

TOWN OF RIGA

NEWSLETTER

Riga Town Board Members

BRAD O'BROCTA, SUPERVISOR

JAMES FODGE, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR, CINDY JESSOP, COUNCIL MEMBER

DEREK HARNSBERGER, COUNCIL MEMBER

DEBORAH CAMPANELLA, COUNCIL MEMBER (EDITOR)

Jul/Aug
Riga
Summer 2020 Issue

Supervisor's Report

How quickly our lives have changed! Just a few short months ago we were excited and ready for all that spring has to offer. Little did we know the entire world would be dealing with a dangerous pandemic that would alter our lives in ways we could never have imagined. The last several months have been extraordinarily difficult and trying for all of us. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to change how we live, work, learn and recreate.

Our society is just now starting to return to some sense of normalcy – albeit with many restrictions still in place. The CDC, State and County Health Departments continue to mandate mask wearing when in public and to stay 6' away from others. We should frequently wash our hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. These simple steps have helped us reduce the spread of COVID-19 here in Monroe County and have gotten us into phase 3 of the Governor's 4-phase re-opening plan. My thanks go out to all of you for sacrificing so much during this crisis. It has not been an easy adjustment!

Not only has this pandemic hurt countless businesses, it has also negatively affected virtually every local town, village, county and state. As businesses were shuttered to slow the spread of the virus, local sales tax revenues fell drastically. Local governments count on sales tax revenue

as a significant source of income, which helps balance their budgets. We are closely monitoring the sales tax revenue shortfalls and will continue to make budget adjustments as needed.



The Town Hall was opened back up to the public in mid-May. We are requiring masks to be worn in the Town Hall. Hands must be sanitized as well (we have hand sanitizer to use as you enter the building). Proper social distancing is also required.

By the time you read this newsletter, you should have received (or will shortly receive) notification from Waste Management that our garbage pick-up days in Riga are being changed. I am not aware of the new schedule; however, Waste Management will certainly provide those specifics to all residents.

Operations in the Town of Riga are slowly getting back to normal. It has been quite a journey – countless conference calls with county, state and local government officials as we all tried to better understand the gravity of the situation, how best to deal with it and move safely forward. Many hours have

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT CONTINUES & ASSESSOR NEWS	2
RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS	3
TOWN CLERK NEWS	4
HISTORIAN ARTICLE	5
LIBRARY NEWS	6
LIONS CLUB & RIGA CEMETERY	7
RECREATION NEWS & BUILDING DEPARTMENT	8
RECREATION PROGRAMS & HISTORIAN ARTICLE	9
SCOR NEWS & AMERICAN LEGION NEWS	10
COMMUNITY EVENTS & CHURCH NEWS	11
BLOOD DRIVE	12

Continues on next page —>

Supervisor's Report (Continues)

been spent planning for our to go through another phased re-opening, and then shutdown. safely getting back to serving our residents under a new 'normal' set of circumstances.

I want to take a moment to thank you for your patience and understanding while our Town Hall was closed to the public for such a long period of time. Let's all work together to stay safe and healthy so we don't have

As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any Town Board member if you have any questions or suggestions.

Submitted by:
Brad O'Brocta
Supervisor



Assessor News

STAR EXEMPTIONS

The BASIC STAR exemption will be \$29,400 of assessed value, and the ENHANCED STAR will be at \$68,400 of assessed value. Due to the equalization rate dropping, the amount of exemptions has decreased.

On the state's Office of Real Property Services website, www.tax.ny.gov, you will see that the maximum income to be eligible for the Enhanced STAR exemption, for the 2020-2021 school year, is \$88,050. Resident property owners, who are at least 65 by the end of 2020 (born on or before December 31, 1955), whose 2019 Federal Adjusted Gross Income (minus any taxable IRA distribution) fits into this category, must apply by March 1, 2021. If a husband and wife, or siblings, own a property together and at least one of

them is 65 and is a resident property owner, you may be eligible. **For those who are currently Enhanced STAR recipients**, renewal notices are no longer required. You no longer need to bring your tax information to the Assessor's office.

