

TOWN OF RIGA NEWSLETTER

Riga Town Board Members

BRAD O'BROCTA, SUPERVISOR

JAMES FODGE, COUNCIL MEMBER, CINDY JESSOP, COUNCIL MEMBER

DEREK HARNSBERGER, COUNCIL MEMBER

DEBORAH CAMPANELLA, COUNCIL MEMBER (EDITOR)

June/July/August
Riga
Summer 2023
Issue

Supervisor's Report

At our May Town Board meeting, the Riga Town Board denied the application to rezone the proposed 5-megawatt solar energy farm at 63 Riga Mumford Road. Among the reasons for the denial, the proposed project was in conflict with the future land use map in our comprehensive plan, in keeping with the character of the area it was proposed in, and not in the best interest of our community overall.

The Town Board continues to work on updating our Town Code. The complexities of ensuring updates to our local Town Code comply with state requirements, and (just as important) properly reflect the vision our residents have for how Riga will grow and look in the future, make this an extremely time-consuming process. Once again, thank you to everyone involved in this task. I am humbled to work on this project with folks who genuinely care for our town and its future. We are truly blessed to have incredible residents that are willing to give so much back to ensure Riga remains a wonderful place to live.

At our May Town Board meeting, the Town Board also imposed two 6-month moratoriums. The first is a 6-month moratorium on development of large-scale commercial solar energy systems in the Town of Riga. The second is a moratorium on large subdivisions in the

Town of Riga. The goal of this moratorium is to prevent large subdivision developments from occurring in Riga while the Town Board is working on major revisions to its Town Code. The Board is reviewing its commercial solar code, zoning map and overall zoning code as part of this update, and feels it is prudent to put a hold on both commercial solar development and large subdivision development while this is occurring.

Riga Recreation's Summer Camp begins June 26th and runs through August 11th. Summer Camp is open to children entering kindergarten through 7th grade. Registration forms are available on our website and at the Town Hall. For more information, please go to www.townofriga.com/recreation.

Also, be sure to attend the popular concerts at the gazebo in the Village. Concerts are every Wednesday - 6:30 – 8 PM and run from July 5th to August 9th.

Congratulations

In closing, I would like to recognize the **2023 Churchville-Riga Chamber of Commerce Youth Hall of Fame Award Recipient Ryan Jones**. This award is presented to individuals who deserve

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Supervisor's Report (continues)

our praise and recognition for their outstanding achievements, perseverance, contributions to our community, personal growth, and development. Through Ryan's hard work and never-quit attitude,

he has shown all of us that nothing is impossible.

Congratulations Ryan!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please do

not hesitate to contact myself or any other Town Board member.

Submitted by:
Brad O'Brocta,
Town Supervisor



Assessor News

STAR EXEMPTIONS

The BASIC STAR exemption will be \$30,000 of assessed value, and the ENHANCED STAR will be at \$81,400 of assessed value.

Breakdown of STAR savings by school district:

	Basic	Enhanced
Byron-Bergen	\$603	\$1,506
Caledonia-Mumford	\$464	\$1,159
Churchville-Chili	\$593	\$1,475

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 2023-2024 school year, is \$93,200 (this will most likely increase for the 2024 school year). Resident property owners, who are at least 65 by the end of 2023 (born on or before December 31, 1958), whose 2022 Federal Adjusted Gross Income (minus any taxable IRA distribution) fits into this category, must apply by March 1, 2024. 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.

Board of Assessment Review

A sincere thank you to David Branch for serving the Town of Riga as a member of the Board of Assessment Review since May 3, 1983.

Dave has been an active participant and has decided it's time to move on. After **40 years**, we don't like to see him go, we wish him the best, and would like to thank him for his service. So now the Town Board will be appointing a new member.

The Board of Assessment Review meets on Grievance Day, the fourth Tuesday in May of each year. The next Grievance Day is May 21, 2024. As with most positions on various boards, there is required training. For the Board of Assessment Review, the training takes place approximately midway through the month of April.

The Town Board authorized a \$45 per meeting payment to Board of Assessment Review members for Grievance Day. The following question and answer is taken from the Office of Real Property Services website:

What are the legal requirements or qualifications for a member of the Board of Assessment Review (BAR)?

The Real Property Tax Law requires that members of the BAR have knowledge of property values in the assessing unit. BAR members are local public officers, and therefore, are required to be at least 18 years old, citizens of the United States, and residents of the municipality which the board serves (Public Officers Law, section 3).

You are also required to take an Oath of Office.

Please submit your letter of interest and written qualifications to the Town Clerk, 6460 E Buffalo Road, Churchville NY 14428 by the end of January, if you would like to be considered. If I can help answer any questions you might have, give me a call at 293-3880 Ext.126.

Submitted by:
Lori Frongetta,
Assessor



Churchville Volunteer Fire Department News

Hello everyone! We have come through another Rochester winter and are eagerly awaiting the greening of the trees and the colorful spring flowers. We hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to a great summer season. All of us at the Churchville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (CVFD) would like to update everyone on some coming events and offer a few reminders for the upcoming months.

The CVFD will be hosting our Sportsman Raffle on Saturday, June 10th at the fire station. At the time of this writing there were still some unsold tickets. They are \$25 each, covering 17 prizes, buffet and refreshments. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, you can call CVFD at 293-3770 and leave a name,

number and message. Someone will return your call.

The CVFD and the Churchville Lion's Club are co-sponsoring blood drives with the Red Cross at the fire station. One was recently held in early May and another is scheduled for September 21st. Watch for further information and please donate if you are able.

