public. Those 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

A Hunters' Breakfast will be held Saturday, November 21 at the Town Hall, Bowery Lane. Charge: \$6.00

December 19th is the date for the children's Christmas party from 2 to 4 p.m. The event will be held at the Town Hall and is open only to Richford youth from 0 to 16 years of age. Plans include a visit from Santa and refreshments.

STATE BAN ON FIRES

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted a statewide ban on the open burning of residential waste effective Oct. 14, with some (detailed below). Once considered harmless, recent studies demonstrate that open burning releases substantial amounts of dangerous chemicals into the air. Trash containing plastics, polystyrene, pressure-treated and painted wood and bleached or colored papers produce harmful chemicals when burned, including arsenic, carbon monoxide, benzene, styrene, formaldehyde, lead, and hydrogen cyanide, among others.

Allowable fires include barbecue grills, small cooking and camp fires, on-site burning of organic agricultural wastes (but not pesticides, plastics or other non-organic material), prescribed burns performed according to state regulations, and fire training with some restrictions on the use of acquired structures. On-site burning of limbs and branches is allowed between May 15th and the following March 15th. For details, see the DEC website www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html, or click the link on the Town of Richford homepage at www.richfordny.com.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Local residents living within the 13736 zip code can sign up for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets from the Helping Hands Food Pantry by calling 657-8158 or 657-2501 by Friday, November 6. Signups can also be done at the Food Pantry, Congregational Church, Berkshire. Pantry hours are Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Pickup dates for the baskets are November 21 and December 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of food and paper products can be left at the church. Any financial donations can be mailed to the Pantry, c/o Congregational Church, PO Box 196, Berkshire, NY 13736.

PUBLIC HEARING - 2010 TOWN BUDGET

The Town Budget hearing will be held Thursday, November 5, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Information about the proposed budget can be obtained from Supervisor Martin Wilcox or Town Clerk Judy Thurston.

TIRE COLLECTION DAY

The fall tire collection day for Richford residents will be held Saturday, November 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Highway Garage, Route 79 east. 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).

TOWN OPINION SURVEY

The Planning Board is updating the Town of Richford Comprehensive Plan. This document summarizes the current condition of the Town and presents a vision of what the Town should be like in the future. The last Comprehensive Plan was prepared in 2002 and can be viewed at the Town Website www.richfordny.com. The update is needed to help the Town apply for grants, prepare for the upcoming oil and gas extraction, and focus its resources most effectively.

Your input is needed to help make the updated Comprehensive Plan an accurate reflection of the Town's vision. Inside this newsletter is a mini-survey. Please take the time to fill it out and return to the Planning Board: by mail at PO Box 80, Richford NY 13835, or in a dropbox located at the Richford Diner, the Lourdes Health Center, the Town Hall, and the Town Garbage Truck (when open on Wednesday and Saturday). The Planning Board will compile the responses November 15.

TOWN WEB SITE

Go to www.richfordny.com and catch up on local happenings, meeting dates and times, local government and contact information, even local laws and ordinances. There are also links to sites of interest to Richford residents, and news articles. You can even read the Richford Quarterly on-line.

Local groups and clubs can have their meetings and events posted in the Local Happenings column on the home page. If you have a local business, there is a free business directory page to list your business or service on. We look forward to your interaction with this site. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page to contact us or submit a comment.

Calendar of Events

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| Oct 24 | Halloween Dance, 7 - 10 p.m., Town Hall, sponsored by Community Auxiliary. |
| Oct 27 | Diabetic support group, 6 p.m. Congregational Church, Berkshire. Call 657-4479 for information. |
| Nov 3 | Election Day, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m., Town Hall, Bowery Lane. |
| Nov 5 | Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, Route 38, 12:30 p.m., till gone, bring boxes, bags. |
| Nov 5 | Public Hearing, Town Budget, 7 p.m., Town Hall |
| Nov 6 | Last day to sign up for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, Helping Hands Food Pantry. |
| Nov 7 | Tire collection day, Highway Garage, 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. |
| Nov 21 | Hunters' Breakfast, 5 a.m. - 11 a.m., Town Hall, sponsored by Community Auxiliary. |
| Nov 21 | Thanksgiving food basket pickup, Berkshire Congregational Church, 10 - 12 noon. |
| Nov 24 | Diabetic Support Group - see Oct 27. |
| Dec 3 | Food giveaway, see Nov 5. |
| Dec 19 | Christmas food basket pickup, see Nov 21. |
| Dec 19 | Christmas party for Richford youth, 2 - 4 p.m., Town Hall, sponsored by Community Auxiliary. |
| Dec 29 | Diabetic Support Group, see Nov 24. |
| Jan 7 | Food giveaway, see Nov. 5. |

Town Newsletter
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Richford Resident
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