However, if you are a first time Enhanced STAR applicant (meaning you already have the Basic STAR and you believe you're entitled to the Enhanced STAR) you will need to file an Enhanced STAR application with the Assessor. This is a one-time application that gets you into the IVP program.

How to switch to the STAR credit

1. Notify your assessor that you wish to withdraw your STAR exemption.

REGISTER FOR THE STAR CREDIT:

[HTTPS://WWW.TAX.NY.GOV/PIT/PROPERTY/STAR/DEFAULT.HTM](https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm)

2021 RE-ASSESSMENT

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic, the Town of Riga has decided to postpone the scheduled town wide 2021 re-assessment until further notice. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the assessor's office.

If I can be of assistance, please give me a call at the Town Hall – 293-3880 extension 126.

Submitted by:
Lori Frongetta,
Assessor



SUMMER RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS



Save the Date

Fall Brush pickup is planned for the week of October 19th. Please have brush out to the roadside before that date. We will make one trip down each road and cannot make return trips after we have been down your road. We will again be bulk handling the piles of brush loading on our dump trucks with a rented prentice loader. Construction materials, boulders, concrete will not be picked up with brush. If you have materials other than brush to be picked up please call a disposal company for those types of materials. *If you are a landowner and don't care to drag brush to the roadside, consider making brush piles for wildlife and returning organic matter back to the soil. There are great resources on the internet for details.*

As we endeavor to maintain and preserve quality roadway surfaces, the following town

and county roads are slated for work this summer:

Planned Town Roadwork for 2020

Jenkins Road, O'Brien –chip sealed June 5, 2020

Johnson Road South- Prep for widening, drainage improvements. This 1.9-mile-long road will take a few years to complete. We will begin to work on a section at a time to make improvements.

Due to decreased revenue, other road maintenance projects planned for this summer have been postponed.

Monroe County DOT Road projects for this summer

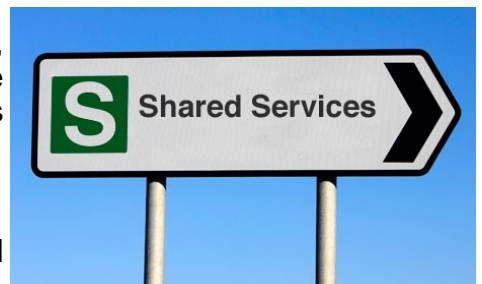
Bovee Road chip seal- completed June 4, 2020

Bangs Road- Edge mill, install binder, true and level- scheduled for late July

Savage Road – Box culvert removal and pipe install- scheduled for first two weeks of August.

North Road- Paving project with Wheatland scheduled for early July.

Note; All town and county projects listed above are tentative, subject to budget approvals and priority of other work, weather emergency or other unforeseen circumstances.

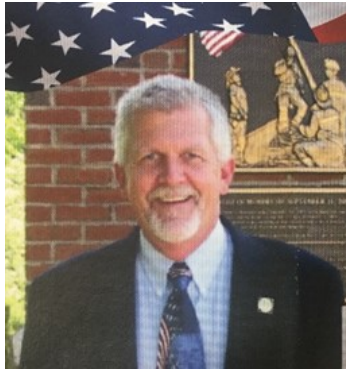


Shared Services between the towns happens on most summer road projects. You will often see Ogden, Chili, Sweden, Clarkson, Rush,

SUMMER RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS (CONTINUES)

Parma, Wheatland, Churchville, and Spencerport trucks and equipment working in Riga helping with county and town road projects. We also provide equipment to surrounding towns and our village to do county work, as well as town roadwork which often require more manpower, equipment, and trucking than single towns can provide. We work together to get projects done in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Submitted by:
David Smith, Highway Superintendent



Town Clerk News

DROP BOX



There is nothing more important to us than the safety of our Residents.