The CVFD is seeking individuals with a desire to help their community by becoming a Firefighter or EMT. No previous experience is required as training will be provided. We also sponsor an Explorer Post, which is a program of the Boy Scouts of America. Our post provides firematic training to boys and girls between the ages of 14-18. They get a head start, learning many

aspects of firefighting that are required to enter the county training classes. They also make new friends and learn valuable teamwork skills. Stop by the fire station at 25 Washington Street on Monday evenings to fill out an application.

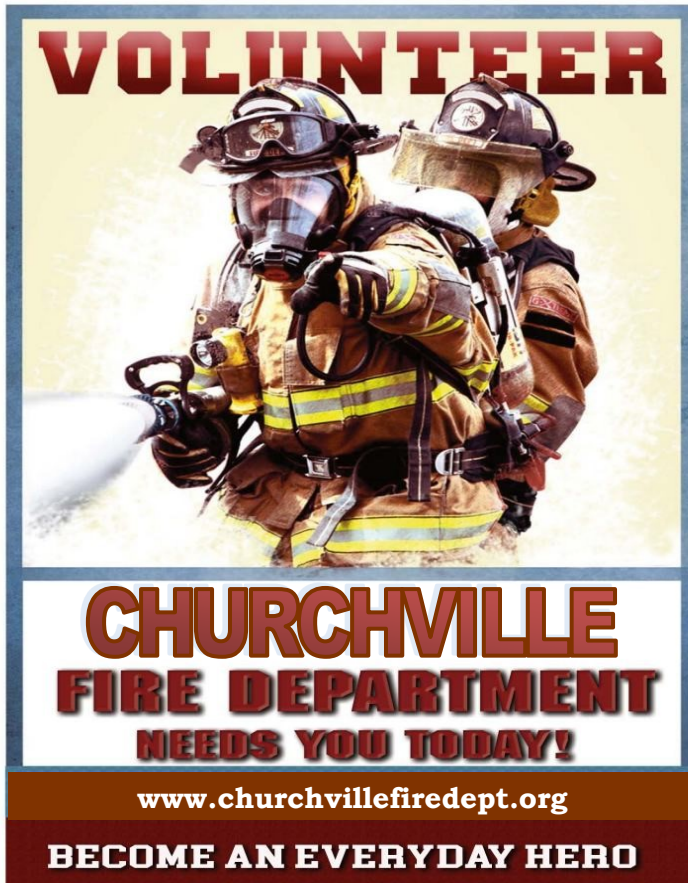
With summer approaching, please be aware of increased roadside traffic; joggers, bikers, walkers and kids out of school for the summer. Give them some extra room and slow down. Motorcycles have been out since the first sunny days. Please be alert and check twice before entering traffic lanes, there have already been several tragic motorcycle accidents around the county.

Be careful with outdoor fires. We can still experience wildfires after the DEC has lifted the burn ban. Many past summers have provided us with very hot and dry conditions and dormant grass will burn just as fast.

Make sure your pools meet safe standards with fencing, proper supervision of children and Personal Flotation Devices. If boating is your choice, be sure you have PFDs, proper navigation aids, communication equipment and always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.

We want to thank the community for their support at our past events; the turkey raffle, equipment fund, sportsman raffle and blood drives. Your fund drive and memorial donations are greatly appreciated. Visit our website or on Facebook and feel free to stop in at the fire station.

Submitted by:
F. Skelton, CVFD Secretary



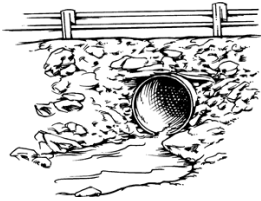
VOLUNTEER

**CHURCHVILLE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
NEEDS YOU TODAY!**

www.churchvillefiredept.org

BECOME AN EVERYDAY HERO

RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS



With the nice spring that we have had, we are really getting into the road projects for the season. We have replaced the culvert that goes under Chili Riga Townline Road. We have also done ditching that was needed throughout the town. We are currently working on the reconstruction and widening of Robertson Road. It has been several years since any major work was done on the town's end of the road. With all of the wind we had over the winter and spring months, brush pick-up was a major challenge this spring. It looks like we have had a record year so far. I am happy to say that within a weeks time we have collected all of the piles of brush throughout the town. The next dates for brush pick-up will be the



week of October 16th. We will be upgrading some of the features on the playgrounds in the town's parks within the next couple of weeks. We also will be planting some new trees around the older playground at Sanford Rd. We have also installed dog clean up stations at the parks for your convenience.

Town and County Roadwork

We will be finishing up the shoulders on Robertson Road and then starting to true and level Fairbanks Rd., Green Rd., Chili Avenue Ext., Parish Rd., and the final chip seal on Appletree. The county road work will be down this year due to county funding. We are scheduled to chip seal Kendall, Gilman, and North Main St. We may also have some work to do in Churchville Park again this year.

As you pass by the Highway Department you will see the change we have made to the brush drop off area. The brush drop off area and the wood chip pile have been moved to where the old recycling area used to be. The entrance to that will be off of Bromley Rd. You can look for the sign and the new driveway. Wood chips are available to all Riga residents. Unfortunately we can not load your vehicles. There is also an area where all residents can leave their brush. This area is open all year long.



I would like to wish Dale Buss a Happy Retirement.

Dale has worked at the Town of Riga Highway Department full and

part time for 35 years. Dale has been the Deputy Highway Superintendent for the last year and a half. He is a vital part of our operation, and he will be truly missed. We wish him well in the next chapter of his journey.

