
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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FROM THE SUPERVISOR

By the time you receive your newsletter the Highway Dept. will have begun work on replacing the bridge on Barden Rd. This will require traffic being detoured onto West Hill and Brigham Roads. The Town hopes to have the new pipe installed by the end of July, weather permitting. The Town Board has voted to have the Dog Control Officer Ronald Raab conduct a Town-wide dog census. Finding unlicensed dogs should help increase the revenue the Town receives from dog licenses. Residents are reminded that dogs four months and older must be licensed and be vaccinated against rabies.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Richford residents elect local officials this November: town supervisor, town clerk, highway and two town board members. Candidates with party designations have already filed their petitions with the County Board of Elections. If you are interested in running for office but have not filed a petition there is still time to run as an independent candidate by filing an independent nominating petition. A name must be created for the independent party and an emblem must be filed on the petition (samples are available at the Board of Election Office). Dates for filing the independent nominating petition are August 13-20. For more information contact the Board of Elections, 56 Main St., Owego (607-687-8261) or go to www.tiogacountyny.com/departments/board-of-elections.html.

A complete 2013 political calendar is available from the Board of Elections Office. Dates of interest include Primary Election Sept 10, Oct 10 last day to register in person or by mail (there are some exceptions) and Nov. 5, General Election Day. Registering to vote can be done by mail or on line at the Board of Elections or by completing the form available from DVM or at the Post Office.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

May 14 2013 - The Highway and Code Enforcement reports were given for April 2013. The Justice Court report included a check from the Justice Court for \$3,455.

Discussion about the Holcomb vs. Town of Richford assessment case: the Board agreed to reduce the assessment on 315 Victory Hill Road to \$305,000. William Stell Sr. was appointed to the Town Planning Board for a term of 7 years to expire in 2020. The Board authorized sale of the 2010 Ford pickup truck to the Town of Berkshire for \$15,500.

Discussion about the Barden Road bridge replacement, which will begin in mid-July and should take 2-3 weeks. Letters will

be sent to affected residents, and service agencies such as fire, police and ambulance, will be notified about the road closure. The Highway Department will work to have all detour roads in the best shape possible before the bridge closing. Superintendent Holt warns the board that the bridge on Rockefeller will likely be the next one. It has been written up for several years because of the guardrails. The Rockefeller Bridge could be replaced with a 20 foot pipe.

The Planning Board and Town Board met to work on the Road Preservation Law. Discussion about problems that could arise if roads need to be widened to accommodate large and numerous trucks, and land is taken from adjacent landowners for that purpose. Request for the Town Board to address the issue of eminent domain before it becomes an issue.

Discussion about enforcement of the Junk Law. A local resident has been issued a citation but has made no attempt to clean up. Neighbors would like the board to please try harder to make the resident comply. Supervisor Wilcox notes that Richford has serious issues with junk on people's property, but the Town cannot act without a court order.

June 11, 2013 - Highway Superintendent Holt gave a report for May. Rear brake system on the garbage truck had to be replaced costing \$1200-1300; Mr. Holt asks the board to be aware that the truck is in decline. West Hill Road was graveled week of June 3 using town's gravel, which is inferior, but cost prohibited purchase of better quality gravel. Pipes were replaced on Robinson Hollow Road. Mr. Holt notes that he is using his personal trailer to haul pipe as the town does not own a trailer. Also, town does not own a compacting hand tamp. When placing pipe, gravel surrounding the pipe must be tamped every six inches in order to meet guidelines. Tamp can be rented at \$150/day or buy new for \$1400. Board approved purchase of a new tamp.

Discussion about using brine, calcium chloride or oil for dust control on road surfaces. Oil provides the longest lasting control and protects the road, and can be used on all roads, but costs \$1.60 per gallon plus the charge to have it applied, and 20,000 gallons are needed. Calcium chloride costs around \$1.10 a gallon. Salt brine costs only \$.01 per gallon, but must be reapplied and, like the winter salt, breaks down the roads. Salt brine cannot be used on a 10% grade nor close to a creek. Last year 66,000 thousand gallons of salt brine were used.