The Town Hall has reopened and we are here to serve you. For the time being all transactions for the Town Clerk and the Town Assessor will be conducted through the gate at the Town Clerks window. We will keep the gate down as we have added plexiglass as an added safety measure. Everyone entering the Town Hall will be required to wear a face mask until further notice. Hand sanitizer has been placed outside the doors of the building as well as throughout the lobby for your use.

I would like to remind residents that there is a drop box located at the back of the Town Hall, to the left of the entranceway.

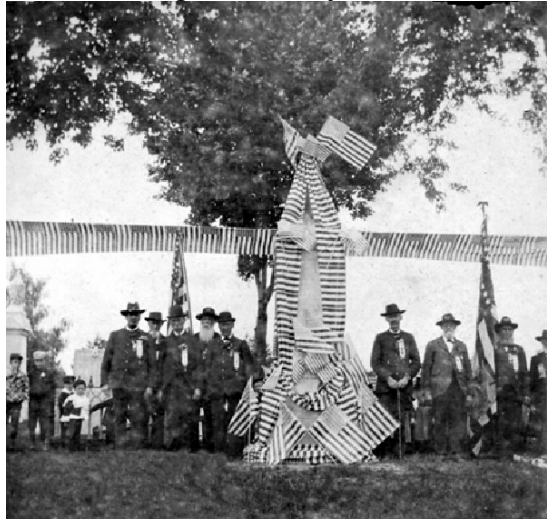
The secure drop box allows access for residents to conduct business without having to enter the building.

We hope that this will be convenient for those who wish to social distance and for those who cannot get here during the day. Your payment will be processed the very next business day and a receipt or license will be mailed back to you.

Submitted by:
Kimberly Pape, Town Clerk

The Day The Town Fell Silent

As you are quite aware, the 2020 Memorial Day the cemetery grounds, 21gun has since past us, and we will never salute or grand speeches by local officials. forget the silence that fell upon the village on Only silence. The Batavia Times newspaper that sacred morning. It has been 96 years since the last time the Memorial Day observance was disrupted, and its story is told as follows:



*Civil War Veterans at the Decorated
Soldiers Monument*

It was the year 1906 and for the past twenty-two years the residents of the Town of Riga, led by the members of the Churchville (G.A.R.) Asa L. Goodrich Post 433, participated in Memorial Day services. The Churchville G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Post was an organization chartered on

December 21, 1883 and was created to form a brotherhood of local Civil War veterans dedicated to helping each other and their families. The post was formally named in honor of Asa Lay Goodrich, a resident of the village who served with the 8th New York Cavalry during the Civil War. In 1862, Asa Goodrich enlisted as a 29-year-old private in the city of Rochester and eventually advanced to the rank of Major.

On April 3, 1865, while serving under the command of Brigadier General George Armstrong Custer, Asa was killed in action at the battle of Namozine Church in Virginia. Ironically, Asa was killed just six days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox. His name, along with thirty other local Civil War veterans killed in action, is etched on Soldier's Monument, which is located in the Churchville Creekside Cemetery.

By December of 1906, the membership of the Asa L. Goodrich Post had dwindled to seven members. Unable to keep their charter, the post disbanded. Therefore, in 1907, Memorial Day fell silent. There was no church service, decorating the graves with flowers, marches to

details the 1907 observance of Memorial Day in the Town of Riga as follows: "Memorial Day observance in this village will be lacking much in interest to the regret of Churchville's patriotic citizens. Heretofore - members of Asa L. Goodrich Post 433, G. A. R., and the Women's Relief Corps together with the school children, would congregate at the Post rooms in the village hall, (once located at #9 East

Buffalo St.) and march to the cemetery, where they would decorate the graves of fellow comrades and from the overhead bridge over Black Creek would cast wreaths and flowers upon the flowing waters below in honor of the sailors who lost their lives in their country's cause. The post and corps were abandoned last December owing to the decrease in membership, chiefly caused by death. It required nine officers and five members to open a meeting and as some could not attend on account of infirmities of age it was almost impossible to get a quorum to do business; therefore, the post was compelled to surrender its charter. The seven surviving comrades are: James Bushnell, Henry Ford, Samuel Parnell, Angus McIntosh, F. N. Parish, John Stewart and James Dawson.