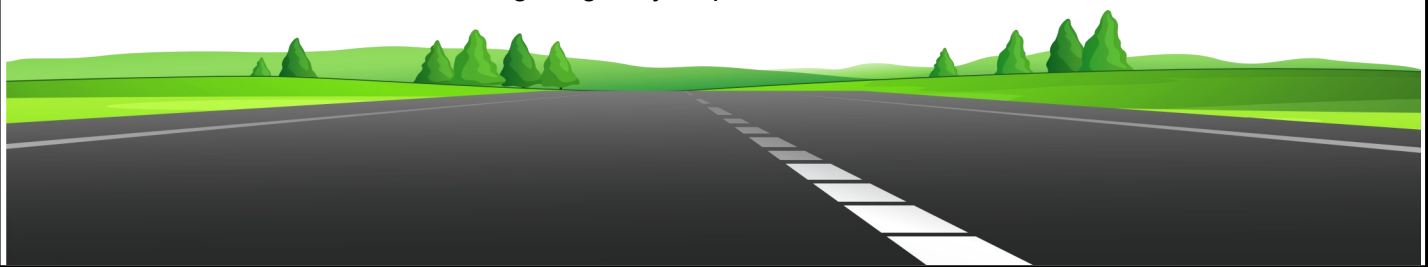


Please remember as you are approaching a work zone to slow down and be aware of the surroundings and what is taking place. The flaggers on a work zone are there to control traffic and safety for the ground workers and the motoring public. We know that it creates an inconvenience for the motorist but we need to do it to keep roads clear and safe for your travels.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding roadways, please feel free to contact us at the office 293-2530, or my cell at 733-3808. I hope you have a safe and healthy Summer.

Submitted by:
Scott Flagler,
Highway Superintendent





CODE OF THE TOWN OF RIGA FOR JUNKED VEHICLES

Article Junked Vehicles

[Adopted 11-20-1989 as L.L. No. 2-1989]

§ 89-1 Purpose.

This Article has as its purpose the prevention of private and public nuisances created by the location and storage of junk vehicles on private property within the Town of Riga (outside the limits of the Village of Churchville).

Said vehicles are an attractive nuisance to children, constitute a health and safety concern for all and are a source of vexation and annoyance. They depreciate the value of neighboring property and are a potential source of fire and explosions. The preservation of public health, protection of property and elimination of public peril make local legislation to terminate such practice a necessity.

§ 89-2 Prohibited acts.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, association or other entity owning real property in the Town of Riga or his agent, employee or tenant to suffer,

JUNK VEHICLE CODE

permit or cause to be left or stored any junk motor vehicle, whether or not owned by him, upon his property in violation of the provisions of this Article or any other local law of the Town of Riga.

§ 89-3 Conditions.

A.

A motor vehicle shall be deemed to be a junked motor vehicle if:

(1) It is present on private property not duly licensed as a garage or motor vehicle repair shop or other facility operating in accordance with the zoning laws of the Town of Riga, whether said vehicle is owned by the owner of said lands or is there with the knowledge and consent of the owner of said lands, if it:

(a) Is not currently registered to be operated on the public highways of the State of New York, provided that registration is required.

(b) Is inoperable or has been substantially dismantled or has been permitted to deteriorate and has been permitted to continue in that state for a period of time long enough to raise the presumption that there is not intent to make is usable. A period of 30 days shall be deemed such a period.

(c) Is being dismantled for the purpose of using its parts in the

repair of other vehicles or otherwise disposing of the same.

B.

Any one or all of the foregoing shall constitute a violation of this Article.

C.

Nothing herein contained is intended to prevent the storing of any such vehicle in a wholly enclosed area, completely hidden from view from any street or public place or from adjoining or other private property, provided that the vehicle is otherwise lawfully on the premises.

D.

Nothing herein shall include in the meaning of a junk vehicle any functional piece of equipment used in agriculture or business which is constructed partly from motor vehicles.

Submitted by:

Bob Panik

**Building Inspector/Code
Enforcement Officer**



Churchville Walk-About/Chalk the Trail Event
Saturday, August 19th

Need Recycling Information? There's an app for that – just ask Alexa!

Need to know what items are recyclable curbside in Monroe County?

Want to know what items are accepted at the Monroe County/Waste Management ecopark?

Now, there's an app for that.

Monroe County is the first in New York and among few municipalities nation-wide to launch an Alexa Skill which answers frequently asked recycling questions.

Working with Pittsford-based iCitizen, Monroe County Environmental Services developed the Alexa application to provide residents with answers to common questions regarding recycling.

The free Monroe County Recycling skill can be easily enabled via the Alexa Skill Store by using an Amazon smart device or by downloading the Alexa app on an Apple or Android smart phone.

Residents only need to say: "Alexa, open Monroe County Recycling."

When Alexa responds with "Welcome to Monroe County Recycling," the skill is ready to answer questions such as:

"Alexa, can I recycle electronics?" "Alexa, can I bring tires to the ecopark?"

"Alexa, how do I recycle paint?" "Alexa, when is ecopark open?", and many others.

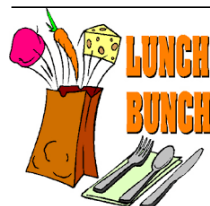
Additionally, the Alexa Monroe

County Recycling Skill is available in eight languages, and the smart speaker application makes recycling information easily accessible to the visually impaired.

To see a demonstration of the Alexa Monroe County Alexa Recycling App, visit

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/des-alexa>

Submitted by:
Tina Verno Stevens
Waste Diversion
and Education
Coordinator
Monroe County
Department of
Environmental
Services



Hey, wouldja like to be among the first people in the buffet serving line?