Rain is drastically hurting progress of brush cutting on all rural roads. Renting a tractor with boom mower for \$2000 for a week will take care of all brush, otherwise requires four men with chain saws and weeks of work.

Barden Road Bridge replacement will begin July 15 and last approximately 3 weeks. Detours will be 2 seasonal roads, each

one-way due to road narrowness: West Hill one-way north (up) beginning at the Y, and Brigham Road one-way south (down) beginning at the seasonal road sign.

Superintendent Holt stated that the County cited the guardrails on the Rockefeller Bridge again. The bridge was installed in 1937 and these guardrails are so old he cannot even get parts for them anymore. If someone drives into them with any speed, they will not hold.

The Justice Court report for May included a check for \$1125. The Code Enforcement Officer report for May indicated two building permits, two building permit renewals, four building permit renewal notices, one building permit inquiry, 7 inspections, and fees collected \$250.

Planning Board report indicated that progress on the Road Protection Law is very slow, due to the highly technical nature of the proposed law, requiring both legal and engineering expertise. Without a strong law, there is concern that roads will be damaged if a drilling company begins using them, and that roads could become impassable for town citizens.

Town Assessor Fran Butler stated that in 2010-2011 the Board signed an agreement with the State of New York to do a re-evaluation in 2014. The stipulation was that the town would get paid every year, ("maintenance pay") for maintaining full value assessment. However, the town never received any monies from the state, so, the town is under no obligation to do a re-evaluation. The equalization rate this year will be 100%. The Town Board must decide to conduct a full or partial reassessment: Full value assessment is cleaner and less controversial than partial assessment. The equalization rate set by the State will drop if we do not maintain full value assessment, and that will reduce the State's tax contribution for State Forest lands and consequently increase local landowners' share of the taxes.

Discussion about a traffic signal to replace the stop signs at the intersection of Highways 38 and 79. The State conducted a safety study and determined that crashes would increase with the installation of a traffic signal, and that traffic back-up at the light would lead to driver frustration and increase aggressive driving. While it is the State's goal to reduce accidents at this intersection, a traffic signal is not the solution at this time.

A Town resident suggested the Town buy a trailer for the road crew to use to haul piping, the dozer, and the grater. Constantly driving the dozer and grater up and down the town roads is harsh wear on expensive pieces of equipment. Supervisor Wilcox says funds are, as always, an issue.

Discussion about sidewalks: while the state put them in, the town is responsible for upkeep. The current condition is very poor. Discussion about West Hill Cemetery. Supervisor Wilcox stated it is abandoned and no longer legal to use as burying grounds. There is no cemetery association to take care of this cemetery. Bill Stell volunteered to conduct a West Hill Cemetery clean up project.

Discussion about Michaud Road. Thirty years ago an informal agreement made the private driveway a Town Road, but the road has never been on Town milage. The Town plowed the road for a number of years and then stopped. Three years ago the Town agreed that it should be a Town Road and not a private drive. Since that time there has been no work done on the road and it is not useable. A Survey needs to be done before any work can be conducted, but the County will not survey that road.

NTNN NEWS

Northern Tioga Neighbor's Network (NTNN) now provides services in Newark Valley, as well as Richford and Berkshire. In just the first 6 months of 2013 volunteers drove over 5,000 miles and contributed 400 hours, helping people go to doctor's offices, going shopping for and with them, and home visits.

The NTNN vision is that Northern Tioga County will be an extended family of caring neighbors who contribute to the well-being of their communities. If you're interested in becoming a NTNN volunteer or know someone who can use NTNN services contact them at 657-2823 or toll free at 877-657-2823 and leave a message.