For seventeen years, Memorial Day fell silent. Then in 1924, a newly formed veteran's organization named the Harvey C. Noone, American Legion Post 954 was organized in the Town. The post was named after a local resident, twenty-year-old Harvey C. Noone, who was killed at the battle of the Hindenburg Line during WWI.

Continues on page 9 —>

Newman Riga Library

One of the most difficult things I have done as a librarian is to lock the library doors and keep patrons out. It goes against everything a library is meant to be. The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the world we once knew and continues to make all businesses rethink their service models. We are no exception.

an abundance of caution and factoring in social distancing requirements, we have canceled our scheduled performers and programs.

To stay up on the library status and programming:

- call us at 293-2009
- follow us on Facebook
- check our website at newmanrigalibrary.org

account for 3-5 days.

E-Books and E-Audio



Books:

Use the Overdrive or Libby App on your phone, computer or e-reader devices to access many e-books and e-audio books.



Curbside Pickup

On June 8th, we started curbside pickup where you can request items from our library, make an appointment and pick them up at the curb. This service will be offered until we can move to our next stage where we will open the library building with limited services. We are in the process of taking the appropriate safety measures for staff and patrons, preparing the building and getting the proper approvals for this next stage. Unfortunately, I do not have a solid date or specifics regarding what our services will be due to the constantly changing environment and requirements.

Another casualty of the pandemic is our Summer Reading Programming. Out of

- check the Village of Churchville message board in front of the library.

Although the physical building is not open at the time of this writing, there are still many library services available:

Curbside Pickup (until next stage):

Offered M-W-F: 12-4 pm and T-TH: 12-6 pm. Call 293-2009 or email newmanriga@hotmail.com. Detailed instructions are on our website at newmanrigalibrary.org. To search the catalog go to: libraryweb.org

Book Drops

Our book drops are open! All items will be quarantined and backdated. You may not see items removed from your



WiFi:

Our filtered wireless network (Wi-Fi) is on and available for patron use from the library lawn or the parking spots closest to the library.

We appreciate everyone's patience and kindness as we work through our new reality.

Submitted by:

Lynn M. Brown, Librarian

LIONS CLUB CORNER

It is with deep sadness that the Lions Club has had to cancel our annual Lions Club Country Fair and Parade.

This decision was made because we want to keep our members and our community safe. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the amount of advanced planning and work that would need to be done, there was too much uncertainty about the future to allow us to move forward.

This was a very difficult decision to make, not just because it is our biggest

fundraising event, but also because it brought the community together, people running into old friends that our busy lives had prevented us from seeing for a time.

We will be looking into other fund raising alternatives that may be possible for us to hold sometime later in the year.

Please rest assured that we are still here to support the community, even throughout this difficult time.

We are really looking forward to bringing the Lions Country Fair back again in 2021.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

Submitted By:
Debby Landers
Churchville Lions Club
Secretary



RIGA CEMETERY NEWS

Memorial Day 2020 at the Riga Cemetery was celebrated with American flags placed by the Harvey C. Noone Legion at our veterans' graves and around our flag pole in the Veterans section. Mary Martin from the Legion planted marigolds along the Veteran's flag pole path.

Sue and Amy Kuter have been tending to our plantings around our shed and berm. At various locations around the cemetery you will see assorted perennials, rhododendrons, hostas, vincas, bachelor buttons and burning bushes. Sue plans to add more burning bushes on our lot line.

Just a reminder that our Cemetery Rules and Regulations and our latest Brochure, found on the Town of Riga cemetery website, outline lot owner responsibilities. Our Annual Cemetery Meeting has been postponed until after June 30, 2020. After the meeting date has been published, all are invited to learn about and help the Riga Cemetery.