Wouldja like to visit with friends and acquaintances--the Surgeon General says it's beneficial to your health--while doing light work? Sign up for a single month of **The Committee!** Make a dessert and help put on tablecloths and put out accoutrements (fixings). Vice-President Doug Eisle is in charge of the monthly volunteers. He would be glad to hear from you.

June 13--

Roast Pork Loin provided by Jim Ehrmentraut at the Harvey Noone Legion Hall. Members should bring side dishes serving 6-8 persons. Also bring cup, plate, tableware and cup for yourself. Reserve a spot for \$5 for our

SCOR LUNCHEONS

"Picnic" in July. Flags needing to be retired can be brought in for collection as June 14 is Flag Day. Our guest Tony will make a presentation about the Eagle Star Transitional Housing for veterans in Spencerport.

July 12--

Our annual **Picnic** will be at **Mahar Lodge** off South Sanford Rd. Members bring your ticket and a wrapped White Elephant Auction item as well as \$\$ to buy a White Elephant item should you win. All food and utensils and plates are being supplied by the Club. Jim Ehrmentraut is making hots and burgers and sausage patties and sides. Iced tea and water are provided.

There is **no luncheon** in **August**. We are on vacation.

September 12--

Free! Free! Free! Who said there is no free lunch? We have subs for all made by ANG served at the Harvey Noone Legion Hall. Be sure to order yours when the callers phone for your reservation. Choices are roast beef, turkey, or tuna. Bring your place settings and cups. Our presentation is by the owner of Country Junktion on Main St and a Chamber of Commerce member, Rita Kanaly. Oh, and there will be dessert, popcorn and chips too.

Let's get the blues on the run. Acquaintances are as valuable as friends to promote feelings of well being. That's what SCOR does for us. No sense in being lonesome.

Submitted by:
Verna W Linney,
Immediate Past President



SCOR NEWS

SCOR Feeds Your Spirit

The Surgeon General Vivek H Murthy declares loneliness is a health hazard with an increase risk of anxiety and depression. It results in incidence of stroke, heart disease, dementia and death equivalent to smoking daily. Having social interaction both on our trips and at our monthly luncheons offers us a tonic to chase away the blues, Can anyone deny the loneliness from the Covid shutdown? Intuitively SCOR offered a boxed turkey dinner drive through. What a joy to see the happy MASKED faces of friends, acquaintances if only in their cars!

Now we can travel together once again and have a great time sharing experiences.

Citizens of Riga Travel Program

See that Riga folks? ANY Riga resident is eligible to go on our trips. Call Pat Sauer at 703-6717 for reservations and costs.

June 12-- *Evita* at Merry-Go-

Round Playhouse

- Lunch on own at Saunders Market in Seneca Fall
 - Matinee performance of *Evita*
 - Plated dinner at Springside Inn (*Choice of: Haddock, Ham or Chicken Parmesan*)
- Departs Churchville American Legion at 7:30 am / Approximate return at 8:45 pm

July 10-13-- Rhode Island Mansions & Coastlines

- Four day / Three Night
 - Full description available from Pat Sauer, 703-5717
- Departs Churchville American Legion at 7:30 am / Approximate Return at 7:00 pm



August 16--Lake Chautauqua & Lucy's Hometown

- Included BBQ luncheon cruise on Lake Chautauqua aboard the *Chautauqua Belle*



- Guided Tour of Jamestown focused on Lucille Ball w/ photo stop at Lucille Ball Statue
 - Visit Lucy Desi Museum
- Departs Churchville American Legion at 8:30 am / Approximate Return at 7:45 pm

September 19-- Celine Dion Tribute Show, The Power of Love at SAC

- Site is Seneca Allegany Casino
 - \$20 Free Slot Play and \$10 Food Credit
- Departs Churchville American Legion at 8:15 am / Approximate Return at 7:15 pm

October 4-5-- Moses at Sight and Sound Theater & Lititz

- Two day / One night
 - Full details available from Pat Sauer, 703-5717
- Departs Churchville American Legion at 6:45 am / Approximate return at 9:15 pm

Submitted by:
Verna Linney



Spring cleanup has been done and the lawn mowing has started. Due to high winds, there were some limbs that had fallen and were quickly cleaned up. The water faucets have been turned on for needed watering.

Pricing and vendors have been

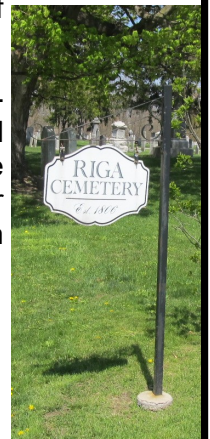
obtained to repair five fallen monuments with work being started soon. This cost will be absorbed by the Riga Cemetery. Pricing has also been obtained from vendors for work on several dangerous monuments. This list will be submitted to the NYS Division of Cemeteries to determine whether the costs will be reimbursed to Riga Cemetery. It is anticipated that work on the dangerous monuments should start in late summer. As stated before, this is an expensive project that will take years to complete.

RIGA CEMETERY NEWS

Please consult the Town of Riga website for rules and regulations for the Riga Cemetery. We thank all who help maintain the upkeep and the beauty of the cemetery.

We are always looking for additional helpers and those who wish to join our Board. PLEASE join us.