SUNDAES ON THE FARM

A free family event will be held Sunday, August 18 from 1 - 4 pm at Howland Acres, a dairy farm located on Barden Road, Candor. Enjoy a free ice cream sundae and learn about Tioga County agriculture. There will be activities for the kids, farm animals, educational displays, farm vendors, musical entertainment and a 4-H foodbooth. Sundaes on the Farm is sponsored by the Tioga County Agricultural Resource Group. For information call Tioga County Tourism at 607-687-7440.

To get to the farm from Richford go west on Route 79, turn left onto West Creek Road, continue though Speedsville and then follow the signs to the farm.

CELEBRATION EVENT

A special event celebrating the recovery of Pastor Jim Willard (now home after 3 months in the hospital) will be held Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Newark valley Fire Station from noon to 6 p.m. Reverend Willard is pastor at the Richford Congregational Church after the Berkshire Congregational Church for 43 years. His congregation is looking forward to his return as pastor on Sunday, August 4th.

The event is being organized by local church members. Retired Pastor Emeritus Jim Sweeney will serve as the MC. A variety of activities are planned including several music groups. All are welcomed to celebrate with Pastor and Mrs. Willard and their family. For more information, call the Richford Congregational Church at 607-657-2592.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

The Summer Youth Program for youth, ages 5 to 16, started Monday, July 8 and will continue through August 16, three afternoons a week. Director Becky Randall and assistant, Heather Armstrong, have planned a varied program including crafts, reading incentives, exercise, and nutrition. Each child can sign out a book to read at home and return. At the end of the program each child can select a book to keep. There is still time to join. Any questions? Call Becky Randall at 657-8254. This program is funded by the Town and other donations.

BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY

The Library has a free program "Groovin' in the Garden" with Story Laurie on August 8, 6:30-7:30 pm, at the Berkshire Community Hall. It will be a fun-filled hour with music, storytelling and adventure free for the whole family. On August 15 there will be a pie and ice cream social at the Berkshire Methodist Church Hall, at 6:30 pm. The Annual Book Sale will be held August 24 & 27-31, 9 am – 5 pm, at the Berkshire Community Hall. "Storytime" will return to Richford in the fall.

FUN IN TIOGA COUNTY

Tioga County Tourism sponsors Saturday bus trips during the summer months to places of interest both within and outside the county. A listing of trips planned through October 5th can be obtained from Tioga County Tourism, 80 North Ave., Owego, 687-7440. Information is also available on their website. Most of the bus tours begin at 10 am and unless otherwise noted meet at the Tourism Office Visitor Center, 80 North Avenue, Owego N. Y. The length of the tours vary and reservations are recommended, as space is limited. There is a fee for the bus trip, usually reduced for seniors and children. Lunch may be on your own or bring your own lunch, depending on the place to be visited. Trips planned include "The Underground Railroad-Part 1 and Part 2," a visit to the Ithaca Farmers' Market and Cornell Plantations Tour.

COMMUNITY AUXILARY

On August 25 the Auxiliary will sponsor a Jam Day from 12 noon till 6 pm at Rawley Park. Bring your instruments and have a fun day. Refreshments will be available.

On Sept. 1 Auxiliary members will hold a fundraiser, seeking donations from drivers passing through Richford. Members also will be selling homemade potato doughnuts at the Town Hall during Potato Festival, Sept. 21.

KIDDIES DAY SUCCESS

The Richford Community Auxiliary put on another very successful Kiddies Day on Saturday, July 20th at Rawley Park. There was a record number of kids playing fun games, winning great prizes and enjoying hot dogs and drinks. Richford Kiddie Day queen, Miranda Brown and king, Ryan Rhodes were

crowned. Thirty bike helmets were donated to the community this year and eight lucky kids rode away on brand new bikes. A highlight this year, as it has been for the past few years, was the motorcyclist freedom ride -- the kids waved and cheered on the motorcyclists as they rode by. The kids also checked out a Richford fire truck. A big thank you goes out to the Auxiliary on all their fund raising and hard work to make for another successful day.

TIOGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There are currently two exhibits on display at the museum. One looks at the history of manufacturing in Tioga County and features companies such as the Candor Glove Factory and Endicott-Johnson Shoe Company. The other exhibit looks at the history of transportation from horse and buggy to the automobile. It features a Monarch motorcycle and an Owego Cyclecar which were made in Owego. The museum is located at 110 Front St. in Owego and is open Wednesday-Saturday 10am to 4pm.

FREE FOOD, PANTRY AND FOOD STAMPS

The monthly food give-away is held at the Richford Congregational Church, on the first Thursday of the month, from 12:30 pm on. The food give-away is sponsored by the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. This event is open to all who could use a little extra food, with no questions asked. Bring bags or boxes to carry the food home.

The Helping Hands Pantry is open Monday evening 6:30 -7:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoon 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The Food Pantry also sponsors a Senior Pantry one Saturday morning per month with Seniors being called. Seniors receive an extra box of food. To sign up call Emily (657-8158) or Joan (657-2501). The Pantry is located in the basement of the Berkshire Community Building, which is on Jewett Hill Road next to the library.

Arline Wales is the Food Stamp Outreach Worker Tioga Outreach Center (Catholic Charities). Contact her at 607-414-1023 (139 Roki Blvd, Nichols) for help in determining eligibility and other food stamp related concerns.

CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet, located in the Hubbard Center (behind the Health Clinic and next to the Town Hall), continues to provide women and children with clothing in good repair, free. Hours are the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 6 to 8 pm. Donations of clean, wearable clothing for women and children are always welcomed and can be brought in during open hours or placed in the large storage container between the two buildings. For more information call 657-8254 or 657-8521. Families will need back-to-school clothing by mid-to-late August for their children and the Clothes Closet is a helpful resource.

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Calendar of Events

Aug 1 - Food giveaway, Richford Congregational Church, bring containers. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Aug 8 - Family fun: "Grooving in the Garden", a musical storytelling adventure with "Story Laurie". Sponsored by the Berkshire Library at the Community Hall, behind the library.

Aug 15 - Pie and Ice Cream Social, fundraiser for Berkshire Library, 6:30 pm. Methodist Church, Main St. Berkshire.

Aug. 16 - Last day of Richford Summer Youth Program.

Aug 18 - Sundaes on the Farm, 1- 4 p.m., Howland's Acres, Barden Road, Candor. Free family event

Aug 21 - Advisory board Meeting, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network.

Aug. 24 - Berkshire Library Book Sale, at Berkshire Community Hall.

Aug 25 - Jam Day, Rawley Park, Community auxiliary, 12 noon on.

Aug. 27-31 - Berkshire Library Book Sale, at Berkshire Community Hall.

Sept 5 - Food giveaway, see Aug 1 for details.

Sept 7 - Celebration for Willard Family, Newark Valley Fire Station, noon - 6 p.m.

Sept 10 - Primary Election, Town Hall, noon - 9 p.m.

Sept 18 Advisory Board Meeting, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network.

Sept. 21 - Potato Festival.

Oct 3 - Food giveaway, see Aug 1 for details.

Oct 5 - Pork dinner, Richford Congregational Church, 4 - 7 p.m., takeouts available.

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POTATO FESTIVAL SEPT 21

The Richford Historical Society is busy planning this year's Potato Festival, on September 21, 2013, from 9-3. There will be lots of fun events, including the mashed potato eating contest and the Potato Princess/Tator Tot pageant. We need volunteers to help that day with set up, clean up, games, craft activities, and serving ice cream. If you have ideas for a new event, we'd love to hear about it. We meet at the graded school house the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 pm (next meeting August 12). In August,

we will be discussing painting the school house in preparation for the festival. If you would like to help with that or have equipment we can use to help us reach the top of the building, please let us know. Please contact Kellie Campbell (607)539-6505, or Bill Sherwood (607)539-6283, if you are interested in helping make this year's festival the best yet.

Food will be available at Town Hall and at the Congregational Church from 9a.m. to 3 p.m. Music also planned in the church and vendors will be selling items in the parking lots at both of these locations.