Submitted by:
John Loser
President
538-2951



Veterans Section in the Cemetery

RECREATION NEWS



As summer starts to unfold Riga Recreation is doing its best to adhere to the regulations put forth by New York State, Monroe County, and out Town of Riga. As of this writing the playgrounds at McNeely & Sanford Road parks are OPEN! The pickleball courts at both McNeely and Churchville Parks are OPEN.



The Town Board, along with the Village of Churchville, have determined that the Summer Gazebo Concert Series start will need to be pushed back.

This is in part due to:

- The State's restrictions requiring social distancing to prevent spreading infections from the COVID-19 coronavirus haven't reached a level where more than 25 people can meet in the same place.

- The State has not yet released plans for what recreation programs can open or their safety guidelines in Phase 4 of the State's reopening plan.

We will continue to update information. Please check the Westside News, the Riga Town website and "Like Us on Facebook"!

Riga Recreation



Find us on
Facebook

As "Phase Four" approaches we hope to open up the athletic fields at Sanford Road for volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, & soccer. Feel free to contact us anytime. We anticipate getting back to our regular indoor programs (Scrapbooking, Golden

Beats, Safe Boating, and Cornhole) soon as we receive direction as to what procedures we need to have in place to do so.

Thank you for your patience. It has been uplifting to see so many in our community taking advantage of the challenges presented to us by getting outside to enjoy the weather with long walks and bike rides.

Feel free to contact us with any additional ideas to help cope with the challenges of this health crisis.

Stay safe & well.

Submitted By:
Dave Thomas,
Recreation
Supervisor



**BUILDING
PERMITS
REQUIRED**

RIGA BUILDING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Just to let everyone know, we are adjusting to the pandemic like everyone else. performed using the New York State guidelines.

Keep in mind that Building Permits are still required as usual. Meetings and inspections will be

Please call with any questions.
585-293-3880 ext. 124 or ext. 132

Submitted by:
Building Inspectors
Ken Kuter & Bob Panik

July-August 2020 RECREATION PROGRAMS

We are always in search of energetic parents/coaches to volunteer to help teach/instruct programs!
Interested individuals should contact the Recreation Department at 293-3880 x130

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES—2020

July 15th— Curbside Service 6:30pm—8pm

July 22nd- Johnny Bauer 6:30pm—8pm

July 29th- Generations 6:30pm—8pm

August 5th- Three Hits & a Miss 6:30pm—8pm

August 12th- 8 Days a Week & the Churchville Lion's Club "Relay For Life"... "Luminaria" Celebration *This concert ONLY will have a 7pm Start.



Playgrounds are OPEN at McNeely Park & Sanford Road Park

The Day The Town Fell Silent (continues)

It is through the efforts of the Harvey C. Noone, American Legion Post 954 that the historic observance of Memorial Day was reinstated and today still exists with the same enthusiasm and devotion as past years.

Submitted by:
Ron Belczak,
Town Historian



***Soldiers
Monument
in
Churchville
Cemetery***

SCORNews

This Spring Season will be remembered as disruptive to many lives, with changes to everyday routines and social gatherings. So we bend with the "winds of change". With the decision for caution in the best interest of our community, the Riga Town Parks remain closed. The popular July Picnic we regret to say MAY NOT BE, due to COVID-19 situation of health concerns for gatherings in groups. As in previous years we do not meet in the month of August. Let us look forward to September 8th for possible regrouping. Members will be contacted as usual by SCOR callers with up-to-date information and any changes for resuming scheduled meetings, lunches and trips. Take care and see you in September.

Submitted by:
Dolores Perry,
Publicity for
SCOR
532-6978



Harvey C. Noone Legion News

Now Serving Our Community Via The Web

The pandemic led the Legion Family to make changes so we can continue to serve our Veterans, Active Duty Members, their families and our community. Our prime goal was to make sure that Memorial Day did not pass unnoticed. We launched a website and announced that, as always, flags would be placed on graves of over 500 veterans. The Auxiliary began Virtual Poppy Distribution. We also placed 50 flags at the Legion. Your response was positive and because social interactions are still limited, we began a 4th of July Decorating Contest. By now, the winners have been chosen and posted in the website's Photo Gallery, which also contains photos going back to Memorial Day

Celebrations in the 1800's and everything in between. Please go to our website www.harveycnoonepost954.org and see what we are doing and how many of your friends and family are in the Photo Gallery!