Submitted by:
Tim Speares,
Vice-President



Pioneer Life in Riga

The following article was printed in three parts from a 1906 Batavia Times newspaper. It was an article that Mrs. Lucy Gay (1810–1898), daughter of Joseph Thomson, presented to the Rochester Historical Society in 1893 on the history of the Town of Riga. Joseph Thomson was an early pioneer of Riga and built one of the first trading posts west of the Genesee River. That building, originally located on the southeast corner of Chili-Riga Center Rd. and Riga-Mumford Rd., served as a tavern, post office, meeting place and bakery and was moved in the 1970's to the Genesee Country Museum in Mumford, New York.



He also built the brick structure, presently located on the southwest corner of Chili-Riga Center Rd. and Riga-Mumford Rd., which served as a tavern and store for many years. Titled, "Reminiscence of Pioneer Life," this article provides us with a brief but very interesting view of what



life was like in the pioneer days of the Town of Riga. Keep in mind that the Town of Riga was officially formed in 1809.

"CHURCH BROTHERS, FIRST SETTLERS, CAME IN 1806.

I had been asked to give some reminiscences of the early settlement of Riga, Monroe County. I have hesitated to comply with the request because my statistics are meager, and I must necessarily make frequent mention of my father who was one of the earliest pioneers of Monroe County and was well-known to the first settlers of Rochester. Again, my reminiscence gives so much of my own personality that possibly it may be thought I have instead of attempted to write my own autobiography.

In a recent visit to Riga, the home of my childhood and youth, I called upon the old friends, the only person's remaining there, of the earliest settlers. One of them, Colonel Dennis Church, gave me many items of interest. He said in 1806 three Church Brothers with their young families came to this then wild Genesee County. They were the first people who made homes in Riga.

James Wadsworth, as agent for the Pulteney estate, had control of the land in the township and had caused to be built by the side of a small stream a log cabin for the use of any family that might come.

This cabin was 16 feet square with no floor and the roof was made of bark taken from the logs and was with their covered wagon their only shelter until they could build.

Elihu Church, Dennis' father, located his farm at this place. The brothers went immediately to work to build a larger and better house. There were several families in the adjoining town, Wheatland, who having heard of these newcomers, came to make their acquaintance, and offered assistance. The brothers said they did not then need their aid, but when the logs were ready if they would help put them in place, they would be grateful for their assistance. A more comfortable house was soon ready, and there was great rejoicing when they could spread beds on the floor and stretch themselves for a night's rest. The other Church brothers, Samuel, and Jess settled two miles north on Black Creek. (The building of Elihu Church's cabin is described in the 1851 book called the "Pioneer History of Phelps & Gorman Purchase" as follows: Issac, Elisha and David Farwell, then of Springfield, now Wheatland, hearing that I was homeless, generously came and helped me erect a cabin. We put up the body of it in one day; had it ready to move into on the fourth day. The floor was of split basswood, the roof of cedar shingles; no boards were used in its construction. I was further indebted to Elisha Farwell for a few nails.)



I remember often seeing the views of this first cabin, which as it

Pioneer Life in Riga (continues)

was for the public was called the hotel and the stream Hotel Creek which none of it bears today.

Henry Brewster, father of the late Edward and H. A. Brewster brought his family the next season, 1807.

In 1808 father, Joseph Thomson, came from Peru, Berkshire County, MA, and located at Riga Center, two miles south of Churchville where he bought a farm of one hundred acres.

The next season he, with his adopted brother as partners, brought on a stock of goods and settled what is thought to have been the first store in Monroe County. He returned to Peru and in the summer of 1810 brought his family consisting of wife into small children of whom I was the younger. This partner had secured for us room in a house owned and occupied by Mr. Gay's elder brother. The journey was made in a cover wagon and consumed nearly three weeks of time. My father soon began preparations for building a house. Building in those days meant first, cutting down large forest trees, cutting them into proper lengths, then drawing them two miles with an ox team over patches of corduroy road to the sawmill. In the next place came the digging up of great stumps on a plot of ground large enough for the house.

Mr. Samuel Church had built on Black Creek where was now quite a settlement, both a sawmill and grist mill. The settlement is Churchville, named in honor of the man who had built the first house.

In 1811 my father built the first entire frame house in Riga. (*This is the present house on the south-west corner of Chili-Riga Center Rd. and the Riga-Mumford Rd.*). It was a pretentious structure of a story and a half, three rooms and two bedrooms on the first floor. One room was fitted with a counter and shelves and for several years was used as a store. I have heard my mother say there was a family waiting for the rooms they occupied, and she moved into the house as soon as it was enclosed, and kitchen and bedroom floors laid. Quilts and blankets were substitutes for doors and windows. There was not even a fireplace or chimney, and she did the cooking for the family and carpenters by a log heap. Then wood which sells now for six to eight dollars per cord was burned to get rid of it.

I asked Mr. Fetch, the other friend in Riga, if he remembered father's ashery? He said, "yes and I have taken many a load of ashes there and carried home their value in goods from the store." He also said, "I remember the immense covered wagon which brought your father's goods from Albany." It was drawn by five horses, the fifth one in front as a leader and the man rode the off-hind horse all the way because if he sat in the wagon, he couldn't see to guide his team." He came over

the turnpike road which extended from Albany to Buffalo and four inches broad did not cut and injure the road like ordinary wagons. This road crossed the Genesee River by a toll bridge in the Town of Avon thence on west through Caledonia. He also said when father expected goods, he used to send his ox team to Caledonia to meet the wagon and take a part of the load thus lighting it so it would be brought over the six miles of new road which had in it many patches of corduroy. I remember one occasion when the Mohawk River overflowed its banks and flooded the roads for some distance. For several days great anxiety was felt for the safety of the men and horses. When the men went in the morning to the fields they left word with the women to blow their dinner horns as soon as the big wagon hove in sight, when at last it did arrive the men left their work and gave a hearty welcome to their trusted and faithful man who brought his team and goods safe to their destination twice a year from 1810 to the opening of the Erie canal.

When this man returned to Albany he took a load principally of potash, but there was also dressed deer skins, bees' wax and hickory nuts.

Money was scarce and whatever one family could spare that another might want was taken in exchange for goods. Venison was not then the expensive luxury that it is today. I have heard my mother tell of a deer that sought refuge under our shed. It had been pursued and run down by a hunter and as there was snow on the ground, he readily tracked and claimed his victim.



Pioneer Life in Riga (continues)

I had while visiting last summer in Riga access to the original church records at a meeting of the people of West Pulteney in 1808 for the purpose of organizing a religious society. The agent of the Pulteney estate gave to this society a lot for the support of the gospel also one for the support of a school. This is as it was written in the record.



In 1809 the First Congregational Church was established, and their first minister was Rev. Oliver Hollister. The society agreed with him as a candidate on probation for ten Sabbaths at five dollars per Sabbath with board and horse keep. He was to preach half the time in Bergen and was ordained July 4th, 1810. Their first meeting was held in a log barn just completed by Mr. Holbrook at Riga. Where meetings were held until a log schoolhouse was built.

There was no stated salary, but the trustee of the society agreed to pay Mr. Hollister (I now quote from the records) the several quantities of good merchantable wheat set opposite our respective names, so long as he shall remain with us in the ministry. The said wheat to be delivered on the 15th day of January 1811, and the like quantity to be delivered on the 15th day of January each succeeding year, so long as he shall continue with us. The total amount subscribed was 287 bushels.

I remember when notice used to be given on Sunday, that on each day of the week wood was to be drawn to the minister's house. Every man belonging to the church and congregation who owned a wood lot and team was expected to deliver a load of good wood and those who had neither, appeared axes in hand to cut and split it. It was intended that a year's supply should be furnished. If there was a deficiency it was made up later.

Those were the days Sunday began on Saturday at sunset and Monday began on Sunday at sunset. Often on Sunday I have watched the sun go down so that I might have permission to take my knitting and go to the neighbors for a little visit with my school mate.

It was many years before orchards were far enough advanced to give even a scant supply of fruit. I remember the first apples I ever saw or ate. My father went to Bloomfield for them and brought home two bags full.



We had some wild fruit, like strawberries, gooseberries, and wild plums. In Wheatland at a place called Albright's Mills, there was a large grove of wild plum trees, and the only picnic I as a child knew anything about, was when five or six of us girls and boys went for plums. Sometimes we found that others knew as well as we where the plums were and knew better when to pick them.

My mother depended on

preserves of cranberries which grew wild on the Tonawanda reservation. The Indians brought them to sell, in baskets holding about a bushel, strapped to their shoulders.

Those baskets were flat on one side and in shape like those in which the Indian mother carries her papoose.

There was one stalwart Indian that came yearly at a certain time to hunt coons and any other game that was so unfortunate as to have a valuable skin. He insisted that his name was Thomson and would always call mother sister. Father gave him permission to build his wigwam in the sugar bush.



In consideration of his name, he used to ask for and receive many loaves of bread

and many a pound of pork. He was sober and quiet and harmed no one, and on the whole, was a good Indian in spite of the saying that the only good Indian is a dead one. My father was postmaster from my earliest recollection.

Mr. Fitch said the late Edward Brewster was the first person to bring the mail into Riga. He went on horseback six miles to Caledonia for it once a week.

The original post office was a box nailed to the wall."



Submitted by:
Ron Belczak,
Town Historian



NEWMAN RIGA LIBRARY

Annual Book Sale

Looking for used books at bargain basement prices? Our Annual Book Sale will run from Thursday, June 8 – Saturday, June 10. Prices: hardcovers - \$1, non-fiction & books on CD - 50¢, young adult, children's, paperbacks, DVDs & music CDs - 25¢, and "special/vintage" children's books 50¢ - \$1.50.

BOOK SALE!



Book Sale Hours:

Thursday, June 8: 4pm-8 pm

Friday, June 9: 12pm-5 pm

Saturday, June 10: 9-12pm - Fill a bag for \$3!

Summer Fun Raffle Basket

This year we are raffling off a Summer Fun Basket with puzzle books, jar candle and \$25 gift cards to the Churchville Grill, Abbotts, and ANG Market. Tickets are \$5 or 3/\$10. The drawing will be held on June 10 (winner need not be present).

Summer Reading Game

The theme of this year's Summer Reading Game is *All Together Now!* The game starts Monday, June 26 and ends Thursday, August 10 with special programs throughout



the summer. There are games for young adults, middle school, elementary school, and preschool with prizes, both big and small. As in previous years, preschoolers and elementary school-aged children will get a task-oriented game board; young adult readers will play a self-directed game. The game can be played any time the library is open. Please visit the library for more information. Registration will begin June 26 at our Kick-Off Party!

Schedule of Summer Reading Programming

June 26 - 2pm: BenAnna Band music and Kick-Off Party!

July 6 - 2pm: Zoomobile; with Animal Adaptations program

July 20 - 1pm to 3pm: Friendship Craft Extravaganza with Miss Jenna - Registration required.

August 10 - 2pm: Sam Hunt's Crunchy Critters (Reptiles and invertebrates) and our end of the game prize drawing.

Please keep an eye on the library's website and Facebook page for the most up-to-date summer happenings!