For God and Country,
Gil Budd,
Commander



Memorial Day - "We are in this together - 50 Flags on the Legion Lawn."
Photo Credit: Briana Litoff Lynch

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

July

3 & 6 Town Hall Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday Weekend



For further information regarding Riga Rec, Senior, Library and CYA programs, call 293-3880 X130, or refer to the Town's website: www.townofriga.org. Contact sponsoring organizations for further information regarding their events. Submit your ideas and comments for further enhancements to the Editor.

Submit comments and/or upcoming events to:

Town of Riga Newsletter

6460 Buffalo Road

Churchville, NY 14428

Fax 585-293-1917 or townclerk@townofriga.org

CHURCH NEWS

United Congregational United Church of Christ – 14 N. Main St, Churchville

Because of the pandemic, our church is closed and services are presented online each Sunday. You may access the services at [Soundcloud.com/ucc-churchville](https://soundcloud.com/ucc-churchville). Pastor Bradley Klug leads these online services and our Choir Director, Jim Burlingame, provides music from our choir. Please join us online. If you have a prayer

request, do send an email to the church at unionucc@frontier.com.

All events through August are cancelled.

Each day (except for rainy days) FREE books, and some puzzles, are placed near the sanctuary door for the community to enjoy. If you have any you would like to donate, you may place them also at the door and we thank you.

Our signboard at the front of the church will indicate when the church will be open for services and fellowship together. This signboard will also announce any worship services that will be held outdoors.

We pray for God's protection and care for all in our community. If you are in need of any assistance during this time, please call our church at 585-293-1665 or email us at unionucc@frontier.com and we will do what we can to help.

Churchville Lions Club Medical Loan Closet

The Churchville Lions Club has a wide variety of medical equipment for loan including canes, crutches, wheelchairs, hospital beds, etc. If you or someone you know, is in need of medical equipment for loan, please contact us to make arrangements at (585) 594-2103 or www.churchvillelions.org



TOWN OF RIGA

6460 Buffalo Road
Churchville, NY 14428

Phone: 585-293-3880
Fax: 585-293-1917
E-mail: see website for addresses

Brad O'Brocta, Supervisor

James Fodge, Deputy Supervisor

Cindy Jessop, Council Member

Deborah Campanella, Council Member

Derek Harnsberger, Council Member

Kimberly Pape, Town Clerk

David Smith, Highway Superintendent

Richard E. Stowe, Town Justice

Scott Okolowicz, Town Justice

OFFICIAL TOWN WEBSITE

WWW.TOWNOFRIGA.COM

FIRST PIONEERS
OF MONROE COUNTY
1809

MEETING SCHEDULE

All Town Board Meetings, Workshops and meetings of Appointed Boards and Committees are open to the public. Most meetings are held at the Town Hall at 7 pm according to a regular schedule.

TOWN BOARD: 2nd Wednesdays.
Workshops as needed.

CONSERVATION BOARD: 4th Mondays.

LANDFILL CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD:
3rd Tuesday of the Month in January, April, July,
and October at 6 pm at Millseat Landfill.

PLANNING BOARD: 1st Mondays.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Scheduled as needed on 1st Thursdays at 7 pm.

AD HOC COMMITTEES: No meetings scheduled at this time.



RIGA TOWN HALL BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday, July 27th 2020
1:00 PM—6:00 PM**

6460 BUFFALO ROAD-COMMUNITY ROOM

Please give the gift that lasts a lifetime. Please call
1-800-GIVE LIFE to schedule your
lifesaving donation. If you donated on or before
June 2nd you are eligible to donate.
Walk-ins are also welcome!! Please Bring ID!

1-800-GIVE-LIFE donatebloodnow.org