V.I.P. Passes (Very Important Passes)

Starting at the beginning of July, we will have discounted passes to the following institu-

tions: Genesee Country Village & Museum, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Susan B. Anthony House, George Eastman House and the Corning Museum of Glass. A special thank you to the Churchville Lions Club for making this possible!

Don't forget that we also have two Empire Passes, which allow users to borrow free admission passes to hundreds of New York State Parks! These are made possible by Nancy Steedman.



Summer Hours

Please remember the library closes on Saturdays during the summer months.

M-W-F: 11am – 5pm

T-TH: 11am – 8pm

SA: 10am – 2pm (closed Saturdays June 24th - September 3rd)

SU: Closed

Contact Information

Check our website at <https://newmanrigalibrary.org>

Call us at (585) 293-2009

Follow us on Facebook

Check the Village of Churchville message board in front of the library.

Submitted by:
Lynn M. Brown,
Librarian



RECREATION NEWS

In April we partnered with the Harvey C. Noone American Legion Post to return to our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Unfortunately, an overnight torrential rain wiped out our plans for an outdoor egg hunt but we still held the event indoors with the assistance of the Legion crew, the Churchville Lions & LEO clubs, Arlene's AirBrush Tattoos, and Bippy the Caricature Man! We even had a Jelly Bean Guessing Contest.....Fun was had by all in attendance.

We also celebrated "Earth Day" with our 15th annual Pick Up The Parks event at Churchville Park. The following organizations made this event a HUGE success: The Town of Riga, the Village of Churchville, Waste Management, Monroe County Parks, Churchville Parks staff, the Monroe County Sheriff's Dept. and the 35 residents and non-residents that collected trash and planted over 100 seedlings!

The CYA and Churchville Soccer organizations are now taking registrations and are ready to go. The Riga Highway Dept. is prepping Sanford Road Park for play.



The popular Riga Summer Camp Program is now taking registrations for the 7-week program at Churchville Elementary School and McNeely Park for the after-camp addition. Mr. David Childs will once again direct this camp and has started to plan an exciting

summer of events with his staff of counselors!

Our Summer Gazebo Concert Series in partnership with the Town of Riga, Village of Churchville, & Waste Management will once again fill the air with music! The Don Newcomb Band, Get Off My Lawn, 3 Hits and a Miss, the Brick Band, Blue Sky, and Midnight Storm headline our schedule this year. Blue Sky will perform at the "Relay For Life/Luminaria" ceremony on August 2nd. This concert will START at 7:00pm....all other concerts start at 6:30pm! In case of inclement weather we will try our best to reschedule at a later date.

Now that the weather is starting to cooperate with outdoor activities Sanford Road and McNeely Parks (along with their lodges) are open for use. PLEASE call 293-3880 X 121 or 122 to reserve. * * * For Churchville Park lodge reservations you must contact the Monroe County Parks Dept. on Reservoir Ave. Rochester, NY.

Once again, feel free to take advantage of all this community has to offer by getting outside to take walks on our beautiful streets and our three wonderful parks!



In addition **NATIONAL PLAY OUTSIDE DAY** is the 1st Saturday of EVERY month! Take advantage of this by:

1. Take a hike at our parks
2. Go for a Bike Ride (Wear your helmet)
3. Play a game of catch
4. Swing on a Swing
5. Make a Hopscotch game or sidewalk chalk drawing
6. Eat lunch outside
7. Plant a flower or vegetable garden
8. Collect rocks with fun shapes and colors
9. Go birdwatching (Especially at Churchville Park!)
10. Find "The BIG DIPPER" in the night sky

HAVE FUN

On Sunday, April 30th Riga Rec partnered with Rita & Joe Kanaly from the Peddler's Market to hold an antique show at the Churchville Elementary School. It was a HUGE success as many vendors and public attended! Rita also donated all door entry proceeds to CESPA (the parent organization that assists where needed for the students of the school). On Thursday, May 4th Rita met the President of CESPA, Lily, and Mrs. Daly, Principal of CES, to give them a check for \$1,866.00 to go directly to the students!!!! WOW....What a kind gesture and one that we also are proud of for co-sponsoring this event.



Submitted By:
Dave Thomas,
Recreation Supervisor

Jun.-Jul.-Aug. 2023 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



June

- 1 Scrapbooking with Anne, Sat. June 10th 9:00am-3:30pm @ The Riga Town Hall
- 2 Play Disc Golf at Churchville Park.....we give FREE lessons!!!!
- 3 Pickleball/Tennis at McNeely Park.....Play ANYTIME also at Churchville Park &..we have equipment you can borrow!!
- 4 Empire State "Senior" Games at SUNY Cortland...June 8-13....There is a competitive activity for YOU!!! Call Rec. Office for details
- 5 Riga Summer Camp at Churchville E.S. starts Monday, June 26th... Early Bird Discount of 10% off is in effect 'til June 12th
- 6 Cornhole @ The Cobblestone Hall...6:00pm 'til 8:30pm
- 7 Cardmaking with Nancy....June 15th @ The Riga Town Hall
- 8 CYA Softball/Baseball & Churchville Soccer starts @ Sanford & Churchville Parks



July

- 1 Concerts at the Village Gazebo on Wednesdays.....6:30-8:00pm "Rain or Shine" (see lineup below)
- 2 Scrapbooking with Anne, Sat. July 15th, 9:00am-3:30pm at the Riga Town Hall
- 3 "CORNHOLE" Anyone"? Play this exciting game at the Raymond C. Adams Cobblestone Hall....Thurs. July 13th @ 6:00pm
- 4 Cardmaking with Nancy...July 20th @ The Riga Town Hall
- 5 Pickleball @ McNeely & Churchville Parks....Sunrise to Sunset



August

- 1 Scrapbooking with Anne, Sat. Aug.12th,9:00am-3:30pm at Riga Town Hall
- 2 Riga Monthly Cornhole Tournament @ The Cobblestone, Thurs. Aug.17...6:00pm
- 3 Cardmaking with Nancy....August 17th @ The Riga Town Hall
- 4 Pickleball @ McNeely and Churchville Parks...Sunrise to Sunset



** Additional Information and registration for our recreation programs can be found on: FaceBook, the Suburban News, and the Town of Riga's website...www.townofriga.org
Facility rentals please call the Riga Town Clerk's Office at 293-3880 x121 or x122



RIGA RECREATION SUMMER GAZEBO CONCERT SERIES

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 'til 8:00pm
"Rain or Shine"



July 5th.....The Don Newcomb Band
July 12th.....Get Off My Lawn
July 19th.....Three Hits and A Miss
July 26th.....The Brick Band

August 2nd.....Blue Sky celebrated "The Relay For Life/Luminaria ceremony"!!!!
** Special Time for this event 7:00-8:30pm
August 9th.....Midnight Storm

** If we have to cancel due to inclement weather we will try to reschedule!

CHURCH NEWS

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

Friday, June 9 from 10-3 pm and Saturday, June 10 from 10-1 pm

Union Church will hold its annual Garage Sale. Items may be donated anytime after May 15. Call the church office (293-1665) if you have any questions.

Sunday, June 25, will be our first Outdoor Service at 11 am. At this service we will be honoring teachers and graduates. Please let us know if you have a teacher or graduate you would like to see honored.

Sunday, July 10, will be our second Outdoor Service at 11 am and we will celebrate Christmas in

July at this service. If you would like to provide a Christmas gift for the church, please call the church office for a suggested list of gifts needed. However, no gift is necessary, just come and enjoy a warm summer day celebration.

Saturday, July 15, we are planning to have a Chicken BBQ as a drive-thru, take-out dinner from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm, or until sold-out. Cost to be determined. Check our signboard or website for more information. Jim Ehrmentraut will prepare the chicken and salt potatoes and the church will provide cole slaw and dessert. You can be sure it will be a delicious dinner and all our welcome.

Sunday, August 13, will be our third Outdoor Service at 11 am. This will be a campfire service with campfire stories, songs, games, and treats. Join us for this unique service and enjoy the campfire experience.

Saturday, August 19, we will join in the Village Walk-About celebration and hold our Strawberry Social. Along with delicious strawberry shortcake sundaes with hot fudge topping, hotdogs will also be available.

We may have other special events in August, so please check our signboard as you drive by.

Blessings to all.



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Rental Fees:

Rentals For the **Buffalo Road Pavilion**, the fee for weekday rentals is **\$50.00 for residents**, and \$100.00 for non-residents. Weekend rentals, Friday through Sunday, the fee is **\$100.00 for residents**, and \$125.00 for non-residents.

For the **Maher Lodge** the fee for weekday rentals is **\$75.00 for residents**, and \$150.00 for non-residents. Weekend rentals, Friday through Sunday, the fee is **\$150.00 for residents**, and \$200.00 for non-residents.

The **Cobblestone Building** fee for weekday rentals is **\$65.00 for residents**, and \$90.00 for non-residents. Weekend rentals, Friday through Sunday, the fee is **\$125.00 for residents**, and \$175.00 for non-residents.

Please remember the Town can only accept reservations with a completed application and paid rental fee.

Dogs It is the Law that all dogs 4 months and older must have a current NYS dog license. In order to license your dog, you will need to provide a valid rabies certificate and a spay/neuter certificate, if applicable.

The fee is \$9.00 for altered dogs and \$17.00 for un-altered dogs.

Drop box 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.

We hope that this secure drop box will be convenient 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.



NEW:

Starting June 1st, the Town Clerk's Office will go to Summer Hours, Monday-Friday 9am to 4pm.

Closed on weekends and holidays.

Summer Hours Please do not hesitate to call my office with any questions at (585) 293-3880 ext. 122.

Submitted by:
Kimberly Pape
Town Clerk



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

June

- 13 SCOR—lunch at Harvey Noone Legion Hall
- 19 Town Hall Closed for Juneteenth Day (observed)
- 28 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm

July

- 3 & 4 Town Hall Closed for 4th of July Holiday
- 12 SCOR—lunch at Maher Lodge
- 24 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm

August

- 19 Churchville Walk-A-Bout/Chalk the Trail Event
- 23 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm



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.

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



Alternate Planning Board Member Needed

Commitment: Planning Board meets once a month you serve in absence of a regular member

Remuneration: \$60/meeting— that you serve

Qualifications: Interest in development in the Town of Riga

How To Apply: Please Send Letter of Interest to:

Town of Riga Supervisor
6460 Buffalo Rd
Churchville, NY 14428

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, Council Member

Cindy Jessop, Council Member

Deborah Campanella, Council Member

Derek Harnsberger, Council Member

Kimberly Pape, Town Clerk

Scott Flagler, 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.



**American
Red Cross**



*Donate
Blood*

RIGA TOWN HALL BLOOD DRIVE

6460 BUFFALO ROAD-COMMUNITY ROOM

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Monday, July 24, 2023

1:00 PM—6:00 PM

Please give the gift that lasts a lifetime.

Please call 1-800-GIVE LIFE to schedule
your lifesaving donation.

Walk-ins are also welcome!! Please Bring ID!

1-800-GIVE-LIFE donatebloodnow.org